

## Dereham Town Council

### Social and Welfare Committee

28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

#### **3. To consider additional support for the Battle of Britain Parade.**

The Town Council supports this event by providing a venue to meet after the parade and refreshments. In 2022 the organizers of the Parade were informed, shortly before the event, that they had to use professional road closure staff as the Police no longer facilitate road closures for such events. Arranging the road closures, was going to add nearly £1,000 to the cost of the parade, the organizers did not have the funds to cover these costs. The Town Council agreed to donate the funds as an emergency one-off grant to avoid the Parade being cancelled that year.

The 2022 Parade was cancelled due to the period of national mourning, the funds were returned to the Town Council.

The Organizers of the Battle of Britain Parade have approached the Town Council requesting funds for the road closure on the same basis as it was offered in 2022. The big difference between 2022 and 2023 is that having to pay for the road closure is not a last-minute emergency, it has been known since 2022.

As this is likely to be an ongoing regular expense rather than a one-off grant, Councilors are being asked to consider if the Council whether it wishes to contribute.

#### **4. To consider using professional stewards to close the road on Remembrance Sunday.**

Although the Police often have a presence at Remembrance Sunday, the Police no longer facilitate road closures. For the last two years the Town Council has used casual staff to close the roads off and reopen the roads. Given the complexity of the road closures and how some drivers can quickly become bad tempered, it is felt that it would be more appropriate to employ a professional company with qualified staff to arrange the closure. Professional staff will be trained to deal with difficult situation if the Police are not in attendance. The additional cost would be around £200 more than is currently being paid to casual staff.

#### **5. To consider continuing with Remembrance Sunday Live stream**

During COVID, the Council introduced livestreaming of the Remembrance Sunday wreath laying at the War memorial because people could not attend events. The cost of the live stream is around £600. The number of people watching the live on the day, was 6 and a further 7 people watched up until midnight on the Sunday. In the 3 months since the live stream, there have been in total 90 views with an average viewing time of 10min.

Councilors are being asked if live streaming of the Remembrance Sunday Parade is something which they wish to continue with now all COVID restrictions have been lifted.

#### **6. To discuss Market Place Christmas Tree**

The Market Place Christmas Tree has become quite traditional; for the last few years large trees have been sourced locally at a cost of around £900. This local supplier is now running out of large trees, this means that in future years, there is a choice between having a smaller local tree or a large tree. The large tree could come from as far as Scotland, with the associated increased carbon footprint. The cost of a large tree is around £1,500, the cost of a smaller local tree would be around £700.

Councilors are being asked to consider whether to continue with a large tree, with the associated additional costs.