The Freedom of Witham

The Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) enables Parish Councils the ability to award the status of honorary freeman on 'persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services.'

The Council can grant the honor by passing a resolution with a two thirds majority.

Qualifications for freedom differ from town to town but generally fall into two categories 'patrimony' (inheritance) and 'servitude'.

Those granted the Freedom of Witham are recorded in the Town's local record in perpetuity and are recognized as a formal presentation ceremony headed by the incumbent Town Mayor.

The Town Council has the power to grant persons who have rendered eminent services, the freedom of the town. Careful consideration needs to be taken to ensure that this honor is not diluted. People to be considered need to have given exceptional voluntary service to the town over a long number of years.

A nomination for the Freedom of Witham will be considered by the Town Council and a two thirds majority is required to pass the motion.

Original Adoption Date:	**Town Council Minute 57 - 18th January 2016**
Review Date:	**Town Council Minute 76 - 27th July 2021**
Review Date:	**Town Council - May 2024**