

## **City Council Coat of Arms**

**The City Council's Coat of Arms was granted on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1570 – a copy of the grant being displayed in the Assembly Room anteroom. It is therefore much older than even the City of London's Arms.**

**The Coat of Arms belongs to the City Council – not to the City of Chichester. It is the City Council's identity – nobody else's, and is personal to the City Council. Therefore it cannot be used by anyone other than the City Council, unless Council has stated that it may be so used, and then only if the City Council is involved in the event or in the organisation so using the Arms. In past times various organisations have used it without consent and have been (politely) asked to stop doing so. (Some years ago the High School began to use it as their badge – this had to be stopped). The only organisation which has been officially granted the right to use our Arms is the Chichester City Band, which was granted that right at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and I don't know the circumstances of that. (A very few others have used it, but this is technically unlawful).**

**One's Arms are precious and not to be used except by the owner. When organisations have asked to use our Arms, they have often been advised that it might be better if they use some sort of image of the City Cross, which is the icon of Chichester, and actually more recognisable by people outside the city.**

**I suggest that, as in previous instances, this suggestion could be put to the present request, and any future ones.**

**(There is a little known law which as far as is known has never been repealed, that the penalty for 'usurpation of Arms' is beheading!).**