

Report to COUNCIL

Civic Appreciation Nomination 2019

Portfolio Holder:

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Reason for Decision

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to a nomination for Alan Noble and Trevor Warren to receive the Council's Civic Appreciation Award 2019.

The nomination has been put forward by Group Leaders.

Executive Summary

Alan Noble and Trevor Warren are being proposed for this award in recognition of their significant voluntary contribution and dedication to the borough and community of Oldham.

Each year, the Oldham branch of the Royal British Legion raise on average £70K of vital funds to aid the armed forces community. The branch have been successful in winning the Norman Webster Memorial Shield for 7 consecutive years. The Memorial Shield is awarded to the branch which has raised the most money in the North West.

Chairman of Oldham's Royal British Legion and Poppy Appeal Organiser, Trevor Warren and President, Alan Noble start the fundraising campaign every October during the period of remembrance until the following September, and organise Oldham's Annual Festival of Remembrance.

Alan and Trevor met through the Royal British Legion and have dedicated over 20 years to serving members of the armed forces past and present. Trevor is currently also Vice Chair and Alan is Chair of Oldham's Liaison of Ex-Servicemen Association. They provide

welfare and support to former members of the armed forces with financial assistance and work closely with armed forces charity SAFFA.

Both with military backgrounds, Alan joined the Army at 15 and was posted to Gibraltar as an under 18 in 1968. He was then posted to Northern Ireland as infantry, and was selected for promotion for management and leadership. Working through the infantry rank structure, Alan became a Warrant Officer Class 2 in 1983 and retired after 25 years' service in 1993. Alan is also the Chairman of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Trevor joined the 4th Battalion of Parachute Regiment in 1967 and worked his way through the ranks to Sergeant before leaving in 1979 due to an injury from a parachute jump. Trevor was the longest serving Secretary of Oldham's Parachute Regiment Association for 35 years, and is now the President of the Association.

Passionate about Oldham, Alan and Trevor have undertaken the role of Parade Marshalls for Oldham's Remembrance Sunday and Mayor's Civic Sunday Procession for over 20 years and they continue to lead with other commemorative and civic parades in the town centre.

For the recent refurbishment of Oldham's War Memorial, the Oldham Liaison applied for a grant of £30K from the War Graves Commission towards the project.

The Oldham Liaison also organise the M62 Bombing Memorial event held at Hartshead Moor Service Station each year to commemorate those that lost their lives in the bombing, and in remembrance of those that died from Oldham.

They also both support the homeless community in central Manchester.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Alan Noble and Trevor Warren are to be considered for the nomination for the Civic Appreciation Award 2019. If the Award is approved, the ceremony will take place prior to the meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 20 March 2019.