

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 20 September 2021

Title: Remembrance 2021

Contact Officer: Venue & Events Officer – Tomas Smith

Current Situation

The Remembrance events will go ahead this year on Sunday 14th November 2021 for the first time since 2019. It will broadly follow the format of the previous events with the notable difference that there will be no formal parade this year. This is in line with the Royal British Legions (RBL) wishes that the event is a simple service of remembrance in which the town can pull together in a simple and dignified way.

All groups who usually attend have been contacted and informed of the decision to not undertake the parade. Those groups who wish to, can still march in formation starting from Market Square and proceeding to the Memorial. This will be organised within the groups and have no military trapping. The whole event will be a sympathetic affair with minimal fuss.

The RBL Veterans will form up either in Market Square, where the Corn Exchange will be open to provide refreshment, or outside Scott Fraser Estate agents. This is in line with their wishes not to parade or stand around too long while the service gets underway.

The same road closures will be in effect as were in place in 2019 with both the works team, halls staff and caretakers manning the barriers and being on duty during the day to form point of contact for the public.

First aid support has been booked as has the Sound assistant who will be looking after the PA system on the day.

The actual service itself will be held as before with wreaths being laid by dignitaries and the RBL with Witney Town Band playing appropriate music during the service. The bugler will then play the last post to signify the end of the service before St Marys Clergy lead the procession back to the Church for the rest of the mornings service.

It is anticipated that the whole service from the Town Council's perspective will start at 10:00 and finish at the sounding of the Bugle at 11:00. Afterwards when the crowds have dispersed, it will be the Works and Halls teams' responsibility to remove road closure barriers and return the Buttercross and Town Centre to normal functionality.

Environmental impact

There is no significant environmental impact.

Risk

- Full risk assessments have been prepared by the Town Council for this event.

Financial implications

- The planned events are from the existing budget (4150/401).

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report.