

REPORT TO EVENTS COMMITTEE

EVENTS PROGRAMME 2025/26

Report Reference E-24-05
Meeting Date 30th September 2024
Agenda Item 7
Prepared by Events Manager



1.0 INTRODUCTION

As part of setting a budget for the 2025/26 financial year, the committee must consider the events programme.

2.0 PROPOSED PROGRAMME

2.1 OVERVIEW

Date/Month	Event
19 th April	Bunny Hop
16 th -18 th May or 6 th -8 th June (tbc)	Knutsford Music Festival
11 th /14 th July (tbc)	Open Air Cinema – The Moor
17 th August	Paint Knutsford
14 th September	Picnic in the Park
31 st October	Pumpkin Path
29 th /30 th November	Knutsford Christmas Markets/Light Switch On
7 th December	Crib Service
TBC	Cheshire Rural Touring Arts Event

2.2 BUNNY HOP

Event to run as previous years. In 2024 a themed element was introduced to create some variety for the event and this was well received. The theme for 2025 'Willy Wonka'.

2.3 KNUTSFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL

The event would run broadly the same as previous years with a range of ticketed events, open air events and fringe events at local businesses. Following feedback, changes will be made to the variety of musical genres and events on offer to expand the demographic and offer more choice.

The current plan is to showcase one night of folk hosted by Mark Radcliffe, one night of blues and an additional night to include covers style acts and/or an orchestral covers evening.

2.4 OUTDOOR CINEMA EVENT

It is proposed to include a new open air cinema event which would take place on The Moor on a Friday evening after school, near the end of school year. One screening would be for younger

children/families followed by a second film later in the evening for older children/adults (12+). The event would be free to attend with income generation from (for example) a BBQ/hot food stall and a council run bar and popcorn stand.

2.5 PAINT KNUTSFORD (WORKING TITLE)

This is an event suggested by a resident to the Events Manager and would follow an established format held in other towns. Artists would be invited to sign up and pay to enter a painting competition. This event is held on one day, each artist chooses an area of the town to paint. They have between 9am and 4pm to complete their work of art and bring it along to a chosen venue for an exhibition and judging.

The plan would be to run this alongside an al fresco dining event so that there is already a road closure in place in part of the town. The Young Artist of the Year competition would also be planned to coincide with this.

The objective would be to work with a group of local artists/gallery owners to identify and coordinate participating artists.

The event name is to be determined, e.g. *Knutsford in Colour/Paint our Town/Colour Knutsford*

2.6 PICNIC IN THE PARK

The core format of the event for 2024 would be replicated i.e. a central open air theatre entertainment alongside a series of craft, refreshment and community stalls.

2.7 PUMPKIN PATH

No significant changes to the established format are suggested.

2.8 KNUTSFORD CHRISTMAS MARKETS/LIGHT SWITCH ON

No significant changes to the established format are suggested.

2.9 CRTA (CHESHIRE RURAL TOURING ARTS) EVENT

Cheshire Rural Touring Arts is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation which presents a diverse mix of professional theatre, music, dance, and family shows across Cheshire's village halls, community centres, libraries, and theatre venues. The productions are subsidised and help bring productions to the county.

It is proposed to include a budget for hosting an event in Knutsford during the year, subject to the productions available under the scheme. The draft budget assumes the ticketing of the event would cover the costs the council incurs in hosting the event.

3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should consider approval of the programme.