

Report to Portfolio Holder: Communities and Place

Subject: Approval of Annual Events Programme 2024/25

Date: 21/02/2024

Author: Community Partnerships Manager

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To request approval for the proposed Annual Events Programme 2024/25.

Key Decision This is not a key decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

1. The Portfolio Holder for Local Pride and Community Engagement approves the Community Events and Activities Programme for 2024/25 as set out in **Appendix 1** of this report.
2. The Portfolio Holder for Local Pride and Community Engagement delegates authority to the relevant Corporate Director to cancel any event in response to Government guidance, extreme weather, significant safety concerns or other exceptional circumstances.

1 Background

- 1.1 Gedling Borough Council's Community Relations Team has traditionally organised and delivered a range of high-quality community events across the borough with a programme of family events, themed children's activity days and larger scale events, forming the basis of a dynamic programme catering to all sections of the community. All events and activities are currently free and much valued and supported by residents in the borough.

- 1.2 Events and activities proposed this year will continue to build on our successful post Covid community coproduction reconnecting approach, encompassing whole family engagement, and delivered in close partnership with local voluntary, community, and residents organisations. Events have been designed in collaboration with community partners and every opportunity will be provided to showcase and promote the skills, talents and services of these groups.

New and additional events are often requested, with some new locations for events being reflected in this report. Locations and activities of events have been chosen to reflect existing priority neighbourhoods, key Council priorities and work programmes as well as providing opportunities for emerging community led facilities that have been proactive in bringing their local community together.

- 1.3 Medium to larger scale include outdoor events in our destination point Arnot Hill and Gedling Country Parks, the Annual Arnold Christmas Market and Lights Switch ons and enhanced Remembrance events.
- 1.4 Opportunities presented by the 50th Anniversary of Gedling BC, the Byron Bicentenary and other emerging Heritage proposals included in the UKSPF Events, Heritage and Culture programme will offer occasions for wider community enjoyment and access, and furtherance of the Council's **Health and Wellbeing, Equality and Diversity, Environmental Sustainability and Economic Growth** aims.
- 1.5 Recognising the role of events as important in increasing footfall and supporting Economic Growth in Town and Parish Centres, where resources allow, internal Teams including Economic Growth, Customer Services, Communities and Leisure and Environment will collaborate to maximise resources and provide pop up events in such locations.
- 1.6 The 2024/2025 programme includes additional resources and support for enabled community events, in which the Council will provide background support to events that are organised, led, and delivered by community partners.

Resources include:

- A new, dedicated webpage containing accessible links to current national event management guidance and safety regulations across a range of event scenarios.
- This webpage will be widely promoted from March 2024 via our Community Hubs and Partners email networks, Community and Health and Wellbeing E-Newsletters and other channels.

- Allocations from the UKSPF Events, Heritage and Culture programme to commission event leadership and/or activities at community enabled events that support the Council's aims and meet the UKSPF outputs and outcomes requirements.
- The opportunity to apply to the Strength In Community VCS Resilience Grant Fund (round 2) for extraneous costs for events that support the Council's aims and meet the UKSPF outputs and outcomes requirements.
- Assistance in liaising with Countywide Safety Advisory Group colleagues on Event Management Plans as required.
- Facilitating the connection of the Gedling Play Forum to events, as appropriate and viable, via the Annual GPF Grant Agreement.

1.7 A list of potential community enabled events gathered from local community partners is included in the attached event programme.

All events will be delivered and monitored in line with national safety guidelines.

2 Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that the Council delivers a programme of events in 2024/25 as detailed at **Appendix 1**.

2.2 It is accepted that resources and planning time are scarce and that successful delivery of the demanding proposed programme is dependent on:-

- Careful consideration regarding capacity and resources to be given before any new events are added to the programme, in order to ensure that events are delivered to a high standard to agreed timescales and within existing resources;
- electronic booking systems being maximised;
- Cooperative deployment of resources across Council Departments, i.e. Communities, Economic Development, Environment, Public Protection and Communications;
- Community Partners being encouraged to develop their capacity to ensure they can continue to support the delivery of the Council's events programme;
- the resources and commercial opportunities being available for any third party commercial providers to contribute to the events programme;

- A Corporate Communications approach - maximisation of opportunities to promote a range of Council priorities, projects and programmes;
- Any ongoing changes to national legislation and guidance.

To ensure compliance with national guidance, and/or respond to any other serious threat to public safety, delegation is sought from the relevant Corporate Director to cancel individual events if this becomes necessary.

3 Alternative Options

3.1 Not to deliver the programme of events for 2024/25.

Gedling Borough Council recognises the importance of community events in terms of supporting community development, inclusion, and cohesion; therefore this option does not support the current corporate priority to deliver a programme of community events.

3.2 To deliver a different programme of events.

The programme is kept under annual review and can be adjusted subject to changing priorities however the proposed 2024/25 programme is deemed the most viable and effective approach in the current operating environment with the resources available.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 The Council has current available events budgets as follows:

Events Budgets 24/25

Item	GBC Current Budget
Community Events	£19,000
Young People's Holiday Activities	£12,700
Remembrance Events	£5,000
Total	£36,700
UKSPF Events, Heritage and Culture Budgets 2024/2025	
Item	Budget
E4: Enhancing existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer	£17,000
E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities	£26,800

E7: Support for active travel enhancements in local area	£15,000
E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area	£7,300
E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy	£13,800
Total	£79,900

4.2 **Social Prosperity Fund Events, Heritage and Culture project funds**

Additional funding available from the Council's Social Prosperity Fund Award for Events and Culture, which includes Heritage, will be accessed to enhance key events, and provide resource for additional commissioning, infrastructure and kit replacement where needed.

4.3 The UKSPF allocations listed above reflect total additional resources available, and allocation to events will be subject to further designation of costs and alignment with Gedling Heritage Strategy development.

4.4 Income will be maximised wherever possible via sponsorship and fees, as will the annualised grant agreement with the Gedling Play Forum of £5,000 for the delivery of craft and outdoor play activities at agreed events within the programme. The costs for the events detailed in appendix 1 have not yet been finalised, however they will be contained within current approved budgets and external funding available.

5 **Legal Implications**

5.1 Event Management Plans and Risk Assessments will be in place for all events and any required permissions and licences will be obtained in advance. The events programme has been added to the County SAG listings database on Resilience Direct.

6 **Equalities Implications**

6.1 The proposed events programme is specifically designed to have a positive impact on the Council's Equalities Policy and practice by extending the reach of benefit to households and areas of recognised disadvantage, and by offering collaboration opportunities to key community and voluntary groups that will further their own resilience and community aims to support individuals and groups recognised as having protected characteristics. Our keynote Arnold Summer Fair has a 'Bringing Heritage to Life' theme, incorporating the 'hidden histories' of multicultural communities, and

promoting accessibility to all ranges of mental and physical capability.

The Events programme 2024/25 has been devised with an overarching link to the Council's **Equality Framework and Action Plan priority EQU17**: To review the Council activities and events that promote positive relations to determine if all protected characteristic groups are included.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 All events will be delivered in accordance with the 'Plastics Clever' principles, Smoke Free and Carbon Reduction policies and practices of the Council.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1: Events Programme 2024/25

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To enable the timely promotion and delivery of the Council's events programme 2024/25.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Overarching principles Events Proposals 2024/2025

The Council's events programme is designed to maximise achievement of Council plan aims, enable coproduction with community and other partners, enable effective delivery of funding including Holiday Activities and Food, Social Eating and Shared Prosperity funding, support national recognition days, i.e. Love Parks Week, showcase local Heritage milestones and destination points and promote environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing and intergenerational themes. The programme also aims to support activities across the borough including in rural areas.

Key

Cost of Living events

Town Centre Events

Social Eating/Food provision

Links to awareness days

Event in a rural area

Health & Wellbeing

Heritage

Play Forum input

Council Led events

Gedling 'Strength In Community' VCS Pride / showcase event – April/May 2024 date tbc in consultation with our Community Hubs and Partners Network.



Arnold Summer Fair – Arnot Hill Park – Saturday 22nd June ●●●

Heritage focus/consultation or launch of heritage way/GBC 50th Anniversary

Arnold Town Centre and AMP Event for Nottinghamshire Day – 23rd August 2024 (Notts Day on 25th tbc)



Interfaith/Community remembrance event - Gedling Country Park – Saturday 21st September



Remembrance Event – Arnold Town Centre and Arnot Hill Park – 10th November

**Gedling and Mapperley Parades are led by local Royal British Legion with Council assistance* ●●●

Arnold Christmas Lights Switch On – 22nd November ●●●

Arnold Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair ●●

Led by Economic Regeneration and Growth

Pop up Town Centre event programme ●●●●●●

Led by Economic Regeneration and Growth - potential for seasonal events tbc but could include Easter, Halloween, Chinese New Year family craft event as examples.

Bonington Theatre Programme – Communities team to add value where possible ●●

Enabled Community Led Events

Locality based response events are becoming more frequent with several key partners now leading on events delivery such as Gedling Play Forum, Community Hubs across the borough such at the St Georges Centre and Calverton Core, Positively Empowered Kids, Newark and Sherwood CVS, Parish Councils and Community Associations.

- The Council will provide event management advice and share links to our updated Events Toolkit page on the Council's Website.
- We will offer promotional support and in some instances funding to external community led and commissioned events.
- Assistance may also take the form of deploying Gedling Play Forum family play activities at a community event under our Annual Grant Agreement with that organisation.
- We will also undertake partnership development to engage commissioned partners in attending community events, where there is scope to do so.
- When required (where anticipated attendance is 2,000 plus) we will coordinate Countywide Safety Advisory Group assessment of a community led event.

Potential events requiring support in 2024/25 may include:

- Children's Centre Pop up event in Carlton Hill – 10th April
- Commissioning of Positively Empowered Kids to support Health Inequalities/Children's Centre Family Hub development in Killisick, Netherfield and Newstead.
- IWD event – March 2025 (led by Phenomenal Futures)
- Gedling South Bank Community Day
- St George's Centre summer event
- Gedling Gala - 6th July

- Wollaton Avenue Festive Event
- Other training and capacity building in Parishes delivered by Gedling Play Forum
- Activities for youth people in partnership with Skate Nottingham/Notts CC Youth Service and making use of Gedling Skate Parks including Burton Road Jubilee Park.
- Netherfest and Netherfield Pride
- Newstead Fun Day event
- Cost of Living events, events associated with the development of Neighbourhood Teams / in partnership with Health
- Community Christmas Light Switch on events

This list may evolve and develop in response to community need.

Annual Proctor and Mellors Fun Fairs

Thursday 18th to Sunday 22nd July – Killisick Recreation Ground, Arnold

Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th July – Richard Herrod Playing Fields, Carlton

Support for SAG large scale events

- Patchings Art Festival.
- Newstead Abbey Tribute Festival (5th July), Woodland Disco (6th July) or other large Newstead Abbey events.
- Fantasia Tour – Street Vibe Events fun fair. 23rd to 26th August 2024 at Burton Road Jubilee Park.
- Warren Action Group Fireworks event – 1st November - and other fireworks events as needed.
- Other 'ad hoc' large scale events that we are made aware of.

Communications approach

The Communities Team will ensure these events are highlighted to Communications on time for inclusion in their annual plan.

Individual events will be promoted in ways which are suitable, for instance targeted events will have more focus on promotion through community partners in specific geographical areas or delivering targeted programmes of work. Wider scale events will require more involvement from Communications colleagues and promotion across all Council media channels.

Individual Ward Members will be informed of events taking place in their local area.