

Report to: Events and Town Centre
Management Committee



Report Ref: E1919
Meeting Date: 27th April 2020
Agenda Item: 9
Prepared By: Events Officer

Subject: VE Day 75th Anniversary 2020

1.0 BACKGROUND

The committee previously resolved to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day by organising a street party on the Moor and a short commemorative service at the Centennial War Memorial. The celebrations were originally scheduled to take place on Friday 8th May to mark the anniversary. The street party on the Moor was scheduled to take place from 12-3pm and the commemorative service to commence shortly before 3pm.

Due to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, it was agreed to cancel arrangements for May and shelve the plans until it was determined whether the event could be held on an alternative date later in the year.

2.0 PROPOSAL FOR POSTPONEMENT

Subject to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, it is proposed that the event could be held on VJ Day, Saturday 15th August 2020. The arrangements could be as originally planned: a street party on the Moor, consisting of a stage with live music from local musicians and groups with a 1940s style including the air cadets band; a Punch and Judy entertainer to perform two shows plus balloon modelling throughout the event; two retro funfair style stall games (a coconut shy and a tin can alley) which could be either free to play or a small donation which could be donated to relevant charities including the Royal British Legion/Help for Heroes etc., the materials for which would be purchased and can be re-used at future events and loaned out to community groups; a vintage sweetie stall from local business Mr Simms; a refreshments tent ran by a local business to serve tea, coffee, cakes and soft drinks with some picnic tables and benches housed in a marquee as a covered seating area; giant lawn games loaned from Friends of the Moor; some picnic tables and benches to be located near the stage as an 'open air' picnic area; an air cadets stall where they can hand out information and any other relevant informational stalls or exhibits. The street party to take place as planned from 12-3pm.

Other additional entertainment options that had been considered but not fully explored due to event postponement could include a face painter, some 40s style dancing and some era appropriate characters.

A short commemorative service to be held around 3pm at the Centennial War Memorial to commemorate VJ Day.

Re-arranging the event would be subject to being able to safely go ahead with the event at the time due to the current crisis. Provisional plans to move the event to VJ Day could be made and if it appears closer to the time the crisis has continued to a point where it is unsafe to hold the event then the event can be cancelled.

The Events Officer is currently working with the Civic Events Officer to put in place a digital commemorative programme for VE Day in place of the originally planned event.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The committee allocated a budget of £2,500 for the celebrations. The total costs for the street party for the plans outlined in the proposal are as follows:

Staging, lighting and sound equipment	£515.00
Tables and benches for picnic areas	£140.10
Gazebos for stalls	£170.00
Marquee hire from Knutsford Scouts	£50.00
Punch and Judy entertainer	£360.00
Tin Can Alley stall game	£14.99
Elements for Coconut Shy stall game	£67.38
Performers for stage	£145.00
Bella Marketing & Design	£250.00
Printing costs (posters & flyers)	£102.97
Total:	£1,815.44

Additional costs could include booking extra entertainment as outlined in the proposal.

Out of the above outlined costs, the only cost that had been paid before the VE Day event was shelved is the marquee hire cost from the Knutsford and District Scouts totalling £50.00. If the event is not re-arranged as proposed or otherwise this cost would not be refunded. If the event is not re-arranged the other costs outlined as above will not be paid.

There are currently no costs associated with the commemorative service, but should additional costs arise there is currently a budget of £684.56 uncommitted to cover any further costs.

4.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

It is recommended that the committee approve the postponement of the event to be held on VJ Day, subject to being able to safely hold the event at that time.

In addition, the We are Knutsford group are organising a costume competition for VE Day and have asked if the council could support this by providing prizes.

