

Meeting: Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee

Date: 1 March 2022

Title: Jubilee Beacons

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Service: Environment, Housing and Leisure

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee an overview of proposals for current plans for the lighting of Jubilee Beacons for the Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Sub-committee is recommended to note the report and comment on the presentation.

3. Background

- 3.1 On Thursday, 2nd June 2022, to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of HRH Queen Elizabeth II, Jubilee Beacons will be lit across the country at nightfall, ending the first of a four day weekend (2nd – 5th June) of celebration.

4. Outline programme

Activities on 2nd June will begin with a proclamation from the local Town Crier, or prominent citizen, at 14:00 and local authorities are invited to organise beacon lighting events. The Beacon ceremony will commence at 21:35 with music by pipers across the UK and Commonwealth.

They will be joined by local choirs at 21:45 and at 22:00 Beacons will be lit, at the time of sunset, to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

The celebrations are being co-ordinated nationally by the Royal Pageantmaster who has written to all local authorities encouraging their participation.

It is anticipated that Hadrian's Wall will be a major showcase for the celebrations, given its historic frontier status between England and Scotland and its countrywide reach. In North Tyneside this means that the natural focus for activity will be Segedunum Roman Fort in Wallsend and event planning is underway for a family orientated community event on the evening of 2nd June.

As Chair of the Hadrian's Wall Partnership Jane, Lady Gibson has met with the Chief Executive and Elected Mayor and gained agreement for political, logistical and financial support for the Jubilee Beacons programme, with particular emphasis upon a showcase event at Segedunum.

5. Current Planning

A Steering Group has been established, Chaired by the Head of Cultural Development, including key Council officers and representatives from partner organisations. A bid to the Queen's Jubilee Fund has been made, with a view to adding financial support to the 2nd June event, although only seventy awards from this fund will be made across the country.

A sub group including officers from the Council, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums (TWAM) and local arts organisation, Salto Arts, are engaged in the logistical event planning process.

Contact has been made with local Armed Forces organisations to lend support to the event and local choirs will be engaged to contribute to the Beacon lighting finale.

Local schools will be engaged in the build up to the Jubilee activities with the aim of increasing community participation on 2nd June at the event at Segedunum.

Local businesses have been approached to consider bespoke designs for the braziers which will be a key feature of the Beacon lighting.

The High Sheriff for Tyne and Wear has accepted an invitation to attend the event.

Across the Jubilee weekend (2nd – 5th June) it is anticipated that street parties and other festivities will be organised on the initiative of local communities

6. Overall aims

The aims of the beacon lighting programme across Hadrian's Wall can be summarised as follows:-

- To inspire a Wall-wide response from local authorities, visitor destinations, communities and individuals that involves as many people as possible within their local communities
- To showcase Hadrian's Wall as a focal point for local, regional and national media coverage of the celebrations
- To complement and amplify the Hadrian's Wall 1900 celebrations in 2022