

REPORT TO EVENTS AND TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
CORONATION OF HM KING CHARLES III

Report Reference E-22-07
Meeting Date 5th December 2022
Agenda Item 6
Prepared by Events Officer / Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

The date for the coronation of King Charles III has been confirmed for Saturday 6th May 2023; the Knutsford Royal May Day event has been moved to 13th May to avoid clashing with the coronation. The committee approved a provisional budget of £1,500 to be used for celebratory events and initiatives.

2.0 PROPOSED EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

2.1 CENTRAL SCREENING OF THE CORONATION

It is recognised that for many, watching the coronation taking place will be the central focus of any celebrations, it is therefore suggested that a large screen be hired to enable the community to watch the coronation together at a central location (e.g. The Moor). The idea would be for attendees to bring their own picnic with some additional features such as a children's craft stall and balloon modelling with a coronation theme; a couple of stands from local businesses such as Knutsford Olde Sweet Shoppe and Real Fruit Creamery and other simple activities could also be included. A dress up competition for people to dress up as Kings throughout history could run at the event or separately as a fun way to engage the community. This screening event would be held on Saturday 6th May. The Events Officer is currently seeking costs for this.

2.2 TOWN CENTRE TRAIL

Working with local businesses a trail would be held in the shop windows, either for the week of the coronation or the whole month of May. This would be similar to other trails where people hunt out hidden objects in shop windows and enter a competition to win a prize for finding them all.

The Town Centre Manager is approaching Knitted in Knutsford to ascertain whether they might be able to produce some knitted figures for the windows to add more character to the trail. If this is not possible, something such as some crowns or similar will be sourced and the nature of the theme will be shared in promotion. A flyer with map would be produced for the trail in a similar fashion to the Pumpkin Path and Bunny Hop.

3.0 ALTERNATIVE IDEAS

It is noted that officer capacity and the limited budget would not enable all potential ideas to be executed.

3.1 FLOWERS IN WALLWOOD

Flowers in Wallwood usually runs in July to coincide with the RHS Tatton Flower Show, however this could be brought forward to coincide with the Coronation. The flowers could have a coronation theme instead of the annual RHS theme. It is suggested that it is better to leave this in July connected with RHS Tatton rather than re-branding it for the coronation.

3.2 COMMEMORATIVE INSTALLATION

For the celebration of HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee the committee had approved a public art competition to create a lasting tribute; this had been delayed due to officer workload and overlap with the Young Artist of the Year competition (both being public art competitions) and subsequently Her Majesty passed away.

A similar competition could instead be held for HM King Charles III. However, consideration would need to be given to the prospect of raising sufficient funds for this. It could be that the 2023 Town Mayor could be encouraged to fundraise for this as part of their fundraising efforts, or a Coronation Banquet/Ball could be held to raise funds.

3.3 1953 PROGRAMME

The council's volunteer archivists found the programme for the 1953 Coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The events in 1953 included:

- An essay competition
- An exhibition of 'articles analogous to the coronation'
- Tree planting
- Floodlight of the Council Offices
- Sanding
- Presentation of souvenir beakers to schoolchildren
- Presentation of a silver crown to every child born in Knutsford on the day of the coronation
- A children and adult sports day
- Community singing
- Fireworks display
- Bonfire

4.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should determine how it wishes to mark the coronation of HM King Charles III.