

Civic and Ceremonial Programme Board

Notes of a Virtual Meeting of the Civic and Ceremonial Programme Board held on the **25th February 2022**.

Present:

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

Cllrs. Burgess, Knowles (ex-Officio), Ovenden, L Suddards, Webb.

Also Present:

Tourism and Heritage Manager, Grounds Maintenance Operations Manager, Civic Officer, Heritage Development Officer, Member Services Manager.

1 Notes of the Previous Meeting of the Board – 22nd December 2021

- 1.1 The notes of the Meeting held on the 22nd December 2021 were approved and confirmed as a correct record.

2 Event Updates

Holocaust Memorial Day and 80 Trees for 80 Years

- 2.1 The Heritage Development Officer submitted an update advising that the Borough had marked Holocaust Memorial Day – 27th January 2022 and this had included a tree planting ceremony and unveiling of a plaque on the village green in Woodchurch. There had also been complementary events in the Woodchurch Memorial Hall, Ashford Gateway and Ashford Memorial Gardens and the Board thanked those involved for marking this day in an appropriate and dignified way.

Events Calendar

- 2.2 This set out the above for 2022 - 2026. This was a live document and it would be updated as Officers 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.

Railway Heritage Play – “All Change for Ashford”

- 2.3 Following previous discussions on this at the Board, Members received an update advising that the play would take place this spring between 28th April and 7th May. The Board also received a summary of feedback received from pupils at Great Chart Primary School who had been involved in the project.

Resolved:

That the updates be received and noted.

3 Jubilee and Albacore Event Programme 2022 – Update Report

3.1 The Tourism and Heritage Manager and Civic Officer ran through the current state of play with all of the individual projects within the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and HMS Albacore Events Programme. These included: - the Ashford Tree Trail; the National Civic Tribute Tree Planting on the 11th March; the Beacon Lighting Event in Civic Park on the 2nd June; the Mayor's Thanksgiving Service and Afternoon Tea at St Mary's on the 3rd June; the 80th Anniversary of the HMS Albacore and the Ashford Sea Cadets on the 4th June; and the Jubilee Big Lunch in Victoria Park on the 5th June. It was a wide ranging programme and would be complemented with music at the town centre bandstand on the 2nd and 4th June and performances from The Cardboard Orchestra/Ashford Proms. The update also included information on the communications and design work running up to the events. The Leader hoped that information could be provided in an edition of Ashford For You in either April or May.

3.2 In the course of discussion on this item the following points were raised: -

- It was considered that the Tree Trail should stay in place for the month of June if possible.
- It was agreed to extend invitations to the tree planting on the 11th March to include all Councillors and some other key local dignitaries and to hold a wider reception in the Committee Rooms afterwards. The Leader asked if a gazebo and a few seats could also be provided.
- The Mayor and Leader would agree the wording/design of the plaque for the tree planting and it was suggested that an arboretum marble pillar could perhaps be produced later in the year.
- There would be a test lighting of the beacon on the 5th April. This would also provide a photo opportunity with both the Queen's Platinum Jubilee shield being added to the beacon with the 'Ashford Remembers' one and the Borough crest.
- An exciting service based on the theme of celebrating the monarchy through the last seven decades had been drafted for the 3rd June by the St Mary's Team and their Director of Music Bryan Gipps. A souvenir Order of Service booklet with information and photos had been drawn up, along with a specially designed souvenir bookmark and these would be given to everyone attending. The bookmarks were

proposed to be passed on to the children at the schools taking part in Tree Trail as well.

- The final design for the Sea Cadets' and Albacore memorial in the Memorial Gardens had now been agreed. This would be unveiled at the event on 4th June. Thanks were given to local sponsors Gallagher Group, the Ashford Museum, Hadaway and Denton and Channel Commercials who had all assisted in supplying or readying materials for the memorial, and to Aspire for their design work.

3.3 The Board expressed their support and excitement for the programme as planned.

Resolved:

That the updated be received and noted.

4 Civic Update

4.1 The Civic Officer had submitted a report giving an update on activity in the Civic Office. She drew particular attention to REME's Freedom of the Borough Parade and Open Day scheduled for the weekend of 14th/15th May and the request to fly the Company flag from the Civic Centre flag poles over that weekend. This was agreed by the Board.

4.2 In response to a question, the Civic Officer advised that the Gurkha and Nepalese community had been heavily engaged in discussions around upcoming civic events.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted and permission be granted for the 133 Field Company REME (V) to fly the Company flag at the Civic Centre over the weekend of 14th/15th May 2022.

5 Any Other Business

5.1 The Mayor, in his role as Member Champion for the Armed Forces Covenant and Ceremonial Liaison, gave an update on recent activity in this area. He advised that he had reached out to all military organisations within the Borough and had been regularly attending meetings, veterans breakfasts etc. One of the key aims was to work with the Royal British Legion in an attempt to take the Ashford branch back out of County control and re-establishing the local branch. This was seen as an extremely important development for the future and he knew the Council would do all it could to publicise the work of the Legion locally and help it build itself back up again. In addition, following on from a recent meeting with representatives from the Gurkha community, discussions were underway to establish a community space or building for them. There was also a desire across the county for Local Authorities to have

more involvement with Cadet Units and it was therefore pleasing to note that Ashford was already leading the way in this area with its Mayor's Cadets. In conclusion he advised that Ashford had applied for a Silver Award in the Armed Forces Employment Scheme. This would reflect much of the good work and engagement the Council already did in this area.

- 5.2 It was agreed that future meetings would receive an update on this work as a standard agenda item.

Resolved:

That the update be received and noted.

6 Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Board is currently scheduled for Wednesday 30th March 2022 at 2.30pm.

Councillor Clarkson
Chairman – Civic and Ceremonial Programme Board

Queries concerning these minutes? Please contact Member Services
Telephone: (01233) 330349 Email: membersservices@ashford.gov.uk
Agendas, Reports and Minutes are available on: www.ashford.moderngov.co.uk