

## Report to: Events Committee

Report Ref: E1904  
Meeting Date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019  
Agenda Item: 12  
Prepared By: Deputy Town Clerk



Subject: Commemoration of VE Day

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### 1.0 BACKGROUND

The committee will likely be aware that the Early May Bank Holiday has been moved to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day.

The Government's statement on the decision to move the Bank Holiday advises that the occasion will:

*"remember the contribution of British, Commonwealth and Allied armed forces personnel; those who contributed to the war effort and safeguarded the Home Front. As well as marking the Allies' victory in 1945, the bank holiday will serve as an opportunity to pay tribute to those who have served and continue to serve in the UK Armed Forces and their families."*

Commemorative events will take place over the three-day weekend across the country, including:

- the Nation's Toast, where over 20,000 pubs will encourage patrons to raise a glass to the Heroes of World War II
- bagpipers playing the traditional Battle's O'er at the top of the 4 highest peaks in the UK
- bells in churches and cathedrals across the country joining forces in a special Ringing Out for Peace
- local street parties and celebrations across the weekend

It is suggested that a street party on the Moor or Heath could be appropriate recognising that street parties were part of how VE day was celebrated in 1945 and this is something that the Government is encouraging. Holding a street party on the Moor or Heath would encourage Knutsford to come together as a whole community and provide a central focus on commemorations.

The committee should note that bank holidays form part of officers' core leave entitlement and that the Personnel Committee would need to consider the implication of staffing an event held on the bank holiday Friday.

### 2.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should consider how it wishes to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day, an indicative budget and task officers with preparing a report on proposals for the same for the next committee meeting.

The committee should also consider if it wishes to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War II on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.