

A meeting of the Events Committee was held via Zoom on Wednesday 10th February 2021 at 4.00p.m.

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

Also Present: Sarah Harris (Town Clerk)

EC17/20 Agree Notice of Motion - agreed

EC18/20 Apologies for absence – Apologies were received and accepted from Caitlin Boylan, Events and Projects Officer.

EC19/20 Declarations of interest - To record declarations of interest from members on any item on the agenda, including any interest prejudicial or personal as recorded on the Members register of interests.

EC20/20 Public Participation - There were no members of the public in attendance.

EC21/20 Events programme -

EC21/20.1 Town Awards

Members considered the report and agreed that more detail on how the awards process would work from nomination process through to ceremony would work. Members would like Town Awards to take place before the School Holidays in July.

Resolved:

- That amendments are made to the nomination process prior to engaging with the public
- That a whole town approach is used for the Town Awards
- That the Inspirational Young Person award is renamed in memory of Nic Cooper
- That the Town Awards should take place in Mid-July before the School Holidays
- That a monetary voucher be considered for the prizes for the young people

EC21/20.2 Horticultural Show

Members considered the report and understand the Covid-19 restrictions will affect the Horticultural Show. More detail around how the virtual aspects could work are needed and a detailed plan is requested for the next meeting.

Resolved:

- That more detail is provided for the virtual event
- That more detail is provided for the physical event and a Town wide approach
- That options are explored for a town centre venue such as No42 or Home Bargains
- That engagement be increased with local schools to include projects such as a 'beanstalk' idea

EC21/20.3 Halloween

Members agreed that Halloween activities were a good addition to the event programme for 2020 and would like to repeat it for 2021.

Resolved:

- That Bishop Auckland Town Council look at working with partners for Halloween projects
- That agreement is made to creating and promoting online virtual activities and supporting activity of other partners

EC21/20.4 Remembrance Sunday (including VE Day and VJ Day)

Members agreed that Bishop Auckland Town Council needed to be the lead partner and authority for Remembrance events. They were pleased with the wider remembrance engagement programme and 'Through the Soldiers Eyes' project from Bishop Auckland Town Hall. School engagement with key partners such as the Town Hall, local museums and activities linked to Remembrance should be embraced. Partnership working with Royal British Legion, DLI and SSAFA was encouraged.

Resolved:

- That the focus should be Remembrance Day in November rather than VE and VJ day for 2021
- That Bishop Auckland Town Council are the event organiser and authority and they were to lead the programme
- That Bishop Auckland Town Council work on a wider Remembrance programme linked to the partnership initiative at the Town Hall, as well as with St Anne's Church and local schools
- That some the poppy cascade by the WI could be expanded to include other partner groups, schools, youth clubs to have large poppy displays on Kingsway and other locations throughout Bishop Auckland
- That memorial plaques investigated
- That consideration be given to a mark of respect for veterans that have died in 2020 as only small funerals have taken place
- That virtual activity accompany the physical events to ensure the event has a lasting impact

EC21/20.5 Christmas

Members considered the report. A holistic approach would be preferred along with a ward-based approach to ensure all areas of Bishop Auckland are covered. More detailed plan to be presented to the Events Committee at the next meeting.

Resolved:

- That a holistic ward-based approach is used with similar activities to 2020
- That further detailed plans to be presented including options and costings for
 - Ward based Santa activities
 - Santa school visits and selection box delivery
 - Christmas cake gifts to care homes etc.

EC21/20.6 NHS Day – July

It was felt the NHS Day was a key activity and priority for the Town Council to be a lead partner in delivering this in Bishop Auckland. The council should be encouraging the community to be involved. Further details of what could be undertaken to be presented to the next meeting.

Resolved:

- That the Council would sign up to host an NHS Day event
- That consideration be given to event ideas at the next Events Committee meeting

EC21/20.7 Post Covid-19 events

Members liked the idea for Post Covid-19 events and thought that communities could look to apply for funding if they are holding such events. Bishop Auckland Town Council would be a partner and fund the local events without creating a Bishop Auckland Town Council event.

Resolved:

- That consideration be given to opening up the Community Fund to community post Covid-19 events
- That further consideration be given to what events may be able to take place

EC21/20.8 Forward Planning – 2022 Events

Members agreed that early planning was necessary to ensure better events and activities. Partnership based is good but need to be cautious of ownership. Members felt that the Council should be leading the Queen's Platinum Jubilee activity in the town, and that they should be leading a partnership group.

Resolved:

- That more detail for 2022 plans be provided to the Events Committee
- That Bishop Auckland Town Council work to coordinate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee activity in the town