

# Civic and Ceremonial Programme Board

Notes of a Virtual Meeting of the Civic and Ceremonial Programme Board held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 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, Senior Executive Assistant, Member Services Manager.

## 1 Notes of the Previous Meeting of the Board – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

- 1.1 The notes of the Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were approved and confirmed as a correct record.

## 2 Update on the Jubilee and Albacore Event Programme – June 2022

- 2.1 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. They drew particular attention to: - the Ashford Tree Trail; the National Civic Tribute Tree Planting which had taken place on the 11<sup>th</sup> March; the Beacon Lighting Event in Civic Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June; the Mayor's Thanksgiving Service and Afternoon Tea at St Mary's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June; the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the HMS Albacore and the Ashford Sea Cadets on the 4<sup>th</sup> June; and the Jubilee Big Lunch in Victoria Park on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. Updates were given on each of the individual events from what was shaping up to be a very exciting weekend.
- 2.2 In terms of specific updates, the Tourism and Heritage Manager and Civic Officer advised of the following: -
- The test lighting of the Beacon had taken place on the 13<sup>th</sup> April and it had passed its safety test. It had identified some damage to the burner which would need to be repaired at a later date, but would not affect the events of 2<sup>nd</sup> June. This had also provided a photo opportunity with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee shield being added to the Beacon.

- There would be a site visit the following week with SA Events to go over the Beacon Lighting ceremony in detail. A few extra surprises were also lined up for the day and details would be confirmed in due course!
- Work on the Thanksgiving Service continued, particularly with St Mary's Church and St Mary's Primary School. It was shaping up to be a very special event and would include a community choir, music and attendees would receive a specially designed bookmark and a packet of wildflower seeds from the Mayor. This would be followed by an Afternoon Tea at the Parish Rooms.
- The final design for the Sea Cadets' and Albacore memorial in the Memorial Gardens continued at pace and particular thanks were given to Aspire for their work on this as well as business and individuals who had made donations.
- The Platinum Jubilee flag would be flown at the Civic Centre for the whole Bank Holiday weekend.
- There was no particular update from the Victoria Park team regarding events on the Sunday and if anything was forthcoming that would be circulated by email.
- Freedom Leisure had advised that they would be putting on a four day programme of leisure activities across the Bank Holiday weekend. This would be across the Stour Centre, Julie Rose Stadium, Conningbrook and Spearpoint sites. Officers would ensure that these events were included with the wider publicity about the weekend.
- The agenda papers included examples of some of the marketing and promotional material, including the downloadable posters, templates and children's colouring sheets from the Council's website.

**Resolved:**

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

### **3 Events Calendar**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ashford Borough Council in 2024 was mentioned. It was noted that this coincided with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the unveiling of the Ashford War Memorial. The Board considered it would be important to mark

these two events and the Leader wondered if there could be a tie in and mark them together in 2024.

- 3.3 The Heritage Development Officer advised that he had recently met with AIMREC at their new facility in Bethersden, and they had mentioned the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the railways coming to Ashford, which would be in November 2022. They wanted to stage a model railway exhibition and series of presentations, in conjunction with Ashford Museum during November/December and they were looking for a suitable venue in and around the town. He would give a more detailed update on this at the next meeting of this Board.
- 3.4 The Leader said that he had compiled a list of the names and ages of those who had died at the bombing raid at Newtown Works in March 1943. This would be used in the preparation of the Memorial that was planned for the site and would require some verification for accuracy. He agreed to send that to Officers in due course.

**Resolved:**

**That the Events Calendar 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 including the Freedom of the Borough Parade, the 105<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations of an Ashford Resident and the flag raising programme for 2022.
- 4.2 She advised that sadly, earlier that morning, they had received news that the REME Freedom of the Borough Parade and Open Day, scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> May, had been postponed due to operational commitments. This was disappointing but perfectly understandable, and a tentative rearranged date of spring 2023 had already been suggested.

**Resolved:**

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

## **5 Armed Forces Champion Update**

- 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 was pleased to report that the Ashford Branch of the Royal British Legion was now out of county control and back controlled locally. This was extremely pleasing news. A local management team for the branch had been appointed and their first "phoenix" meeting would be on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. The aim for the management team in the initial months would be to get the branch up and running again and holding more events. In line with national practice

they would then hold an AGM in the autumn where a new committee would be formally voted in.

- 5.2 It was also advised that a branch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Princess of Wales Royal Regiment had recently moved in to the Templar Barracks alongside REME. The Mayor would be attending their mess dinner on the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Resolved:**

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

## **6 Date of Next Meeting**

**The next Meeting of the Board is currently scheduled for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 2.30pm.**

Councillor Clarkson  
Chairman – Civic and Ceremonial Programme Board

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