

THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report appraises members of issues that have arisen for members of the public who are arranging their own events to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

2. ISSUES FOR THE PUBLIC IN ARRANGING CELEBRATIONS

- 2.1 There are three main issues that members of the public need to take into account when arranging their own Jubilee celebrations. These are as follows:-

- The possible requirement for a Public Entertainment Licence (PEL) from the Council
- Whether celebrations require a Road Closure Order, under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (also made by the Council)
- The mandatory requirement for applicants requesting Road Closure Orders to arrange their own insurance cover up to a maximum of £10 million

2.2 Public Entertainment Licences

- 2.2.1 Officers of the Council have been liaising with Town and Parish Councils over the possible requirement for PEL's for events held within the community. PEL's are not always required, depending on the nature of the event. Many events likely to be held in village/community halls are already licensed for such purposes and officers have already offered their services to help and guide those that are unsure whether or not a licence is required.

- 2.2.2 In normal circumstances, the Council charges for the issue of a PEL. However, current Council policy allows fees to be remitted in full or in part where funds are raised for charitable or philanthropic purposes, and no individual or organisation makes a profit from the event (subject to each application being considered on its merits). The decision to remit such fees is delegated to various officers within the Community Services Directorate. In this regard officers will look carefully at applications received and remit such fees as are appropriate in the circumstances.

2.3 Road Closure Orders

- 2.3.1 The Council has power to make Road Closure Orders where there is likely to be congestion following a particular celebration or other event.
- 2.3.2 The Council does not charge for making such Orders as invariably applicants are charitable organisations or events themselves are for charitable or philanthropic purposes. Close liaison with the police and other statutory bodies is essential.

2.3.3 Although officers have received many queries in connection with Road Closure Orders, to date only one application has been received. Officers will of course look favourably on any subsequent applications that are received for Road Closure Orders in connection with the Jubilee celebrations and will continue to offer advice and guidance to members of the public seeking information in this regard.

2.4 Insurance Requirement for Road Closure Orders

2.4.1 It is the Council's requirement in making a Road Closure Order to ensure the applicant has obtained adequate public liability insurance (i.e. £10 million). This is extremely important to cover any incidents that could arise.

2.4.2 In arranging such cover, the applicant usually has to pay to an insurance company a figure of around £350. This of course may deter some applicants in seeking Road Closure Orders for Jubilee celebrations. Officers are currently looking at ways to see if this figure can be reduced. An initial discussion with the Council's own insurers has been very positive and it may well be that an arrangement could be agreed whereby the usual figure payable by applicants is significantly reduced (an oral update will be provided in this regard at the Cabinet meeting).

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The Council will obviously wish to be as supportive as possible to communities seeking to celebrate the Golden Jubilee and will continue to offer advice and assistance to those seeking to arrange such celebrations. Officers will continue to consider applications for PEL's on their individual merits and will where appropriate remit fees ordinarily chargeable for such and will continue to look at ways to try and reduce the insurance cover fee payable by applicants for Road Closure Orders.

4. CRIME AND DISORDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None directly arising out of this report

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As the Council's current policy is to remit fees for Public Entertainment Licences (in whole or in part) where appropriate in the circumstances (subject to the criteria stipulated), there are no adverse financial implications. In addition, seeking ways of reducing the insurance cover fee payable by applicants for Road Closure Orders will not have any financial impact on the Council, as the applicant will still be required to pay a fee, albeit a reduced one if indeed officers are successful in negotiating reduced fees with the Council's own insurance company.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That the Council continue to support the community in their arrangements for the Golden Jubilee celebrations; and
- 6.2 Officers continue to seek ways to facilitate members of the public in arranging such celebrations.

Further information:

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Background papers:

None

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