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## EVENTS (14<sup>th</sup> June 2021)

### 2 INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the time of writing, England is within the third stage of the government's unlocking road map, with further announcements expected on 14<sup>th</sup> June in relation to the fourth stage of the roadmap to take effect from 21<sup>st</sup> June. The restrictions which will be in place from the 21<sup>st</sup> June onwards are currently unknown.
- 2.2 Officers will undertake the forthcoming events programme within the government guidelines published at the time of the event taking place and will respond to all changes in legislation and guidance throughout the period of event delivery. As the regulations stand, all of the summer (June – September) Leighton-Linslade Events for 2021 would be able to take place under current restrictions, subject to approval by Council and Central Bedfordshire Council Safety Advisory Group.

### 3 MUSIC IN THE PARK (JUNE – SEPTEMBER)

- 3.1 The Music in the Park series of concerts runs from June – September weekly within Parson's Close Recreation Ground and features local amateur brass, concert, orchestral and Jazz bands. Performances begin at 3pm and usually last around 90minutes including a short interval where refreshments can be purchased from the Café in the Park.
- 3.2 To ensure the concerts can take place safely, a reservations system has been put in place for 2021 for concerts taking place prior to 21<sup>st</sup> June. A review into the reservation system will take place following the government roadmap announcement for concerts post 21<sup>st</sup> June.
- 3.3 At the time of writing, the reservations for the first Music in the Park concert have been made available for members of the public to book via a third-party ticketing website (a free service) or through a telephone reservation line. Reservations for each concert will be made available two weeks prior to the concert taking place.
- 3.4 For the first concert performed by Chiltern Hills Brass, uptake has been good with 62.8% of spaces reserved by members of the public or allocated as a social distancing space.

#### **4 FILMS IN THE PADDOCKS (31<sup>ST</sup> JULY / 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST)**

- 4.1 Films in the Paddocks replaces the traditional Linslade Canal Festival held at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park on the last weekend in July. The event will be held across the weekend with screenings at 11am, 3pm & 7pm on Saturday and 11am & 3pm on Sunday.
- 4.2 To ensure the screenings can take place safely and within license conditions, a maximum of 485 reservations are available for each screening. Reservations can be made via a third-party ticketing website or through a telephone reservation line from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July onwards.
- 4.3 The films being shown are:
  - Trolls World Tour (2020, PG)
  - Mary Poppins Returns (2018, U)
  - Bohemian Rhapsody (2018, 12A)
  - Charlie & The Chocolate Factory (2005, PG)
  - Beauty & the Beast (2017, U)
- 4.4 Visitors will be encouraged to bring a picnic or make use of the on-site catering options provided by external catering companies.

#### **5 BIG LUNCH (21<sup>ST</sup> & 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST)**

- 5.1 Planning for the Big Lunch continues with performance acts booked for both days of the event. Mariachi Tequila and Revolve Party Band will entertain audiences throughout the weekend in Parson's Close Recreation Ground.
- 5.2 Whilst with the current restrictions in place, the event remains reservation only. It is hoped that should the restrictions in place at the time allow, the requirement to restrict numbers will be removed and the event may utilise a greater space within the park throughout the weekend. Should this be the case, a revised event safety plan, risk assessment and site plan will be required.
- 5.3 A diverse range of catering opportunities have been booked with foods from around the world represented whilst also catering for those with dietary requirements.
- 5.4 Reservations are available for tables of up to 6 people per table and are free to make. Reservations will become available from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August and will allow people to reserve a table at either an 11am – 2pm or 3pm – 6pm session on Saturday or an 11am – 2pm session on Sunday. In its current format, the event will finish at 2pm on Sunday to allow the Music in the Park concert to take place at 3pm.

#### **6 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL WEEKEND (26<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER)**

- 6.1 Minimal planning for the Christmas Festival Weekend has taken place yet due to the uncertainty around the restrictions which may be in place at the time of delivery. It is hoped that should there be no restrictions on mass gatherings, a full Christmas Festival Weekend will be able to be delivered in its usual format. The Christmas Lights Switch-On would take place on Friday evening, a festive market would run on Saturday, and a Craft & Gift market throughout Sunday with a Funfair in the High Street for the duration.
- 6.2 Should restrictions remain in place during the winter months, it is proposed to repeat the activities of 2020 which would include additional market days, street theatre and the potential for online virtual entertainment to be considered once again.
- 6.3 Depending on how Council manages its formal committee meetings, officers may provide a further written update for Members on the Christmas Festival Weekend prior to the next formal meeting of the Cultural & Economic Services Committee where a delegated decision by email may be required to ensure statutory planning deadlines are able to be met.

## **7 TOWN CENTRE WIRELESS MUSIC**

- 7.1 Delayed from 2020, officers continue to work with the Wifi provider within the Town Centre and a local PA System provider to continue feasibility and technical requirements to play background music in the High Street over a prolonged period of time.
- 7.2 An earmarked reserve budget has been allocated for this work and will be used at an appropriate time.
- 7.3 Officers currently seek to trial the music throughout the pre-Christmas shopping season in late November and throughout December.

## **8 QUEEN'S JUBILEE 2022**

- 8.1 Committee will be aware that celebrations will take place in 2022 for the Queen's 70th year as Monarch. The traditional May bank holiday will be moved to the Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and a one-off additional bank holiday will take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June creating a long bank holiday weekend.
- 8.2 Two annual Town Council programmed events usually take place at this time of year. The Town Council delivers the Big Lunch Food Festival and starts the Band Concert programme. It is currently the intention that the Big Lunch and Band Concert will take place as usual on the first Sunday in June, that being the 5<sup>th</sup> June.
- 8.3 Rotary Club Leighton Linlade hold their May Day celebration at this time of year too and have indicated they plan to hold their event on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

## **9 CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 Whilst the events programme looks different to normal this year, an accessible range of events for members of the public is scheduled for the summer months which can take place within the current restrictions.
- 9.2 Members will appreciate that the planning and delivery of events within the covid-secure framework is both complex and ever changing. Officers continue to work to the maximum amount permissible whilst ensuring the safety of both members of staff and members of the public alike.