

VE DAY ANNIVERSARY

AGENDA ITEM No. 14

MEETING: COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 12th JUNE 2019

REPORT BY: TOWN CLERK

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to receive information in regard to VE Day 74 celebrations.

2.0 Background

2.1 VE Day celebrations will take place between the 8th – 10th May 2020 and will be on international celebration of peace. (Details attached as **Appendix 1**)

3.0 Impact on Great Aycliffe Town Council

3.1 The celebrations over the weekend will consist of:-

Friday, 8th May 2020

(a) The Playing of the Battles O'er and VE 75 Years

This will be undertaken by Pipers at 3.00 p.m. Those Pipers taking part can register their involvement at the VE75 Website.

Council Action: Contact Pipers to establish if they can play in Newton Aycliffe on that day.

(b) Nations Toast to the Heroes of WW2

Public Houses will encourage customers to raise a glass at 3.00 pm. and take part in a toast to Heroes of WW2.

Council Action: Publicise the request via local media or letter to public houses in the Great Aycliffe Area.

Mayor to undertake the toast at 3.00 p.m. in the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

Note: The toast is to take place on a weekday at 3.00 p.m. which would not be classed as peak time for customers.

(c) A Cry for Peace Around the World

Town Criers will be undertaking A Cry for Peace Around the World. The Cry to be performed at 7 p.m. local time in locations around the world. Town Criers to register their involvement on VE75 Website.

*Council Action: the Council does **not** have a Civic Town Crier and therefore this is not applicable.*

- (d) Ringling Out for Peace
Bells in Churches and Cathedrals will ring out at 7.00 p.m.
Churches to register their involvement on the VE75 Website.

Council Action: to write to 'Churches Together' in Great Aycliffe to advise of the celebration and encourage Churches to ring the bells as requested.

- (e) Parties and Celebrations – 7 p.m. Onwards
Parties and celebrations will take place in pubs, clubs, hotels, town/village greens/streets.
Those taking part in this celebratory element can register their involvement on VE75 Website.

*Council Action: Letter to all Pubs and Clubs, Community Centres and Associations with information on event and website.
Themed evening explored at the Oakleaf Sports Complex bar.*

Saturday, 9th May 2020

Parties and Celebrations - in addition to Friday or as an alternative.

Council Action: None

Sunday, 10th May 2020

Church Services of Celebration and Commemoration

Churches wishing to be involved to register on the VE75 Website.

Council Action: To contact 'Churches Together' to advise of request. Mayor to attend Service (if organised by Church as appropriate to denomination).

Tribute to Millions and the Last Post:

Services to include a representative from the local Community to read out 'Tribute to Millions'. Participation to be registered on VE75 Website.
Local Bugler or Trumpeter to play Last Post and Reveille.

Council Action: - To contact 'Churches Together' to advise of request.

4.0 Policy Implications

4.1 None.

5.0 Staffing Implications

5.1 As the majority of the Celebration elements involve members of the public or Church organisations there will be very limited input by the Town Council.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 None.

7.0 **Crime and Disorder Implications**

7.1 None.

8.0 **Equal Opportunities Implications**

8.1 None.

9.0 **Environmental Implications**

9.1 None.

10.0 **Risk Assessment**

10.1 It is not considered that the matters contained in this report pose a risk to health and safety of staff or to the financial or public standing of the Council to a degree that a risk assessment should be appended to this report.

11.0 **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

11.1 Is any personal or sensitive data required for this proposal which may have any implications for GDPR?

NO

12.0 **Recommendation**

12.1 It is recommended that:-

- (i) Members receive the report.
- (ii) Note the Council's involvement in the various elements of the VE Day 75 Celebrations.

APPENDIX 1



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8-10 MAY 2020

ssafa | the
Armed Forces
charity

Dear Town and Parish Clerk,

TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS - VE DAY 75

I have pleasure in outlining plans for **VE Day 75**, being organised to celebrate and commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day as mentioned in my last communication to you last year.

The 8th May 1945 was the day peace emerged after nearly six years of war, so the 75th anniversary on 8th May 2020 represents an important milestone in our history. I am sure you will agree that we cannot let this day pass without reflecting on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark period. Our celebration, **VE Day 75**, will cover the weekend of 8th - 10th May 2020, and will be an international celebration of peace – a time to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the millions who played such a vital part in achieving it.

This includes the Armed Forces personnel from many countries who gave their lives, and those who returned home injured in body and mind; the hard-working women and men who kept the factories, mines, shipyards and farms operating throughout the years of turmoil; the ARP wardens, police officers, doctors, nurses, firemen, local defence volunteers and many others who put their lives on hold to safeguard the home front.

The official, exclusive charity for **VE Day 75** is SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity, which also supports the Merchant Navy.

The planned activities over the weekend are as follows:

- The Playing of Battle's O'er & VE 75 Years
- The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2
- The Cry for Peace, around the World
- Churches & cathedrals Ringing out for Peace
- Street parties and parties in pubs, clubs, Hotels, on town and village greens and in halls etc
- Services of commemoration and celebration in churches, including the reading of the Tribute to the Millions and the playing of the Last Post

Registration for all participants will be solely through www.veday75.org. As well as adding your details you will also be able to download important documents, including a commemorative certificate, and view messages of support from individuals and organisations.

FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2020

3pm – Battle's O'er & VE 75 Years

3pm is the time Winston Churchill officially announced the end of WW2 from the Cabinet Office at 10 Downing Street, London.

Pipers from around the world will open **VE Day 75** by playing Battle's O'er and VE 75 Years at 3pm local time in the country they are in, paying tribute to the millions who gave so much to earn our freedom today. Battle's O'er is the traditional tune played by pipers at the end of a battle, and VE 75 Years has been specially written for this occasion by Pipe Major Roger Bayes of the City of Norwich Pipe Band.

Battle's O'er will be played by pipers from the top of the four highest Peaks in the UK - Ben Nevis, Scotland; Scafell Pike, England; Mount Snowdon, Wales, and Slieve Donard, Northern Ireland – and also at the five furthest points in the UK. This has never been undertaken before.

We are encouraging pipers working that day to pause at 3pm to play the tune in their workplace. It will provide pipers throughout the world the opportunity to participate without having to take time off work. We are already aware that a nurse will be playing the pipes on her hospital ward, and that others will be playing at a railway company, in a field and outside a bakery. Those pipers taking part can register their involvement at the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

3pm – The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2

To coincide with the playing of Battle's O'er thousands of pubs throughout the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man will encourage customers to raise a glass at 3pm and take part in The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2. All pubs taking part can register their involvement on the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

6.55pm – A Cry for Peace Around the World

Town Criers around the world will be undertaking A Cry for Peace Around the World, kindly written for this occasion by Crier Peter Taunton. The 'Cry', which can be downloaded from the website, will be performed at 7pm local time in locations around the world, starting in New Zealand. Those Town Criers and others undertaking this 'Cry' can register their involvement on the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

7pm – Ringing out for Peace

Bells in churches and cathedrals will ring out at 7pm in a collective celebration of VE Day 75. The sound of church bells is deeply rooted in British culture. They provide the grand soundtrack to our historic moments, calling us to wake, to pray, to work, to arms, to feast, to celebrate and, in times of crisis, to come together. This aspect of VE Day 75 could not be more appropriate, ringing out around the world to celebrate the peace we share today. Those churches taking part can register their involvement on the VE day website – www.veday75.org.

7pm onwards – Parties and Celebration

Parties and celebrations will take place in pubs, clubs and hotels, on town and village greens and in our streets, bringing the communities of the nation together in common friendship. Those town and cities twinned with others around the world will be encouraged invite them to join in this joyous occasion. We know that many of those taking part will be organising firework displays over the weekend too. Those taking part in this celebratory element of the event can register their involvement on the VE day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2020

Parties and celebrations continue.

SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2020

10.30am – Church Services of Celebration and Commemoration

Services will take place in cathedrals and churches throughout the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to celebrate the peace we share today and remember those who lost their lives or returned home dreadfully wounded. The services will also recognise the sacrifices of those who kept the nation fed and the factories, mines and hospitals working during the most challenging of times. Churches wishing to take part should register their involvement on the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

Tribute to the Millions & the Last Post

Those planning services will be encouraged to ask a representative from their local community to read out the Tribute to the Millions, which can be downloaded at www.veday75.org, and involve a local bugler or trumpeter to play the Last Post and Reveille. Their participation can also be registered on the VE DAY 75 website – www.veday75.org.

We do hope that you will take part in **VE Day 75** especially as many of those that served at home and abroad came from the Towns and Parishes of England, so your involvement will be a perfect 'tribute' to the sacrifices made by so many of them.

Please be kind enough to register your involvement in one or more of the events by going to the VE Day 75 Website - www.veday.org as soon as possible to enable us to keep in touch with you and update you on progress.

My warmest regards,

Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR

