

Community Services Committee

Title:	Taste of Thame 2025
Date:	4 February 2025
Contact Officer:	Belinda Lee, Communications and Events Officer (Maternity Cover)

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee about the Taste of Thame event taking place on 24 May 2025.
2. To request support from councillors for this event.

Background

3. This report outlines the plan to hold the Taste of Thame event again in 2025.
4. The event was first run in 2022, in partnership with 21st Century Thame, using a team of volunteers. 2025 will be the third year Thame Town Council has run the event. In 2024 the event featured a Producer Market, a street food market, the 'Buttermarket Banquet' and a food trail. It also ran a raffle raising funds for Sharing Life Trust. 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 the local produce market set up in Montesson Square had 10 stalls. 463 tickets were sold in the raffle at £1 each and the event raised almost £500 for Sharing Life Trust, one of the mayor's charities for 2024.
5. The event was a huge success with many businesses reporting a marked increase from their expected sales and a desire to be part of the event again in 2025.
6. The event required a road closure through the Buttermarket and around the Town Hall.

Proposal

7. Preparation is underway for this event to be delivered again on Saturday 24 May 2025, from 10am – 4pm, with little change from last year. It will include a Street Food Market, Food Trail, Producer Market, Raffle, and the Buttermarket Banquet.
8. Although there is ambition to increase the size of the event slightly, this is restricted due to extra road closures affecting other businesses in the town, therefore we aim to have a maximum of 8 stalls at the Street Food Market and the same sized Producer Market as last year (to a maximum of 10 stalls).
9. This year, we would also like to utilise the Town Hall's Upper Chamber with various food related talks and/or demonstrations and children's activities.
10. The event will again require a road closure to be taken out by the Town Council, which has been requested. Along with this, in order to accommodate a larger producer market and take into consideration the work being undertaken on Market House, Thame Town Council will aim to obtain permission from OCC to shut some of the parking bays around Market House, so that there is room for additional stalls and more of a feature is made in Montesson Square, extending the event and the footfall to that end of town.

11. All arrangements will be managed by Thame Town Council staff, contractors and a volunteer team - this includes all the set-up as well as the removal of all waste. We do require Councillors to join our volunteer team.
12. The proposal is subject to all relevant licences and approvals being in place.

Risk Assessment

13. A full risk assessment and event management plan will be produced at the time of requesting a road closure.
14. Environmental impact, electricity output from the town hall will be part of the fees charged, to assist with reducing the number of generators on site.

Resource Appraisal

15. All costs of the event will be covered by income, and sponsorship obtained by the Council.

Legal Powers:

- The Food Act 1984 part III

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To note the report.***
- ii) To volunteer to support the event.***