

# REPORT TO EVENTS AND TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## TOWN CENTRE BUNTING

**Report Reference** E-22-11  
**Meeting Date** 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
**Agenda Item** 10  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

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### 1.0 BACKGROUND

In 2012, the Town Council requested that the Knutsford Royal May Day Committee keep their bunting up for an extended period to cover the Jubilee celebrations and Olympics. This was agreed subject to the council reimbursing the committee the cost of any damaged bunting. The arrangement continued in 2013 and 2014 as the council felt bunting added an air of celebration to the town for the summer. This arrangement ended in 2015 and subsequently the Town Council bought its own bunting in 2016 and replaced it in 2020. Until 2022, the Knutsford Royal May Day Committee installed their bunting in May, and the Town Council installed its bunting once the KRMDC bunting was taken down. In 2021 the KRMDC asked if the council bunting could be installed a week prior to remove the duplication of cost and effort (the committee having relied on volunteers to install the bunting and being concerned about the health and safety implication and cost of this), therefore for 2022 the Town Council bunting was installed for May Day. Bunting weathers, and it is necessary to buy replacement bunting for the next season. Provision for this had been included in the draft 2023/24 budget.

The budget of £3,000 (£1,800 installation and removal, £1,200 for replacement bunting) was removed from the budget by the Finance Committee in its recommendation to Full Council for the budget. The Knutsford Royal May Day Committee has expressed concern that there may be no bunting and that it is unlikely to be in a position to install any. A number of the town centre businesses have also written to councillors expressing disappointment that the town will have no bunting, both for the coronation year and for the positive impact it has on the town centre. The Town Mayor therefore requested that the committee consider the plans not have bunting for 2023 with a view to making a recommendation to Full Council should budget be required.

### 2.0 CONSIDERATIONS

Depending on the agreed plans for the coronation, some budget could be diverted from the coronation budget towards bunting. To reduce the frequency with which bunting requires replacement a shorter display period could be implemented e.g. May/June/July only.

Councillors have discussed an alternative via email, namely installing flagpoles in the Christmas Tree brackets. This would require further investigation, however the likely cost of a suitable flagpole and flag would be approximately £30. The cost of installation and removal would be additional. The total cost for this would likely therefore exceed the cost of bunting.

### 3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should consider whether it wishes to provide town centre bunting and how to progress this.