

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Report to: Council

Date: 22 January 2020

Subject: Freedom of The Borough

Report of: The Leader of the Council - Councillor Stephen Cowan

Responsible Chief Officer: Kim Smith, Chief Executive

Summary

In recognition of the achievements and contributions of

- **Michael Mansfield QC**
- **Dr Stephen Hirst**
- **Dr John Lister**
- **Merril Hammer**
- **Anne Drinkell**
- **Jim Grealy**

to the wellbeing of the residents of our borough and across London, this Council is requested to confer on them the “Freedom of the Borough”.

Recommendations

That the Council confer the “Freedom of the Borough” of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham” on: -

- **Michael Mansfield QC**

In recognition of his sterling work and expert insight and analysis as the Chair of the Independent Healthcare Commission for North West London. The Commission’s influential report led to the Government’s abandonment of the closure plans for the existing excellent Charing Cross Hospital and Ealing Hospital which provide crucial health services for some of the most deprived communities across West London.

- **Dr Stephen Hirst**

In recognition that, as a member of the Independent Healthcare Commission for North West London, he oversaw the gathering of evidence that revealed the paucity of the business case that the NHS relied upon to close crucial hospital services for h&f residents. His medical expertise and in-depth knowledge of the health service was crucial in the analysis of the evidence that resulted in the Government’s abandonment of its closure plans for Charing Cross Hospital and Ealing Hospital.

- **Dr John Lister**

In recognition that, as a member of the Independent Healthcare Commission for North West London, he oversaw the gathering of evidence that revealed the paucity of the business case that the NHS relied upon to close crucial hospital services for h&f residents. His research skills and in-depth knowledge of health services was crucial in the analysis of the evidence that resulted in the Government's abandonment of its closure plans for Charing Cross Hospital and Ealing Hospital.

- **Merril Hammer**

In recognition of her tireless campaigning over many years, as the Chair of Save Our Hospitals, to protect crucial hospital services for the residents of Hammersmith & Fulham. Save Our Hospitals was the channel through which the people of Hammersmith & Fulham gained a voice against the Government's hospital closure plans. The closure of two hospitals was averted and a national government policy that would have had such a negative impact on the healthcare of Hammersmith & Fulham residents was overturned.

- **Anne Drinkell**

In recognition of her tireless campaigning over many years, as the Secretary of Save Our Hospitals, to protect crucial hospital services for the residents of Hammersmith & Fulham. Save Our Hospitals was the channel through which the people of Hammersmith & Fulham gained a voice against the Government's hospital closure plans. The closure of two hospitals was averted and a national government policy that would have had such a negative impact on the healthcare of Hammersmith & Fulham residents was overturned.

- **Jim Grealy**

In recognition of his tireless campaigning over many years, as the Assistant Secretary of Save Our Hospitals, to protect crucial hospital services for the residents of Hammersmith & Fulham. Save Our Hospitals was the channel through which the people of Hammersmith & Fulham gained a voice against the Government's hospital closure plans. The closure of two hospitals was averted and a national government policy that would have had such a negative impact on the healthcare of Hammersmith & Fulham residents was overturned.

Wards Affected: All

H&F Priorities

Our Priorities	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Priorities
Creating a compassionate council	The establishment of the Independent Healthcare Commission was a demonstration of the Council's commitment to protect the health and welfare of its residents.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	The Commission took evidence from local residents, campaigners and health service users to inform its report and its recommendations.
Taking pride in H&F	The Government's abandonment of its closure plans for Charing Cross Hospital ensured that a major hospital with excellent services will remain in the borough.

Financial Impact

The cost of a small reception for the friends and family of the recipients will be met from the existing Mayor's budget. There are no additional financial implications of conferring the "Freedom of the Borough" of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on the individuals.

Legal Implications

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Council by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members at a meeting of the Council, specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, to admit 'persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the borough' as "honorary freeman", "honorary aldermen", "honorary freewoman" and "honorary alderwoman".

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Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

1. DETAILED ANALYSIS

1.1. The conferring of the title Freedom of the Borough is the highest civic distinction that can be bestowed upon individuals or collective bodies in recognition of outstanding service or particular civic association. The overriding principle is that these awards should be made on merit. Merit for awards is defined as:

- Achievement
- Exceptional Service

The Administration supports the request that the Freedom of the Borough be granted to Michael Mansfield QC, Dr Stephen Hirst, Dr John Lister, Merril Hammer, Anne Drinkell and Jim Grealy.

1.2. The reasons for the awards are attached as Appendices 1 - 6.

2. REASONS FOR DECISION

2.1. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) allows the Council to confer the titles “honorary freeman”, “honorary aldermen”, “honorary freewoman” and “honorary alderwoman” on an individual where appropriate.

3. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

3.1. It is not anticipated that there will be any negative impact on any groups with protected characteristics, under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, from the conferment of these titles.

3.2. Implications verified by: Fawad Bhatti, Policy & Strategy Officer, Public Service Reform – Tel: 07500103617