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## REPORT OF THE ST GEORGE'S DAY SUB-COMMITTEE

### 1. ST GEORGE'S DAY 2005

- 1.1 This item of business was referred by the St George's Day Sub-Committee on 24 January to Council with a number of recommendations. A copy of the officer's report to the Sub-Committee is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee recognised that, given the timeframe for delivery and likely budget availability, there would be value in concentrating on areas that can be done well. It was recognised that some projects unsuited to this year's timeframe could be possible forms of celebration for future years.
- 1.3 Members noted that the letter engendering support/gauging the interest of non-profit making organisations had been sent to all bodies identified on the County Libraries Life website. Letters would also be sent to the Friends of Holy Trinity, Rochford Almshouses, Essex Marina, additional WI's, Day Centres and the Licensed Victuallers Association. There had already been expressions of interest from the Hockley Chamber of Trade and Hockley Parish Council. The Sub-Committee agreed that it would be appropriate to offer the Chairman of both the Hockley Chamber and the other business representative organisations one St George's display pack, but to inform them that individual member businesses, as they are commercial concerns, could not be supplied free of charge. Reference was made to the possibility that Rayleigh Town Council had access to bunting that could be used for the occasion. Reference was also made to the possibility that any future display packs could include a quantity of small badges.
- 1.4 The Sub-Committee observed that there would be merit in consulting the Chairman of the Council on the inclusion of visits to Day Centres within the District as part of a St George's Day itinerary. The Civic and Public Relations Officer confirmed that a letter could be despatched to the Day Centres indicating that the Chairman would be happy to consider visiting any themed event that they may have.
- 1.5 The Sub-Committee reviewed the schedule of projects identified to date, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, on a project by project basis. Comments were made as follows:-

#### Supply of display packs to non-profit making organisations.

This was endorsed and further reviewed under discussion on communication with the churches and parish/town councils (see below).

#### Arts Workshop with St George's Day Theme in selected Primary Schools.

This was endorsed on the basis that, where possible, there be a geographical spread across the District.

Engendering the Support of Local Newspapers/Radio Stations

This was endorsed.

Asking Churches and Parish/Town Councils to fly a St George's Flag

This was endorsed. It was observed that Anglican Churches should have their own flag. Recognising that organisations may wish to obtain either large flags or a display pack and the need to be mindful of expenditure, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to set a combined maximum expenditure of £2,000 for the supply of display packs and large flags, with communications to organisations indicating that there is a limited supply that would be made available on a first come first served basis.

Involvement by Local Musical Organisations

The Sub-Committee agreed that Rayleigh Brass should be thanked for their interest and advised that the Council would be grateful if they could consider being available for celebrations in the following year. In this regard, it was also suggested that Holmes Place should be approached on the possibility of the The Freight House being available in 2006. It was observed that it may be possible to engender the interest of school orchestras in future years.

In terms of this year, reference was made to the possibility that, if approached with an element of financial support, the Salvation Army Band could be willing to provide four half hour concerts in different parts of the District (Hockley, Rayleigh, Hullbridge and Rochford). It was agreed that it would appropriate to apply up to £400 for such activity (£100 per concert per site).

Introduction of a Mascot

It was agreed that the ceramic dragon donated by the Chairman should be retained for use as a table display as appropriate.

Encouraging Shopkeepers to celebrate

This had been covered under previous discussion.

Asking Branches of the W.I. if they could organise tea/coffee events

It was noted that the Hockley/Hawkwell W.I. intended to run a St George's themed coffee morning at the local Fire Station.

Contacting Local Farmers Markets on identifying English products as a connection with the day

It was noted that all Farmers Market product was English. Cllr Mrs M S Vince confirmed that she would ask the Rochford Farmers Market to consider including reference to St George's Day in its next run of posters.

Highlighting the Connections of Canewdon Church and the Battle of Agincourt/The significance of Ashingdon Church and the Battle of Ashingdon

It was agreed that, from the perspective of highlighting historical events, this year it would be appropriate to make contact with Canewdon Church and Ashingdon Church on the possibility of an A4 leaflet being produced to highlight their history and the churches being open to visitors on St George's Day. A sum of £250 should suit this purpose ( a £50 donation to each church for being open on the day, the balance being applied to the production of leaflets). If the churches were unable to open on the day this year, the project could be deferred to 2006.

Identifying a Hall or Other Venue that could be available for a themed event for Councillors

The suggestion of a themed quiz night at Hawkwell Village Hall was endorsed. The high demand for tickets for the Chairman's Quiz Night on 5 February pointed to the potential for such an event, which could be self-financing and generate a surplus for the Chairman's Charity. The Sub-Committee felt that it would be appropriate to suggest a donation of £100 towards refreshments.

Contact with Golf Clubs on Flags being flown at Club premises and by golfers

It was agreed that, given the various other ideas, there was no need to pursue this aspect.

Inviting Morris Dancers to be involved

It was agreed that this project might be something for future years.

The Identification of sites appropriate for celebration, including areas away from the main town

It was agreed that this project might be something for future years.

Sponsorship

The Sub-Committee was pleased to note that Holmes Place had indicated that they would assist where possible. Noting that the Council's leisure accommodation had already been pre-booked for 23 April, it was agreed that Holmes Place should be asked if they would be able to contribute prizes for the proposed quiz night and to consider introducing the St George's theme at the coffee shops and receptions of the various leisure premises. The Council could offer to make some flags/bunting available for this purpose.

Asking All Members for suggestions for events that they would be willing to take responsibility for and promote

It was agreed that, for this year, it would be appropriate to concentrate on activities such as the quiz night. It would be helpful if as many Members as possible would contribute.

The Windmill, Rayleigh

Officers confirmed that, in view of current building works, they would investigate whether there is any possibility of flying a flag at the Windmill site this year.

Dedication of a page in next edition of Rochford District Matters

This was endorsed.

Flying Flags at Council Premises

It was noted that the flag was already available and flown for St George's Day at the Civic Suite and The Mill.

- 1.6 The Civic and Public Relations Officer confirmed that a large flag could be made available to Holmes Place for displaying on the large window at the front of the Clements Hall facility. The Sub-Committee endorsed the suggestion that use be made of the front page of the Council's website to highlight the Council's commitment to St Georges' Day. Reference was made to the possibility that there could be future investigation into making contact with the owners of historic buildings across the District on the flying of flags.
- 1.7 The Sub-Committee was pleased to note that the various projects under consideration could be achieved at a cost of approximately £4,050. Recognising that this year would be very much about facilitating/developing the concept of celebrating St George's Day, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to suggest that consideration be given to earmarking an appropriate sum for 2006 celebrations as part of next year's budget discussions.
- 1.8 In terms of the next stage for 2005 celebrations, it was agreed that it would be practicable to ask the Council to consider delegating authority to the Sub-Committee to finalise arrangements, subject to these being kept within the agreed budget figure.
- 1.9 The Sub-Committee felt that the various projects under consideration should provide a good geographical spread of activity of interest to various age groups. It was also felt that, given some of the activities will highlight cultural and historical aspects of the District, Thames Gateway South Essex should be informed of the Council's activities.

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1.10 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

- (1) To endorse the following activities:-
  - (a) The supply of a display pack and/or large flag to each non-profit making organisation (including the business representative organisations, churches and Town/Parish Councils) on request, subject to a maximum expenditure of £2,000. Churches and the Town/Parish Councils to be asked to fly a St George's flag.
  - (b) A school arts workshop with St George's Day theme (one day in five primary schools with, if possible, a geographical spread) at a cost of £1000.
  - (c) The engendering of support from local newspapers/radio stations.
  - (d) Asking the Salvation Army if they would be willing to provide four half hour concerts, one in each of four different parts of the District (Hockley, Rayleigh, Hullbridge and Rochford) at a cost of £100 per concert.
  - (e) Asking Rayleigh Brass if they would consider being available for a concert in 2006 and approaching Holmes Place on the possibility of the Freight House building being available in 2006.
  - (f) Contact with Canewdon Church and Ashingdon Church on the possibility of an A4 leaflet being produced by the Council to highlight their history and whether they could be open to visitors on St George's Day. A sum of £250 to be available for this purpose, comprising of a £50 contribution to each church for being open on the day with the balance being applied to the production of leaflets.
  - (g) Arrangements being made for a St George's themed Charity Quiz Night at Hawkwell Village Hall on the basis that surplus monies are donated to the Chairman's Charity. A donation of £100 to be made towards refreshments. Holmes Place to be asked to consider contributing prizes.
  - (h) Asking Holmes Place to consider introducing a St George's theme at the various leisure premises and placing a flag (supplied by the Council) in the large front window of the Clements Hall building.
  - (i) The dedication of a page in the next edition of Rochford District Matters.

- (j) The flying of flags in the usual location on Council properties and, if possible, at the Rayleigh Windmill Site.
  - (k) The highlighting of the Council's commitment to St George's Day on the front page of the website.
  - (l) Subject to the concurrence of the Chairman, the despatch of a letter to Day Centres within the District indicating that the Chairman would be happy to consider visiting any themed event that they may have.
  - (m) Advising Thames Gateway South Essex of the Council's celebration activities in the context of how they will help highlight cultural and historical aspects of the District.
- (2) To give consideration to earmarking an appropriate sum for 2006 celebrations within next year's budget discussions.
  - (3) To delegate authority to the Sub-Committee to finalise the arrangements associated with the above activities, subject to these being kept within the agreed budget figure (HAMS/CE)

Sarah Fowler

Head of Administrative and Member Services

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**Background Papers:-**

None

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