

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL	7 NOVEMBER 2019	AGENDA ITEM: 25
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Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

REQUEST FROM LEDBURY SEALED KNOT SOCIETY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of a request for support received from the Ledbury Sealed Knot Society.

DETAILED INFORMATION

On 30 September 2019 the Clerk received an email from the Ledbury Sealed Knot Society advising of their plans for the event in 2021. The content of the email is reads as follows: -

“Ledbury Rugby Club (Pavilion Rooms) agreed to host the Sealed Knot Society in July 2019 with the purpose of staging a re-enactment of the Battle of Ledbury 1645. As part of this event, the Sealed Knot staged a march through Ledbury to coincide with the Poetry Festival in order to highlight the town as a ‘Go to’ destination that weekend. Both the battle, and march were hugely successfully in driving tourism into Ledbury, and delivering an educational value of the town’s history during the English Civil Wars.

Aim

Building on the success of this summers event, we wish to make the event in 2021 bigger, more exciting, whilst delivering a more structured educational experience.

Method

Ledbury Rugby Club have expressed their desire to host the Sealed Knot again, this time in 2021 (date to be confirmed). Although, from their point of view, this is a commercial engagement, it does not detract from the Sealed Knots mission. The Sealed Knot is the oldest re-enactment society in the UK, a registered educational charity, and the single biggest re-enactment society in Europe. The aims of the Society are not to glorify war, but to educate the public about the English Civil Wars, and also about the lives and times of people in that period.

- 1. Stage two battles over a weekend, one each day.*
- 2. Provide a large Living History camp at the rugby club that members of the public can engage and participate with members of the society.*
- 3. Hold a march, through Ledbury on the Sunday as was this year.*

Followed by:

- 4. A minor Skirmish in the High Street, involving Cavalry, Musket and Pike. This replicates what Ledbury hosted in 1991. However, we would need to carry out a full risk assessment and liaison with the West Mercia Police regarding how this can be achieved.*

5. *Over the Thursday and Friday before the chosen weekend, invite local schools to hold educational visits to the Living History camp. Children will be shown various crafts, cooking, stories etc from the period. In addition to this, we would aim to let them 'have a go' at soldiering drills with dummy pikes and muskets. This would provide an enriching educational visit.*
6. *Members of the society to conduct a sponsored march from Upton upon Severn to Ledbury, in full kit prior to the chosen weekend in aid of local bereavement charity. We would hope this would aid in advertising the event, by liaising with local newspapers and television, thus bringing more people into Ledbury making it again a 'go to' destination.*

Request

Our hope is to win the full support of the Town Council in putting on this event. It will require a great amount of coordination and organisation to deliver. However, we are and have a huge amount of experience, and this is by no means outside of our capabilities. We therefore kindly request, your full support in areas such as liaising with Herefordshire County Council for road closures, as this we believe will greatly aid our aims for the muster of 2021.

Conclusion

We appreciate that you may have questions, or concerns. If this is the case, we are more than willing to give the Towns councillors a presentation on our proposals and hold a Q and A session."

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to give consideration to the above information and:-

- 1. Agree to support the Ledbury Sealed knot in areas such as liaising with Herefordshire County Council for road closures.**
- 2. Consider whether they would like to invite the Ledbury Sealed Knot Society to a pre-Council session to give a presentation with a question and answer session.**