

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Title:	D-Day 80th Anniversary
Date:	20 February 2024
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider if the Town Council should organise or support events to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on or around Thursday 6 June 2024.

Background

2. The Prime Minister is supporting and encouraging various events that are being organised around the country to support the 80th anniversary celebrations to commemorate D-Day landings on 6 June 1944, which was the largest Naval, Air and land Operation in history.
3. A guide on how to take part with the commemorations with suggestions made for an outline of events on the day has been provided [here](#):

8am – The D-Day Proclamation by Town Criers worldwide takes place.

6.30pm – Ringing out for Peace

St Mary's Church Bell Tower Captain has confirmed they will be taking part and will be ringing the bells.

9.15pm – The D-Day 80- International Tribute to be undertaken with Beacons and Lamp Light of Peace taking place, with many locations encouraged to take part such as hospitals, care homes, pubs, and restaurants etc. The Community Services Manager does raise a concern at the lighting timings of 9.15pm on a Thursday evening at the height of summer¹. An alternative to a Beacon Lighting is to purchase for £55 a Lamp Light of Peace with exact details on page 40 of the guide. An invitation to the community could be sent out via social media to take part with the Lamp Light of Peace from homes and businesses.

4. Other activities have been investigated with a collaboration between the Thame Royal British Legion, St Mary's Church, possible youth groups and TTC's Officers to hold an afternoon tea on Saturday 8th June between 2pm-4pm at St Mary's Church, Thame. This event will include the Chinnor War Horses, Thame Youth Theatre, and a possible uniform display. An invitation will be extended to the Army and Air Cadets to see if they wish to take part in some way. Thame Churches will arrange appropriate services for the commemoration of peace.

Resource Appraisal

5. If the Town Council wishes to undertake formal Beacon Lighting on Thursday 6 June 2024 evening, an estimation of expenditure of up to £1,500 or £55 to purchase a Lamp Light of Peace,

¹ Sunset on June 6 2024 will be 9.19pm

which will need consideration and allocated from General Reserves, as an allowance has not been included in the 2024/25 Budget to undertake event requirements.

6. The partnership working with the Thame Royal British Legion and St Mary's Church will require Officer's administration time to undertake support with the Saturday 8 June 2024 Afternoon Tea, with design work, social media promotion and ticket sales. A promotion to take part in the Lamp of Peace by social media campaign encouraging others to take part from existing staff budgets.
7. Time of in Lieu (TOIL) will be available for staff who are able to help.

Risk Assessment

8. Appropriate insurance, risk assessments and permissions would be required if the committee considers the proposals.

Legal Powers:

- Local Government Act 1972, section 145

Recommendation:

- i) Agree the proposals presented and discuss any further ideas to celebrate D-Day 80th Commemorations.*
- ii) Agree to an amount to be spent on these commemorations and that they should come from general reserves.*