

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	29 October 2019
Title:	VE Day
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider if the Town Council should organise any additional events to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on or around 8 May 2020.

Background

2. Various events are being organised around the country to celebrate VE Day 75, on 8-10 May 2020.
3. The May Bank Holiday date has been changed from Monday 4 May 2020 to Friday 8 May 2020.
4. The agreed joint SODC / TTC fund raising event in the High Street Car Park has been set for Friday 8 May 2020.
5. Bruno Peek Pageantmaster has invited Town and Parish Councils to organise VE Day 75 events to celebrate and commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Suggestions made for outline events on this day could include:

3pm – Battle's O'er & VE 75 years – Winston Churchill officially announced the end of the WW2 from the Cabinet Office at 10 Downing Street. The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2.

7pm – Ringing out for Peace

St Mary's Church Bell Tower Captain has confirmed they will be taking part and will be ringing the bells.

7pm onwards – parties and celebrations.

6. Other activities are being investigated by other community groups such as an exhibition at the Museum and Thame Remembers may apply for a commemorative bench to be placed in the Memorial Gardens. Thame Churches will arrange appropriate services of celebration and commemoration of peace.
7. To note that Music in the Park will take place on Sunday 3 May 2020 and the RAF Halton Freedom Parade will take place on Sunday 17 May 2020.

Project Proposals to Commemorate VE Day 75

- a) Friday 8 May 2020 to complement the joint SODC / TTC Charity Crazy Golf event taking place within the confines of the High Street Car Park. The Thame Air Cadets are

investigating the possibility of booking the squadron's Air Simulator and the Thame Army Cadets are trying to locate a mobile assault course to be part of the activities along the side of the Town Hall.

At 3pm the Mayor of Thame and Chairman of South Oxfordshire District Council could make the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' during the event. No costs are expected.

- b) Sunday 10 May during the afternoon between 2pm and 4pm hold a 1940's Street Dance outside the Town Hall within the confines of the High Street Car Park. A volunteer from the community has offered to assist the Community Services Manager to organise and plan this event. The event would be free with the main attraction of a 1940's 16 piece Big Band playing for 2 hours with a small interval. Costs are approximately £1000.
- c) Planting of the Memorial Gardens raised beds - Bespoke carpet planting of the two raised planters in the Memorial Gardens with flowers. One planter with green and red design of VE Day and the second planter with V75 in blue, red and green. Similar bespoke designs have been previously undertaken to commemorate the beginning and end of WW1 and received many compliments. Estimated cost £1300.

Resource Appraisal

- 8. The budget for Remembrance 2020 is due to be set at £5,000 to cover event requirements.
- 9. Additional estimated funding for each of the VE 75 Day Commemorative proposals is provided below and would need to be included in the 2020-21 budget (as an extension to the Remembrance budget) or taken from General Reserves.

Proposal		Est
a) Friday Crazy Golf	Nations Toast to the Heroes of WW2 & support from the Air and Army Cadets.	£ 0
b) Sunday 10 May	1940's Street Dance Event	£1000
c) Planting of the Memorial Gardens	Bespoke designed seeded carpet bedding for laying onto the two raised flower beds.	£1300
		£2300

Risk Assessment

- 10. Appropriate insurances and permissions would be required if the committee look favorably on the proposal.

Legal Powers: Local Government Act 1972, section 145

Recommendation:

- j) Agree the proposals presented, and discuss any further ideas to celebrate VE Day 75.***