

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

DATE 16 MARCH 2023

**REPORT OF
CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET INFORMATION ITEM

Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture – Cllr Steve Nelson

**HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III CORONATION - EVENTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY
PROGRAMME 2023**

Summary

In celebration of His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation in 2023, Stockton on Tees Borough Council has developed a programme of events and cultural activities to mark this special occasion.

In addition to the largescale Coronation Big Lunch event in Stockton High Street, the Council has developed a Coronation digital programme, including competitions, activities and on-line tutorials. Library and Museum Services have also developed a range of events, talks exhibitions and legacy events, and the Council's Community Engagement Team are supporting the Community Partnerships with their local celebrations.

Recommended that the report be noted.

Detail

1. The UK will mark the Coronation of King Charles III with a three-day bank holiday weekend, from Saturday 6 May to Monday 8 May 2023. The national Coronation programme includes the procession and service at Westminster Abbey on 6 May, the 'Coronation Big Lunch' across the country on 7 May (with a concert taking place in Windsor in the evening), and 'The Big Help Out' community activity on the bank holiday, Monday 8 May.
2. Stockton on Tees Borough Council is intending to host a large-scale Coronation Big Lunch event on Saturday 6 May in Stockton High Street, the same day as the Coronation Service. The event will begin with a special welcome from his Worshipful the Mayor of Stockton on Tees, Councillor Ross Patterson, who will say a few words, marking the importance of this special historical occasion.

3. The Coronation Big Lunch will deliver a free, family focussed day of celebration, activities, and enjoyment. It aims to bring communities together from across the Borough to share food, have fun and to watch the Coronation of King Charles III. It is expected that the event will run from 10:00am until 4:00pm.
4. The essence of The Coronation Big Lunch is 'togetherness' and it includes a mass community picnic in front of the Stockton Plinth. Local street food vendors and a cooking demonstration from a community organisation will be on site and families and visitors are welcome to bring their own picnics to the event. There will be free tasty 'give aways' served to visitors throughout the day including, the royal curry and royal tarts. We will encourage local food businesses, eateries and Stockton's traditional market to join in The Coronation Big Lunch event and royal celebrations.
5. Visitors will enjoy a programme of street art performances, circus skills and live music. A performance and dance area will be set up in front of the Plinth, which will include a social dancing workshop/tea dance type activity. In addition, there will be live music performed from the top of the Stockton Plinth, including a DJ set and a finale performance by the Wildcats of Kilkenny.
6. We are intending to include a free Victorian Fair at The Coronation Big Lunch event, which will be located on the High Street carpark. There will also be a range of royal themed craft activities for families and free painting and balloon modelling on site.
7. The Coronation Service will be lived streamed on a large screen positioned outside of the Town Hall/Fountain area to enable visitors to watch the proceedings throughout the day. The broadcast will include The King's Procession, The Coronation Service, The Coronation Procession, and the last moments where members of the Royal Family appear on the balcony at Buckingham Palace to end the ceremonial events. Decks chairs and other seating will be available.
8. To support 'The Big Help Out' theme of the Coronation, we hope to include several volunteering opportunities for residents and communities to get involved with The Coronation Big Lunch. Working in partnership with Catalyst, the Council's Community Engagement Team will support the volunteering process which is due to go live early March.
9. In addition to the planned outdoor events programme, we are developing a series of complementary Coronation digital activities which will be accessed via the Enjoy Tees Valley website and other social media channels. On-line activities proved popular during the Platinum Jubilee for those who don't want to visit events. The online delivery also offers an effective way to promote events ahead of an actual event date/delivery, and we anticipate that the Coronation digital programme will go live early April 2023.
10. Digital activities will include a Coronation activity sheet designed by local artists Abbey + Own featuring mazes, wordsearches, poetry and online competitions. There are also resources and suggestions for community groups and individuals who want to take part and contribute to the celebrations taking place.

Other Events and Activities Across the Borough –

Street Parties

11. The Coronation will give local communities a fantastic opportunity to celebrate with a wide range of events, including traditional street parties. The Council experienced

extremely high numbers of street party applications for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and we anticipate high demand for over the Coronation three-day bank holiday.

12. The Council has a robust Street Party process, which uses national guidance and best practice. We deliver a pragmatic approach when assessing Street Party requests and adopt a proportionate approach to road closures, use of council land. Where road closures are not possible due to safety or impact on road users, we will consider street parties on green spaces, providing activity is confined to the Street Party parameters.
13. For the King's Coronation, we are assisting residents with their Street Party events by paying for road closures, providing appropriate signage, frames, sandbags and cones. We used this approach for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022, which worked well, and we supported over 140 street parties. We have a limited supply of 'Coronation Party Packs' which will be distributed to residents and community groups. These packs will include items such as bunting, flags, cups, napkins, plates and activity sheets. In addition, the Council's Cleansing Team will issue residents with a supply of refuse bags so they can collect their rubbish and leave on the street ready for collection.
14. The Council's website offers practical advice and information about the application process together with guidance on food safety, music, raffles.
15. The closing date for Coronation Street Party applications is 3 April 2023

Preston Park Museum

16. Preston Park Museum will deliver a series of events over the three-day bank holiday weekend to celebrate the King's Coronation. There will be a 'Coronation Big Lunch' on Monday 8 May in the Victorian Street, which will be dressed in flags, bunting and royal window displays. Families will be encouraged to come long, dress up in their finest party clothes and bring a picnic to the Coronation Big Lunch table.
17. The Victorian Tearoom will have a 'Royal Theme' offer and there will be various activities aimed at families, including crafts, family trails and 'God Save the King' post card making. We are intending that the popular, Elizabeth's Kitchen, will deliver a cooking demonstration, including recipes from the Coronation menu which people can taste and take recipe cards away.
18. We are planning a mass community planting event, where visitors and families can work with gardening volunteers, and plant bluebells at the back of the museum on the lawn. This will be a great activity for families to be involved with, leaving a future legacy in the park to mark King Charles III's Coronation.
19. Running alongside the events and activities programme, the Museum are intending to do a call out to residents for contemporary collecting around what objects residents would like to donate to the museum that represents the Borough of Stockton at this moment in history.

Library and Information Services

20. Throughout April, the Library and Information service will be presenting a series of exciting events, family craft sessions and activities across the Borough. Activities include Plotting the Coronation Route; The Royal Coach Selfie Station and Chaotic

Coronations: The Bits the History Books Left Out. This programme will be delivered across the Borough Libraries.

21. Stockton Central Library will display past royal moments in the Borough in a special photography exhibition. In addition, residents will be invited to share their Coronation memories over tea and cake, as well as test their knowledge in a Coronation Quiz.
22. For young readers a storytelling programme will be delivered and primary schools across the Borough will be invited to participate.

The Coronation Community Exhibition

23. The Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) team, supported by Community Engagement will set up a Coronation Memories Project, designed to capture the special community moments and celebrations across our Borough. The BMBF team, will work closely with Museums, Libraries and Events teams to collect images and stories from residents and community groups, together with their thoughts and hopes for our future generation under our new Monarch, King Charles III.
24. Our intention is to develop a Living History exhibition, 'The Coronation Community Exhibition,' which will feature the images, stories and memories etc., captured at community celebrations. We aim to display the exhibition at Preston Park Museum later this year and, also tour the exhibition to a limited number of libraries, to maximise its reach to local communities.

Community Events Across the Borough

25. In addition to the Council's Events and Cultural Activity programme, there are currently three large scale community events planned across the Borough to mark the King's Coronation. The scale and content of these events require full event management plans, which event organisers will need to collate and submit through Stockton's Independent Safety Advisory Group. The Events Service is working hard to support these event organisers which includes, Yarm Town Council, Norton Friend Group and the Friends of Ropner Park.
26. The Council's Community Engagement Team are working closely with the Community Partnerships across the Borough to link with the Coronation events in their specific areas, which assists with resource planning.
27. The Council's Events Service will respond to any 'how to requests' from community groups and businesses who want to get involved in the Coronation celebrations. Information and advice are available on the Enjoy Tees Valley website, or residents and groups can contact events@stockton.gov.uk

Consultation and Engagement

28. The events and cultural activity programme is diverse and designed to reflect the interests of different communities. Every effort is made to make sure our events and activities are physically and financially accessible, they are presented in public spaces and venues and are almost always free to watch or participate in.
29. Coronation events and celebrations are being supported across the Borough, including street parties, community celebrations and larger scale events.

30. There has been consultation with the Cabinet portfolio holder for Health, Culture & Leisure in the development of the Council's Coronation Programme 2023 and support to Communities/residents.

Next Steps

31. The Council's Coronation events and activities programme will be finalised.

Name of Contact Officer: Reuben Kench

Post Title: Director of the Community Services, Environment & Culture

Telephone No. 01642 527039

Email Address: reuben.kench@stockton.gov.uk