

AWARD OF TITLE OF HONORARY FREEMAN
FOR CLLR NEVILLE JAMES CHARD

Statement by Cllr C Ford, seconding proposal by Cllr Heron

Jeremy,

Thank you for that summing up of Neville's very long list of community service. I have the very great privilege of seconding your proposal and I sincerely hope that every Member of this Council will join the two of us in a unanimous vote of approval for granting Neville the title of Honorary Freeman of Ringwood.

Neville, as you may imagine with my background, I am particularly pleased that you had the proper training from your early days!

I know that you joined the Boys Brigade at ten and remained a member until you were 18. Running in parallel with that, you were a member of the Army Cadets from age 14 to 18 and it was during that time that you spent many happy hours I am sure on the roof of this building.

It is ironic that as the father of the Council you were a member of the Civil Defence, but not old enough to get conscripted until the end of the war, but as a result of being a conscript, you served time there instead of doing National Service. Not many of us can remember missing National Service because we had already served as a Conscript.

I am sure that that real training you had in the uniformed services has stood you in very good stead. After leaving the Army, you joined another uniformed service in the Post Office. And those were in the days when the Post Office not only delivered the mail, but passed the time of day with its customers and helped them by doing some of their shopping and cutting their hedges, the reward for which was numerous cups of tea!

Congratulations and well done Neville.

The granting of the title of Honorary Freeman of Ringwood is very well deserved.