

ASSEMBLY

31 January 2024

Title: Death of Former Councillor Albert Gibbs, Freeman of the Borough	
Report of the Chief Executive	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
Report Author: Alan Dawson, Head of Governance & Electoral Services	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2348 E-mail: alan.dawson@lbbd.gov.uk
Accountable Director: Deirdre Collins, Head of Law	
Accountable Executive Team Director: Fiona Taylor, Chief Executive	
Summary <p>The Assembly is asked to note with deep regret that former Councillor and Freeman of the Borough, Albert Gibbs, sadly passed away on Saturday 23 December aged 98.</p> <p>Albert was born in Knotty Ash, Liverpool in 1925 and moved to Chadwell Heath when he was four years old. He attended Furze Infants, Warren Junior and Warren Senior schools and left school just as the Second World War started. He spent almost his entire life in the Borough, only moving away in recent years to be cared for by his family.</p> <p>In 1941 while working for Ilford Council, Albert joined the Home Guard to protect the Council's power plant before joining up for regular service in 1943, where he went through Normandy to Germany.</p> <p>Albert left the army in 1948 and met Win whom he married in 1950. They had three children, two daughters and a son, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary shortly before Win passed away in 2001.</p> <p>Albert had a variety of jobs, some twenty in all, until he joined the London Ambulance Service (LAS) in 1965. He was a founder member of the LAS Benevolent Fund in 1966, the first Ambulance Service Benevolent Fund in the UK, and retired in 1990, receiving a Bronze Communal Service award in recognition of 25 years' service.</p> <p>In May 1983, Albert was elected to represent Chadwell Heath ward at a by-election while he was on holiday in Austria. He continued to represent the area, becoming a councillor for Whalebone ward in May 2002 following a local boundary review, until May 2006 when he stood down. During his time on the Council, Albert represented the Chadwell Heath Residents' Association and served on numerous committees, including the Parks, Contractual Services, Planning and Technical Services Committees, and was a very active member of the Wellgate Community Forum which covered the Chadwell Heath and Whalebone ward areas. Another of Albert's passions was the town twinning between Barking & Dagenham and Witten, Germany, and he would regularly drive his minibus</p>	

over to Witten to help celebrate the longstanding relationship between the two towns. Albert was also a member of the Royal British Legion and received a Branch Certificate of Merit from them.

Albert was conferred the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough in 2004 in recognition of his service to the Council and the Chadwell Heath / Whalebone community in particular.

Albert's funeral took place on Wednesday 17 January at South Essex Crematorium. The funeral cortege passed in front of the former Council offices at the Civic Centre, Dagenham, where the Mayor, Councillor Donna Lumsden, the Leader, Councillor Darren Rodwell, and other Members and officers had gathered to pay their respects and present flowers. The Borough flag at the Town Hall, Barking was flown at half-mast throughout the day.

Recommendation(s)

The Assembly is asked to note the report.