

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Report Title:	Thame Town Awards 2021
Meeting Date:	20 July 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, following the Town Awards panel meeting on 5 July 2021.

Background

1. At the previous CLR committee meeting on 13 April 2021, it was noted that a physical Town Awards ceremony would not take place as part of the Town Awards 2021. At the time, England had just entered Stage 2 of the Covid-19 lockdown easing and there remained uncertainty over when / if restrictions would be completely removed, which was required for any awards ceremony to take place as per previous years.
2. The Town Awards Panel met via Zoom on 5 July 2021. On the same date, the Prime Minister confirmed that all Covid-19 restrictions would be removed on 19 July. In light of this, the panel unanimously felt that an in-person awards ceremony should be planned for.
3. Various vacancies on the panel that had arisen since the last awards in March 2019 have now been filled by Alun Rowe (Pentangle), Mike Reading (St Mary's Church), Rebecca Vaughan (Lord Williams's School) and Steve Lockwood (Thame Fire Service). The panel has 9 members (including the Mayor and Chair of CLR) with support from Town Council Officers.

Proposal for the Town Awards

4. The following categories were agreed:
 - Volunteer of the Year
 - Volunteer Group of the Year
 - Sporting Contribution
 - Service with a Smile
 - Creative Arts Contribution
 - Employer of the Year

The 'Lifetime Achievement' has been removed to enable the Volunteer category to be split out into two categories, as it was expected that given the pandemic this category would receive many nominations. The Lifetime Achievement award could form part of the Mayor's Special Award. The wording for the Creative Arts and Sporting categories has

been changed from 'Achievement' to 'Contribution' to better reflect the past 18 months where there has been limited opportunities for typical achievements in these areas.

5. It is expected that nominations will be open from 22 July to 19 August, with the awards ceremony taking place end of September / early October depending on venue availability.

Resource Appraisal

- The £1,000 budget remains unspent from 2019/20, as does the £870 excess funds in reserve.
- Sponsorship has been obtained from 3 local sponsors totaling £600 to assist with event costs.
- Officers are investigating venue options for the event, as the Barns Centre, which is offered free of charge, is only available on Fridays. There is likely to be a resource implication for the venue hire and/or catering requirements, however it is expected that this will be covered through sponsorship and existing budget provision.

Legal Powers

- Local Government Act 1972, Section 145

Action Required

To note the report.