

# **Civic and Ceremonial Programme Board**

Notes of a Virtual Meeting of the Civic and Ceremonial Programme Board held on the **29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

## **Present:**

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman)  
Cllr. Forest (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs. Burgess, Ovenden, Webb.

## **Apologies:**

Cllrs. Knowles, L Suddards, Head of Culture, Tourism and Leisure, Grounds Maintenance Operations Manager.

## **In Attendance:**

Head of Corporate Policy, Economic Development and Communications, Head of Environment and Land Management, Tourism and Heritage Manager, Heritage Development Officer, Civic Officer, Member Services Manager.

## **1 Declarations of Interest**

- 1.1 Councillor Webb made a Voluntary Announcement as she was the President of the Ashford Sea Cadets.

## **2 Notes of the Previous Meeting of the Board – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**

- 2.1 The notes of the Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 were approved and confirmed as a correct record.

## **3 Draft Queen's Platinum Jubilee Community Project Brief**

- 3.1 The Tourism and Heritage Manager introduced the report which brought the Board up-to-date with plans to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HMS Albacore and Warship Week in Ashford in 2022.
- 3.2 The Leader said he was fully behind the proposals in the report, particularly the Albacore aspects, but wondered if they went far enough in terms of the Queen's Jubilee and whether the current budget of £10,000 was enough. He considered more funding could be levered in through sponsorship and there was an opportunity to do something a little more spectacular. The Board agreed and considered the project could also continue throughout 2022 and

incorporate Remembrance Sunday and Christmas, rather than simply ending in July. The Platinum Jubilee was after all a one-off special occasion which was unlikely to ever be repeated. A Member said that they had started off with a modest budget to be realistic and reflect the uncertainty during Covid-19 and had perhaps been over-cautious, but the Council's budgetary position was now improving and she supported the investment of some more funding for this.

- 3.3 The Portfolio Holder said that in his view, apart from the main Council backed events, the focus should be on engaging with the community and encouraging them to deliver their own events, and for the Council to be a facilitator. However, he said he would be happy to take another look at the proposals with a view to extending the budget and the scope and to see what more could be achieved.
- 3.4 It was agreed to start a running events diary for the 2022 celebrations. The Council should write out to all Parish Councils and community organisations, find out what they were doing to mark the Platinum Jubilee, and publicise that all in one place.

**Resolved:**

**That the report be received and noted and the report to Cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be deferred for the timebeing to examine the scope of the proposals.**

## **4 Update on the Ashford Borough Virtual Heritage Plaque Scheme**

- 4.1 The Heritage Development Officer introduced the report which gave an update on the above scheme. He explained that since the previous meeting he had received a nomination for a further plaque and he had undertaken some research on that individual. The Board agreed that they were a suitable candidate.
- 4.2 The Leader said that as they emerged from the pandemic he hoped the Council could again consider issuing physical plaques. A total of 20 virtual plaques had now been agreed and whilst he understood not all of these would be able to be installed physically, he hoped that where they could, they would - perhaps starting with two or three a year.

**Resolved:**

- That (i) the update be received and noted.**
- (ii) the latest candidate be supported.**

## **5 Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 and Association of Jewish Refugees – 80 Trees for 80 Years Project**

- 5.1 The Heritage Development Officer gave a verbal update on this project. He explained that July 2021 had marked the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association of Jewish Refugees. To commemorate this anniversary the Association had launched an 80 Trees for 80 Years Project which would see 80 English Oak Trees planted around Britain to honour those refugees who had escaped Nazi occupied Europe. As ABC participated in Holocaust Memorial Day each year, they had been one of the areas invited to participate in this project and provide a location for one of the trees. The Association would supply a 2m tall English Oak sapling, a plaque and an educational time capsule to be planted in the roots. Various potential locations had been explored including the Memorial Gardens, Civic Park or Victoria Park, but these had not been deemed appropriate. Following research it had been discovered that a number of Jewish refugee children had been evacuated to the village of Woodchurch and it was proposed that, working with the Parish Council, it may be a nice idea to plant the tree on common land at Woodchurch, as part of a wider memorial. The Board strongly supported this idea. It was suggested that if possible, the tree could be planted as part of a ceremony on Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **Resolved:**

**That the Board supports the Council's involvement in the 80 Trees for 80 Years Project and the possibility of planting the tree in Woodchurch be investigated.**

## **6 Civic Update (Including Remembrance Sunday)**

- 6.1 The Civic Officer introduced her report which gave an update of Civic Events since June 2021 including; Armed Forces Day; NHS, Social Care and Front Line Workers Day; and Merchant Navy Day. She also gave an update on plans for Remembrance Sunday on the 14<sup>th</sup> November which were well underway. Whilst they had been given the go ahead to return to the pre-pandemic situation, they would proceed with caution and were looking to continue with a live-streaming option so people could still participate from home and there was a back-up plan in case of further local lockdowns or restrictions. The Mayor's Cadets, Honorary Aldermen and Mayor Emeritus Group would also all participate.
- 6.2 The Leader thanked the Civic Officer for her update and for the hard work her and others had put in to such initiatives.

### **Resolved:**

**That the report be received and noted.**

## **7 Mayor's Cadets Proposal**

- 7.1 The report sought to formalise the annual appointment of Mayor's Cadets, following the success of the Ashford Sea Cadets serving in this role for Councillor Jenny Webb as the Mayor in 2019-20. The proposal was now to allow the Mayor to invite the four military services to each nominate a Mayor's Cadet for the year on an annual basis.
- 7.2 The Leader said he fully supported this initiative and was grateful to Councillor Webb for instigating it in 2019. The report stated that this would also be the case "if the Mayor wishes", but he considered that all Mayors should take up this opportunity. He also wondered if the role should be widened to be a "Mayor's Civic Sentinel" which may give more Civic prestige to the role. A Sentinel was literally "a soldier or guard, a lookout, or someone keeping watch". Furthermore, if one of the four services failed to make a nomination, the Mayor should have the option of nominating a second person from one of the other services so they always had four. The Leader also considered that for continuity there should be a standard badge of office that the individuals get to keep and a standard certificate in recognition of this role, rather than each Mayor designing their own each year.
- 7.3 The Board were supportive of these suggestions as they did seem a more professional and permanent way forward. A report had already been submitted to the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee the following week, and plans were underway to appoint the Cadets at the 21<sup>st</sup> October Full Council meeting, so there may have to be some further consideration of the finer details.

### **Resolved:**

**That the report be received and noted and the points raised be considered further at the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

## **8 Anniversary, Celebratory and Commemorative Events Calendar**

- 8.1 The report of the Heritage Development Officer set out the above for 2021 - 2026. He advised this was a live document and it would be updated as they became aware of new anniversaries and events. Members were encouraged to input with any events that they were aware of for addition to the calendar.

### **Resolved:**

**That the report be received and noted.**

## **9 Date of Next Meeting**

9.1 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021, 2.30pm.

Councillor Clarkson  
Chairman – Civic and Ceremonial Programme Board

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