

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Title:	Coronation of King Charles III
Date:	18 July 2023
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee about the Coronation celebrations Thame Town Council hosted for the community, with feedback and costings.

What we did

2. We celebrated the occasion in many ways:
 - Promoting street parties (with a how to guide as well as signing residents up to an official street party guide)
 - Wildflower seeds for every primary school child and various community groups (Senior Friendship Centre, Red Kite Family Centre, the Library and Thame Museum)
 - Bunting colouring in activity for children (displayed at the library)
 - Decorated the Town Hall, Montesson Square, High Street Car Park and Buttermarket with bunting.
 - Businesses were invited to take place in our window display competition.
 - Donation to Sharing Life as a part of the Big Help Out scheme.
 - Planting a commemorative Oak Tree at Churchill Crescent Recreational area.

Feedback

3. Street parties took place in many areas of the town, despite the weather! Some residents were upset that a big street party was not taking place. However, with weather conditions unknown and pricing, it was not feasible. Unfortunately, many towns had to cancel celebration plans completely. The street party packs were used and advertised weekly in our newsletter, social media pages and website, however some residents wanted a hand delivered booklet.
4. The wildflower seeds were enjoyed by the schools and community groups, who were thankful and made it a nice Bank Holiday activity for families and friends to do. The bunting activity also worked but was not quite as popular as the Christmas colouring in activity.
5. A total of 16 businesses took part in the window competition, the windows gained great popularity on social media by residents, which helped Thame Town Council promote the competition and the businesses. One business was not happy with the result, and asked for judging to be done by residents, which will happen at the Christmas window competition.
6. Sharing Life were very grateful with the donation, as a part of our communications strategy, we will be doing a “day in the life” style piece with Sharing Life to see how the money is spent and why it is important to help the wider community.
7. General feedback on social media was mixed, some were disappointed with the decorations and the “do it yourself” street parties, however others rather the budget went out to the community. The divided views on the Coronation were experienced across the country, with some places hosting grand events and others treating the weekend as any other by going away.

Budget

8. Coronation cost code: 106/4092. Spending for activities were within the agreed £5,000 budget.

Action Required

i) To note the report.