

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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**Date:** Monday, 20 March 2023

**Title:** King Charles III Coronation Update

**Contact Officer:** Communications & Community Engagement Officer - Polly Inness

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### Background

Preparations and planning for the Coronation of King Charles continue. With information from the Royal household being issued relatively late the Council is having to make changes and be agile about days and content as much as possible. Events are listed below in date order.

### Current Situation

The CCEO has contacted several local groups and organisations regarding events to mark the occasion, but up to the time of writing, feedback and therefore confirmation of content is proving slow. The current timeline of events is listed below:

#### Wednesday 3 May

**Corn Exchange - Tea dance** - Seniors- Corn Exchange/External Event. Corn Exchange will be decorated in red, white and Blue and Dancers encouraged to dress up.

#### Thursday 4 May

**No events – ELECTIONS**

#### Friday 5 May

**Corn Exchange -Jazz** – external event but they have been asked to theme if possible.

#### Saturday 6 May

**Screening of the Coronation in the Corn Exchange.** The BBC has confirmed that no TV license is required to screen the Coronation at Public Events. 131 people can be seated to watch this on the new cinema screen. The event, though free would need to be ticketed to ensure it was not oversubscribed.

There would be in conflict with a Children’s crafting event (Advent fayre style) planned for 2-4pm but with no timing being given for the Coronation and the likelihood that it would be late morning, there would be little to no time for a turnaround of the hall for the crafting event. The Working party will make a decision on this shortly. One possible solution is that the craft event is downscaled and perhaps a few tables with simple and easy to transport and self-

managed activities are made available at the picnic in the park event on Sunday. There will not be sufficient officers to cover and manage any activities so these MUST be stand alone.

Originally this was the day on which a picnic in the park and bonfire were planned. With a directive from the King being passed on via the Pageant Master requesting no beacons or fires to be lit because of the proximity of the Platinum Jubilee to this event the bonfire has had to be cancelled. The picnic in the Park has moved to Sunday 7th in order to be in line with the Big Lunch Plans issued by the Palace.

### Sunday 7 May

**Church Service – St Mary’s** – external event with Civic invitations

**Best shop window competition** judging with Mayor and Town Crier

**Best Fancy-Dress** winners chosen at the Leys picnic.

### **The Leys - Picnic in the Park. 2pm -8pm**

- The Coffee Shed and Witney Music Festival will be contributing but plans are unconfirmed as yet.
- WOAPA will perform for around 30 minutes.
- Thames Valley Police will do Bike Marking
- The Vikings Junior football team will organise some soccer skills games such as a penalty shoot-out or football darts.
- Windrush Radio have been invited to do an Outside Broadcast with interviews and requests. They are asking how much they would be paid and with a modest budget, this will need to be negotiated.
- Premier Tennis have been invited to offer free tennis sessions but have not yet responded.
- Hatwell’s Funfair will be bringing some small rides.
- There has been no response from anyone willing to run a tug of war competition yet.
- The Park Runners declined the offer to run round the lake for H&S reasons and because it might impact on Junior Park Run, but are willing to be involved if there is something they can do other than this.
- As we cannot have a bonfire the Operations Manager and Communications and Community Services Officer are investigating being able to ‘close’ the event with red, white and blue smoke cones. As they cost very little we will purchase some to see how effective they are and how many we would need to make it effective.
- First aid is in place at a cost of around £500.

Monday 8 May

**Market Square – Day of Dance and Music**- there has been slow uptake on this – we are lacking musical content and only have three dance groups currently. The Communications Officer could put a post on Social Media inviting groups to come forward.

Volunteer Link up have declined to organise a Volunteer Recruitment day, but may do a litter pick in conjunction with the Land Army to mark the Volunteer Day as promoted via Buckingham Palace.

### **Community Projects**

**Schools – Create a Commemorative Book Project** – four schools have accepted the challenge so far to create a legacy book of their Coronation celebrations.

**Bunting Making Project** – we have received a number of shorter lengths and issued 4 packs of the 25m lengths to crafting groups, schools and care homes.

**Admin Window Memorabilia display** will be installed on 17th April and will include items from former coronations and King Charles' life.

### **Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

### **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

### **Financial implications**

Described here or as stated in the report above.

➤ All items are currently within the £3,000 budget set by the Council.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Delegation to the Mayor & Deputy Mayor (and Chair of this Committee) to expediate decisions ahead of the events in less than two months.