

RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

POLICY STATEMENT

From time to time members of the community demonstrate outstanding commitment and contribution to the Town and it is recognised that this contribution should be acknowledged. The Council will do this by, in special circumstances that meet the criteria of this policy, awarding to an individual the title of "Honorary Freeman of the Town of Thornaby". This honour will not be awarded annually but only on rare and exceptional occasions.

Service

The nominee may have given extensive and distinguished service to the community that goes beyond local government (e.g. service to other organisations, voluntary and community groups) in a largely voluntary capacity. The nominee must have made an outstanding contribution to the Town such that the nominee's contribution can be seen to stand above the contributions made by most other people.

Nomination Criteria

The following shall be taken into account when consideration is given to granting the honour of Honorary Freeman of the Town:-

1. It shall not be restricted to Elected Members or staff.
2. Preference shall be given to a person who performs in a voluntary capacity, but this should not preclude the honour being awarded to a person whose dedication and contribution is significantly above that expected from their occupation.
3. The contribution to the welfare of the community must involve one or more of the following factors:-
 - (a) Significant contribution of the person's time in serving members of the Community for the improvement of their welfare.
 - (b) The promotion, achievement and/or delivery of community services in which a real personal role and contribution is made.
 - (c) Whilst difficult to define, the contribution must be outstanding in that it can be seen to stand above the contributions of most other persons.

Nomination Procedure

Nominations must be made in the strictest confidence without the nominee's knowledge. Any resident or elector of the Town of Thornaby may make a nomination but it must be sponsored by an Elected Member.

Nominations must be made in writing to the Town Clerk. The submission should outline the voluntary service provided by the individual to the community and any other examples of "Community Spirit" to justify the honour. On receipt of a nomination, it shall be circulated to all Elected Members for confidential consideration.

Reasons for any objection to the nomination must be given. If the Elected Members are in agreement that the nominee should be made an Honorary Freeman of the Town, then the nominee should be invited to accept the honour. If agreed, the nomination shall then be put before Council and a formal vote taken, again in confidence.

No less than two-thirds of the members of the council must agree the nomination.

Entitlements

Any person declared an Honorary Freeman of the Town may designate him/herself "Honorary Freeman of the Town of Thornaby".

The award shall be made at a small ceremony, which may take place at a Council meeting or Annual General Meeting of Electors, where the recipient will be awarded a Civic Medallion and Certificate to commemorate receiving the award.

Any Honorary Freeman of the Town shall be:-

- Invited to all subsequent Civic events and functions.
- Invited to be present at the swearing in ceremony for Elected Members following the biennial local government elections.

Limitation on Holders of Award

At any one time, a maximum of four living persons only, unless otherwise decided by Council, may hold the title "Freeman of the Town of Thornaby".