

Members are requested to:

- NOTE this report
- CONSIDER the options raised
- NOTE the Council did not set a budget for this event, any expenditure to be from General Reserves.

LMPC Coronation Working Group Meeting Report – March 2023

Working Group members: M Allsop, S Hill-Wheeler, R Selwood, S Westwood

Background

The King's Coronation Weekend takes place over the weekend of 6th – 8th May. The Coronation takes place on Saturday 6th, and the Palace has suggested street parties on Sunday 7th May, which leaves the 8th May as the obvious choice of date for an event. The Palace has also made it very clear that they do NOT want any beacons to be lit, and has highlighted that as it is less than a year since the Jubilee celebrations, they are anxious to ensure that events to mark the Coronation should be markedly different to those for the Jubilee.

The Cake Break team is hosting afternoon tea on the 8th and a number of councillors are unavailable on this date, therefore the Council has agreed not to hold a separate event on the day, and has asked the working group to look at other ways to mark the occasion.

Options Considered

The working group considered a number of options including:

1. Commemorative coin. This was the approach taken for the Jubilee, so this was not considered appropriate, based on the guidance from the Palace.
2. Commemorative cup or mug. These have been given out to children of the Parish to mark previous coronations, however there are a number of issues with this. Logistically, it would be very difficult to identify children within the Parish, as a significant proportion of children that go to school in the Parish don't live in the Parish, and a significant proportion of children that live in the Parish don't go to school in the Parish. The obvious alternative would be to provide a mug to every household in the Parish, but the cost of this would be significant (£2,000 - £2,500 depending on the type). Finally, initial investigations showed that the cups in this price range are made in China, which goes against King Charles' environmental and "Buy British" aims.
3. Grants towards street parties that are being run to commemorate the event. Although the group liked the idea of this, they thought the logistics and timescales for managing this would make it impractical.
4. A more lasting memorial that will enhance the environment and/or community within the Parish, such as a bench or a planter, seemed more in keeping with the King's general ethos and approach, and was one of the preferred options for the group.
5. "Afternoon tea in a box" was suggested as an option to complement the Parish Hall event, i.e. delivering a version of afternoon tea to elderly or housebound members of the

parish who are unable to attend the Parish Hall. The group thought this option would be a good way of including some of the more vulnerable people in our community and would reflect the "Big Help Out" theme for the bank holiday Monday

Preferred Options

The group recommends that the Council considers:

- Allocating a budget for commemorative benches or planters, and asking for feedback regarding potential options and locations via the Spring Newsletter
- Provides afternoon tea in a box for elderly or housebound members of the parish on Monday 8th May (up to a maximum of 50 households with up to two people per household), with a maximum budget of £350.

Afternoon tea in a box

Afternoon tea in a box would consist of:

- A round of sandwiches
- Two cakes
- A scone, jam and cream
- Two teabags

This is largely in line with the planned afternoon tea at the Parish Hall would be available for up to 50 households, and up to two people per household where one or more members of the household are elderly or housebound. Registration could be via a specific Council email (e.g. admin@lydiardmillicent-pc.gov.uk) or via phone. We would need volunteers to handle the registrations, prepare the food and deliver it. The expectation is that this will cost £300 - £350, depending on take up.

Commemorative bench or planter

Commemorative benches and/or planters could be positioned at a number of locations around the Parish, including Jubilee Club House, the Mews, Lydiard Green or Common Platt (by the new notice board). Anything purchased should be sustainably sourced, and maintenance and upkeep would be required for any planters.

Initial investigation indicates that benches cost between £300 and £700, and planters cost in the region of £100 - £200, therefore the Council could install a number of benches and/or planters for less than the the commemorative mugs.

The group also recommends that an article on this is included in the spring newsletter, giving residents the opportunity to comment on locations.

Links to potential bench providers

<https://memorialbenchesuk.co.uk/>

<https://www.recycledfurniture.co.uk/>

<https://www.sustainable-furniture.co.uk/>