



02 June 2023

Meet Guildford's newest Honorary Freeman

Former Councillor, David Goodwin's long-standing contributions to our borough have been recognised. Mr Goodwin was appointed as an Honorary Freeman. This is the highest honour that can be given for service to our borough.

The ceremony took place at a Special Council meeting at the Guildhall on Thursday 1 June. The meeting room was attended by those of people who had come to show their appreciation and respect for Mr Goodwin's tireless service to Guildford. The Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Masuk Miah, presented a scroll to mark the appointment. Cllr Angela Goodwin accepted the scroll on Mr Goodwin's behalf.

The Mayor said:

"I extend my warmest congratulations to our newest Honorary Freeman, David. His unwavering, selfless service to our community has earned him this prestigious honour. He has been a devoted and hardworking councillor. He served the people of Guildford for 24 years. Our borough is grateful for his contributions and is proud to call him one of our own. We thank him for all that he has done."

David was first elected to the Council in 1999. Representing the former Friary and St Nicolas ward for 16 years and then the Onslow ward for 8 years. Throughout his terms, he served on various committees. These included the Licensing Committee, where he was the chairman from 2019 to 2023. He also served a year on the Council's Executive in 2019-20 as the Lead Councillor for Waste, Licensing, and Parking.

David was also a member of Surrey County Council for 16 years from 2005-2021. He covered the area of the former Friary and St Nicolas and Onslow Wards. As their county councillor, David worked with the Wodeland Action Group for 10 years. He worked with the group to aid the safety of local people. This work encouraged Surrey County Council and the police to introduce one of the first 20mph zones in our town centre.

Leader of the Council and Lead Cllr for Housing, Cllr Julia McShane, said:

"I first met David 12 years ago. I continue to be impressed by his extensive knowledge and experience as a Councillor. David has been a passionate advocate for our residents and has brought about positive change through his work. On behalf of the council, I would like to express gratitude to David for his outstanding service to our community. His hard work and sense of loyalty to the people of our borough, have not gone unnoticed. David's service is an inspiration to others who follow in his footsteps. People who serve their communities with the same level of commitment and passion. We thank him and congratulate him on receiving this well-deserved honour."

The decision to appoint Mr Goodwin as an honorary freeman was made at a meeting of the Council, held on 17 May 2023. It was proposed by Cllr Fiona White and seconded by Leader of the Council, Cllr Julia McShane.