

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Title:	Taste of Thame 2024
Date:	20 February 2024
Contact Officer:	Clare Peacock, Communications and Events Officer

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee about the Taste of Thame event taking place in May 2024.
2. To request support from councillors for this event

Background

3. This report outlines the plan to hold the Taste of Thame event again in 2024.
4. The event was first run in 2022, in partnership with 21st Century Thame, using a team of volunteers. This year will be the first year Thame Town Council will be running the event. In 2023 the event was created to promote the food offering Thame has, featuring 20 town centre venues and over 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 Producer Market with live demonstrations, a street food market, the 'Buttermarket Banquet' and a food trail. It also ran a raffle raising funds for Thame Food Bank and supported a Ukrainian Café, raising funds towards English lessons for new arrivals from Ukraine to Thame and surrounding area. In addition to this, the 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.
5. The event was a huge success with many businesses reporting a marked increase from 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.
6. The event required a road closure through the Buttermarket and around the Town Hall.

Proposal

7. Preparation is underway for this event to be delivered again on Saturday 25th May 2024, 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.
8. Although there is ambition to increase the size of the event slightly, this is restricted due to extra road closures affecting other businesses in the town, therefore we aim to have a maximum of 8 stalls at the Street Food Market and a slightly extended Producer Market (to a maximum of 10 stalls).
9. Last year the Town Hall's Upper Chamber hosted various talks, stalls, and the Ukrainian Café, however due to a pre-paid booking made 18 months ago, the Upper Chamber is booked out. We hope that if the stalls, Ukrainian team would like to join us in this year's event, we can create space for them within the Street Food Market, or the Producer Market.

10. The event will again require a road closure to be taken out by the Town Council, which has been requested. 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 Thame Town Council staff, and a volunteer team - this includes all of the set up as well as the removal of all waste. We do require Councillors to join our volunteer team.
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 Council.

Legal Powers:

- The Food Act 1984 part III

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To note the report*