

Freedom of the Parish – they very first award by Locking Parish Council



Figure 1 Cllr Bearsby accepting his award from The Chairman Cllr Paul Jones

Granting the Freedom of the Parish is the highest honour that a Parish Council can bestow. Although it carries no powers, rights or privileges, those who receive the honour are able to use the title of Freeman or Freewomen. Locking Parish Council awards the Honour of Freedom of the Parish to recognise exceptional service and valued contributions to community life in the Parish. The Parish Council only does this in special circumstances, that meet the criteria within its adopted policy. This honour is awarded only on rare and exceptional occasions.

On 12 May 2022 at a Special Full Parish Council meeting, it was unanimously agreed to grant Cllr Bill Bearsby with the highest honour we can bestow for the valuable and devoted services rendered to the Parish of Locking, which was presented to him at HRM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Big Picnic Lunch on 3 June.

Cllr Bearsby (Bill) is the most unassuming person you could meet, he quietly gets on with the business of being a Parish Councillor, never blows his own trumpet, offering words of wisdom, support and clearly shows his love for his community.

Bill, Sue and their family have lived in Locking for 52 years and of those 52 years, Bill has spent 42 years as a Parish Councillor in which he has served in many positions and conducted exceptional work. Bill has spent 39 years as a Locking Primary School Governor and now working within ELAN (Extend Learning Academies Network). A combined total of 81 years as a volunteer! This is a tremendous achievement. Bill has made a significant contribution to the community throughout that time and continues to serve the community today.

As a Councillor Bill has seen many changes within Locking with the closure of RAF Locking and our ever-growing community on the former site, welcoming residents from Flowerdown, Locking Grove and Parklands, the purchase of The Park at Grenville Avenue and the Old Banwell Road Playing Field.



Figure 2 Cllr Bearsby with his award surrounded by his fellow Councillors