



Awards Presented at 2026 APM

KALC Community Award

This year, the Parish Council has decided to award the KALC Community Award to the Trustees of New Ash Green Youth Centre.

At a time when many village halls and community centres are closing due to a lack of volunteers to run them, we are blessed that we have a dedicated group of trustees who manage the Youth Centre on a day-to-day basis. The importance of the building to the community is not lost on us. Without it, we would not have the diverse range of groups and activities that exist; from the Scouts, to the dance school, the lunch club and warm space.

The trustees, both past and present have given many hours of their time and energy to ensure the Youth Centre remains open and we are very grateful to them for that.

I therefore am pleased to present the Trustees with this award tonight.

Special Recognition Award

And now moving onto our second award for this evening, an entirely new award that we don't usually issue but we felt it was only right we awarded this to mark the outstanding contribution that PC Caleb Guest made to our parish whilst serving as our beat officer.

It is no exaggeration to describe PC Guest as an incredible police officer, he has a wonderful personality, a kind hearted nature and an outstanding level of professionalism.

Caleb served as our Beat Officer from Sept 2024 to Nov 2025, a relatively short time in the scheme of things but he has left an ever-lasting impact on this parish, that we will be forever grateful for.

As you've heard earlier tonight; he had numerous achievements during his time serving the area;

- Firstly, launching the Coffee with a Cop events in the parish, which he subsequently rolled out to other parishes he was responsible for. These events gave residents the opportunity for a first time in years, an informal opportunity to meet with Police and raise any concerns they had.

The events he held, I subsequently received feedback from attendees on, and they always remarked on Caleb and how they had confidence in Policing again having met him and seeing he genuinely cared for the patch he was responsible

for. That did an awful lot to repair some of the barriers that existed between Police and residents.

- He was also a strong support to the Parish Council with the reinstatement of youth provision. In fact, I think he underestimates how pivotal he was to this. I met with him and our Community Warden early in Summer 2025, and Caleb raised the pressing need for young people to have a safe space to go to. Seeing his energy for this, meant I took it the issue of youth provision back to Parish Council and we progressed it to where we are today.

Caleb continued to support us when we faced challenges to securing the youth provision, and attended a meeting with the Youth Centre trustees, where he made sure to put forwards the perspective of young people and why there was such a need for the provision to be in place.

Without his contributions to this, I am pretty certain we would not be standing here tonight reporting on the imminent launch of the Youth Provision. So the young people of this parish have a lot to thank Caleb for.

- Caleb also built strong links with the Parish Council's he served, attending meetings and proactively liaising with us. That level of engagement helped the council's to be able to reassure our residents that they could have every confidence in the Police and that local issues and concerns were being addressed.
- His enthusiasm for community engagement and being a visible Policing presence was remarkable, very often I'd send event details to him and say fancy coming along to do some engagement? And pretty much if he was on shift, he'd be up for coming! He would even change his shifts where he could! He became hugely liked and respected by the residents and community groups who met him.
- I'm also directly aware of people that Caleb helped when he responded to incidents, and the common themes of what they'd say about him was how in their time of need, he was the calm and reassuring presence they needed, with a bubbly personality and cheeky smile to go with it.

Caleb embodied the values of Neighbourhood Policing entirely, and I know some of my long-serving colleagues often described Caleb as being akin to the beat officers of old, officers that continue to hold the respect of this parish long since they finished serving it, as I know Caleb will do too. It's also fair to say that when it comes to respect, whenever I talk to any of his Police colleagues, the deep respect they hold for him too always shines through.

Caleb went above and beyond as a Beat Officer, and he didn't just make a positive impact here in Ash cum Ridley, we know he did the same in each of the areas he served.

On a personal level, I was very lucky and privileged to have had the opportunity to work with Caleb frequently and it was always a joy, he'd never fail to arrive to a meeting or catch up with a smile and his brilliant sense of humour. And that makes all the difference, he showed

that Police officers are human too and that they do care, it wasn't just about process or ticking a box, for him it was about making a positive difference.

There is so much more we could say about you Caleb but we'd be here all night, so to bring this to a bit of a conclusion.

We lost a lot when you left as our Beat Officer, but we are so proud of you and grateful that a part of your Policing career was spent here in our patch. We firmly believe you will achieve many great things in the rest of your policing career and perhaps one day you'll be running the force itself!

We hope you continue to enjoy all the adrenaline seeking and running around being on Response means for you now, but we and I know your bosses do too, hope one day you can be lured back to Neighbourhood Policing. But for now, thank you for everything you did for us, everything you continue to do as a police officer, and never change because more should be like you.

All that's left to say is - Caleb, it really is a huge honour and privilege to be presenting you with this Special Recognition Award tonight!