



4th September 2024

The meeting of the **CIVIC AND EVENTS COMMITTEE** will be held in the **KIDDERMINSTER ROOM, WYRE FOREST HOUSE** on **WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2024** at **6:00 PM** when Members are summoned to attend.

Yours Sincerely,

Laura Thomas
CIVIC, COMMUNITIES AND EVENTS MANAGER (INTERIM)

Membership: Councillors: M. Rayner (Chair), D. Round (Vice Chair), B. Connor, N. Gale, D. Chambers, J. Aston and S. Miah.

EVENTS COMMITTEE AGENDA – WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2024

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of interest

To receive declarations under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Members are reminded that should you declare a pecuniary interest at a meeting, it is their responsibility to inform the Monitoring officer.

3. Minutes (Appendix 1)

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Events Committee held on Thursday 11th July 2024.

4. Public Question Time

In accordance with Standing Order 3(c), to allow members of the public to make representations, ask questions, and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.

5. Events Update (Appendix 2)

- 5.1. Mayors Civic Sunday
- 5.2. Mayors Christmas Service
- 5.3. Remembrance Sunday
- 5.4. Christmas Lights Switch On Event
- 5.5. Santa in the Town

6. Community Events Grant Funding Update

- 6.1. To update members on Kidderminster Male Choir's Final Report for 2023/2024 (Appendix 3)
- 6.2. To update members on Sheepfest Event
- 6.3. To update members on Celebration of Cultures Event

7. Review of D Day 80th Anniversary and Plans for VE Day 80th Anniversary (Appendix 4)

7.1. To receive an update regarding feedback of the D Day 80th Anniversary Event.

7.2. To update members on VE Day 80th Anniversary Event.

8. Youth Mayor (Appendix 5)

To receive an update on Youth Mayor.

9. Civic Invitations List

To review and update the Civic Invitations List.

10. Items for Consideration at Next Meeting

To agree items for discussion at the next meeting of the Civic and Events Committee on Tuesday 14th January 2025.

**KIDDERMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL
CIVIC AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held at 6pm on Thursday 11th July 2024
in the Kidderminster Room, Wyre Forest House**

Present:

Councillor M. Rayner (Chair)
Councillor D. Round (Vice Chair)
Councillor L. Carroll (substitute for Councillor B. Connor)
Councillor S. Hollands (substitute for Councillor N. Gale)
Councillor D. Chambers
Councillor S. Miah

In Attendance:

Councillor G. Connolly (Mayor of Kidderminster)
Laura Thomas, Civic, Communities and Events Manager (Interim)
Hugh Peacocke, Chief Executive

Absent:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor J. Aston
Councillor B. Connor (substitute in attendance Councillor L. Carroll)
Councillor N. Gale (substitute in attendance Councillor S. Hollands)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on Thursday 14th March 2024.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members noted and agreed the Terms of Reference.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

6. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Members noted the Events approved in principle by Full Council on 26th June 2024.

6.1. Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 10th November 2024

Members agreed Civic and Events Committee Members, individuals, organisations, and partners to be included in the organisation and planning of the Remembrance Sunday Event. Road closure application is to be submitted.

RESOLVED: To commence planning and discussions in preparation of the Remembrance Event and add to Work Programme for discussion at the next meeting of the Committee on 11th September 2024.

6.2. Christmas Lights Switch On – Saturday 16th November 2024

Regarding the Christmas lights provision and switch-on event, it was noted that the Council would meet with the BID to agree arrangements for the switch-on event, including joint publicity, details of all other partners involved, use of Town Council logo on publicity, details of all food and drinks vendors and entertainment arranged, the exact location of the switch-on event and the timing of the event and associated activities.

RESOLVED: To receive an update regarding arrangements and add to Work Programme for discussion at the next meeting of the Civic and Events Committee on 11th September before the Council makes any financial commitments. The Christmas Tree to be lit at the same time as the Light Switch on, as in previous years, and to be adequately decorated in partnership with the Kidderminster BID.

6.3. Santa in the Town – Saturday 7th December 2024

Members were informed that Peter Picken had reluctantly decided that he would no longer be taking up his role, which he has done for many years, as Father Christmas.

Members expressed willingness to participate in the event, as in previous years.

RESOLVED: The Civic, Communities and Events Manager to proceed with planning of the Santa in the Town Event. Councillor Chambers to look into replacement Santa for this event.

Councillor S. Hollands gave apologies and left meeting: 6.32pm

6.4. Mayor's Sunday

Members noted and discussed the importance of the Mayor's Sunday Event.

RESOLVED: The Mayor and Civic, Communities and Events Manager discuss details and proceed with the planning of this event to be held at St Mary and All Saints Church, Kidderminster.

6.5. Mayor's Community Christmas Service

Members noted and discussed the importance of the Mayor's Community Christmas Event.

RESOLVED: The Mayor and Civic, Communities and Events Manager discuss details and proceed with the planning of this event to be held at St Mary and All Saints Church, Kidderminster to coincide with the church's Christmas Service.

6.6. Other Community Events

Members considered the events proposed at the meeting of the Full Council on Wednesday 26th July.

RESOLVED: Following discussion members agreed to proceed with two events. It was decided to commence early enquiries and planning of a Sheep Trail and Celebration of Cultures and that these items be on the agenda for the September meeting. Councillor Chambers to investigate Sheep Fest.

6.7. VE Day 80th Anniversary

RESOLVED: To commemorate VE Day 80th Anniversary, which falls within this Municipal Year (next Financial Year) on 8th May 2025 be added to the Calendar of Events, to be included in the Committee's budget requirements for 24/25.

7. **YOUTH MAYOR**

RESOLVED: That the Council supports a Youth Mayor for Kidderminster and requests Wyre Forest Youth Forum to progress the matter.

8. **COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANT FUNDING UPDATE**

8.1. Members noted the contents of Appendix 4 detailing final accounts for Grants Paid via the Community Events Grant Fund for 2023/2024.

8.2. Members were updated on the status of the Community Events Grant Funding Application for 2024/2025.

RESOLVED: Members noted Wyre Forest District Council have granted £2,000 to Kidderminster Town Council to support local Community Events.

Kidderminster Town Council is to undertake these events. Members agreed funding be used to support a Sheep Trail and Celebration of Cultures.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Forward Work Programme, noted, as amended above.

Add Mayor's Protocol, etc for September meeting.

RESOLVED: Members agreed items for discussion at the next meeting.

Councillor G. Connolly, Mayor of Kidderminster gave apologies and left meeting: 7.09pm

Meeting closed 7.10pm

Signed: Date:

5.1. **Mayors Civic Sunday – Sunday 13th October 2024**

The Mayor, the Mayor's Attendant, Rev Hayward Osborne of St Mary and All Saints Church and Civic, Communities and Events Manager (Interim) met on Friday 16th August 2024 to discuss the Mayor's Sunday Event.

The event is to take place on Sunday 13th October 2024 at 11am. Invitations have been sent out and the event has been set up on Facebook and the Town Council Website.

45 Live Venue has been booked for Kidderminster Town Councillors to Robe and depart from. They will walk through the Town and head towards St Mary and All Saints Church and meet guests and congregation at the Church.

Tea, Coffee and Biscuits to be served at the Church following the service.

We will be taking donations on behalf of Kidderminster Foodbank.

5.2. **Mayors Christmas Service – Sunday 15th December 2024**

At the meeting on Friday 16th August 2024, the Christmas Service was also discussed and agreed. This event will take place on Sunday 15th December 2024 at 4pm at St Mary and All Saints Church. Save the date notifications have been sent out to Councillors and Dignitaries. Invitations and Facebook and Website promotion will be uploaded closer to the time of the event.

5.3. **Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 10th November 2024**

Contacts List of Organisations/Guests to be Invited

The contact list is currently being compiled in consultation with staff and Keith Newman of A Company Hereford and Worcester Army Cadet Force. List circulated to Civic and Events Committee for comments.

Road Closure

Road Closure Application has been submitted and approved by Wyre Forest District Council and is displayed on their list of road closures on their website.

Wreaths

Wreaths are available to Party Leaders at a cost of £19.99.

Planning Meeting

Planning Meeting to be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 2nd October at Wyre Forest House inviting organisations involved to attend to discuss the event. These meetings have not been held in recent years but have been requested by Committee to engage with all involved.

Venue for Robing and Refreshments

The Town Council have hired 45 Live Venue for Robing and to offer refreshments to dignitaries and participants in the Remembrance Sunday Parade. Town Council officers will organise and serve refreshments – tea/coffee/biscuits/squash. The bar will be closed.

Civic Attendance

The Mayor, Mayor's Attendant, Chief Executive and Town Crier have confirmed attendance. Mayor to announce following speech to organisations involved that refreshments are available at 45 Live Venue.

Rehearsal

Rehearsal that historically has been held at St Mary and All Saints Church on the Thursday prior to Remembrance falls on Thursday 7th November 2024. Arrangements to be made to book church for 6.00pm on this date.

Budget

The Budget for the Remembrance Event has been reduced to £1,000. Request to Civic and Events Committee that additional funding, estimated £3,000, be taken from Mayoral and Civic Budget to cover budget overspend for Sound, Bike Marshalls, Headway, First Aid, Venue Hire, Refreshments, Order of Service and any additional items needed.

5.4. Christmas Lights Switch On – Saturday 16th November 2024

Following a meeting between Kidderminster Town Council Officers and Paul Long and James Barker from the Kidderminster BID on Thursday 22nd August, it was agreed that the Town Council would fund costs associated with the stage, road closure and possibly funding towards a second band (subject to agreement from Committee). Kidderminster BID will fund entertainment taking place on the day.

Request to Civic and Events Committee that additional funding be taken from savings made on Christmas Lights due to the reduction in areas to be lit, to cover overspend for stage costs and road closure and to pay an additional £500 towards a second band for the event, which the Kidderminster BID have agreed to match fund.

Facebook and Website promotion - awaiting agreement of images and logo placement from James Barker, Kidderminster BID.

5.5. Santa in the Town – Saturday 7th December 2024

Confirmation from The Swan Shopping Centre Manager has been received regarding use of area within the Swan Centre on Saturday 7th December 2024.

Bears to be sourced as gifts for children, refreshments for families attending to be confirmed. Councillor/Officer involvement to be discussed and confirmed.

Facebook and Website promotion will be uploaded closer to the time of the event.



26th July 2024

The Mayor
Kidderminster Town Council

Dear Councillor Connolly

Wyre Men Sing Project Final Report

Kidderminster Male Choir is very grateful for the generous support you provided to our Wyre Men Sing Project. Here is a link to a short '[concert highlights](#)' video which you might enjoy. I enclose a copy of the final report which provides brief reflections on delivery of the project, its financials, and its impact which was far more than we had hoped for. I am sure you will agree that we delivered a worthwhile return on your 'investment'.

Now that the Wyre Men Sing project has been completed, Kidderminster Male Choir is refocusing its efforts onto our next two major events.

Sat 17th Aug - Male Voice Choirs Gala in conjunction with Severn Valley Railway [LINK](#)

- This is a first for us and for SVR but, if it goes well, it could become an annual event to help raise money for the SVR. During the day we will have 8 Male Voice choirs singing at stations along the line between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, and probably on trains as we travel to and fro. In the evening, most of the choirs are staying on for a gala concert in Kidderminster Station.

Friday 6th Sept – Our 120th anniversary concert in Birmingham Town Hall [LINK](#)

- KMC will be joined by Aled Jones and the Valentines (Kidderminster's ladies' choir) in what will be KMC's biggest concert for many years. We have a lot of tickets to sell to cover our significant upfront costs, but it will be a night to remember.

In parallel we are working hard to integrate into KMC the significant number of men who are trying out KMC following the Wyre Men Sing project. In the near term we will probably need to fund purchase of additional music and uniform items, but successful integration will mean a bright future for KMC, given both the increase in choir membership and a significant reduction to the average age of its members.

Thanks again for your support.

Ian Butcher
Kidderminster Male Choir. Wyre Men Sing Project Lead
wyremensing@gmail.com



KIDDERMINSTER MALE CHOIR

WYRE MEN SING PROJECT – FINAL REPORT

26th JULY 2024 - ISSUED

INTRODUCTION

1. As a key part of its 120th anniversary plans, Kidderminster Male Choir (KMC, Charity Number 1176147) set out to deliver the “Wyre Men Sing” project. The aims were simple:
 - To introduce men in our area to singing via a programme of 11 rehearsals (April to June 2024), expertly led by KMC’s professional Musical Director and Accompanist and supported by members of KMC.
 - To allow participants showcase their newly developed skills to friends and family at a gala concert at the end of June.
 - To raise awareness of Prostate Cancer and raise a significant sum for the Kidderminster and Worcestershire Prostate Cancer Support Group (KWPCSG, Charity No 1100718).
 - To hopefully enthuse project participants to join KMC at the end of the project.
2. This report has been produced to summarise the project’s journey and its achievements.

THE PROJECT JOURNEY

PLANNING

3. Planning for the project commenced in February 2023, led by a 3-man project team and inspired by similar projects run over the past ~10 years by ‘Peterborough Sings’ (a group comprising Male Voice & other choirs). KMC declined an offer to deliver the project with direct support from Peterborough as we wanted full control of the component parts rather than have to work to their constraints re timing, music choice etc (as Peterborough wanted to work with 6 choirs in parallel).
4. Scoping work created a plan setting out key activity phases (fundraising, recruitment, rehearsals, concert, and then integration into KMC) but a ‘rolling wave’ planning approach was adopted, with detail of later phases added progressively within the overall agreed timeline and budget.
5. KMC’s Committee, Trustees and choir were briefed in September 2023. They gave approval to commence fundraising, with the launch of recruitment etc conditional upon adequate recruitment.

FUNDRAISING

6. The project team knew that they lacked fundraising skills, so had entered into dialogue Summer 2023 with a 3rd party who promised to actively support project fundraising activity. Shortly after the early September ‘project launch’ it became clear that the expected support would not be available which left the project team on its own with a very steep learning curve, and about a month behind schedule. Unsuccessful bids were submitted to 7 grant making organisations (including the National Lottery), whilst in parallel the business case and covering letter were circulated to local Town Councils, and to WCC and WFDC councillors (we’d been tipped off that all have small budgets to support community projects), and local businesses.
7. The delayed start to fundraising meant that responses were also later than desired, but by end 2023 about 1/3 of the expected project costs had been covered by donations. The overall project timescales, which were constrained by KMC’s other 120th anniversary engagements, dictated that approval to commence advertising and recruitment was needed in January. This was a big decision for KMC Committee and Trustees since, even with stringent cost reductions, the forecast funding shortfall was in the region of £2000. They agreed to cover that shortfall, if necessary, though the project team expected that further donations would be received. That was indeed the

case, and by early April fundraising and 'gifts in kind' had pretty much covered the original project budget of £6500 (which included some contingency). The table below shows the sponsors.

 worcestershire county council	 BEWDLEY BREWERY	PLASTICS More than just Plastic  PLUS LTD
 Wyre Forest District Council	COMMUNITY HOUSING	 Revolution PTS Holborn
 Kidderminster Town Council	pib insurance brokers	 Severns Club Stourport
 Stourport Town Council	+ donations from local people	

ADVERTISING AND RECRUITMENT

8. Advertising and recruitment commenced late January, with A5 flyers posted in shops, pubs, libraries, some health centres, and other eye-catching locations. These were supplemented with an active campaign using the paid-for Facebook 'Boost' service, under which the company actively shared our advert with local Facebook users.
9. By end of January a dozen local men has signed up to the project, and the total rose steadily through February and March. By early April the target of '40 men wanted' was looking very achievable. We decided to cap recruitment at 40, as we didn't think we could have handled the logistics of a bigger choir, but we actually peaked at 42 as a couple of additional participants turned up unexpectedly at the first two rehearsals.

REHEARSALS

10. Rehearsals commenced Tuesday 16th April, in the Baldwin Suite at the Severns Club in Stourport. This proved to be a superb rehearsal venue, not just because of its characteristics and the fact that the club gave us free use, but because the adjacent bar meant that attendees could drink together before, during, or after the rehearsal. This helped the group to relax and bond socially.
11. Rehearsals were expertly led by KMC's professional Musical Director and its Accompanist, and they were supported by 13 mentors (experienced singers) drawn from KMC. This, plus an excellent selection of songs¹, and the positives from the rehearsal venue, meant that even by the end of the 1st rehearsal there was a real 'buzz' in the room, and everybody (especially the participants) were blown away by the great sound they were making.
12. KWPCSG Chair spoke to the choir about the group and Prostate Cancer at our 3rd rehearsal. This increased awareness of both and led some choir members to go and get PSA tests (used to diagnose the disease). It also resulted in some very frank exchanges about Prostate Cancer on the choir WhatsApp Group from participants who were currently on, or who had been on, the 'PC' journey. Getting men talking openly about such matters, and supporting each other, was hugely encouraging. A further talk on KWPCSG/Prostate Cancer was given at the gala concert.
13. We had expected to see some participants drop out as rehearsals progressed but were amazed to only lose only 4; 1 for health reasons, and 3 because of changed work commitments, (one of these was regrettably the day before the concert). Most participants came from the 3 main local population centres (Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport), but some were from further afield. The most distant came from Wolverhampton, and Birmingham (Harborne), 20 miles away.
14. The choir unexpectedly ended up on BBC Midlands Today on 17th June as part of coverage of presenter Nick Owen's personal Prostate Cancer battle, his work to improve awareness, and the

¹ The project choir learnt 8 songs where they sang the melody line (tune) or experimented with simple, informal, harmonisation: Drive my Car (ex Beatles), Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen), In the Summertime (Mungo Jerry), Perfect (Ed Sheeran), Stand By Me (Ben E King), The House of Fun (Madness), Well Meet Again (Frank Sinatra), and Your Wondering Now (Amy Winehouse).

They also learnt 2 songs 'Bring Him Home' and 'Do the Hear the People Sing' from the musical Les Miserables to introduce them to more complex singing; these were joint KMC/Wyre Men Sing items in the concert.

fact that he had just been awarded the MBE in the King's Birthday Honours. The BBC had heard about our project, and its connections with Prostate Cancer, and had visited the previous week to film during our rehearsal and interview a couple of choir members who had been on the Prostate Cancer journey. Those recordings went out either on Midlands Today, or the BBC website.

GALA CONCERT

15. The Gala concert was held on the evening of Saturday 29th June in St Georges Church in Kidderminster. This was biggest available local venue, seating the participating choirs plus an audience of around 320. All tickets were sold, and we ended up with a lively 're-sale' market in the days just before the concert with those unable to use purchased tickets passing them to others who needed more. Almost all of the tickets were sold to members of the choirs, with just 40 released online to the open market (via KMC's Website and Ticketsource). Many of those were in any case snapped up by choir members anyway.
16. Understandably, family and friends of choir members accounted for the bulk of the audience, but we were delighted to be able to welcome the Mayors of Kidderminster and Stourport, and many of the councillors and companies who had also helped to cover project costs. The concert was expertly compered by Peter Tomlinson. As all project costs had been covered by sponsorship, all concert proceeds will go to KWPCSG.
17. The concert was an incredible and, for many, an emotional evening. The reaction of the Wyre Men Sing choir when they got a standing ovation at the end of their first set was hugely uplifting for them, and the mobile phone 'torches' during the song 'Perfect' and the waving flags during 'We'll Meet Again' were truly special moments for all. We were lucky to have had the services of two great video camera operators, and a skilled editor, so have some excellent videos to remember the concert, and lots of photos also from our semi-professional photographer.

CONTINUING SINGING

18. For KMC, the hope that the project might bring in new members was always a key driver. We have been hugely encouraged that, since the project ended, over half of the WMS choir have attended KMC rehearsals and the first has already formally joined KMC. Only time will tell how many remain in KMC but, to put this into perspective, typical KMC rehearsal attendance before the WMS project would be 25-30, and in recent years recruitment has been in low single figures.
19. Even if only half complete the integration journey, we will have boosted KMC's active membership by 1/3. The age profile of the new recruits is also very different from that of KMC (average age around 75), with many in their 40s, 50s and 60s. This augurs well for the medium-long term future of KMC. In the short term, significant enlargement will present the choir with some financial challenges (the need for extra music and uniforms) but it is in some ways lovely to now be talking/thinking about such challenges, which we will surely resolve.

PROJECT FINANCIALS

20. The Project Business Plan estimated that the project would cost around £6500, and we hoped to cover all the costs with grants from businesses, councils, or other sponsorship. We ended up raising just under £4600 in grants/cash sponsorship, and local companies picked up around £1700 of additional costs directly (initial publicity materials, choir polo shirts, and the free rehearsal venue). Taken together, the total came in just under the budgeted total, which had included some contingency.
21. Project cash expenditure was just under £4700. KMC covered the slight shortfall from its funds.
22. By the time the dust settles on Gift Aid claims etc, we will have raised just over £10000 for KWPCSG; an amazing total for such a great cause.

THE PROJECT'S LEGACY

23. The project sought to introduce 40 men to singing, to raise money for KWPCSG and increase awareness of Prostate Cancer, and to boost KMC recruitment. As set out above, the project has achieved more for each than we would have dared to dream.
- We did indeed recruit the '40 men wanted', with 38 actually staging in the gala concert
 - We have raised just over £10000 for KWPCSG, and via their presentation at rehearsal 3 and their talk at the concert we have raised the profile of Prostate Cancer locally.
 - We are likely to end up with a significant influx of new, and younger/more energetic members into KMC, which bodes well for the choir's medium/long term future.
24. The 'project talk' at the gala concert noted that project participants thought they had just come along to learn to sing, and that many had approached that goal with some trepidation. What they hadn't realised at the time was that a shared interest in singing is 'just' what brings us together, but that it is the choir that 'binds us together' helping us to have lots of fun in the good times, but providing a powerful support network when the going gets tough.
25. The business case had said that increased awareness of Prostate Cancer would be a key legacy. It had also noted the wider physical and mental health benefits that typically come with choral singing, and we've had some amazing, life changing, impacts here.

QUOTES

26. KMC's Professional Musical Director describes the project as "Simply the most rewarding musical experience of my career", but it seems appropriate to conclude this report by viewing the project through the words of some of the project participants.
- "I suffer from mental health difficulties. You and Wyre Men have helped me relax a little. I always look forward to every rehearsal." (Richard K)
 - "Thanks for the exceptional hard work and organisation you put in to make this project work. It is very much appreciated by all of us. You've kept us extremely well informed. As a former teacher I know how much work goes in to organising events, and you've had months of it! The project prompted me to get a PSA test and I was delighted to get a good result." (Paul W)
 - "Many thanks for allowing for me to take part in this fantastic project. Singing has always been my happy place and has the power to make me feel better even in the worst of times, of which there have been quite a few. Have really enjoyed the last 11 weeks, Thanks to you, KMC & all the guys in WMS" (Barry O)
 - "Thank you for your hard work to plan and deliver the project. It has been a well-supported and well organised journey; an amazing experience overall. I look forward to the chance to keep singing with KMC." (Nagy Z)
 - "All I can say is it's been completely joyous from week 1. Apart from the good cause and meeting some great people, it has been such a privilege to have been taught to read music and sing, and I'm enormously grateful to the KMC team for the superb organisation of the project. It has been a great privilege to have learned so much from you all." (Mark G)
 - "The applause as we came off the stage at the end of our first 'set' is something I will never forget." (Stephen R)
 - "During the project, I was admitted to hospital with breathing problems. I have COPD and was told that singing is good for this. I've also given up smoking and feel so much more energised. The WMS project has been a hugely positive experience for me." (Mike C)
 - "The project we've just completed, and the chance to keep singing with KMC brings huge relief to my stressful personal life. Until I started singing with you guys, I had nothing to look forward to. Thankyou...for literally saving my life during a recent very low period." (Harry W)



Ian Butcher
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D Day Feedback

Comment 1

Thank you for this invitation.

But you may remember I was hit with Covid that week, and so did not attend the ceremonies.

Comment 2

I don't understand the request. What feedback do you want, I didn't attend D Day 80th event I was on crutches so feedback isn't possible. I am more than happy to get involved so if you have tasks then let me know.

Comment 3

For the early morning event we had the town crier's proclamation and pipes, but no-one else (standard-bearers, RBL and Mercian Volunteers Regiment Assoc. representatives, the public) knew where to stand or their role in proceedings. This was rather embarrassing. Fortunately, this morning event proved helpful in bringing relevant parties together so that the evening event went much better as a result.

I was told by attendees at these 2 events (and the midday church service) that they were not directly invited by KTC and that they would appreciate more communication from us so that they could participate more fully. I was also told that KTC used to have more of a role in organising/coordinating Remembrance Sunday and St George's Day, but that now these are left for the RBL and Scouts & Guides to muddle through by default.

Some expressed disappointment with the absence of the Chief Exec, and with the poor turnout from councillors (although it was a working day). The church service was attended better and had our current MP attend, while the WFDC leader attended in the evening.

Also, the Mayor was not present nor was I asked to represent him in the morning or midday events.

We will have the 80th anniversary of VE Day in May 2025 to commemorate in addition to our usual number of events. I haven't looked along the 2024-25 calendar if there are other significant events/commemorations looming.

Comment 4

I attended all the events that took place at St Marys Church for the D Day Anniversary and I must say that I found the attendance very disappointing from the Councillors, Organisations and members of the public

At the evening Parade other areas had a Beacon all Kidderminster had was a hand held lamp surely the Town could have had something much larger of their own

The Piper was excellent The Town crier was excellent Bugler was good and the Mayors speech at the evening Parade was good

On all occasions the Standard Bearers were also good but they were the same few every time

I think part of the problem was very little publicity for the events

I myself only found out what was happening a few weeks before and that was because I saw it on Facebook

The main problem for all the events that take place in Kidderminster and the surrounding areas is that there is very little publicity and you should not rely on someone putting it on Facebook alone as a great many people are not on Facebook

There are many Organisations in the local areas that would attend these functions if only they had been told well in advance

What is needed is a central person to send out information to them Email is easy so that it would not cost much money

There are many local Organisations that would take part if they were told earlier

We have in this Town Military Organisations such as the Mercian Regiment (TA) Army Cadet Force 2 Combined Cadet Forces Marine Cadets Air Force Cadets

Youth Organisations such as the Scout Guides etc

We also have Regimental Associations and The Royal British Legion

Standard Bearers that represent the Military aspect

If the Youth themselves are unable to attend they all have adult Instructors that could attend in their place

As I have said before more publicity is required

The D Day Celebration was only disappointing because of lack of support It appeared to run OK otherwise

Email to Wyre Forest Youth Network Chairman - 14/08/2024

Following a response from from KDYT, they have confirmed that they do not have a Youth Mayor, but they do have Youth Leaders.

They suggested that Wyre Forest Youth Network, may wish to discuss and follow up on the possibility of a Youth Mayor during the next meeting in October. They are happy to support this and any elections.

Email from KDYT - 05/08/2024

We have not had a Youth Mayor at KDYT, but we do have young leaders.

We are happy to support any Youth Mayor elections, however there are a number of other agencies who might want to be involved, could we look at this through the Wyre Forest Youth Network, which next meets in October?

Email to KDYT – 17/07/2024

I understand in previous years there has been an appointment by your organisation of a ‘Youth Mayor’.

Following on from a meeting of the Civic and Events Committee held on 11th July 2024, the committee have agreed to support and invite the Youth Mayor to Kidderminster Town Council Civic Events, should you have a young person in this post, or be looking to appoint one.