
**SUPPORTING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO CELEBRATE
THE ROYAL WEDDING AND THE GREAT POPPY WEEKEND**

Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Stephen Harker, Health and Leisure Portfolio

Responsible Director - Richard Alty, Director of Place

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members on how the Events Team, based in the Dolphin Centre hub, will be able to facilitate support within the voluntary sector in organising street parties or events to celebrate the Royal Wedding and the Great Poppy Party Weekend.

Summary

2. The Royal Wedding of HRH Prince William and Kate Middleton will be held in Westminster Abbey on Friday 29 April 2011 and to celebrate the occasion many voluntary groups, organisations and residents will want to hold street parties or events.
3. The Royal British Legion will be celebrating its 90th birthday and to help celebrate the occasion the British Legion are encouraging individuals and groups to hold Poppy Parties across the region over the weekend of 10 - 12 June 2011.
4. The Events Team can provide guidance for volunteers to deal with event planning, safety issues, funding guidance and some event management to support community based celebrations.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Cabinet approves the continuation of the Events Team's support to the voluntary sector to enable them to celebrate the Royal Wedding and the Great Poppy Weekend.

Reasons

6. The recommendation is supported to enable community events to continue to take place.

**Richard Alty
Director of Place**

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	No direct impact on Health and Well Being
Carbon Impact	None
Diversity	The proposals will support a diverse range of community based organisations
Wards Affected	There is not a focus on any specific ward
Groups Affected	This work is likely to focus on voluntary sector organisations
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend any changes
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This work will link to the 'One Darlington' concept facilitating community cohesion.
Efficiency	This report does not identify any additional efficiency savings

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Supporting the Voluntary Sector

7. One of the main roles of the Council's Events Team, which is highlighted as one of the key aims within 'The Events Strategy for Darlington', is to encourage local community and rural events in the Borough, providing support and assistance where required.
8. There is an expectation that voluntary groups and residents will want to commemorate the forthcoming Royal Wedding and the Great Poppy Weekend with community based celebrations and gatherings.
9. To enable the street parties and fetes to take place, the Events Team will continue their current role in providing support and guidance to the voluntary sector.
10. The help, support and guidance that the team will provide will include the following:
 - (a) Assist with the submission of an event application form to the Council's Event Safety Advisory Group.
 - (b) Provide advice on health and safety; this will include help in filling in a risk assessment form; provide stewarding advice; first aid advice; advice on road closure procedure; insurance advice; and licensing information.
 - (c) Provide contact details for performers and entertainers, local newspapers and radio stations.
 - (d) Provide event management support on the day if a large community event was to be planned.
 - (e) Promote the event in the Council's Events Calendar if the organiser wishes to promote the event beyond the local residents.
 - (f) Advice on funding available to voluntary groups and organisations.
11. The help and support given to local voluntary and community groups since the implementation of the Events Strategy in 2006 has enabled many events to happen or continue to happen.
12. The events that receive and are still receiving support and advice from the Events Team include The Chinese New Year, The West Park Activity Day, Darlington Green Theatre's Theatre in the Park, Friends of North Lodge Park and North Road Park, Caribbean Dance Party Night and Darlington's Community Carnival.

Outcome of Consultation

13. There has been no consultation undertaken as part of this report.