

**Classification:** Public

**Key Decision:** No

## **Gravesham Borough Council**

**Report to:** Community & Leisure Cabinet Committee  
**Date:** 11 November 2021  
**Reporting officer:** Service Manager (Town Centre and Cultural Services)  
**Subject:** Community Engagement Events & Activities 2021

### **Purpose and summary of report:**

To give an overview of community engagement events & activities in 2021

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the Committee notes the range of events and activity undertaken to engage and develop a more cohesive community and makes known its priorities for consideration in future planning.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Each year a number of community events and activities are delivered by the council's Community Involvement team. These aim to promote cohesion, equality, inclusiveness, celebration and improvement of our environment.
- 1.2 The council's community engagement events activity is aligned with the strategic objectives of the Corporate Plan relating to Objective #2 Place – *A vibrant economy and connected community*, and specifically commitments *to improve resident well-being, develop a cohesive and resilient community, enhance the borough's cultural offer and promote Gravesham's arts and heritage.*
- 1.3 The council has a duty to demonstrate an active promotion of the equalities agenda and the council's community involvement activity is a core element in that work.

## **2. 2021 Events & Activities**

*Holocaust Memorial Day, Wednesday 27 January 2021*

- 2.1 With the entire UK subject to a strict national lockdown in January 2021 the Council recognised Holocaust Memorial Day with the caretakers raising the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust flag on Community Square and sharing posts on social media.

### *LGBTQI History Month*

- 2.2 The Pride Flag was raised on Community Square on 1 February and for the entire month.

### *Chinese New Year, Friday 12 February*

- 2.3 With the strict lockdown still in place Chinese New Year was celebrated on social media with a compilation of images from past celebrations and a message to the community from the Mayor of Gravesham.

### *Commonwealth Day, Monday 9 March*

- 2.4 With the national lockdown in place the Mayor of Gravesham raised the Commonwealth Flag alone on Community Square with images and a message shared on social media.

### *National Day of reflection - One year anniversary of the first lockdown*

- 2.5 To mark the one year anniversary of the first lockdown the Clock Tower was lit up in yellow and 300 tea lights placed around the base to mark each life lost in Gravesham to the virus.

### *Litter Picking*

- 2.6 The pandemic has seen a large increase in the number of individual volunteer litter pickers. With changes around gatherings outdoors a number of group litter picks have been organised with a total of 16 group litter picks and the Great British Spring Clean take place between 28 May and 13 June

### *International Roma Day 8 April 2021*

- 2.7 The Roma Flag was flown on Community Square with the Mayor and Romani Slovak Czech Community CIC and shared on social media.

### *Vaisakhi Flag Flying 9 April*

- 2.8 The Vaisakhi Flag was raised briefly on Community Square with the Mayor and representatives from the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara.

### *Eid Flag Flying 12 May*

- 2.9 The Eid flag was flown on Community Square with the Mayor of Gravesham and representatives from the Gravesend and Dartford Muslim Association and the Shah Jalal Mosque.

### *Pride Month June*

- 2.10 The Pride Flag was flown on Community Square throughout June to mark national Pride Month.

### *Armed Forces Day, Monday 21 June*

- 2.11 The Mayor, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and elected members joined cadets, veterans and ex-service organisations on Community Square to raise the flag to show support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community.

#### *Windrush Day 22 June*

- 2.12 Windrush funding from MHCLG enabled the delivery of a community programme of participative activities and events with storytelling with local primary schools, a recreation of HMS Windrush using shadows of local people on LV21 and food, music at Gravesend Borough Market.

#### *Community Events Funding*

- 2.13 The council's community event fund provided support to enable Roma Holocaust Exhibition, a Family Fun Day at Riverside Community Centre for a Gravesham Pride event.

#### *Roma Holocaust 2 August*

- 2.14 The Roma flag was flown on Community Square with the Romani Slovak Czech Community CIC and guests with a reception and exhibition at St Andrew's Art Centre.

#### *Gravesham Pride 14 August*

- 2.15 Gravesham Pride CIC organised the Borough's first ever pride event in Fort Gardens to a maximum audience with a range of acts, stalls and music.

#### *Black History Month*

- 2.16 In a continuation of the Windrush Day Project an exhibition was held in the market to feature stories and images from the project. The North Kent Caribbean Network with Cohesion Plus organised a display in the Blake Gallery and are screening a film in the Woodville on 20 October. The Black History Association (Gravesham and Kent) are holding an annual thanksgiving service and the African Community Forum are holding an event celebrating African Culture and Wellbeing.

### **Scheduled to take place in 2021 but still to be delivered**

#### *Boundary Walk – Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 October*

- 2.17 Walkers will join the Mayor of Gravesham to carry out the ancient tradition of "Beating the Bounds" of the borough over 2 days and raising money for the Mayor's Charity.

#### *Diwali 4 November*

- 2.18 A candlelit parade is proposed on the evening of 4 November starting and finishing at the Mandir. The Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara will be holding a firework display

#### *Inter-Faith Week – 10 to 17 November*

- 2.19 A walk around Gravesend is planned for Saturday 20 November

### **3. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 3.1 There are no background papers pertaining to this report.

Anyone wishing to inspect background papers should, in the first place, be directed to Committee & Electoral Services who will make the necessary arrangements.

IMPLICATIONS	APPENDIX 1
<b>Legal</b>	<p>Management Plans are put in place for all events activity and where appropriate reported to the Police/Safety Advisory Group for support and guidance.</p> <p>There is no legal requirement to deliver community events, but the overall benefits of cohesion, engagement, involvement and improvement of the area make these a valuable contributor to the area.</p>
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	<p>Community engagement has a specific budget G094/34504 £11800 which is used to deliver these events.</p> <p>Market events can be reclaimed through the European Go Trade Interreg funding.</p>
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	<p>Risk assessments are undertaken for all event activity.</p>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<p><i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i></p> <p>a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of <a href="#">personal data</a> or <a href="#">special category data</a> or <a href="#">criminal offence data</a>?</p> <p>A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links.</p> <p><b>N/A This report is for information only</b></p> <p>b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice?</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at <a href="mailto:gdpr@medway.gov.uk">gdpr@medway.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>N/A</p>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<p>a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer.</p> <p>No. EQIAs for events are completed before each event as part of the event management plan</p> <p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p><i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i></p>
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	<p>Objective #2 Place – <i>A vibrant economy and connected community</i></p>
<b>Climate Change</b>	<p>Considerations are accounted for in planning the events.</p>

<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	The community involvement events are intended to support and encourage community cohesion assisting community safety work to tackle hate crime.
<b>Digital and website implications</b>	Use of social media and website are key to the promotion of all council events for pre-promotion and live updates.
<b>Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults</b>	All major events are risk assessed, all 1-2-1 interacting events require staff to be DBS checked, photo consent forms are carried out where necessary, all large scale events will have a lost children point and nominated member of staff.