

**Classification:** Public

**Key Decision:** No

## Gravesham Borough Council

**Report to:** Community & Leisure Cabinet Committee

**Date:** 10 November 2022

**Reporting officer:** Assistant Director (Communities)

**Subject:** Events

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

To provide an overview of the council's events programme during 2022 and the planning for future events in 2022/23.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the Committee notes the outcomes of the events organised by the council and in partnership with others and makes known its priorities for consideration in future events programming.

<b>Key Implications:</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Implications</b>
<b>Legal</b>	Event Management Plans are put in place for all major events, including risk assessments, licencing involvement and the Safety Advisory Group support/guidance where required.
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	Events are funded primarily from within existing budgets.  A number of events, including St George's Day and the Christmas Light's Switch-on receive partnership funding via the Kent Equality Cohesion Council/Arts Council England grant funding.  Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Queen's Baton Relay were funded from remaining grant funds.  Some income is received through concession food stalls and funfairs, e.g at the Riverside Festival.
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	The council's events programme is aligned with the strategic objectives of the Corporate Plan relating to objective #2 <i>Place – A vibrant economy and connected community.</i>
<b>Climate Change</b>	Events aim to ensure a sustainable use and recycling of materials.  A question has arisen in recent years about greenhouse gas emissions from fireworks used in public displays. They are judged

	not to be a significant source of greenhouse gases in the UK ( <a href="#">Q. Fireworks: Climate Change (parliament.co.uk)</a> ) and as such, these are not included in the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory.
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The council organises a great variety of events activity, often in partnership with local groups and organisations. Many of these are managed and facilitated by staff from within the Communities Directorate.
- 1.2. 2022 has been an exceptionally busy year as the council's events programme has commenced again fully following the Pandemic. Added to this there have been additional opportunities to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to welcome the Queen's Baton Relay to the Borough. There has also been a marked increase in interest from the wider community in organising and attending outdoor events.
- 1.3. This report summarises the main events that have taken place, primarily since April 2022, and outlines what is to come.

## 2. Events Programme to Date 2022

### *St Georges Day - 22 April*

- 2.1. There were eight schools and 400 pupils involved in the celebrations in Gravesend which saw drummers, stilt walkers, St George and the dragon walk through the Town Centre and culminating with flags being raised on Community Square.

### *Queen's Platinum Jubilee – May/June*

- 2.2. National celebrations took place over the June Bank Holiday, Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June. Gravesham's programme of events included:
  - 2.2.1. A Platinum Jubilee Street Party on Community Square on 26 May attended by just under 500 school children and 31 specially invited 70 year-olds. Food and entertainment provided.
  - 2.2.2. Platinum Jubilee Beacon lighting event at Windmill Hill and lighting of the Civic Centre gas beacon on Thursday 2 June. Approximately, 450 members of the public attended this occasion.
  - 2.2.3. Communities were encouraged to host their own Big Jubilee Lunches within their streets and gardens over the Jubilee weekend. The council's Community Grants pot provided support to four events across the Borough.

### *Queen's Baton Relay – Friday 8 July*

- 2.3. The Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) visited Gravesend Town Centre on its route through the UK prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham/West Midlands on 28 July 2022. The community turned out to welcome the Baton at the Gurdwara and to accompany it on its route through the Town prior to its hand-over across the Thames at Tilbury to continue the baton's route through the Eastern Region.
- 2.4. Working with the QBR organising committee, the event was made possible with assistance from the Gurdwara, Kent Equality Cohesion Council, Visit Kent, Port of

London Authority, Svitzer Tugs, Boluda Towage, Team Kaizen, Kent Police and KCC Highways.

- 2.5. Gravesham hosted 6 baton bearers who were nominated to represent their communities or due to their sporting achievements. Of these, para-athlete John Boy Smith went on to win the Gold Medal in the wheelchair marathon at the Commonwealth Games. Gravesham also saw medal winning achievements by Georgia May Fenton (Gymnastics), Gianni Regini-Moran (Gymnastics), Sophie Coldwell (mixed Triathlon).

#### *Outdoor Theatre & Comedy Nights*

- 2.6. The council worked with the Changeling Theatre Company to present Shakespeare's Othello at Nurstead Court, Meopham on 10 July. This performance sold 179 tickets.
- 2.7. Comedy Club at Fort Gardens on 22 July sold 194 tickets.
- 2.8. Catch That Beast – Family Theatre at Fort Gardens on 10 August attracted 120 visitors.

#### *Riverside Festival – 30 July 2022*

- 2.9. The Riverside Festival returned after a three-year gap and comprised a programme of performance on the main stage, an active zone, Family Fun focused activity within Fort Gardens and the Fun Funfair at Ordnance Road.
- 2.10. The main stage programme comprised the Gifted Young Gravesham Choir, Rock Choir, Spinner, ABBA Revival, Velocer Rapture, Elite Elton and Peter Andre. It is estimated that in the order of 14,000 people attended with the headline act Peter Andre attracting visitors from further afield.
- 2.11. Family Fun in the Fort included Henny the Unicorn Pony, Punch & Judy, arts & crafts activities, Ugly Bugs Children's show, Sky Birds of Prey, Centre Stage mini-parties, Creepy Claws, plus fairground classics including Helter Skelter, Rodeo Bull, Hook a Duck, Coconut shy, giant garden games, and face painting.

#### *Community Square, Outdoor Cinema – August 2022*

- 2.12. On 5 and 19 August, we hosted two days of outdoor cinema on the community square. Both days included 2 PG family films at 1pm and 4pm with an evening film at 7pm
- 2.13. The attendance was between 800 and 1000 people on each day. Feedback is currently being collated but is showing a very positive response from everyone who attended. Some of the comments received were from families saying how they struggled with the cost of living and were unable to take their children out for activities over the summer holidays and so these free cinema days had been incredibly well received.

#### *Summer Fun – August 2022*

- 2.14. The 2022 Summer Fun programme ran over the school summer holidays for both young people and families. Summer Fun Guides were printed and distributed to every primary and secondary school across the borough. They were also available from children's centres, libraries, doctor's surgeries, leisure centres and community hub points. Promotional posts for some activities went out on social media and an online copy of the Guide was available on the council's website.

The Guide was split between activities solely organised by the Leisure Team and those by partner organisations. The programme included a mix of free and paid for activities, including; Park Life Days, nature trail days, introduction to fishing, martial arts, basketball, Geocaching, Gravesham Youth Hub and Grand Summer events, as well as summer camps and sessions organised by a series of local sports and community clubs.

The four main Park Life events, organised by Gravesham Borough Council took place on the four Tuesdays across August between in 11am and 3pm at a different site each week – the Gravesend Riverside Leisure Area, Higham Recreation Ground, Cascades Leisure Centre and Camer Park. Activities included Kangoo Jumps, Climbing Wall, Bouncy Castle, human Hungry Hippos, magician and more. Attendance at this year's events was very high, with over 2500 people attending across the four events.

Feedback from this year's events has been very positive and the higher than usual attendance numbers at the events have shown that families are appreciative of the provision of free and subsidised activities during the summer.

Attendance figures for the other activities are still be collated and an update on the final figures can be provided at the next meeting

### **3. Other events**

- 3.1. Events organised by others, but with assistance from council staff.
  - 3.1.1. *Vaisakhi flag flying* on Community Square, 9 April. Organised and delivered by the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara.
  - 3.1.2. *Walk of Witness* – 15 April Organised by Churches together with support from Gravesham Council
  - 3.1.3. *Holi event in Fort Gardens* – 19 April Organised and delivered by the Hindu Cultural Society with assistance from the council and an attendance of 300 people.
  - 3.1.4. *St George's Day Scouts Parade* – 24 April organised by Gravesham District Scouts Association
  - 3.1.5. *Eid Prayers in Fort Gardens 2 May and 10 July*. Delivered by Gravesend and Dartford Muslim Association and Shah Jalal Mosque.
  - 3.1.6. *On Your Bike 22 May*– Organised by Gravesham/ Ebbsfleet Rotary on the Riverside at the Promenade. They had 440 riders that completed the event.
  - 3.1.7. *Eid Festival – 12 June*. Gravesend and Dartford Muslim Association, community arts organisation Cohesion Plus and Shah Jalal Mosque.
  - 3.1.8. *Armed Forces Day flag flying* – 20 June on Community Square.
  - 3.1.9. *Northfleet Carnival* – 25 June 2022 taking a route from Springhead Enterprise Park to Gravesend via Parry Street.
  - 3.1.10. *City Praise in Fort Gardens* - 3 July Organised and delivered by City Praise to create a community event.

- 3.1.11. *Teeyan – 22 July*. Monsoon summer festival originating from the Punjab. Organised by the Kent Saheli Group.
- 3.1.12. *Say No to Hate Crime Festival - Thursday 4 August*. Organised by The Grand in Fort Gardens.
- 3.1.13. *Gravesend Town Regatta – Saturday 13 August 2022*. Gravesend Regatta Committee organised skiff rowing races on the Thames and on-shore events along the Promenade, including a fun-fair.
- 3.1.14. *Gravesham Pride – Saturday 13 August 2022*. Flag Flying on Community Square and parade through the town to Fort Gardens for entertainment, food, stalls and activities.

#### 4. Future Events

- 4.1. *Britain's Strongest Man (105kg) - Sunday 4 September* within the gated area of New Road. Organised by Sean Kennedy with Reps & Sets Gym (The Terrace). This is a national contest to find Britain's Strongest Man (Under 105kg) the winner announced in Gravesend that day gets an invite to compete in World's Strongest Man – the event is attracting over 30 competitors from all over UK coming to Gravesend.
- 4.2. *1940's Hope & Glory Weekend – 25 & 26 September*. Organised by Victory Events. Attractions include a mixture of stalls, related musical acts, memorabilia and re-enactments.
- 4.3. *Fireworks – 3 November 2022*. This year's event will take place on a Thursday with a slightly earlier firing time of 7pm for the main fireworks display. A fun-fair will be on site to support the main event.
- 4.4. *Remembrance Services, Friday 11 November and Sunday 13 November*. The council provides support to several memorial services held during this time, primarily at Windmill Hill, Northfleet and Community Square. These events are managed in conjunction with a range of organisations, including the main event partners, the Royal British Legion.
- 4.5. *Christmas Programme – November/December 2022*
  - 4.5.1. Christmas Lights Switch on – Friday 18 November, including a lights parade through the Town with participating schools.
  - 4.5.2. The Woodville Pantomime, Aladdin - 2 December 2022 to 1 January 2023
  - 4.5.3. Christmas Markets and workshops – a programme of pop-up markets and activities every weekend across December
  - 4.5.4. Indoor Cinema screenings at the market on 30 November & 14 December
  - 4.5.5. Christmas Tea Dances – 5, 12 & 19 December in Gravesend Borough Market Hall, 1am to 1pm – featuring James Goodman (Grove/Goodmans Dance Schools) and Reeves refreshments
  - 4.5.6. Churches Together Treasure Hunt – Saturday 10 December
    - 4.5.6.1. 11.30am - Nativity Characters will be placed around the town to tell of their role in the Christmas story. The event will start by the Canopy of Light with Angels introducing and giving out the trail's

detail. Other characters will be based in buildings around the Town (Market, St George's Art Centre, Library, etc). The trail will end up by the stable on Community Square, where children and families will be able to dress up and take pictures on their phones as a Nativity Tableau.

4.5.6.2. 1pm and 3pm - Christingle Carol Service at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

4.5.7. *A Christmas Carol at Gad's Hill – Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 December*  
The Dickens Theatre Company will perform Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at Gad's Hill, his former home. The play will run in the evening on Saturday 17 December and as a matinee on Sunday 18 December.

4.6. *General Gordon Memorial – 20 January 2023*

4.7. *Winter Lights Festival – Friday 27 & Saturday 28 January 2023.* Plans are already underway for our second Winter Light Festival. An application has been submitted for funding from Arts Council England, which if successful, will enable us to build on last year's successful event.

## **5. Appendices**

5.1. There are no appendices.

## **6. Background Documents**

6.1. There are no background documents.

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<b>Secondary Implications</b>	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	All major events have Event Management Plans and these are submitted to the Safety Advisory Group for comment.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<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>
	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> ?  A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links.  No
	b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice?  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> .
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	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.  No
	b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer.  Yes, the events organised and supported by the council invariably are designed to include and appeal to the broad population.
	<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>
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	Event Management Plans in place for all major events, including risk assessments, licencing involvement and Police/Safety Advisory Group support/guidance where required.
<b>Digital and website implications</b>	The council's events are promoted via the council's website and social media, including via <a href="http://www.visitGravesend.co.uk">www.visitGravesend.co.uk</a> .
<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.