

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Report Title:	Thame Town Awards 2021
Meeting Date:	6 April 2021
Contact Officer:	Lizzie Fuller, Committee Services Officer

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on the arrangements for the Thame Town Awards 2021.

Background

1. The Town Awards did not run in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nominations had been due to open in April with the awards ceremony booked for July 2020, as agreed at the Community, Leisure & Recreation meeting on 2 April 2019. The last Town Awards ceremony took place on 14 March 2019.
2. The Market Town Co-Ordinator in partnership with Thame Rewards Club ran the Thame Lockdown Love Awards in August 2020 to celebrate and recognize local individuals, businesses and charities that had gone above and beyond during the Covid-19 pandemic. Although these were not affiliated with the annual Town Awards, they were successful in obtaining a significant number of nominations and did not involve a physical awards ceremony.
3. The Government's roadmap out of lockdown would permit the usual Town Awards ceremony to take place from 21st June 2021, however this is subject to change.
4. It is the Officer's view that due to various factors (notably purdah and uncertainty regarding the Covid-19 restrictions) that a physical Town Awards ceremony should not be held this year.
5. Officers will be arranging a meeting of the Town Awards panel after the Annual Meeting of the Council in May (as the Mayor and Chair of this committee are panel members) to discuss options, however it will be proposed that the Town Award nominations are made online, as per previous years and using the same categories as proposed for the 2020 awards, and the Mayor will present an engraved trophy to the recipients individually. Associated publicity would support this, and it is hoped that the Town Council's Facebook page, launched last year, will play a key role in this, as exemplified in the Lockdown Love awards. It is expected that nominations will run in June/July.
6. Suggestions for options to run the Thame Town Awards in 2021 are welcome from this committee prior to the panel meeting for consideration.

Resource Appraisal

7. The £1,000 budget remains unspent from 2019/20, as does the £870 excess funds in reserve.
8. If the panel agree to no physical awards ceremony, it is expected that costs will be around £350 for the trophies and printing / publicity (although greater emphasis will be placed on online publicity). Sponsorship may not be required in this scenario.

Legal Powers

- Local Government Act 1972, Section 145

Action Required

To note the report.