

A meeting of the Events Committee was held via Zoom on Wednesday 19th August 2020 at 3.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Brownson (Chairman), and Councillors Allen and Chappell

Also Present: John Robinson (Interim Town Clerk) and Caitlin Boylan (Events & Projects Officer)

EC.1/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Blackburn and L.Zair.

EC.2/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

EC.3/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

EVENTS PROGRAMME

EC.4/20 YOUTH AWARDS

Consideration was given to a report reviewing the 2019 Youth Awards and examined options for the 2020 event. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted that the Youth Awards should be expanded to include all ages and become Town Awards. Members also noted that the awards should cover all of 2019/2020 as per previous years and not solely focus on the months affected by Covid-19.

The format of the 2019 event had worked well and therefore Members were in agreement that the same format be used virtually. It was suggested that a monetary award or voucher could also be provided to individual nominees. This would be investigated further. Members were also in agreement that an award would be created in Nic Cooper's memory with agreement of his family and be on display at the Council office.

Members were in agreement that the Town Awards should distance themselves from any Business or Civic Awards to avoid confusion but ensure local businesses are aware they can be nominated or enter.

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That the Youth Awards be expanded to include all ages and become Town Awards
 2. That an award is created in the name of Nic Cooper
 3. That further consideration be given to the inclusion of a monetary award for the nominees.

EC.5/20 HORTICULTURAL AND PRODUCE SHOW

Consideration was given to a report reviewing the 2019 Horticultural and Produce Show. The report also considered arrangements for the 2020 Show. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were in agreement that the event be virtual for 2020 due to Covid-19. Agreement was made to promote the show via social media and share entries on Bishop Auckland Town Council Facebook page.

RECOMMENDED:

That the show be promoted online and photos shared on Facebook

EC.6/20 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Consideration was given to a report reviewing arrangements for 2019 and considering arrangements for 2020. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The 2019 event, had been organised in close association with the Royal British Legion, 8 Rifles, Bishop Auckland Pipes & Drums and St Anne's Church. Around 2,000 people had attended the service in the Market Place. It was felt that this had been a fitting act of remembrance of those who had served their country.

A meeting was to be held with partner organisations to discuss arrangements for 2020 and contingency plans to include larger PA system and gazebo to hold the full church service outside.

It was suggested that the road closure arrangements be extended to limit traffic driving past the service, particularly during the two minute silence.

RECOMMENDED:

1. That a meeting be arranged with partner organisations to discuss arrangements for Remembrance Day 2020
2. That consideration be given to options to prevent traffic driving by during the service
3. That consideration be given to the use of trained stewards for crowd control and to ensure government Covid-19 regulations are met
4. That consideration be given for contingency plans should numbers need to be reduced and style of the event amended

EC.7/20 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Consideration was given to a report reviewing the 2019 Christmas event and also considering arrangements for 2020. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was noted that we would continue with AH Events should the government restrictions be lifted but source quotes for alternative options. Alternative options include but not limited to visits to each ward of Bishop Auckland rather than focusing the event on Bishop Auckland Market Place.

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the Christmas event be held on 27th November 2020.
2. That AH Events be appointed event partner to provide event management and health and safety for 2020 and 2021.
3. That discussions continue with partner organisations with regard to the content and co-ordination of the event.
4. That costings sourced for alternative options should Covid-19 impact the planned event