

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Report of the Community Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder and The Governance & Democracy Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

1. That the proposed programme of events to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee as set out in section five of the report be approved.
2. That £200,000 be added to the Capital Programme for two public art commissions to commemorate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, to be funded from New Homes Bonus Reserve.
3. That the application fee for a temporary road closure for public events be waived for those applications that demonstrate that their event is for the purposes of celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee from 2 June 2022 through to 5 June 2022.

Recommended to Council

SUMMARY:

- Her Majesty The Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, during an extended bank holiday weekend of events and activities from 2–5 June 2022.
- Alongside promotion of national schemes to communities across the borough, a series of local initiatives and events will be encouraged and supported. It is also proposed that a number of activities be promoted by the Borough Council to complement the broader programme of events to allow the communities of Test Valley to honour The Queen and her years of service.
- In doing so, it is proposed that as well as smaller scale and one-off events, a long standing tribute and lasting legacy be developed to mark the historic milestone for generations to come.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old.
- 1.2 There are a range of national schemes for individuals, schools, community groups and larger organisations to become involved with to mark the occasion.
- 1.3 As well as national schemes that the Council will play a role in encouraging local communities to consider through appropriate communications, there are range of activities proposed which the Council may lead on.

2 Background

- 2.1 Throughout 2022, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will travel around the country to undertake a variety of engagements to mark this historic occasion culminating with the focal point of the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June.
- 2.2 An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.
- 2.3 In order to complement national events and allow the communities of Test Valley to express their appreciation of The Queen and her service to the country, a programme of Council-lead initiatives is proposed alongside provision of support for local organisations and groups who wish to mark the occasion in their own way.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2023 Growing Our Potential, includes four strategic aims for the Council over the Plan's four-year period and beyond. The focus of the priorities is growing the potential of town centres, communities, people and the local environment. The programme of events set out in this report supports all of the objectives in the corporate plan, bringing communities together to celebrate an historic occasion of national significance.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 Initial discussions have taken place with Andover Town Council, the BID and Romsey Town Council, to ensure that planned events across the bank holiday weekend are coordinated and complement each other.
- 4.2 Going forward it is proposed that the Council will continue to work with these and other stakeholders to coordinate events and offer support where it can.
- 4.3 Appropriate communications will be developed to promote both national and local initiatives to communities across the borough.

5 Options

- 5.1 There are a number of projects and initiatives set out below that it is suggested the Council leads to mark the Platinum Jubilee and bring communities together in celebration as well as creating a lasting legacy.
- 5.2 As well as leading a bespoke programme of events the Council had already begun working with, and will continue to work closely with partners and communities, to ensure that events planned across the borough are coordinated and complement each other.

- 5.3 This approach will ensure that communities are able to take forward their plans with support from the Council and that as many people as possible are able to join in local events and celebrate the historic milestone.

Specific proposals for consideration include;

Flag Flying

- 5.4 Flags bearing the official Platinum Jubilee Emblem will be flown on all four Test Valley Borough Council flag poles over the bank holiday weekend.

Jubilee Church Service

- 5.5 The Annual Civic Service hosted by the Mayor of Test Valley will be held during the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend. The service will be followed by a reception and will be an opportunity to honour Her Majesty's service.

Mayor's Tea Party

- 5.6 The Mayor will host an afternoon tea party or number of tea parties. The invitation for these events will be aimed at residents from the borough who remember the coronation.

School Competition

- 5.7 A competition will be held across Test Valley Schools inviting entries from school children to design an official card which will be sent to the Queen from The Mayor on behalf of all residents in the borough.

Tree Planting

- 5.8 The national Queen's Green canopy is a scheme to honour the monarch's 70-year reign. <https://queensgreencanopy.org/> The scheme encourages individuals and groups to plant trees and the creation of platinum jubilee copses on council land in order to honour Her Majesty.

Planting schemes

- 5.9 The Council's existing hanging baskets and troughs will be coloured appropriately to mark the Jubilee for the year 2022. In addition to existing vibrant displays, prominent locations will include purple planting to marry with the official jubilee emblem.

Road Closures

- 5.10 To help the neighbourhoods and communities facilitate local celebrations such as street parties, road closure fees shall be waived for those applications that can demonstrate that they are holding a local event for the purposes of marking the Platinum Jubilee over the extended bank holiday weekend.

Beacon Lighting Ceremony

- 5.11 On Thursday 2 June, the United Kingdom's long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons will be continued to mark the Platinum Jubilee. Communities will be encouraged to join in the celebrations by lighting existing permanent or temporary beacons at 9.15pm on 2 June 2022.

Public Art Dedication

- 5.12 To commission two bespoke and inspiring public art works to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The artworks will celebrate the theme of seventy years of service and the Queens connections to Test Valley. Artworks will be located in Andover and Romsey, the locations proposed are Pocket Park in Andover and War Memorial Park in Romsey.
- 5.13 Artists from across the country will be invited to apply and a commissioning panel of stakeholders will work together through a staged process to select appropriate artists for each town. The commissioning panel will review applications against the Artist Brief (see appendix 1) including the aims of the TVBC Public Art Strategy which are; accessibility, aesthetic integrity, relationship to place and people and inclusivity.
- 5.14 The funding of £200,000 (£100,000 per commission) to be allocated from the New Homes Bonus Reserve. This includes fees for stage 2 artist applications, then lead artists' time in planning and research, design and fabrication. It also includes an allocation of fees towards any required permissions, community workshops and unveiling events.
- 5.15 The timescales are set out in the brief and on approval we would launch the commission at the start of the Platinum Jubilee year February 2022. Allowing 3 months for the full two stage recruitment process. Artists will be contracted in summer 2022 and the aim is to install the artworks in the spring of 2023.

6 Options and Option Appraisal

- 6.1 Option one is to approve the proposed programme of events as set out in section 5 of the report along with the associated costs. This is the recommended option.
- 6.2 The proposed projects and initiatives have been developed in order to provide a coordinated and complementary programme of events that align with national initiatives and proposed projects being taken forward by local stakeholders.
- 6.3 The proposed programme will allow communities across the borough to take forward their own plans with support from the Council to mark the occasion how they wish as well as offering them the opportunity to be part of broader Council initiatives that aim to bring groups together to celebrate.
- 6.4 Option two is to not approve the proposed programme of events as set out in section 5 of the report. This is not recommended.

- 6.5 The proposed programme of events aims to allow communities to better access events, express their appreciation of Her Majesty and feel they are part of a nationally historic occasion.
- 6.6 Option three is to approve some but not all of the proposed programme of events as set out in section 5 of the report or to approve other proposals for projects. This is not recommended.
- 6.7 Should other projects be put forward for consideration, further work would be required to understand the practicality, associated risks and any legal and/or financial implications of any such projects before the Council would be able to commit to them.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 An evaluation of the risks indicate that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks have been identified at this time.

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 The projects set out in paragraphs 5.4 through to 5.11 can be accommodated through existing budgets.
- 8.2 Temporary road closures for public events. It is unclear what the level of take up from communities who wish to apply for a temporary road closure will be. It is anticipated that resources required to administer any temporary road closures specifically for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee from 2 June 2022 through to 5 June 2022 will be managed through existing budgets.
- 8.3 Public art. The funding of £200,000 (£100,000 per commission) is recommended to be allocated from the New Homes Bonus. Ongoing maintenance costs will be requested as part of the successful artist's proposals but cannot be estimated at this stage. These costs are currently unbudgeted and will create a budget pressure that will be built into the budget at the appropriate time.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 No legal implications have been identified.

10 Equality Issues

- 10.1 No equalities issues have been identified.

11 Other Issues

- 11.1 Community Safety – None.
- 11.2 Environmental Health Issues – None.
- 11.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – None.

11.4 Property Issues – None.

11.5 Wards/Communities Affected – All.

12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

12.1 In order to complement national events and allow the communities of Test Valley to express their appreciation of The Queen and her service to the country, a programme of Council-lead initiatives is proposed alongside provision of support for local organisations and groups who wish to mark the occasion in their own way.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Community, Leisure & Tourism and Governance & Democracy) Councillors D Drew and I Jeffrey			
Officer:	Emma Horbury and Dave Tasker	Ext:	8001/8801
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	8 December 2021