

MTC & 9RLC

1. Purpose of the Report

To detail background, conversations and aspirations between MTC and 9RLC

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the granting of the Freedom of Malmesbury to 9 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor accepted the invitation of the Regiment's Colonel and Regimental Sergeant Major to visit them at Buckley Barracks.
- 2.2 The visit took place on Wednesday 12th July, Cllrs Grant & Exton and were given on a tour of the camp by the RSM.
- 2.3 The Regiment were deeply touched both by the honour bestowed upon them and the recognition of each in the Freedom of the Town parade, made by the gift of the Malmesbury Medals.
- 2.4 Colonel Bhundia and RSM Blackburn are keen to deepen the relationship between the Regiment and Malmesbury including gaining a greater knowledge of the town's history and using the artistic, commercial, leisure and recreational facilities.
- 2.5 Equally, the Regiment is eager to participate actively and helpfully in supporting the Town Council and other important events and activities.
- 2.6 Potential areas of engagement;
 - Officers and NGOs to undertake a guided walk of Malmesbury covering its key historical events and locations (an offer already generously made by Cllr Campbell Ritchie)
 - More formal and larger participation by the Regiment in our Remembrance Sunday activities. The precise form that this takes to be agreed with the Abbey, Royal British Legion and other Veterans Groups
 - Logistical support for and potential representation at appropriate events organised or sponsored by Malmesbury Town Council, Malmesbury Carnival or other bodies with whom we work in partnership.
 - distribution of information, what's on literature, carnival brochures and newsletters to soldiers and their families billeted at Buckley Barracks or in the Malmesbury Area.
 - at the Regiment's invitation, the attendance and active participation of the Mayor of Malmesbury in presenting appropriate medals and awards at Buckley Barracks.
 - fostering links between town and regimental sporting and other appropriate clubs
 - the use by the Mayor and Malmesbury Town Council as appropriate and with permission of the Regiment's meeting, dining and other recreational facilities to enable Officers, NCOs and other ranks to build relationships with Malmesbury Town Councillors and staff, and to raise funds for the Mayor's Charities.
 - The above is predominantly to the benefit of our town; its businesses, organisations, residents and this Council. In return, we explored how we as a Council could help Colonel Bhundia and RSM Blackburn to recognise their soldiers who have gone above and beyond in their service.
 - Potential participation in the Carnival Parade

3. Financial Implications & Risks

- 3.1 The Colonel is severely constrained in being able to afford any tangible recognition for exceptional service. However, he would be able to do so on a quarterly basis were the Town Council to fund the provision annually of:

- 3.2 4 to 6 Malmesbury Gift Cards each to the value of £50 to an annual maximum total of £300
- 3.3 vouchers to Movies at Malmesbury films to the value of £150
- 3.4 My proposal is that we introduce such provisions with immediate effect, backdated to the start of this financial year, so enabling Colonel Bhundia to recognise and reward such exceptional service by his soldiers (and their families) from the start of 2023.
- 3.5 I further propose that the sum of £400 is taken from our General Reserve to enable this funding.
- 3.6 Finally, I propose that this funding be considered for inclusion in the budget for the financial year 2024-'25 and thereafter.
- 3.7 Lastly, I request that our representative to the Town Team raises with that organisation's Management Committee the possibilities of Town businesses offering appropriate and sustainable discounts to the Soldiers and families of 9 Regiment.

4. Decision Required

Members determine whether or not to agree to the proposed expenditure

Cllr Gavin Grant, Mayor of Malmesbury
July 2023