

WARDS: BELLE VALE, HALESOWEN SOUTH AND HALESOWEN NORTH

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.**

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE

17TH NOVEMBER 2004

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To report on a proposal to hold a parade to celebrate St George's Day in Halesowen Town Centre on the 23rd April 2005.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following suggestions from Members that a celebration be held to mark St George's Day, it is proposed that an annual event be staged, to be held at a different location in the Borough each year.
- 2.2 As a result of requests from members of this Committee that the first of these annual events be held in Halesowen, outline proposals have been prepared by Dudley Performing Arts for a celebration to be held in Halesowen Town Centre on April 23rd 2005. The event is proposed to consist of a march through the town centre, a formal 'opening' and speeches, followed by a sequence of musical events.
- 2.3 A preliminary meeting to consider how the event should be coordinated was convened by the Committee's Area Liason Officer on the 24th September 2004. The initial scope of the event was discussed at this meeting and it was agreed that the Directorate of the Urban Environment's Town Centres Development service should coordinate the preparation for the event. Whereas the details of the event itself will be prepared by the Dudley Performing Arts service, there will be the need for advance planning to address issues including health and safety, licences and permits, marketing and road closures associated with the event.

2.4 The outline proposals for the event include the following;

- 12.00 start; Scouts Band march through town centre
- 'Proms style' medley with soloist and choir of high school students, with a patriotic theme (e.g. Jerusalem, I Vow To Thee My Country, Land Of Hope and Glory)
- Grand Opening and speech
- Compere: Introduction of events
- Finale: Massed Choir:
- 'Proms Style' medley (to include a range of music, with reference to, for example theatre, film, folk, pop and rock music and Morris Dancers

2.5 A number of organisations will be invited to take part in this event and these are expected to include local schools, dance and music groups, scouts and guide groups.

2.6 The events programme is still at an early stage, and will continue to be developed over the next few months. It is proposed that future reports be submitted to this Committee as the proposals develop.

3.0 PROPOSAL

3.1 It is proposed that the contents of this report be noted and that the Committee support the officers' ongoing work to develop the proposals for the celebration of St Georges Day on the 23rd April 2005.

3.2 It is proposed that further reports be submitted to the Committee as the proposals for the event are developed.

4.0 FINANCE

4.1 The structured cost of this event is £10,000 and provision will need to be made in the revenue budget for 2005/6.

5.0 LAW

5.1 Under Part I of the Local Government Act 2000 the Council may do anything it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area.

5.2 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive to or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 The proposals take into account the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That the proposals set out in paragraph 3.1 & 3.2 of this report be approved.

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Director of the Urban Environment - John B. Millar

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Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

None