

Hi all

Ahead of this evening's extraordinary meeting of the AID Committee, to consider making a recommendation to next week's Full Council meeting for conferring of Freedom of the Town on the crew of the Lowestoft Lifeboat, please note the following with reference to Para 2.3 of the relevant policy:

Lowestoft has a long and historic connection with the sea, and with the saving of lives at sea (even before the RNLI was established). Lowestoft has had a lifeboat station since 1801, which makes it one of the oldest lifeboat stations in the country. The Lowestoft lifeboats have saved hundreds of lives down the years, and their exploits and bravery have been commemorated in many books and exhibitions. Formerly there were also separate lifeboats at Pakefield and Kessingland, and in Lowestoft during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century volunteer lifeboats also existed alongside the official RNLI lifeboat, but these days the others are gone and the collective legacy of all of them lives on in the Lowestoft lifeboat station.

This article [Former Lowestoft Lifeboat Crew honoured for service to the RNLI | RNLI](#) was the catalyst for this application to the Town Council for "the Crew of the Lowestoft Lifeboat to receive The Freedom of the Town in recognition and appreciation of the long and outstanding service provided to Lowestoft's residents, visitors and workforce" - with the AID Committee considering initially on 19 February, and Full Council to make a final decision at its February meeting on 27 February - so that, if approved, the announcement can be made in time for the bicentenary of the RNLI on 4 March 2024.

Sponsoring Councillors: Bernie Rappensberger (lead) and Andy Pearce.

Minimum 10 supporting members of the public: I believe Bernie has supplied names to the office. I have had several additional pledges of support which I will forward to the office if needed to satisfy this eligibility requirement. (Protocol followed with previous applications has been for names and contact details of supporting members of the public to be supplied to the office, without the requirement for individual forms and "wet" signatures, and the office can then contact the individuals in question to verify their support if it wishes to do so).

Recipient consent - At this stage it is being considered as a surprise/gift, inspired by this article [Former Lowestoft Lifeboat Crew honoured for service to the RNLI | RNLI](#) and with the imminent RNLI bicentenary on 4 March marking additional significance of timing.

Kind regards  
Andy

I wish to make the following submission for consideration by the AID Committee/Full Council as appropriate.

Name of organisation - The Crew of the Lowestoft Lifeboat.

The organisation is connected to Lowestoft by reason of their status as our local (Lowestoft) lifeboat, stationed and crewed from the South Pier, Royal Plain, Lowestoft.

I believe that the crew (past and present) can be described as 'of distinction' and have 'rendered eminent services' due to their continued long and outstanding service to Lowestoft's residents, visitors and workforce at sea. This service is undertaken as volunteers facing all dangers in any weather conditions.

I ( Cllr Bernie Rappensberger) and Cllr Andy Pearce are nominating the organisation. I have collected the names of ten members of the public who are aware of the organisation through being residents of Lowestoft and who have signed, 'to support the nomination of the Crew of Lowestoft Lifeboat to receive The Freedom of the Town in recognition and appreciation of the long and outstanding service provided to Lowestoft's residents, visitors and workforce'

These residents are as follows:

*Names redacted but have been supplied to the office*

**(I have contact details for all of the above - please let me know if you require them via email ahead of my bringing the list of signatures into the office this week)**

I have received verbal confirmation of acceptance (should Council support this nomination) from local Chair, *name and contact details redacted*

Please confirm that the above covers the information required and when it will be discussed. If it is not to be discussed this evening then there is it worth the meeting going ahead?

Regards

Bernie