

THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY BEACON

<u>Report of the:</u>	Clerk to the Conservators
<u>Contact:</u>	Samantha Whitehead
<u>Annexes/Appendices (attached):</u>	<u>Annexe 1</u> – Picture of Gas Fuelled Beacon
<u>Other available papers (not attached):</u>	Event Management Strategy for Epsom Downs

REPORT SUMMARY

To consult on the proposed Beacon lighting ceremony and supporting event on Epsom Downs to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

Notes

(1) That the Committee identifies any suggestions or concerns which it has with regard to the proposal to hold a Beacon lighting ceremony on Epsom Downs on 21 April 2016.

1 Proposal

- 1.1 An invitation to hold a beacon lighting ceremony on Epsom Downs in commemoration of the Queen's 90th Birthday has been received from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council. This proposal is to light a beacon in the Grandstand Road car park on the evening of 21 April 2016, as part of a nationwide event and celebration.
- 1.2 In addition to the beacon lighting ceremony the organisers have proposed a number of ancillary activities to give the evening more of a 'community event' feel. The additional activities are not fully confirmed but are likely to include food and music to create ambience.
- 1.3 At their meeting on 20 January 2016, the Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators granted an in-principle agreement to the lighting of a beacon and the supporting event, but requested that a more detailed schedule and plan of the event be presented to the next meeting of the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee for comment.

2 The Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons

- 2.1 On 21 April, to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday, beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the United Kingdom Overseas Territories.
- 2.2 The Beacon Project, by agreement with The Royal Household, will form an important part of The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, and Her Majesty The Queen has graciously agreed to light the Principle Beacon on 21 April 2016, although the location of the Principle Beacon has not yet been disclosed.
- 2.3 Whilst there are well over 250 locations already pledged to take part in the 90th Birthday Beacon events, Officers expect the 90th Birthday Beacon events to be slightly lower key than the 2012 celebrations, when 2,012 beacons were lit worldwide.

3 Beacon on Epsom Downs

- 3.1 The proposed beacon lighting ceremony on Epsom Downs is requested to take place in the Grandstand Road car park between the hours of 6:30pm – 9:30pm on Thursday 21 April 2016. The beacon itself will be lit at a specific time between 7:30pm – 8:30pm. The organisers have yet to receive notification of the exact time the Epsom Downs Beacon is to be lit.
- 3.2 In addition to the lighting of the Beacon, it is proposed to hold a small supporting event at the same location from 6:30pm on 21 April 2016, including the provision of food and drink. The event will be organised and managed by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Operational Services department.
- 3.3 For reasons of simplicity and safety, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council will purchase a commemorative, gas fuelled Beacon. Please see picture in [Annexe 1](#).
- 3.4 As the proposed event is on a smaller scale than the 2012 celebrations it is estimated that the event will not attract more than 1,000 people. All relevant licences will be obtained by the organiser in order to provide entertainment. As this is a Council event it will be covered under Epsom & Ewell's public liability insurance. In addition, risk assessments and public liability insurances will be sought from each individual business/organisation supplying a service as part of the event. Operational Services staff and volunteers will provide marshalling and all organisational arrangements.
- 3.5 Following the end of the event, a clear-up operation will take place. All rubbish will be disposed of in designated waste bins and a further clear-up exercise will take place early Friday morning to ensure nothing has been missed from the night before.

4 Previous Beacons on the Downs

- 4.1 The Conservators previously granted approval for the lighting of a beacon on Epsom Downs to commemorate The Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Both events were deemed successful with no negative feedback reported.

5 Recommendation and conclusion

- 5.1 This is a moderate sized event which forms part of a national celebration to commemorate The Queen's 90th Birthday. The Conservators have already granted an 'in-principle' agreement for both the lighting ceremony and the additional supporting event.
- 5.2 The Consultative Committee is requested to identify any suggestions or concerns which it has with regard to the event, prior to final arrangements being made.