

## St George's Day Sub-Committee – 23 June 2005

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Minutes of the meeting of the **St George's Day Sub-Committee** held on **23 June 2005** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs M J Webster (Chairman)

Cllr C A Hungate  
Cllr R A Oatham

Cllr D G Stansby  
Cllr J Thomass

### OFFICERS PRESENT

H Collins - Civic & Public Relations Officer  
C Coates - Arts Development Officer  
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

### 8 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 April 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 9 FEEDBACK ON 2005 CELEBRATIONS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR 2006

The Sub-Committee considered the success of the 2005 St George's Day celebrations and gave initial consideration to the possibilities for St George's Day 2006.

#### (1) Supply of Display Packs to Non-Profit Making Organisations

This had been well received with twenty packs and four large flags issued. Pack contents had been used for the Chairman's Charity Quiz. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for officers to apply any remaining budget allocation to increase the stock of packs.

#### (2) Arts Workshop in Four Selected Primary Schools

This had been well received, with the majority of primary schools signifying a high level of interest. Members endorsed the suggestion of the Arts Development Officer that, for 2006, there would be merit in considering a themed open day for families at The Mill, perhaps on the last Friday prior to St George's Day (which was on Sunday 23 May). The total cost of such an event would be £1,000. The suggestion that another local heritage project similar to the Heritage Banners project could take place in schools was also endorsed.

#### (3) Support of Local Newspapers/Radio

It could be recognised that radio/television coverage could have been greater, although for 2005 this was probably related to the minimal time that was

available for pre-publicity. Events such as the open day suggested in (2) above could prove of particular interest to the media.

The lack of display activity in Rayleigh High Street was disappointing, although it could be recognised that many shops were part of larger chains with their own policies on display. It was observed that Rayleigh Town Council was currently considering the possibility of introducing pole mounts in the High Street and that an early approach to the Town Council on the possibility of these being available for bunting in 2006 would be appropriate.

#### **(4) Salvation Army Concerts**

These had been well received and the Salvation Army had been grateful for the associated financial donation. For future years there would be merit in a sandwich board being available at each concert highlighting the St George's Day theme. The Civic and Public Relations Officer confirmed that an element of the current budget could be applied to the sourcing of small pins or badge stickers that could be handed out at such events.

In terms of location, it was agreed that there would be merit in the Memorial Hall in Gt Wakering being included again. It was recognised that, given that St George's Day 2006 fell on a Sunday, the Salvation Army may prefer to play on a Saturday. Reference was made to the possibility that the Salvation Army may have their own celebratory plans that the Chairman of the Council could attend?

#### **(5) Opening of Canewdon Church and Ashingdon Church**

The level of public interest had been mixed. It was observed that there could be merit in considering the possibilities of a coach tour of historic Churches (tickets sold in advance) taking in, say, locations at Canewdon, Ashingdon, Hockley, Rochford and Rayleigh. Officers confirmed that they would investigate this further. It was also observed that leaflets on historical churches could be included for use by visitors to the Rayleigh Windmill once it is refurbished.

#### **(6) Themed Charity Quiz Night at Hawkwell Village Hall**

This had been very well received and had raised £400 for the Chairman's Charity.

#### **(7) Introduction of the Theme at Leisure Premises**

The Mill had decorated its coffee shop with a St George's theme and a flag had been placed at Clements Hall. With the additional time for notice, more could be done in 2006.

### **(8) Page in Rochford District Matters**

This had been successful. Members concurred with the observation of the Arts Development Officer that there could be merit in combining next year's article with information on the history of the Council's crest.

### **(9) Flying of Flags on Council Properties**

Flags had been flown in all the established positions. The specific location of a flag on Rayleigh Windmill could be considered nearer next year's date.

### **(10) Highlighting of the Theme on the Council's Website**

This had gone well and could include any events developed for 2006.

### **(11) Visit by Council Chairman to Themed Events**

The visits had been very well received but had demonstrated the need to be mindful of capacity and providing sufficient time at each location. It was observed that both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman could share duties.

There was some discussion on the possibilities for contacting organisations such as Rayleigh Lions or Rayleigh Rotary Club on whether they would be willing to facilitate St George's Day celebrations. Councillor R A Oatham confirmed that he would approach Rayleigh Lions in this regard. The Civic and Public Relations Officer would contact the Rayleigh Rotary Club.

During general discussion on 2006 it was noted that Rayleigh Brass had already agreed, in principle, to a concert in 2006 at the Freight House (and the Freight House had been reserved).

Last year the Sub-Committee had observed that there would be merit in considering the possibilities for utilising Rayleigh Mount in future year(s) and involvement by the Rayleigh Amateur Dramatic Society. Responding to questions, officers advised that, whilst activity was under-way to introduce events on Rayleigh Mount, a number of issues, including inclement weather, could cause difficulty. All events at The Mount had to have the full support of the National Trust. There would be merit in considering opportunities once the current refurbishing work at the Windmill had been completed.

Whilst accepting that the Sub-Committee's current specific remit related to St George's Day celebrations, some reference was made to the potential value of maximising the publicity associated with the planting of trees at the Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park in connection with the Battle of Trafalgar. Officers confirmed that they would be liaising with the Council's Woodlands and Environmental Specialist in this regard.

Members wished to place on record their thanks to Helen Collins and Caroline Coates for all their work.

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Officers confirmed that they would arrange a future meeting at a time that facilitated the Sub-Committee to feed into the budget process.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 11.24 am.

Chairman .....

Date .....