

Full Council

Title:	Town Council 50th Anniversary
Date:	8 August 2023
Contact Officer:	Clare Peacock, Communications and Events Officer

Purpose of Report

1. To suggest and discuss ideas on how Thame Town Council can commemorate their 50th civic anniversary year.

Background

2. For the civic year May 2023 - April 2024 Thame Town Council will have been formed for 50 years. We would like to use this opportunity to celebrate Thame, our residents and the amazing community groups and initiatives which have come from the council during the last 50 years. We can use this anniversary as an opportunity to communicate and educate what Thame Town Council has done, does and what it could do for the next 50 years.

Potential ideas to discuss~

1. To work towards achieving the [Local Council Quality Gold Award Scheme](#), with the Council required to demonstrate it is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development. This would work in conjunction with developing a Town Strategic plan.
2. Making the Mayor's main event (ball/dinner) a "golden birthday party" where we not only celebrate the Mayor and their charities but make it a wider community event.
3. Using the event as our theme for the 2024 Thame Carnival. We could be dressed in party hats and gear, could turn the RTV into a big cake, or head over to the charity shop for a much gold as you can find!
4. Thame Town Awards will be turning 15 in 2024 the same year, and we could link the two together, and have a top 50 of Thame, where we still ask for nominations but broaden the requirements and categories e.g., a Thame top 50 could be an amazing teacher, but also a mixed wrap from the kebab van. The winners could receive a smaller medal or trophy and if too many to host at the Barns Centre we could make a part of their award be a ticket to Thame's golden birthday party in which we can celebrate them there.
5. There is a local artist who paints rocks and hides them around Thame for people to randomly find and keep, they could make 50 Thame Town themed ones in honour of the birthday.

6. To get more reading our newsletter, we could run a weekly quiz on all things Thame and the winner could also get an invite to Thame's golden birthday party.
7. Past and present feature in our newsletter, showing articles and news stories from this time in the last 50 years.
8. We are on Red Kite Radio every other week, however once a month we could use that slot to invite current and past council members to join our slot to talk about the Council and how it has developed/how to get more involved.
9. Work in collaboration with the museum to set up an exhibition event or pop up on the last 50 years.
10. Try to have 50 raffle prizes in events such as Taste of Thame.
11. Sponsor a light on the Christmas tree for December 2024. (*The Christmas Lighting would have gone through a tender process.*)
12. The Town Guide for 2024 will reflect the celebrations.
13. Mayor's charity events to involve 50th or gold in some way.
14. Thame open cinema, in Elms Park with films from the last 50 years, depending on licencing we could find 10 films and get residents to vote on which 3 films they want to see on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday night.
15. Create a Town Council time capsule with things from the last 50 years.
16. Council staff could do a combined 50 hours of community work with groups, organisations, and schools in Thame.
17. Sponsor 50 trees to be planted with Thame trees.
18. Display a bespoke 50th planting scheme at the raised flowerbeds at the memorial gardens and in North Street.
19. Design a 50th flag competition subject to legal requirements.
20. Commission purchasing or painting 1 piece of play equipment gold in one or all the parks.
21. Completion and Adoption of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan II.
22. Include the Tuesday Charter Market & Local Produce Market within the celebrations.
23. Work in partnership with the Royal British Legion to organise a Beacon lighting event on the Thursday 6 June 2024 to commemorate 80th year of the D-Day Landing.
24. Consider selling a piece of golden merchandise in the Information Centre.

25. Link with our twinning towns and investigation how to celebrate our diverse/cultural connections, such as holding a joint event with Montesson, Sinaia, Thame for Ukraine and other faith communities.
26. Expand our current grants scheme to reach more community groups that could support with enabling the Town Council 50th celebrations.
27. Decorate the town with flags or gold bunting for a year. *Subject to infrastructure costs and permissions.*
28. To consider a method/criterion to facilitate applications to nominate an Honorary Citizen of Thame.

These are just a few ideas to aid the Council with discussions and feedback.

Power

- Localism Act 2011

Risk Assessment

3. Any option considered would be part of a full risk analysis and presented to relevant committee for Council approval.

Resource Appraisal

4. Additional cost analysis would be undertaken, subject to which ideas are considered to developed with a full resource appraisal prepared in time for Annual Budget setting in October.
5. Additional Officer/Councillor time will be required to set up a Working Group to discuss and implement the ideas listed.

Action Required

- i) To consider the report and any relevant action and set up a 50th Birthday Working Group.*