



Cabinet 1 February 2012

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations (Feb12/09)

1. Summary and Reasons for Recommendations

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed arrangements being put in place within the Borough to Celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the:-

- (1) details surrounding the Borough Council's support in facilitating community organisations to hold events of their own be supported;
- (2) proposal in respect of the reinstatement of the old beacon in Eastgate Nursery, Bury St Edmunds and a beacon be lit at St Mary's Church, Haverhill be supported; and
- (3) commemorative tree planting, landscape and naming proposals in both the rural and town areas, as outlined in Report C321, be approved.

3. Corporate Objectives

- 3.1 The recommendations meet the following Corporate Priorities, as contained within the Corporate Plan:-

- (i) *'To improve the safety and well-being of the community';*
- (ii) *'To secure a sustainable and attractive environment';* and
- (iii) *'To raise corporate standards and efficiency'.*

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4. Proposed initiatives

4.1 Events

4.1.1 To mark 60 years of the Queen's reign, the Diamond Jubilee, there will be a number of countrywide events which are centred around:-

(a) **The Big Jubilee Lunch**

As announced by Buckingham Palace this will be a core part of the main programme of events over the central weekend and is a Government-sponsored programme to support street and neighbourhood parties on any scale. The stated aim is: *"Quite simply we want to get as many people as possible to sit down and have lunch with their neighbours on the first Sunday in June."*

(b) **Diamond Jubilee Beacons**

There is a long and unbroken tradition in our country of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of Beacons, whether they be on the top of mountains, church towers, castle battlements, town and village greens, country parks, estates and farms, and along the beaches surrounding our shores. As part of this national programme, two Beacons will be lit in St Edmundsbury. One in the Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds and the other in Haverhill; these will both be organised alongside the Town Councils.

4.1.2 Locally, we will be seeking to utilise some of our existing events and incorporate them into the wider "Jubilee Events". The current local events planned are:-

(a) **Whitsun Fayre**

This is being organised by Bid4Bury and is on 3 and 4 June 2012. This event is focused on Bury St Edmunds town centre, and will involve a market and street entertainment.

(b) **Cathedral Festival**

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is planning a service and a possible screening of the national event on 5 June 2012.

(c) We are also looking to facilitate some community-organised events in the parks and playing fields and will be helping to organise two Big Lunch Picnics in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill on 6 and 7 June respectively. Both town councils have asked to be involved with these events and will share in the cost. The Government also expects Council's to make public spaces available for picnics, BBQs and parties if requested.

4.1.3 As part of the Big Jubilee Lunch, there will also be other local organised events within villages and town wards, such as street parties, fetes and picnics. The Borough Council's role here will mainly be to make it as easy as possible for communities to organise events themselves, as with the Royal Wedding last year. Like most local authorities, the Borough Council will be adopting the national guidance of the Government in this respect.

4.2 Tree planting and Landscaping initiatives

4.2.1 The Woodland Trust's Jubilee Woods Project aims to plant six million trees across the UK and involve millions of people in 2012. The Woodlands Trust is maintaining a register of trees planted in 2012 in celebration of the Jubilee and this register will form a new Royal Record. There are a number of tree planting and landscaping proposals which will provide a lasting legacy of the jubilee year in the Borough and these are detailed below.

4.2.2 Planting of trees in Rural Areas

- (a) The Borough Council's Parks Service currently receives a grant from the Rural Action Plan budget to run an annual tree donation scheme in the Rural areas.
- (b) **Proposal**
To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee the tree donation scheme has been changed. A letter has been sent by the Mayor to each Parish Council informing them that the Borough Council will provide them with an Oak Tree, tree guard and plaque to commemorate the Queen's Coronation. The scheme will run over two years i.e. tree planting seasons 2011/2012 and 2012/2013. 30 trees will be planted each year, a total of 60 trees. At the time of preparing this report the Borough Council has received requests from 17 Parish Councils wishing to subscribe to this scheme, and it is hoped this number will continue to rise.

4.2.3 Haverhill Area

- (a) The Borough Council is taking ownership of the former Clements School site in Haverhill as part of a land swap associated with the building of a new school on Puddlebrook Playing Fields. The Borough Council is in the process of seeking planning permission to change the use of the site from school use to that of public Open Space, part park and part allotment.
- (b) In addition, there is a proposal regarding the public space outside the Haverhill Leisure Centre to be renamed for the jubilee, which is being considered by the Haverhill Area Working Party and will be reported to Cabinet separately.
- (c) **Proposal**
That the new park and allotment site in Haverhill be called Jubilee Park and Allotments. The Mayor of Haverhill will be invited to plant a single oak tree in an ornate guard with plaque to commemorate the opening of the park and naming ceremony, and the Jubilee, which will hopefully occur in June 2012.

4.2.4 Bury St Edmunds Area

- (a) The Borough Council has invested in a new Visitor Centre in Nowton Park and there will be a formal opening on Saturday 25 February 2012. The Borough Council has been successful in obtaining a Forestry Commission grant for the stewardship of the woodland areas within the park including the replanting of certain areas.
- (b) **Proposal**
Although it falls just outside the official town boundary Nowton Park is considered by many as being a Bury Park. The proposal is that a plantation of trees be planted on the day of the Visitor Centre official opening, and that this new woodland area will be officially recognised as the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Plantation/Clump. A commemorative oak tree in an ornate guard, to match that being planted in Haverhill, will also be planted in Nowton Park in June 2012.
- (c) In addition to the above, the Borough Council is consulting local residents on a proposal being funded by a County Councillor for a small copse to be planted in Gainsborough Recreation Ground, Bury St Edmunds.

5. Financial Implications:
 5.1 The bulk of the costs associated with the proposals above are covered by existing budgets or external grants/donations. The Borough Council has set aside a one-off budget of £5,000 to assist with the purchase/repair of beacons, the purchase of tree guards, plaques and certain event management costs.

6. Community impact
 6.1 General
 6.1.1 The objective of the Borough Council in proposing these actions is to ensure that those who want to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee locally can do so.
 6.2 Diversity and Equality Impact
 6.2.1 There are no obvious diversity or equality issues to be considered as part of this initiative.

7. Sustainability Impact
 7.1 There are no obvious negative sustainability impacts concerning this initiative. Indeed, the planting of more trees should be seen as a positive in this regard.

8. Consultation
 8.1 The Mayor, Councillor Christopher Spicer, and Councillor Stefan Oliver have provided advice to officers in the drawing together of the initial planting proposals. Owing to the proximity of residential properties to the proposed tree planting in Gainsborough Recreation Ground residents living in those properties are being consulted on the initiative. The Clements Park project, in Haverhill, has been the subject of extensive community involvement.

9. Resource implications *(including asset management implications)*
 9.1 There are currently no new resource implications to be considered as part of this report.

10. Risk Assessment *(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)*

Risk area	Inherent level of Risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual Risk (after controls)
Objection to tree planting.	Medium	Where there are residential properties in proximity to a proposed tree planting location Borough Council Officers will consult the occupants of the property.	Low

11. Legal or policy implications
 11.1 There are no obvious legal implications necessitating a legal opinion on what’s being proposed.

Wards affected	All	Portfolio Holder	Culture and Sport
Background Papers	Nil	Subject Area	Leisure, Sport, Arts and Culture Environment