



## Report for Full Council February 2023

### Armed Forces Day 2023

Armed Forces Day is a chance to show support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to service families, veterans and cadets.

The Armed Forces Covenant outlines how the Government, businesses and communities support Armed Forces personnel past and present throughout the year.

The signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant by Town & Community Council Mayors/Chairs in Bridgend took place at Carnegie House on Saturday 28th June 2014

Armed Forces Day celebrations begin on **Monday 19 June 2023** when the Armed Forces Day flag is raised on buildings and famous landmarks around the country.

Armed Forces Day takes place on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

A press release on Newport City Council website states that in June 2023 Newport will be host to the Wales National Armed Forces Day.

To date (13<sup>th</sup> February 2023) BCBC have not confirmed if they will be organising an event. Bridgend Town Council have written to the BCBC Mayor and Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer informing them of our intentions to investigate the possibility of putting on an event. The Mayor has informed us that a meeting of The Community Covenant Steering Group will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> February and Armed Forces Day will be on the agenda.

#### Armed Forces Day Parade – Possible participants

The Community Engagement and Events Manager has contacted the following organisations:

St Athan Band	They are available on Armed Forces Day and keen to participate.
The Military Preparation College, Bridgend	They are available and would like to be involved with the event
Army in Wales	Awaiting a response
Military organisations	See contact details from Remembrance folder
Local cadet/veteran groups	See contact details from Remembrance folder

## Possible Stalls around the Town Centre

There are a range of organisations and charities that support the Armed Forces Community as well as providing wellbeing activities, retreat days, events etc. that we can help promote. We could contact some of the following organisations to ask if they could arrange an information stand on the day or request literature, posters etc. that we can display on the day of the event:

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity <a href="mailto:wales.region@ssafa.org.uk">wales.region@ssafa.org.uk</a>	Previously ran a stall for Wartime Bridgend SSAFA would like to be involved should an event go ahead.
Glamorgan Parachute Regimental Association	Previously ran a stall for Wartime Bridgend GPRA would like to be involved should an event go ahead.
Royal British Legion	Previously ran a stall for Wartime Bridgend Checking who is best person to contact.
RAF Air Cadets	Previously ran a stall for Wartime Bridgend
South Wales Police	Previously ran a stall for Wartime Bridgend
St John Ambulance	Previously ran a stall for Wartime Bridgend Emailed St John on Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> asking for them to provide first aid cover and possibly provide a stall. Awaiting reply.
Hugh James Solicitors	Were interested in sponsoring Wartime Bridgend Hugh James would love to be involved at least by taking a stand and potentially offering some sponsorship.
Pursuit outdoors & military supplies, Bridgend	Keen to support military events in town Visited shop on 10 <sup>th</sup> February. Owner not there but assistant will pass on the message. Very likely that they would be involved in some way.
Bridgend Carers <a href="mailto:enquiries@bridgendcarers.co.uk">enquiries@bridgendcarers.co.uk</a>	Bridgend Carers Centre provide support to Armed Forces and Veteran Carers/Cared for living in Bridgend County Borough. Bridgend Carers Centre would very much like to be involved. There is an event on in Kenfig Hill the same day that they have already committed to but will hopefully get cover and have a stand at ours as well.
Forces Fitness Ltd <a href="http://www.forcesfitness.co.uk">www.forcesfitness.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:sean@forcesfitness.co.uk">sean@forcesfitness.co.uk</a>	Provides a number of services from Employability Bootcamps/ retreats, Health and Well-Being workshops, school programs and Full Board Residential Boot camps and retreats for groups or individuals. Forces Fitness would love to be involved, even if just ideas, will meet with CEEM if council agree for event to go ahead.

<p>Halo Leisure Centre</p>	<p>Need to enquire if they have any schemes for members of the armed forces and veterans that could be advertised. Would they be willing to provide a stall of activities etc. to promote good physical and mental health?  <b>Halo can provide a stall with a body composition scanner for the day and there are other possibilities too. Halo offer discounts to anyone with a Military discount card.</b></p>
<p>Change Step  <a href="mailto:ASK@CHANGE-STEP.ORG.UK">ASK@CHANGE-STEP.ORG.UK</a></p>	<p>Provide support for military veterans in Wales</p>
<p>The Royal Military Police Association (Wales)</p> <p>Association National Secretary:  <a href="mailto:rmpataunton@yahoo.com">rmpataunton@yahoo.com</a></p>	
<p>Woody's Lodge  <a href="https://www.woodyslodge.org/">https://www.woodyslodge.org/</a></p>	<p>Woody's Lodge is a meeting place for those who've served in the Armed Forces or Emergency Services. At Woody's Lodge you will find expert advice &amp; support, friendship &amp; camaraderie as well like-minded people who have similar experiences to you. With locations in North, South and West Wales, we provide Armed Forces support across Wales. <b>E mail sent on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 – Awaiting reply</b></p>
<p>Radiate Arts Creative Workshops  <a href="https://www.radiatearts.co.uk">https://www.radiatearts.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Radiate Arts facilitates creative and outdoor based (including hillwalking and cycling) residential experiences for veterans, with accommodation at the Hafren Forest Hideaway, and meals at the Hideaway and Caffi Clywedog included. <b>E Mail sent on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb - Awaiting reply</b></p>
<p>The Bulldogs  <a href="https://bulldogsboxingcommunity.wales/">https://bulldogsboxingcommunity.wales/</a></p>	<p>The Bulldogs a registered charity, funded by the Armed Forces Covenant and Veterans Foundation to support the wellbeing of the Armed Forces community.</p>
<p>The Poppy Factory  <a href="https://www.poppyfactory.org/">https://www.poppyfactory.org/</a></p>	<p>The Poppy Factory supports veterans with health conditions on their journey into employment, helping them overcome any barriers. <b>Based in Richmond</b></p>
<p>The Game Change Project CIC  <a href="https://thegamechangeproject.co.uk">https://thegamechangeproject.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Life skills confidence and training</p>

## Entertainment

Music stage options:	<p>Local choirs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bridgend Male Voice Choir</li><li>• Tabernacl Choir</li><li>• Bridgend Carers choir E mailed support worked at Bridgend Carers who is responsible for the choir on 13<sup>th</sup> February – Awaiting reply</li><li>• The Rock Choir E mailed choir leader on 8<sup>th</sup> February – Awaiting reply</li></ul> <p>Military Wives Choir (Cardiff) <a href="https://www.militarywiveschoirs.org/">https://www.militarywiveschoirs.org/</a> E mailed closest choir which is Cardiff on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – They have been booked for the National event taking place in Newport.</p> <p>Kirsten Orsborn <a href="http://kirstenorsbornofficial.co.uk/">http://kirstenorsbornofficial.co.uk/</a> A Welsh singer (known as the forces sweetheart), who is well known for her charity work, especially for causes linked to the military.</p> <p>Ogmore Valley Silver Band</p>
Street entertainment:	Free activities for children: Games Fairground rides Bouncy castle

### Potential grant funding:

The Ministry of Defence offers a grant for Armed Forces Day events up to the value of £10,000, depending on the size and format of the event. This grant is match-funded and can cover up to half the total cost of the event. For example, If the total cost of the event is £10,000 the Town Council would need to cover £5,000 and a grant could cover up to £5,000.

Ministry of Defence funding cannot be used to pay for:

- hospitality, including food, drinks and accommodation
- military assets, including displays, equipment or military vehicles
- entertainment, such as bands or musicians, films or other entertainment military or otherwise
- transport for guests or organisers to or from the event
- VAT

Ministry of Defence funding can be used to pay for:

- road closures required to hold an event, including to allow for parades and marches
- decorations, flags and banners
- local or national newspapers and radio advertisements to promote the event
- marshalling, security and first aid arrangements for the event
- insurance
- PA and communications systems such as hand-held radios or other forms of communication for event organisers

**Council Considerations:**

- What day would the Council want to arrange an event for Armed Forces Day?
- What activities and entertainment should be included?
- What budget is allocated to the activities?
- Does the Council wish to apply for grant funding towards an event?
- Roles and responsibilities:
  - Who will be responsible for planning and executing the activities
  - Which committee (or full council) will oversee the activities