

Community Services Committee

Report Title:	Thame Pride 2025
Meeting Date:	16 July 2024
Contact Officer:	Cllr David Dawson & Amy Slater, Business Administration Apprentice

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide background on the vision to hold a Pride event in Thame.

Action Required

2. To note significant initial community support for a Thame Pride event.
3. To support, in principle and subject to an event proposal with costings, for a Thame Pride event to be held in June 2025.
4. To approve that Officers, provide administrative support to Cllr Dawson in establishing the feasibility and interest for a Thame Pride event in June 2025, in order to present an event proposal to a future meeting of this committee.

Background

5. Thame Town Council, at its meeting on 28 February 2023, committed to Equality Targets as under the Equality Act 2010 Section 149(1) the Council has a duty for the following:

149 **Public sector equality duty**

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6. A protected characteristic is: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race including ethnic or national origins, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Thame Pride 2025

1. Pride is celebrated in the month of June, as that was the month when the Stonewall riots in the USA took place. (Stonewall riots were important protests that took place in 1969.)

2. The idea to host Thame Pride was to help with the inclusion of people around Thame, and to make the town feel like a safe space for LGBTQ+ people. An invitation to discuss the possibility of a Thame Pride was posted to Love Thame a few weeks ago and it was overwhelmingly 'liked', with many organisations offering their services for free.
3. Research on LGBTQ+ statistics in Oxfordshire has been taken, 3.4% of the county (21,428 people) did **not** identify as heterosexual (straight), with a remaining 7.9% not answering the question. 0.6% of people (3,477) in Oxfordshire identified as transgender, this is higher than the National average of 0.5%.
4. Pride Events bring a boost in and use of local businesses (Hotels, Pubs, Restaurants etc.) They also bring significant economic benefits to the community, with a report by Brighton & Hove Council, published last December, showed that businesses in the city benefitted from an estimated additional £20.5million of income from visitors attending the annual Pride event.
5. The event could include music, with James Figgs, Candelo Lounge and The Bird Cage offering their facilities for free and London Gay Men's Chorus offering to perform in Thame. The Rugby Club wants to play an active part in a Pride Event, with a friendly game played against Kings Cross Steelers, the world's first gay rugby team. Thame running group have also expressed an interest in staging two events in support of Pride. The Player's Theatre has offered its resources for free with the possibility of staging an evening cabaret event and talks about the history of Pride & equality. A number of local street food suppliers have expressed an interest in taking part in Pride.
6. For funding of Thame Pride, we have already had an expression of interest in sponsoring the event by Travelodge. They already sponsor Birmingham and Bristol Pride. There are also several grants available to support inclusive events in rural areas.
7. Thame Town Council would give support to Thame's first Pride in 2025 and would need to be prepared to offer staffing resources to help with street closures etc. The date is likely to be Saturday 21st June 2025.

Resource Appraisal

7. No financial resources required at this stage other than officer time to provide administrative support.

Risk Assessment

8. There may be reputational risks associated with any decision.

Legal Powers:

- Equality Act 2010, Section 149(1)
- Localism Act 2011, Section 1-8, and The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012

Recommendation:

- i) To note significant initial community support for a Thame Pride event.***
- ii) To support, in principle and subject to an event proposal with costings, for a Thame Pride event to be held in June 2025.***
- iii) To approve that Officers, provide administrative support to Cllr Dawson in establishing the feasibility and interest for a Thame Pride event in June 2025, in order to present an event proposal to a future meeting of this committee.***