

**Committee: Full Council**

**Date: 21 February 2023**

**Title: Coronation Saturday 6 May 2023**

**Purpose of Report**

To receive an update from the working group about activities to celebrate the King's Coronation

**Recommendation:**

Members to note the report

**Report:**

1. Since the instigation of the working group, two public meetings have been held at the Shrubbery Hotel and an informal meeting held with a member of Ilminster Cricket Club.
2. The first was chaired by the Mayor to serve as a 'scoping' exercise and establish what, if anything, the community, groups or organisations were planning to do for the Coronation weekend.
3. The second was a follow-up to the first. At this meeting, Cllr Hamilton was proposed to Chair the meeting. At the time, no one was elected as vice-chair, but Cllr Jenner-Hurford kindly offered to take the role of secretary for the meeting and take notes on behalf of the chair. After the meeting, Mr Andrew Fox, Ilminster's Town Crier, offered the Chair his services as vice-chair, which was gratefully accepted.
4. At the first meeting, it was suggested and agreed by those present, that any events were concentrated on the Sunday of the weekend, so as not to clash with the Coronation event itself on the Saturday. Several things were proposed and discussed. However, it had to be emphasised by the Mayor that the Town Council and its officers, had neither the time, resources or training to organise an event and that it had to be led by the community. The Town Council would assist as much as it could and help publicise and promote events. The Mayor added that funds may be available to help those groups or organisations that wanted to put on events.
5. From this meeting, it was agreed to look at three principal areas and costings.
  - a. Flags and bunting to decorate the Town Centre and market house.

- b. A marquee on the Rec. to ensure against any adverse weather.
  - c. Additional toilet facilities on the Rec.
6. At the follow-up meeting the three main expenditure items were discussed. The marquee was discounted by the meeting as an unnecessary expense as other organisations present offered their equipment. The flags and bunting were agreed and would be coordinated by the Town Council with the Ilminster Lights who offered their services and equipment. The additional toilet facilities were agreed and would be organised by the Town Council.
7. As a result of the second meeting:
- a. The staff of the Town Council have identified suppliers for the bunting and flags. A decision will be made by Cllrs Hamilton, James and Shepherd shortly and an order placed for supply.
  - b. The toilet facilities have been booked.
8. Other organisations expressed an interest in doing something, either on the day, in the run-up and on the Bank Holiday. For example, the Minster is looking to organise an 'Open Garden' event on the Bank Holiday. The IMEX team is proposing to put up the 'Flag Festival' flags early in the run-up to the Coronation weekend. The Town Crier will give a loyal cry on the day of the Coronation and the Ilminster Cricket Club will host a cricket match on Sunday afternoon. Other proposals included a 'crown and gown' event for children and a cream tea tent hosted by one of the Carnival Clubs, both on the Sunday.
9. One of the main issues raised at the second meeting, was the generation and disposal of waste. Options have been looked at by your Council officers, but this may present a challenge due to recent rules changes brought in in Somerset, to the recycling of waste by companies. A solution is being investigated.