

**HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH**

By section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 (amended by section 180 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980), a Borough or City Council may admit “persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the city, borough or royal borough” as Honorary Freemen.

A resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting at a specially convened meeting is required to admit the Honorary Freeman but this does not confer any rights upon them.

However, the conferring of the title of Honorary Freeman is the highest honour that a Council of a City or Borough can bestow and, in the view of many, should not be given too often. The resolution should recite the particular grounds upon which the Council have come to their decision, and details of the public services rendered by the recipient should be included.

The freedom resolution is passed at a special meeting of the Council (the last one was on 18 December 1996) and the formal presentation takes place at a special ceremony at a later date.

Honorary Freemen are invited to the following Civic Functions: -

- ❑ Mayor’s Installation
- ❑ Civic Sunday (for coffee before the Service, the Service itself and for lunch afterwards)
- ❑ Remembrance Sunday (but only to the service at The Cenotaph not to the Town Hall for coffee or lunch)
- ❑ Mayor’s Ball
- ❑ Honorary Freedom of the Borough and Honorary Aldermen of the Borough Ceremonies
- ❑ Various “one-off” events e.g. Unitary and Jubilee Celebrations

Honorary Freemen have no legal, social or royal precedence. Although, without formal precedence, it is custom and practice to place them immediately before Honorary Aldermen.

The following people are Honorary Freeman: -

- Lieutenant Colonel Burton – Officer Commanding (103<sup>rd</sup> Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Regiment)
- Honorary Freeman J H Collins
- Mr J Ellis – Officer Commanding (22<sup>nd</sup> Cheshire Regiment)
- Honorary Freeman E Gleave
- Honorary Freeman F Nyland
- Honorary Freeman G Oakes
- Honorary Freeman R Turton
- Honorary Freeman Frank Myler
- Honorary Freeman Mike Cuff
- Honorary Freeman Anthony McDermott MBE
- Honorary Freeman Dave Cargill
- Honorary Freeman Arthur Cole (posthumous)
- Honorary Freeman Robert Polhill MBE