

Magna Carta 800 Community Celebrations

Delegated funding decision

The Council's participation in the Magna Carta pageant was approved by the Wiltshire Legacy Board following a meeting between Councillor Mrs Scott, Laurie Bell and representatives of Salisbury Cathedral. Area Board Chairs have been consulted and have supported the idea of all 18 community areas participating in the pageant on the evening of Monday 15th June 2015 in Salisbury.



The proposal is to commission the creation of 18 community barons – giant, shoulder carried puppets – each representing a community area. The baron will be the centre piece of each community's element of the pageant procession and will feature in a re-enactment of the Magna Carta signing at Runnymede. Each processional element will reflect the community area concerned and will be shaped by local groups and young people who have agreed to participate.



The event in Salisbury will feature:

- The community pageant – a carnival style procession featuring over 350 people from 18 community areas - from the Market Square to the Cathedral.
- A VIP reception in the Cathedral Cloisters
- Banners featuring the name of each area and modern day Magna Carta clauses
- A 'March of the Mayors' bringing together as many of the County's mayors as are free to attend
- Community performances featuring groups drawn from all over Wiltshire – Town Criers, Mummers, Morris Dancers, Brass Bands, Choirs, majorettes, and much more.
- A theatrical re-enactment of the Magna Carta signing at Runnymede
- Access to the real Magna Carta for participants
- A choral ensemble featuring 400 voices
- A 'sans et lumiere' performance featuring giant illuminated white horses – and further performances in other Towns across the County (subject to Arts Council funding bid)
- A non-airborne pyrotechnic finale

The Cathedral authorities have approved the format of the proposed pageant and are actively supporting the event. They will also arrange promotion.

Community involvement will be delivered by the Council's 18 Community Area Managers and Community Youth Officers and work is already underway to recruit participants across Wiltshire.

To facilitate the delivery of the event, Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts (DOCA) and the Ageis Salisbury International Arts Festival have been commissioned to deliver core elements of the programme and provide overall creative management. Both of these organisations have a proven track record of delivering high profile and large scale street arts festivals and have extensive contacts with leading makers and producers in the industry.

DOCA will also produce the 18 Community Barons. The Barons will be centrally made but not decorated. They will come complete with backpack support, cloak, hair and animated hands and an art kit for use by community groups. The Barons will subsequently belong to each community involved.

The estimated delivery date for the Barons will be the 15th / 16th of May.

DOCA will deliver a workshop on the 15th/16th of May for community representatives; this will brief them on how to decorate their Baron and what materials are most suitable. DOCA will also be available through either telephone or in-person contact to support communities to decorate their Baron. Groups can begin to research their local history and prepare their designs ahead of delivery of the barons.

The groups involved are being encouraged to deliver a local element – an event in each of Wiltshire’s community areas – as well as forming part of the procession in Salisbury.

Budget and costs

The total cost of the local and Salisbury elements of the Magna Carta 800 celebrations will be in the region of £2,000 per community area. The Legacy Board has agreed to underwrite the core costs, but each Area Board is now asked to consider agreeing match funding of £2,000 to support their own local group. Local funding will support:

- Local research
- A contribution towards the costs of the community baron
- Local art workshops, room hire and purchase of materials
- A local performance in the community area
- Transport to and from Salisbury on 15th June.

Recommended

1. That the Community Engagement Officer is authorised to approve the allocation of £2,000 from Area Board’s 11-19 youth revenue budget (not the LYN youth review fund) to support the Magna Carta 800 celebrations in Corsham and in Salisbury on 15 June.
2. That the CEO and CYO form a local project team to deliver the Corsham area’s element of the celebrations.

Penny Bell
Community Engagement Officer

