

## Community Services Committee

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 July 2024</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager</b>

### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide feedback on the events organised and supported by Town Council to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day on.

### Update

2. Thame Town Council supported the Thame branch of the Royal British Legion by selling on their behalf the 80<sup>th</sup> D-Day pin badges at the Information Centre, these were extremely popular with over 100 pin badges sold raising a total of £395.
3. On Thursday 6 June 2024, at 11am the Thame branch of the Royal British Legion held a wreath laying ceremony at the Thame War Memorial. Which was supported by St Mary's Church Thame, RBL Standard Bearer, Parade Marshal, and the Royal British Legion President of Oxfordshire. The Town Council advertised the event and provided the portable PA system. Around 100 people attended the service, which was broadcast by the ITV as part of the D-Day events taking place around Oxfordshire.
4. Later that evening at 6.30pm, there was a 30 minute "Ringing out of Peace" peal by the St Mary's Bell Ringers.

As an alternative to a Beacon Lighting where the timings of 9.15pm at the height of summer on the Thursday evening would not be dark enough for all the community to participate in.

The Town Council took part in the alternative national tribute by lighting the "Lamp Light of Peace – representing the light of peace that emerged from the darkness of war" which was displayed at the top window of the Town Hall all evening through to the morning. Joining other Town/Parish Councils throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories coming together to enable residents to pause, reflect and thank those you served. An invitation to the community sent out social media to take part with the Lamp Light of Peace from their homes and businesses. Unfortunately, there was some public backlash on social media that Thame Town Council had not done enough to commemorate the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> tribute.

5. On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024, a commemorative tea party was held at St Mary's Church by the Thame Branch of the Royal British Legion. Thame Town Council supported this event with administration, publicity, and Officer time. The event was a successful partnership with the Air Cadets, RBL, Church and volunteers coming together to make the event successful. Thame Town Council administered the publicity and ticket sales with over 74 tickets sold, with positive feedback that everyone enjoyed the surroundings, entertainment, and food. It is estimated the Royal British Legion raised an approximate £600 from the event after expenditure.

## Resource Appraisal

6. The £55 purchase of the Lamp of Peace was allocated from existing budgets.
7. The partnership working with the Thame Royal British Legion and St Mary's Church required Officer's administration time to undertake support with the Saturday 8 June 2024 Afternoon Tea, with design work, social media promotion and ticket sales. A promotion to take part in the Lamp of Peace by social media campaign encouraging others to take part from existing staff budgets.

## Legal Powers:

- Local Government Act 1972, section 145

## Recommendation:

- i) *To note this report.*

