

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
18TH JANUARY 2012

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

1. At the meeting on 21st September 2011, members considered a report on the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. For ease of reference, a copy is attached as an Appendix. The recommendations in the report were agreed and £2,500 was allocated from the current year's Big Society budget to underwrite the celebrations.
2. The Council's decision was publicised and the Working Party invited, by letter and information in the Press, all interested organisations to attend a Public Meeting to discuss the celebrations.
3. Following two meetings, it is clear that whilst there is support from those attending the meetings to take part in celebrations; other commitments prevent any individual or organisation from taking a lead and organising any major event. As stated in paragraph 4 of the original report, if a major community event is to be successful it must be community based and involve the community in the planning stage, its implementation and the event itself.
4. It is now clear that it will not be possible to meet that objective.
5. At the last meeting of interested persons on 10th January 2012, it was agreed that whilst it would not be possible to organise a single major event, the town should nonetheless celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. A large majority of those present believed that this could best be achieved by the Town Council supporting street parties in a similar manner to the way in which it supported street parties for the Royal Wedding in 2011.
6. This type of approach also fits in very well with national initiatives. Building on the already popular Big Lunch initiative, people will be encouraged to share lunch with neighbours and friends as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It has been suggested that this sharing of food could be by way of a traditional street party or even a picnic lunch.
7. In addition to supporting street parties, it was agreed at the meeting that if any individual group wished to come forward with a small scale event which they would organise during the Jubilee celebration, then details could be included in any publicity issued by the Town Council.
8. It is recommended;
 - i) That as there is no organisation or individual within the town that can organise a single major event, then consideration of this type of celebration be discontinued;
 - ii) That the Town Council now formally supports the wider celebration of the Diamond Jubilee across the whole town through the provision of bunting and flags for street parties in the same manner as provided for the Royal Wedding in 2011;
 - iii) That consideration be given to including any other celebrations organised by individual organisations in any publicity issued by the Town Council to mark the celebrations;
 - iv) That the Committee determine the apportionment of the available budget to be spent on boxes containing bunting, union flags and other items for street parties and any funds to be allocated for events that might be arranged by individual organisations.

For further information, contact:

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Town Clerk

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**POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
21st SEPTEMBER 2011**

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

1. The Diamond Jubilee celebrations will take place over the weekend of Saturday 2nd June – Tuesday 5th June 2012. To accommodate this period of celebration, the late spring Bank Holiday is being moved to Monday 4th June and it appears that an additional Bank Holiday is being granted for Tuesday 5th June.
2. Whilst it is appropriate for the Town Council to be involved in facilitating local celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee, it should be noted that there are a number of events taking place in the late spring/early summer of 2012 that will have an effect on the resources that can be allocated to it by the Council. In addition, a number of organisations who might have wished to be involved in the Jubilee celebration also have commitments for their own annual events at this time.
3. Amongst the issues that the Council will need to consider are:-
 - i) The Gateway building is scheduled for completion towards the end of April 2012 with occupation taking place in the middle to end of May. The landscaping work outside the building will be taking place at around the same time. Staff will be fully committed in the months leading up to the move to ensuring the seam free transition from Greenways and the Public Offices into one new building and integrating service provision with two other Authorities. It is exceedingly unlikely therefore that administrative staff will be available to take significant roles in the organisation of the Jubilee celebrations.
 - ii) The Festival weekend is penciled in as the 14th/15th July. At this stage it is known that the golf event will take place on Friday 13th July, the Concourse de Elegance on the 14th July and the Pedal Car Grand Prix itself on the 15th July. It is also hoped that there will be a street market organised by local traders on Saturday 14th July. The Town Council staff provides administrative support for the Festival weekend, but more importantly the Pedal Car Grand Prix relies very heavily on voluntary support from local individuals and groups.
 - iii) The Olympic Games is taking place on 27th July – 12th August 2012. It is likely that a number of local people will be involved in some capacity in that event.
 - iv) Other organisations such as RMDS, Rotary and the Lions Club will undoubtedly also have events planned for the late spring/early summer 2012. These could have an effect on the number of volunteers who might come forward to take part in the organisation of the Jubilee celebrations.
4. Notwithstanding the known commitments for 2012 it is clear that in order to be successful the Jubilee celebrations for the town must be community based and involve the community as much as possible in the planning stage, its implementation and at the event itself. It is believed that the involvement of individuals can best be achieved by publicity through the local press. Such publicity needs to commence as quickly as possible. In addition to advertising in the local press for individuals to become involved the members of the Working Party believe that a direct approach should also be made to a number of local organisations. These include:-

Ringwood Rotary
Greyfriars Community Association
RMDS
Ringwood Society
Local Churches

The Lions Club of Great Britain
Local schools
Ringwood Chamber of Trade and Commerce
Ringwood Traders Group
Ellingham and Ringwood Football Club
Ringwood Town Football Club

5. The most effective way of involving the public and existing clubs and organisations will be through a partnership Working Party involving community organisations and Councillors. If the Town Council is to underwrite the event, it is reasonable that it should have a reserve power to agree proposals, although as far as practicable the partnership Working Party should be given as much empowerment as practicable to deliver the event within the agreed budget.
6. At the initial meeting members looked at the possible types of event that could be achieved. Taking into account commitments referred to earlier the initial thought is that consideration should be given to holding a town picnic and tea party on The Bickerley with Forest Forge and local schools being invited to provide entertainment during the daytime. In the evening any stage provided could be used as a showcase for local bands. It was thought too that the organisers of the Bisterne Scarecrow Competition might be invited to consider whether that event could be brought forward to the Diamond Jubilee period with a 'Royal' theme.
7. In order to take account of the possibility of poor weather consideration should be given to hiring a marquee for the weekend. In that connection, it was suggested that the newly acquired marquee used at the Ellingham and Ringwood Show might be suitable.
8. Whilst the members of the Working Party believed that the Town Council should encourage and facilitate events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, they acknowledged that if despite the Council's best efforts, there was no interest by other partners to take a lead in the organisation of the celebrations it would be difficult to justify public expenditure on an event that had not engendered local support. This is particularly important as that expenditure would need to be justified against other services to be delivered for the public in the town.
9. It is recommended:-
 - i) That the general principles outlined this report be supported;
 - ii) That arrangements be made to establish a partnership Working Party with other organisations and individuals within the town to deliver Diamond Jubilee celebrations over the weekend of 2nd – 5th June 2012;
 - iii) That subject to participation by individuals and organisations within the town, a commitment be made to provide financial support at a level to be determined by the Committee to underwrite the event in 2012; and
 - iv) That in order to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee the Council's flower displays in 2012 be based on a red/white/blue colour theme.

For further information, contact:

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