

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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| Title: | Taste of Thame |
| Date: | 7 February 2023 |
| Contact Officer: | Becky Reid, Environmental Project Officer |

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee about the Taste of Thame event taking place in May 2023.

Background

2. This report outlines the plan to hold the Taste of Thame event again in 2023.
3. The event was first run in 2022, delivering in partnership with 21st Century Thame, using a team of volunteers. The event sought to promote the food offer on Thame's doorstep featuring 20 town centre venues and 10 food producers who were based within 5 miles of the town, or had a strong connection to Thame already established. The event included a producers market with live demonstrations, a street food market, the 'Buttermarket Banquet' and a food trail. It also ran a raffle raising £1500 for Thame Food Bank and supported a Ukrainian Café, raising £1000 towards English lessons for new arrivals from Ukraine to Thame and surrounds. As well as this, Red Kite Family Centre were able to use the event to also generate income towards their work. A children's trail engaged the younger participants at the event.
4. The event was a huge success with many businesses reporting a marked increase in their expected sales. The town centre was packed and the volunteers behind the event were really pleased to have achieved something so successful in the first year of delivery. They are keen to deliver the event again.
5. The event required a road closure through the Buttermarket and around the Town Hall.

Proposal

6. Preparation is underway for this event to be delivered again on Saturday 27th May 2023, from 10am – 4pm, with little change from last year. It will include a Street Food Market, Food Trail, Producer Market, Raffle and the Buttermarket Banquet.
7. The volunteer team involved in running the event have learnt from last year, and are making some improvements to make the event delivery even better.
8. Although there is ambition to increase the size of the event slightly this is restricted to additional food stalls within the Street Food Market (to a maximum of 8 stalls), and a slightly extended producers market (to a maximum of 10 stalls).
9. Alongside this there are also plans to make the Town Hall a venue that focuses on reducing food waste and food miles, helping the Environmental Project Officer to achieve targets set out through Thame Town Council's adopted Green Living Plan.
10. The event will again require a road closure to be taken out by either the Town Council or 21st Century Thame – a detail to be finalised. Along with this, in order to accommodate a larger producer market, Thame Town Council will aim to obtain permission from OCC to shut some of the parking

bays around Market House, so that there is room for additional stalls and more of a feature is made in Montesson Square, extending the event and the footfall to that end of town.

11. All arrangements will be managed by the volunteer team - this includes all of the set up as well as the removal of all waste. Support is being given by the Environmental Project Officer who ran the event last year in her capacity as Market Town Coordinator.
12. The proposal is subject to all relevant licences and approvals being in place.

Risk Assessment

13. A full risk assessment and event management plan will be produced at the time of requesting a road closure.
14. Environmental impact, electricity output from the town hall will be part of the fees charged, to assist with reducing the number of generators on site.

Resource Appraisal

15. All costs of the event will be covered by income, and sponsorship obtained by the volunteer team. The only TTC resource will be staff time to support the event delivery and any free use of Council Facilities.

Legal Powers:

- The Food Act 1984 part III

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To note the report***