

Community Services Committee

Title:	Taste of Thame
Date:	16 July 2024
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee about this year's Taste of Thame event which took place on Saturday 25 May 2024, as well as approval for next year's event.

Background

2. Taste of Thame arose from an idea brought to Thame Town Council by The Deli at No 5 who used to be based in The Buttermarket. This event promotes the food offer on Thame's doorstep featuring town centre venues and many food producers based within 5 miles of the town, or with a pre-existing connection to Thame. The event includes 'The Buttermarket Banquet' – a shared table for the community to gather around; a producer's market with live demonstrations; a street food market, and a food trail taking people to different venues around the town to watch demonstrations, pick up tasters and take part in workshops. A raffle raises funds for Thame Food Bank.
3. This year was the first year Thame Town Council ran the event without 21st Century Thame, which worked well. 21ST Century Thame were a great support with queries, as well as TTC's Environmental Project Officer, who has also previously run the event.
4. The day itself was a great success, with many people taking part in the trail and enjoying the Town Centre. We had 18 stops on the trail, 16 were businesses and 2 were for a Street food market (8 stalls) outside the Town Hall in collaboration with StrEAT Meet and for a local produce market set up in Montesson Square (10 stalls)
5. Thame Town Council would like to thank the community groups that helped, particularly the Wombles who kept the town clean and tidy for all. We were lucky that a volunteer was able to step in at the last minute to drive the vehicle kindly donated from Thame Cars for the event.
6. The raffle was drawn at 3pm on 3rd June 2024. 463 tickets were sold at £1 each through Jumblebee.co.uk. According to Phil Stratton at the June TAG meeting, the event raised almost £500 for Sharing Life Trust, one of the mayor's charities for 2024.
7. Sponsorship was achieved for the event covering costs. Thanks to Connect Scaffolding Services, Lightfoot Solicitors, Lucy Electric, Pentangle, and C21st Thame.

Proposal and improvements for 2025

8. Proposed date would be either 24 or 31 May 2025, which are currently marked out in our calendar. This year we had a craft fair going on, which meant we were unable to use the Upper Chamber, which we should avoid for 2025, we can use the Upper Chamber if the weather is bad or hold an indoor café with a community group.
9. The Maintenance team were unable to help with this event, due to their workload commitments over the month of May, particularly other events such as Music in the Park, War Memorial event, and the Carnival. In the future, and with suitable notice to work over the weekend, it would be

helpful to have some of the maintenance team on hand to help with setting up and down for the event.

10. The contracted medical team dealt with two medical conditions, both of which were for the same person, with the person refusing to go to hospital the first time but agreeing to go to hospital after the second medical incident.
11. The security team on site assisted with barrier control, disabled parking requirements and setting up and breaking down of the event, this is something we should keep in place, if ever an emergency occurred in the Butter Market to move equipment.
12. To aid with the event health and safety requirements, a dedicated medical team and security personal for the event should be incorporated when budget setting.

Resource Appraisal

13. The event covered expenditure with sponsorship and stall participation. There is one invoice to be received for payment before the budget can be finalised.

To date:

Income: £2,385

Expenditure: £1,010

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To approve a date for next year.***
- ii) To approve officer time to support the delivery of Taste of Thame.***