

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	25 October 2016
Title:	Town Flag
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk

Purpose of this Report

1. To provide background to a discussion on the relevance or otherwise of a Town Flag.

Background

2. Many market towns have their own town flag, expressing the identity / brand of their town.
3. Thame may already have a town flag, but I can see no evidence of it.
4. The Town Council has installed a flagpole outside the Town Hall, which is used on fewer than 30 days of the year. The rest of the time it is empty and that has generated some comment. If a town flag existed, that could be flown every day, and be replaced for special events in line with the flag flying policy.
5. The Town Council has recently completed a new web-site / rebranding project which has freshened up the logo / crest as can be seen at the head of the agenda.
6. One option would be to simply turn that logo /crest into a town flag.
7. Another option may be to create a community project of some sort to design a town flag. A member of the public made such a suggestion in April 2016 and it is included in the dropbox.
8. Government Guidance re flag flying issued in 2012, states that a town flag does not require planning permission to be flown.
9. There are certainly other potential complexities to consider, including heraldry issues and there may be lessons that can be learned from other towns that have been through the process recently.

Action Required

10. To consider the relevance or otherwise of a formal Town Flag and if relevant, how to progress.