



Wells City Council to Bestow the Freedom of the City upon Len Swales

Wells City Council is delighted to announce that it will confer the Freedom of the City upon former Town Crier Len Swales, in recognition of his exceptional service, unwavering dedication and lasting contribution to the life of the City of Wells.

The Freedom of the City is one of the highest civic honours that can be bestowed by the Council. It is reserved for individuals who have made an outstanding and enduring contribution to the city and its community.

For more than 25 years, Len Swales served as Wells' much loved Town Crier, becoming one of the city's most recognisable and respected ambassadors. His powerful voice, distinctive presence and passion for civic tradition have represented Wells at countless local, regional and national events, helping to preserve and celebrate the city's rich heritage for residents and visitors alike.

However, Len's contribution reaches far beyond his ceremonial role. Throughout his years of service, he has generously volunteered his time, supported innumerable community organisations, charities and civic events, and has been a constant champion of the city. Whether leading civic occasions, welcoming visitors, supporting fundraising events or promoting Wells across the country, Len has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the community he proudly calls home.

His dedication has helped strengthen the city's traditions while ensuring they remain relevant and accessible to new generations. Through his warmth, enthusiasm and tireless voluntary service, Len has become not simply the voice of Wells, but one of its most cherished community figures.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Wells, Councillor Denise Denis, said:

"Len Swales has given an extraordinary amount of his time, energy and passion to the City of Wells over many decades. While many will know him as our Town Crier, those who have worked alongside him know that his contribution extends far beyond that role. He has been a steadfast supporter of countless community initiatives and a true ambassador for our city.

Granting Len the Freedom of the City is a fitting tribute to a lifetime of public service and a heartfelt thank you from the people of Wells. His legacy will continue to inspire civic pride for many years to come."

Town Clerk Haylee Wilkins added:

"Every community is fortunate to have individuals who quietly dedicate themselves to making life better for others, and Len is undoubtedly one of those people. His commitment, generosity and enthusiasm have left an indelible mark on Wells, and this honour is richly deserved. We are delighted to recognise his remarkable contribution in this way."

Wells City Council extends its sincere congratulations to Len Swales and thanks him for his decades of dedicated service to the city.

The Freedom of the City ceremony will take place at Wells Town Hall on Saturday 18th July, where councillors and invited guests will gather to celebrate Len's exceptional service and recognise his remarkable legacy. In advance of the formal meeting of Council at 14:00, you are invited to witness the Civic Parade from 13:30 in the Market Place, where Len, joined by his wife Rosemary, and the Civic Party will formally parade in honour of the occasion. Equally, the formal Proclamation from the Balcony is expected at 14:20. All are welcome!