

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

**WARMINSTER AREA BOARD**

**19 January 2012**

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## **HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

### **WILTSHIRE CELEBRATION EVENT**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1. To provide the Area Board with an update on the current position and arrangements for the Wiltshire Celebration Event being organised by the Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1. Lord-Lieutenants across the country have been asked to organise an event in their County to enable citizens – young and old – to be able to come together to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mr. John Bush, wrote to the Chairmen of all Wiltshire Area Boards last August to invite them to participate in the unique event he was planning to organise in Salisbury Cathedral and Close focussed around the Magna Carta. He felt that the Magna Carta would provide a good focus for the celebration, as it linked to the history of the English democratic monarchy.
- 2.2. The Chairs of Area Boards in Wiltshire met in September 2011 and indicated their full support for this event in Wiltshire.

#### **3. Main Considerations**

- 3.1. A press release has been issued from Buckingham Palace announcing the dates of the Diamond Jubilee Tour in 2012. Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, and supported by other members of the Royal Family, will be travelling as widely as possible across the whole country. The visit to the South West region will be held over the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The Lord-Lieutenant is hopeful that the Wiltshire event will attract the attendance of a senior member of the Royal Family but he is awaiting confirmation that Wiltshire will be included within the South West visit.

- 3.2. It is intended that the Wiltshire event will therefore be held on either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> May in the Salisbury Cathedral and Close. It is hoped to have a confirmed date by the end of January.
- 3.3. Irrespective of the decision as to whether the Wiltshire event will feature in the South West tour, the event will still go ahead to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the County. It is therefore important to progress arrangements. As previously indicated in the Lord Lieutenant's letter, it is intended that each Area Board would have a jousting tent in the Cathedral Close in which they can 'showcase' their history and provide examples of community initiatives which makes their area unique.
- 3.4. To assist in the organisation of this Wiltshire event, the following is being put in place:
  - i. 'Jousting style' tents will be sourced collectively through the Lieutenancy Office to obtain a competitive price. These will be erected in time to enable items to be exhibited within the tent prior to the date chosen for the event. The document at Appendix A provides details of the estimated size and cost of tents which can be made available. If the Area Board wished to identify a particular tent which would suit their needs, it would be helpful if this could be notified to the Lieutenancy Office. Alternatively, if it was judged more practical, neighbouring Area Boards might wish to consider joining together rather than having separate tents. The wide range of tent sizes provides this flexibility. It is hoped that by providing an estimation of cost it will be helpful in enabling the Area Board to consider seeking some form of sponsorship towards the cost. An application has been made to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme for a grant to assist with the cost of staging this event.
  - ii. Items to be displayed inside the tent will be at the discretion of each Area Board, but should include items to celebrate Wiltshire's history and all that is good in their area of the County today through the work of local citizens.
  - iii. In addition to Area Boards, it is intended that voluntary organisations, the judiciary and others will also have jousting tents to enable them to showcase their contribution to the life of Wiltshire.
  - iv. An event manager is to be appointed in January. Appropriate contact details will be provided to Area Board Chairmen as soon as possible.
  - v. An electricity supply will be made available to tents. It would be helpful if precise requirements could be notified to the Lieutenancy Office as soon as they are known so that these can be included within overall requirements.
  - vi. It is hoped that in addition to the tents, there will be a medieval theme created in the Close through the addition of individuals in

period costume, musical contributions, etc. These elements will be provided through a professional company. Information is currently being compiled around this aspect of the event.

- vii. It is intended that Armed Services personnel will also be involved in the event, including some form of display.
- viii. Inside the Cathedral, there will be groups of children undertaking practical work around elements of the Magna Carta, as well as some musical contributions from young musicians.
- ix. Security and safety aspects around the event are currently under discussion, including appropriate car parking arrangements.

#### **4. Implications**

##### **4.1. Environmental Impact of the Proposals**

There is no environmental impact around the event as arrangements will be agreed within set requirements by Cathedral staff.

##### **4.2. Financial Implications**

There will be financial implications for staging such a large scale event. An application has been made to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme to assist with these financial costs. A decision will be received in March and Area Board Chairmen will be advised in due course if the application has been successful.

##### **4.3. Legal Implications**

There are no specific Legal implications related to this report

##### **4.4. HR Implications**

There are no specific HR implications related to this report

##### **4.5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

It is not envisaged that this event will have any equality and diversity implications as all residents and visitors to Wiltshire will be encouraged to participate in this event.

#### **5. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Area Board consider:

- i. the size of the jousting tent which would best suit their needs
- ii. the items which they would wish to include within their tent

- iii. the electricity requirements for their tent
- iv. the possibility of securing some local sponsorship towards their costs if the grant application is not successful

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Report Author: Jean Potter, Assistant Clerk to the Lieutenancy  
Tel No: 01225 713103  
E-Mail: [jean.potter@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jean.potter@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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Appendices: Appendix A – Estimated Size and Cost of ‘Jousting Tents’

Background papers: