

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Title:	Freedom Parade
Date:	12 July 2022
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of this Report

1. To provide feedback on the Freedom Parade that took place on Sunday 15 May 2022.

Update

2. RAF Halton excised their right to march through the town with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, band playing and colour flying on Sunday 15 May 2022.
3. In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, The Mayor, Cllr Paul Cowell had asked the Past Mayor, Cllr Ann Midwinter to take the salute on his behalf.
4. Aylesbury Town Council kindly lent their Deputy Mayor's, past Mayor's, Councillor and Town Clerk's ceremonial robes for the day. With Past Mayor's displaying their badges and councillors permitted to wear a hat if they so desired.
5. Event operations ran relatively smoothly, however, one parked car was left overnight and required urgent removal assistance from the Thame Neighbourhood Policing Team. The hired crowd barriers ensured the parade area was clear. Invited guests and member of the public were able to enjoy the band playing, listen to the welcome speeches and watch the inspection of the troops. Unfortunately, no fly past was possible this year due to other operational requirements in the world.
6. A reception was held at the Chinnor Rugby Club for the RAF Halton, Group Captain, Councillors and RAF contingent.
7. Thame is one of four towns that has granted RAF Halton, Freedom of Entry. Each town takes it in turn annually to hold a Freedom Parade. The next Thame Freedom Parade will take place in 2026.

Resource Appraisal

8. The costs and the responsibility for holding the event are with the Town Council. This event takes place every four years with an annual budget of £400 accumulated and held in ear marked reserves.
9. Budget including accrued ear marked reserves £3,600, total expenditure £3,097.

10. As the event was delayed for two years, Officers suggest that the budget is increased from £400 to £425 for the next three years to increase the reserves remaining of £503 for the 2026 Freedom Parade. This will be recommended to the Budget Working Group.

Risk Assessment

11. A risk appraisal will be completed once event operations have been agreed.

Legal Powers:

- Local Government Act 1972, s145
- Local Government Act 1972, s144
- Localism Act 2011 s1 General Power of Competence

Action required

- i) To note this report*