



MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting title: Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Civil & Military Partnership Board

Date and time: 03/03/2021 10:00

Location: Teleconference

Attendance	
Colonel Tim Richmond (Chair)	Vice Lord-Lieutenant
Councillor David Walters	Ashfield DC
Councillor Tony Eaton	Bassetlaw DC
Councillor Bob Collis	Gedling BC
Councillor Keith Girling	Newark & Sherwood DC
Councillor Abby Brennan	Rushcliffe BC
Andrea Stone	Ashfield DC
Stephen Brown	Bassetlaw DC
Jane Ansell	Gedling BC
William Marshall	Newark & Sherwood DC
Megan Zemontas-Mills	Newark & Sherwood DC
David Heath-French	OTC
Neil Bettison	Nottinghamshire County Council
Richard Browne	Nottinghamshire County Council
Lucy Lee	Nottingham City Council
Victoria Coomber	Charnwood BC
Jackie Hogan	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Gail Jones	7 th Brigade
Lorraine Lees	Defence Transition Services
Barry Smith	EMVAPC
Bruce Spencer	RFCA and ERS
Terry Tring (Notes)	Nottinghamshire County Council

1	Welcome & Introductions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Col. Richmond welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked, on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant, all those who had made the VE/VJ commemorations such a success. Lessons had been learned and will be taken forward for future memorials New members were welcomed to the meeting and a reminder provided to keep details of Armed Forces Champion, Lead Officer etc. up to date
2	Previous Minutes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMPB last met on 4th June and there were no matters arising from the previous minutes

3	Employer Recognition Scheme – Bruce Spencer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Spencer took over from John Wilson in this role in July 2020 • The Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) has four levels – Armed Forces Covenant, Bronze, Silver and Gold • Any business or organisation can apply for the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) and, as at this year if they are registered with Companies house, they will automatically get the Bronze Award which demonstrates that you intend to support the Armed Forces • Silver and Gold Awards are applied for by an organisation. Silver Award means that they demonstrate their support for the Armed Forces and the Gold Award means that they advocate support for the Armed Forces and guarantee 10 days paid leave for reservists • There are 7000 AFC holders across the UK but only 350 Gold Award holders, 7 of which are in Nottinghamshire (inc. Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Rushcliffe Borough Council) • This year the Lord Lieutenant wrote to all the Nottinghamshire Gold Award holders and they also form part of an exclusive network with access to the Secretary of State • This year, expressions of interest for the Silver Award need to be made by mid-April and submissions by the end of April. For Gold Awards expressions of interest need to be in by 15th March and submissions by 31st March • There have been 5 expressions of interest in the Gold Award so far from Nottinghamshire this year. There is a trend for decreasing interest from public bodies. At the recent workshops held for Gold and Silver Awards there was more representation from commercial organisations than from public bodies. A reversal of the normal trend • It would be encouraging for Parish, District and Borough Councils to upgrade a level this year. There are 6 weeks in which an application from Bronze to Silver can be made and Bruce and the team are available to help • Neil Bettison reminded the group that it is important to maintain the support and commitment once the Award is achieved 	
4	Reserve Forces Cadet Association (RFCA) – Bruce Spencer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFCA is based in Nottingham and controls the five counties in the East Midlands including Rutland • There are approximately 3000 reservists across the five counties. There are about 300 active reservists in Nottinghamshire • 2175 reservists have been mobilised nationally of which 2030 were accepted into service. This demonstrates a good level of support from employers • There has been more mobilisation this year due to Covid, and routine mobilisations in Estonia, Far East etc. also continue 	
5	Strengthening the Armed Forces Covenant – Gail Jones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gail made a presentation to the Board on the new Armed Forces Bill. She will share the slides after the meeting • Three elements to the legislation. The majority concerns internal judicial reviews and how court martials are handled • The second part of the Bill is of interest to public services. It will embed the AFC into law by introducing a legal duty for relevant UK public bodies to have due regard to the principles of the covenant when making policy. Focussing on healthcare, education, and housing, it will raise awareness of the unique nature of military service, improving the level of service for members of the armed forces, no matter where they live in the UK • In the last year in the UK: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 79,000 service children have benefitted from £24million of pupil premiums 	

- 22,000 service members have been helped on the housing ladder
- 800 GPs have been accredited as veteran friendly
- The government are not going to be prescriptive about due regard or mandate on delivery outcomes but will expect local authorities to think about the Armed Forces community in policy decisions
- The Bill had its second reading on the 8th February and is now at the Committee stage. It will then have a third reading, progress to the House of Lords before then going for royal assent
- The 'due regard' should not be a concern for local authorities, especially in Nottinghamshire where a lot of support is already provided
- Guidance documents and a toolkit will be provided but not until royal assent is given

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Veterans Question on the 2021 Census – Victoria Coomber

- Victoria made a presentation to the Board on the veterans question in the 2021 census. She will share the slides after the meeting
- Victoria has been representing the East Midlands on some Census 2021 focus groups
- The census will take place on 21st March and is the first time it will be a digital-first census. There will be focus on engaging with the military community
- Digital-first packs have started to be sent out with their unique access code
- The veterans question is number 32 on the census and everyone who has served one day in the armed forces will be identified as a veteran in line with the SSAFA definition and the Armed Forces Act
- Both boxes should be ticked if they are a veteran of both the regular armed forces and the reserves
- Resources are available on Facebook and twitter
- There is a communications plan as well as an information booklet and contact numbers and websites that Victoria is happy to share
- The Veterans Lead for census engagement is Kerryanne Wilde:
kerryanne.wilde23@field.census.gov.uk

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Forward Planning – Neil Bettison

- World War Two Roll of Honour – an online roll of honour like the one created for World War One is being planned and researched by City and County Councils. The criteria for inclusion will also be similar. It will include military and civilian personnel who died in service and were from or had a strong association with Nottinghamshire. There will also be separate pages to include Polish, Commonwealth and casualties from other nations who have relatives now associated with Nottinghamshire. It is important that the message is promoted as information from the public is important so that nobody is missed. The project could lead to a World War Two memorial
- Royal British Legion Annual Service of Rededication on 6th June – potential for this event to be slightly postponed so as to comply with the roadmap of easing of Covid restrictions in late June
- Armed Forces Week – week beginning 21st June – Flag-raising event at County Hall (City and County event)
- Reservist Day on 23rd June – Reservists will wear uniforms to work. Request to encourage events to show support for Reservists on what is a working day
- Remembrance Day – likely to be significant this year as it is the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion. To be discussed in more detail at the next CMPB meeting
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee (next year) – project being planned to create the Queen's Green Canopy through tree planting across the country

- Barry Smith – Significant work being done on the role of the Veterans Advisory Pensions Committee as a voice for the region. There will be legislation to come. The CMPB is a key construct for raising Covenant risk/issues with the Minister and avoiding a Whitehall centric view
- Ashfield DC (Cllr Walters) – applying for the Gold Award
- Bassetlaw DC (Cllr Eaton) –
 - The Mental Health Unit in Bassetlaw is due to close and be relocated to Mansfield. This will cause issues for a number of veterans in the area. Cllr Girling offered to look into it from the Health Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Eaton is looking after 13 veterans daily and it has been by far the busiest year
 - The annual Armed Forces Covenant report has been completed and submitted
- Gedling BC (Jane Ansell) –
 - Proactive humanitarian response since March 2020 and quite a lot of veterans required food and mental health support. Good support also from Project Nova pathways
 - Memorial to those who have died from Covid to be unveiled
- Newark & Sherwood DC (William Marshall) – action plan being finalised to build momentum post-Covid. Will look at Gold Award next year
- Nottingham City Council (Lucy Lee) – Ensuring signposting is specific for veterans and armed forces. Processes created to speed up the responses for veterans. Not ready to apply for Silver Award yet. Possibly apply next year
- Rushcliffe BC (Cllr Brennan & Victoria Coomber) –
 - Cllr Brennan introduced themselves as the Armed Forces Champion for Rushcliffe
 - Successful bid for £20,000 grant from Force for Change to work with isolated veterans in particular targeting older, BAME, LGBTQ and rural veterans. Victoria Coomber will liaise with Nottingham Forest Trust to investigate collaboration and avoid overlap of work
 - In the early stages of creating an action plan to meet the duties under the covenant legislation. Looking at equality policy and diversity monitoring forms with the potential to identify armed forces community as a special group in a similar manner to Herefordshire & Worcestershire
- Cllr Keith Girling –
 - French government are keen to issue medals to anyone who helped liberate France in World War Two. Information can be found at: <https://uk.ambafrance.org/Legion-d-honneur-for-British-World-War-II-veterans>
 - Cllr Girling is a trustee of a charity which received a donation of £19.9million. A proportion is to be used to help military charities. He is keen for a Veterans Hub to be created in Nottinghamshire. Potential for a building to be purchased and converted for accommodation, canteen and interview space that would then be run by military charities. Now looking for expressions of interest from charities and organisations. Good examples of Hubs can be found in Cleethorpes and Northamptonshire (Bruce Spencer has details). The charity would purchase the property and then charge a peppercorn rent. There is a potential location in Newark that would be a good candidate
 - Problems with engaging with the Rehabilitation Centre. Col Richmond and Cllr Girling to discuss
- Bruce Spencer – Recently provided a briefing at Newark & Sherwood DC for parish councils. Encouraging parish councils to apply for AFC helps with the advocacy aspect of a Gold Award application. There is also an emphasis in the Gold Award for supporting cadets
- Lorraine Lees – Offered to provide a presentation on the Defence Transition Service at the next meeting

9	Actions	
	Discussion of Remembrance Day to be on agenda for the next meeting	Neil Bettison
	Share a link to French Liberation medals website	Neil Bettison
	Discuss engagement with the Rehabilitation Centre	Col. Richmond and Cllr Girling
	Presentation on the Defence Transition Service from Lorraine Lees to be included on the agenda for the next meeting	Neil Bettison
10	Arrangements for next meeting(s):	
	Date of next meeting – Wednesday 16 th June 2021	