

EVENT PROGRAMME 2006/07

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' views with regard to events for 2006/07 and to formulate a request for funding to the Community Services Committee.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the success of the St. George's Day celebrations this year, Council approved the expansion of heritage events to take in the following:-

St. George's Day	23 April
VE Day	8 May
VJ Day	14 August
Battle of Britain Day	15 September
Trafalgar Day	21 October

- 2.2. In addition to flying the appropriate flag on the above days, this Sub Committee has been tasked with co-ordinating events and celebrations throughout the District on these days.

3 ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 From the minutes of the former St. George's Day Sub Committee submitted for approval at this meeting, it is clear that the work carried out by this Council in co-ordinating events throughout the District was well received.
- 3.2 Owing to the policy of encouraging partner organisations to be involved, the actual cost to the District Council was modest, the final expenditure being just under £4,600.
- 3.3 There was, however, an officer resource devoted to the project which is not reflected in the above costs. Approximately 86 hours of officer time was required for the St. George's Day initiative.
- 3.4 Fortunately, St. George's Day falls at a time when the officers involved were able to re-prioritise their time and activities to accommodate this extra work.
- 3.5 Looking at the dates of the other events, it would be difficult to commit any significant resource to VE Day, VJ Day and Battle of Britain Day. The reason for this is that the Leisure Division within the Council is fully committed to organising and running the summer play schemes. Owing to the large

number of events we run over the summer period, additional temporary resources had to be brought in to cope with the workload.

- 3.6 Members will be aware that the Council has, in the past, actively participated in the Rochford Heritage Day organised by the Rochford Hundred Festival Committee.
- 3.7 The Council also promotes an annual Wild Woods Day in the Hockley Woods.
- 3.8 What may be possible would be to work in partnership with the National Trust to have a small event, targeted at families. This could be an outdoor event on Rayleigh Mount. The event would be centred around arts and crafts, celebrating the history of the Mount using local natural materials.
- 3.9 It would only be possible to stage this as most of the work could be incorporated into the summer programme as all of the advertising, etc. would be to the same target audience. It would also be essential to have the full support and assistance of the National Trust.
- 3.10 The estimated cost of such an event would be in the region of £1,500.
- 3.11 There may be scope to arrange celebrations for Trafalgar Day as there is a small window of time in September to carry out some work.
- 3.12 As Members are aware, as this is the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar Day, a planting ceremony of oak trees is being conducted in the Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park on 21 October.
- 3.13 A view needs to be taken as to the level of activities undertaken on these additional days when there is no special anniversary associated with them.
- 3.14 The cost of the St. George's Day celebrations, if enhanced in accordance with suggestions contained in the minutes of the St. George's Day Sub Committee, will be in the region of £5,000.
- 3.15 If other celebrations are required, subject to the limitations on staff resources, a budget of £500 would seem reasonable.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) To recommend that budget provision of £7,000 be requested to provide for a programme of heritage events in 2006/07
- (2) To determine an indicative programme for St. George's Day and give views for further analysis in respect of the other Heritage Days.

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Background Papers:-

None

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