

**Agenda item number: 6**  
**Date of meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

**Events Committee**

**Report by:** Georgina Curtis-Read

**Job Title:** Community & Civic Administrative Officer

**Subject:** Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth

**1 Purpose of Report**

For Committee to receive a progress report on the Town Council's participation in the event Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth which will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

---

**2 Background**

The national celebration Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth commenced in 2014 and Thatcham Town Council became a regular participant from 2015. It is held annually on Commonwealth Day.

---

**3 2019 Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth**

At 10am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Thatcham Town Council will join with over 1000 local authorities and organisations across the UK and overseas in celebrating Commonwealth Day with the raising of the Commonwealth flag to celebrate the Commonwealth and its values of friendship and co-operation with fellow Commonwealth young and old citizens around the world.

This will be Thatcham Town Council's 5th year in participating in the ceremony. Local Primary School children have been invited to participate in the ceremony, having the opportunity to meet The Mayor and experience a Civic event. The pupils have been challenged to design a new flag for the Commonwealth, drawing on the theme of "A Connected Commonwealth" which will be on display in the Council Chamber during the Annual Town Meeting. The Deputy Mayor of Newbury has confirmed his attendance too.

The ceremony will open with The Deputy Mayor, Richard Crumly, reading a message from HM the Queen before Town Mayor of Thatcham, Jan Cover, reads the Commonwealth Affirmation and then raises the Commonwealth flag promptly at 10am to coincide with the other organisations across the UK and beyond.

The Mayor will then invite the attendees into the Chamber for refreshments where the school pupils will have the opportunity to discuss their flag designs and question the Civic leaders about the workings of the Council. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will then present each pupil that with a certificate of attendance and a Commonwealth badge.

---

**4 Financial Implications**

25 pin badges have been purchased at a cost of £24.10. There will be a small cost involved for printing and basic refreshments. This is covered under the Civic Allowance.

---

---

**5 Legislation**

Local Government Act 1972, s145 – Provision of entertainment and support of the arts.

---

**6 Reference to Council Plan**

Objective Three: To enhance the sense of community within Thatcham.

---

**7 Consultation**

No consultation has taken place.

---

**8 Recommendation**

That Members note the information.

---