

North East Derbyshire District Council

Council

9 September 2019

NEDDC Contributions to the VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations

Report of Councillor M E Thacker MBE JP, Leader of the Council

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To advise Members of the Council's planned contributions to the celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 VE Day is a significant event in the nation's history. The 75th Anniversary provides an opportunity for communities to recognise the sacrifice and efforts of those who either served in the Armed Forces or made significant contributions closer to home.
- 1.2 Friday 8th May 2020 has been designated by the Government as a Bank Holiday to enable as many local authorities, communities, voluntary organisations and businesses to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE day. A national programme of events over the VE Day weekend of the 8th-10th May 2020 is being led by the Queen's Pageantmaster Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR and organisations are encouraged to register their participation at the official website (www.veday75.org) and explain what activities they will be undertaking.
- 1.3 The Council has registered its commitment to the programme via the Queen's Pageantmaster and is beginning to work with partners to develop events within the District which reflect the recognition of the actions of North East Derbyshire residents during the Second World War and celebrate the anniversary of peace in Europe. The Council is aware of preparations being made within a number of Parishes to hold events on the Friday and Sunday of the Anniversary weekend and plans are therefore being developed to focus on Saturday 9th May 2020, which has been scheduled by the Pageantmaster as day for celebrations and parties.
- 1.4 Two civic events will be held within the District, one in a northern Parish and one in a southern Parish, working closely with the respective Parish Councils. It is envisaged that one event will take place in the morning and the second in the afternoon, to enable invited dignitaries to attend both events. Whilst plans are at an early stage it is likely that as well as celebrations involving local community members and groups there will be a civic service with a piper, local standard bearers and also cadet branches in attendance. Further information about the events will be publicised as programmes develop.

- 1.5 Due to the national importance of the Anniversary weekend it is likely that local groups and communities within the District will also wish to hold their own celebrations and the Council may be asked to support the publicity and facilitation of these events (such as waiving fees for temporary road closure fees for street parties which meet all requirements of the existing road closure policy). It is proposed that only requests from local VE Day 75th Anniversary celebration events officially registered on the Pageantmaster's website are considered for such support, as they will be working to meet the nationally identified aims and aspirations for the celebrations.
- 1.6 It is recognised that other dates of national significance may generate requests for waiving fees for temporary road closures, as currently granted by the Council for Remembrance Day or Royal Weddings. It is therefore important that the Council is clear about what constitutes as a date of national celebration to ensure that any applications for waived fees are consistently considered by officers. A protocol is being prepared that outlines the reasons for which the Council would support the waiving of fees.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The Council is committed to the Armed Forces Covenant for Derbyshire and participation in the VE Day 75th Anniversary celebrations and support to activities would emphasise this commitment to the local community.
- 2.2 There may be occasional differences in political and social perceptions amongst the community, Members and officers as to what constitutes as a date of national significance which would warrant the consideration of waiving fees for temporary road closures. Due to potential sensitivities it is not felt appropriate to delegate authority to define these dates to officers. To ensure that officers are consistent in their consideration of applications to waive such fees it is appropriate that formal Council recognition is agreed for what constitutes a date of national significance for celebration. Consideration of the dates against the protocol could be given at Council meetings as they are announced throughout the year, recognising that some dates cannot be anticipated.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken for the events organised by the Council.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 By not supporting official events for the VE 75th Anniversary the Council would miss the opportunity to clearly show how it is meeting its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant for Derbyshire.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 Financial support for organising the events will be met from existing resources.

5.1.2 Requests for waiving of temporary road closure charges for officially registered VE Day 75th Anniversary events and events on other dates of national celebration as usually indicated by Government may incur a cost to the Authority.

5.1.3 Risk assessments will be undertaken for the events organised by the Council.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

5.2.1 There are no arising legal or data protection implications.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 Staff support towards organising the Council's events and publicising other officially registered events within the District will be met from existing resources.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Council notes the plans to celebrate the VE Day 75th Anniversary.

6.2 That Council approves to support the publicity and waiving of road closure fees for officially registered VE Day 75th Anniversary celebration events within the District.

6.3 That Council approves the establishment of a list of dates of national significance for celebration for the civic year, to be confirmed at the next Council meeting and then reviewed on a regular basis as dates arise. This will inform officers of which dates to consider for waived fees for temporary road closures.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</p>	No
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	All
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	All

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
NA	NA
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
NA	
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