

Community Services Committee

Title:	80th Anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day
Date:	4 February 2025
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider if the Town Council should organise any additional events to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day on 8 May 2025 and 15 August 2025 respectively.

Background

2. 2025 marks 80 years since the end of the Second World War, with Victory in Europe (VE) Day and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day. The Royal British Legion are planning events to mark these momentous anniversaries to ensure that the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generations is always remembered. It is likely to be the last major event attended by those who contributed to the victories.

3. Bruno Peek CVO OBEOPR – Pageantmaster, is encouraging the lighting of Beacons and Lamps of Peace at 9.30pm on Thursday 8 May 2025 and raising a unique VE Day flag at 9am on the morning: Suggestions made for outline events on this day include:

9am – VE Day 80 Flag flown (subject to weather conditions) – cost £64.26

6.30pm – Ringing out in celebration of peace

St Mary's Church Bell Tower Captain has confirmed they will be taking part and will be ringing the bells.

9pm – VE Day 80 Proclamation

9.30pm – Beacons lit & the VE Day 80 Tribute

9.30pm – British Patriotic Hymn "I Vow to thee my country"

4. Thame Town Council's Communications & Events Officer (Maternity Cover) placed a social media post on Facebook to ask the community if they had any ideas on how to commemorate VE Day and VJ Day, with comments ranging from:

Street disco

A market day

Celebrations in pubs with pints for 20p and 10p hotdogs

Public event in lower car park

Market with tea/cake stalls – old vehicles and food etc from that era

Big band playing music from that era

Resource Appraisal

5. The budget for Remembrance 2024/5 has an underspend of £1,150 available to seed fund any agreed proposals and it is hoped that sponsorship would be obtained to aid with any community event requirements.

Risk Assessment

6. Appropriate insurances and permissions would be required if the committee look favorably on any of the proposals.

Legal Powers:

- Local Government Act 1972, section 145

Recommendation:

- i) To consider if the Town Council should organise any additional events to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day on 8 May 2025 and 15 August 2025 respectively.*