

## Agenda Item 6

For ratification – Plans to celebrate the Coronation and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Cheese and Grain

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### Summary

This report asks Council to ratify the plans for the Coronation celebrations and to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of FTC taking on the Cheese and Grain

### Coronation Celebrations

Some Cllrs and Rachel Griffin, met to discuss FTC's Coronation offer. This note brings Cllrs up to speed on our preparations.

The preparations for the coronation have now been set out by the royal palaces and so I am able to update you. The celebrations will occur over three days:

- The coronation itself will take place on the Saturday 6 May. The general public are invited to watch it on TV or in person enroute.
- On Sunday 7 May 2023, a special Coronation Concert will be staged and broadcast to the nation. Also on the Sunday, The Coronation Big Lunch, at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together, will take place across the country. Here in Frome, The Frome Independent will be in full swing and so we don't need to host another town-wide event. However, we are encouraging and supporting streets to apply for road closures to enable street parties and have given permission for a number of groups to have small events in our parks and open spaces.
- On Monday 8 May 2023, the message from the palace is to promote community and volunteering and members of the public in Frome will be invited to take part in The Big Help Out, which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. We will direct residents to [www.findfrome.co.uk](http://www.findfrome.co.uk)
- In addition, we will launch a social media campaign to highlight the work of community groups in the town by a banner project which will utilise the Christmas tree holders to dress the town. Mel Day and Aliss Vaz who have delivered a flag project before for the Working Memories project are co ordinating the project. They are working with Everybody Needs Pockets and the Women's Shed as well as self-selecting community groups to design and make their own banner with support. We will then have a register of the banners, make a map identifying who is where, and promote it. The banners will use the same style and fixings as the Frome Festival who have kindly agreed to loan us there's and so our thanks go to their team for agreeing to share their resources. We will

use the flags in place of bunting, which will hopefully be a welcome and colourful addition to the town during the coronation.

### Cheese and Grain 25-year Celebration

Twenty-five years ago Frome Town Council took on a lease for the old “Cheese and Grain” market hall in Frome. It was first built in 1870 and by 1998 it needed a lot attention/investment. In 2000 the Council led on the establishment of a charity to run the venue as a “social enterprise”. Since then, the charity and the Council has worked together to develop a venue which is appreciated by thousands of local people. The venue also attracts customers from across the southwest and beyond. The venue’s policy of sourcing services and products locally, including food, drink, accommodation, maintenance work and technical back-up has helped to strengthen the town’s economy and creating extra employment and a boost to local businesses. Open seven days a week with its café, bar, markets, performances, meeting rooms, vocational training scheme and adult education it has also become a popular and busy social hub for the town. Few people back in 1998 would have anticipated that one day Sir Paul McCartney would be “asking” to perform at the venue! As such it can be roundly labelled a success worth celebrating!

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is this September, and we will work with the Cheese and Grain to support them to promote a series of birthday events and put on a civic open access event where all are welcome, with its routes firmly in the community. This event will be separate to other birthday fundraisers such as the Jo Whiley gig that they are advertising already. The Cheese and Grain would also like support from us to help collect and collate an archive of people’s experiences and images of the Cheese and Grain which we would hope to support in partnership with the museum.

Informal discussions with some Cllrs have been very positive of this initiative and, given the small budget and the need to plan ahead, the Town Clerk took the decision to proceed. It is expected that the budget for our contribution to the celebrations would be £1k which will come from a re-allocation of funds and staff time in the events programme away from the History Festival.

#### For ratification

1. Support the Coronation celebrations as outlined in the report.
2. Support the celebrations of FTC taking on the Cheese and Grain as outlined in the report and, specifically, support the project to collect and collate a Cheese and Grain archive and work with the Cheese and Grain to stage a celebratory community event using £1k re-allocated within the events budget