

CLLR ALAN RICE, TD

Councillor Alan Rice, TD was the longest-serving member of Hampshire County Council having given 54 years of long and loyal service to various communities, councils and organisations in and around New Milton, New Forest and County of Hampshire.

Alan Rice, County Councillor for Milford & Hordle Division (including Fernhill, Hordle, Tiptoe, Everton, Keyhaven and Milford-on-Sea) dedicated himself to improving services to the local community and in helping to maintain this pleasant local environment.

An ex-National Serviceman and ex-Territorial Reservist, Alan Rice was a member of the Reserve Forces Association for South East England helping current / past service personnel. He was himself awarded the Territorial Decoration (TD) in 1977.

Alan Rice also served on the New Forest District Council for 42 years since its inception in 1973. Prior to that, he was a Borough Councillor for 10 years from 1963 to 1973 with the former Lymington Borough Council. Later on, he was also a founding member of the New Forest National Park Authority for 10 years since its inception back in 2005 until he stepped down in 2015, serving on its Planning Development Control Committee for 8 years.

Cllr Alan Rice had long-standing interests in New Forest issues, being a past member of the Verderers Court for 8 years and as a Commoner remained one of few residents with rights of 'turbary' (peat cutting). Keen to protect the environment whilst supporting reasonable development, Alan supported modest home extensions and improvements, in view of the increasing costs of housing and moving house, helping people get on the housing ladder.

As an active member for many years and former Chairman of the Hampshire Playing Fields Association, Alan remained supportive of many local sporting organisations and clubs, providing special help to youth amenities and play groups especially.

Through the County's local grant schemes for councillors, Cllr Alan Rice supported many local organisations including over £20,000 for Milford charities and organisations. In Hordle he supported the Golden Hill Nature Reserve and an environmental project supported by the Hordle schoolchildren, together with support for Tiptoe Green. In New Milton, a dementia-friendly town of some 26,000 residents, Cllr Alan Rice contributed towards three raised dementia-friendly allotment plots at the Town Council's Becton Lane allotment site.

In addition, Alan was a member of many years standing of New Milton, Hordle and Milford Royal British Legion branches and was Chairman of the New Milton Memorial Hall Management Committee, as well as being a Governor of Milford-on-Sea School and a past Governor of Hordle, Tiptoe and Arnewood School in New Milton.

After 54 years of public service, Alan Rice stepped down as a County Councillor in May 2017, having completed 44 years as a County Councillor, but continued serving New Milton as a Town Councillor which he joined as Chairman on 15 May 1995. In recognition of his long and loyal service, Cllr Alan Rice TD was the first to be awarded the Freedom of the Town in 2014.