
REPORT OF THE HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE

1 2005 CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS PROGRAMME 2006/07

- 1.1 This item of business was referred by the Heritage Sub-Committee on 15 November 2005 to the Community Services Committee with a recommendation that budget provision of £7,000 be requested to provide for a programme of heritage events in 2006/07. A copy of the officer's report to the Sub-Committee is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Sub-Committee discussion on the 2005 St. George's Day celebrations established that:-
- It should be possible to repeat the primary schools arts workshop approach for 2006, involving new schools. The Arts Development Officer would liaise with schools on the possibilities for workshops in the first week after the half term.
 - There would be merit in approaching the Town Council on whether the District Council could utilise the pole mounts that were in place in the High Street between Bellingham Lane and the Church for the display of bunting.
 - There could be merit in introducing a coach tour of historic churches (tickets sold in advance) taking in, say, locations at Canewdon, Ashingdon, Hockley, Rochford, Rayleigh and Stambridge. Such a tour could be associated with something like a Rayleigh History Day.
 - Officers would investigate whether it is possible for Rayleigh Windmill to be opened on St. George's Day 2006.
 - It should be possible to include consultation with organisations such as the Rayleigh Civic Society and the Rotary Club on whether they would wish to hold events associated with a District Council event on Rayleigh Mount as part of the Summer Schools Programme. There was a need to contain the District Council event around the Mount to involve only the National Trust and Rayleigh Historical Society to ensure it remained manageable. The Arts Development Officer would liaise with the National Trust. Costs for such an event are expected to be around £2000.
 - It would be appropriate to ensure that any themed quiz nights are held at a time that does not conflict with other events Members may wish to attend.
 - Once it is completed, it may be possible that the Rayleigh Leisure Centre could be utilised for theming.
- 1.3 The Sub-Committee noted that, for 2005, Rayleigh Brass had been invited to hold a concert at the Freight House, Rochford on the evening of Sunday 23rd.

- 1.4 The Sub-Committee had some discussion on consulting the Salvation Army on an involvement in 2006 celebrations on the basis that any events that the Army are holding at their Citadel on the St. George's Day Sunday can be promoted at the same time. There was also discussion on whether a Rayleigh WI would be prepared to hold some sort of event, such as a coffee morning, in the vicinity of the beacon at Rayleigh that could be allied to a Salvation Army concert and the possibility of an approach to Holmes Place on appropriate decorations at Squires Coffee Shop. Reference was made to the potential value of approaching Rochford WI on the holding of an event at their Hall in Rochford Square with the Salvation Army playing outside. Alternatively, it could be possible that Rochford Parish Council may be prepared to hold an event in the Parish Rooms. With an event also being held at the Freight House, there may be merit in ascertaining if the mini-steam train near to the Freight House could be utilised. It was agreed that officers should investigate what could be achieved along these lines.
- 1.5 The Sub-Committee has endorsed a suggestion of the Arts Development Officer that an event aimed at young families could be held upstairs at 'The Mill' on 22 April (12noon to 4pm). Such an event, which would cost in the region of £2,000, had been factored into the budgetary proposal in the report on the 2006/07 Events Programme.
- 1.6 It was noted that, whilst there had been some liaison with the Museums Service on possibilities for a Historic Heritage Day, there was a need to be mindful of both costs and possible disruption.
- 1.7 In discussing general events for 2006/07 the Sub-Committee recognised that there was a need to remain mindful of resource implications when identifying events that go beyond, for instance, the flying of appropriate flags/badging and the utilisation of known audiences. It was noted that the Chairman of the Council attended events associated with heritage.
- 1.8 In discussing the value of promoting heritage celebrations across the District wherever possible, it was noted that it may be possible to ally to events such as the Hullbridge Low Tide day. It was also noted that, once fully opened, the Windmill would be useful as a centre for the relay of information.
- 1.9 The Civic and Public Relations officer advised that an approach had been received from the Rochford Hundred Festival Committee. The Committee was hoping for some form of support in celebrating the fact that 2007 would be a key anniversary of the Rochford Market Charter.
- 1.10 The Sub-Committee observed that any celebrations would no doubt need to take account of traffic flow movements associated with forthcoming developments in the vicinity of Rochford Town Centre. It was also observed that, whilst it would be appropriate for Rayleigh Mount to be the focus of St. George's Day celebrations in 2006, consideration could be given to the possibilities of a greater focus on the Heritage Day in Rochford in 2007.

1.11 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That budget provision of £7,000 be requested to provide for a programme of heritage events in 2006/07. (CD(F&ES))

Sarah Fowler

Head of Administrative & Member Services

Background Papers:-

None

For further information please contact John Bostock on:-

Tel:- 01702 318140

E-Mail:- john.bostock@rochford.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

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.

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

Background Papers:-

None

For further information please contact Roger Crofts on:-

Tel:- 01702 546366

E-Mail:- roger.crofts@rochford.gov.uk