

REPORT TO EVENTS AND TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



Report Reference E-21-16
Meeting Date 8th November
Agenda Item 8
Prepared by Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

In June 2022, the nation celebrates the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The committee has previously discussed ideas for celebrations:

Cllr Malloy reported the schools would be keen to be involved in any celebrations and it was noted that the council's tree planting could be included within the celebrations.

It was suggested that a competition is held for children with an exhibition held as part of an event on the Heath involving stalls, engaging brownies/scouts.

It was also suggested that a street party in the town centre could be held.

The committee has allocated a budget of £2,500 in the draft 2022/23 committee budget. The programme of events outlined in section 2 should fit within this budget, although sponsorships will be sought where necessary as firm costs are established.

The Town Clerk and Events Officer have discussed ideas for a programme of events over the jubilee weekend (Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June 2022) noting that Sunday 5th June is a Makers Market Sunday and that the 2022 Knutsford Music Festival will be held the following weekend (10th to 12th June).

It is noted that Knutsford Lions traditionally hold their Street Fair on the Heath on the late May bank holiday which for 2022 has moved from Monday 30th May to be part of the jubilee weekend. Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Knutsford Lions and it is likely that their event would be held over the jubilee weekend.

There are three national aspects to the jubilee celebrations; a nationwide beacon lighting at 9:15pm on Thursday 2nd June; the Jubilee Big Lunch on Sunday 5th June and an overarching initiative for tree planting as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

2.0 SUGGESTED PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

2.1 OVERVIEW

Based on the committee's previous discussions and noting the national celebrations, the following programme is suggested:

Thursday 2 nd June	Beacon lighting
Friday 3 rd June	Lions' Jubilee Fair
Saturday 4 th June	Unveiling of commemorative public art
Sunday 5 th June	Knutsford Big Jubilee Lunch

There will also be additional events organised by community organisations which could be publicised as an overall programme of activity.

The public art competition is discussed in more detail in section 3.

2.2 BEACON LIGHTING

The nationwide beacon lighting takes place on the anniversary of the coronation (June 2nd) at 9:15pm. Over 1,500 beacons will be lit across the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth. The suggested programme is to have a Town Crier announce the lighting of the beacon at 1pm and for a piper to play 'Diu Regnare'¹ as the sun sets at around 9:09pm. The beacon would be lit at 9:15 and the event would include community singing and serving of a *Platinum Jubilee Tart*².

The beacon to be lit could be a bonfire, brazier or gas-fuelled beacon. It is suggested that a gas beacon may be most suitable as a bonfire would cause ground damage, and a beacon brazier is a more expensive and permanent installation. A commemorative gas-fuelled beacon made for the jubilee is available for £500 and would be usable at other events and celebrations.

The event could take place on the Barncroft, an open space on relatively high ground and in a central location in the town.

2.3 LIONS' JUBILEE FAIR

Subject to further discussions with the Knutsford Lions, the Town Council could work with Knutsford Lions and contribute to their annual event to become the Jubilee Fair. This would prevent duplication of events and build on an already successful and established celebration. This would include holding the exhibition of public art entries. The date of the event would be determined with the Knutsford Lions but would like be the Friday.

2.4 KNUTSFORD BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

The Big Lunch has taken place since 2009 and for 2022 is part of the official programme of activity to celebrate the jubilee as the Big Jubilee Lunch. The event could be held on an open space (e.g. the Moor as a central location) where the community would be invited to join for an informal community get together. People would bring a picnic or food to share and the council could organise a hog roast/BBQ. It would be complemented by the Makers Market.

The event could also screen the Platinum Jubilee Pageant which takes place that day, either on outdoor screens (subject to cost) or in the 1st Knutsford Scout Hut.

¹ This unique tune has been especially written for this historic Jubilee by Piper Stuart Liddell, 2020 Glenfiddich Champion and Pipe Major of the World Champion Pipe Band, Inveraray and District

² A special creation made using cheddar cheese (England), potatoes (Northern Ireland), leek (Wales) and smoked salmon (Scotland).

3.0 PUBLIC ART COMPETITION

3.1 OVERVIEW

The committee has previously mooted the idea of running a competition to design a piece of commemorative public art as a commemoration of the jubilee. This would create a lasting tribute to HM The Queen, as was created with the Jubilee Arch in 2012.

The Town Clerk has identified three possible options for a competition. Members may have additional ideas which can be raised at the meeting.

3.2 OPTIONS

3.2.1 PLATINUM JUBILEE ARCH

The committee could commission a new arch for one of the gates at the Moor. Installing gateway features was an objective in the Moor Park Management Plan with the Gaskell Gateway installed to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Elizabeth Gaskell's birth in 2010.

The potential downside of this option would be that it could be deemed repetitive to celebrate two jubilees with an archway.

3.2.2 PLATINUM JUBILEE SIGN

The committee could commission a panel to be installed in the centre of the rest garden outside the Courthouse on Toft Road. It could be painted cast aluminium and fixed to a column or built into a small stone plinth, similar to some village signs. Some examples are shown in the appendix.

3.2.3 PLATINUM JUBILEE PLAQUE

The committee could commission a plaque to be installed in the centre of the rest garden outside the Courthouse on Toft Road. It could be a circular plaque laid flat in the centre of the garden or raised at an angle to face the street. It could be a brass plaque or painted cast aluminium. Some examples are shown in the appendix.

3.3 COMPETITION DELIVERY

The competition would be open to residents and Knutsford schoolchildren aged up to 18 years with a brief to create a design which celebrates Her Majesty and the achievement of the platinum jubilee. The competition would be free to enter.

The competition would run from January 2022 to the end of March 2022 with the winning design chosen by the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire; if there was a sponsor they would also sit on the decision panel. The winning design would then be professionally developed by a graphic designer for the manufacturer.

The cost of each form of tribute is not yet known but subject to the preferences of the committee a cost will be established. The council is unlikely to have sufficient budget allocated for its celebrations to finance the production so would seek to finance the creation of the public art through sponsorship, donations and grants. For example, the council could look to secure a sponsor alongside seeking

donations from the community. The council could sell a commemorative booklet of the competition entries and could ask families who are able to include a donation with their entry. The council could also host a civic dinner as a fundraising event in advance of the jubilee. As a last resort, and subject to approval of Full Council, it could be financed through the council's capital receipts reserve.

The council would aim to have the work installed ready for unveiling as part of the Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations. At the same time, an exhibition of entries could be held at the Lions Street Fair.

4.0 TREE PLANTING

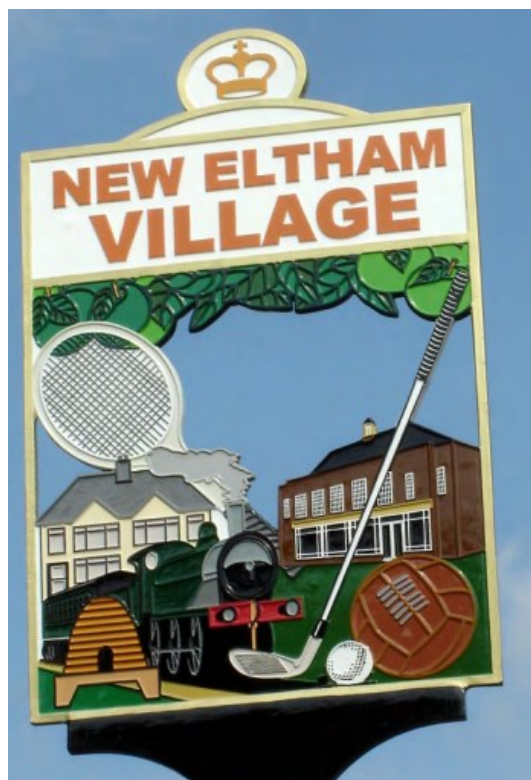
The Town Council already has a programme of tree planting planned as part of its Nature Action Plan and the jubilee celebrations fall outside the main tree planting season. However, it would be possible to plant a small number of trees. It is suggested that the committee considers approaching the five main schools³ offering for the Town Mayor to plant a commemorative tree at the with a plaque marking it as a jubilee tree. The trees would be funded from the Nature Action Plan budget, with the plaques from the jubilee budget. Tree planting would take place in May, prior to the half-term break.

5.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should consider the outlined programme.

³ Knutsford Academy, Manor Park, St Vincent's, Egerton and Bexton.

APPENDIX A: ILLUSTRATED EXAMPLES



Above/below – cast village signs.





Above/below – cast bronze plaques.
The above has a central section for a removable time capsule.

