

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council

Council meeting 5th July 2021

Report of the Clerks on a post-Covid, "Getting Back Together Again" event

Recommendations

- 1) **Members consider the theme and format as proposed (Appendix 1) but in the light of Covid, time constraints and the 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebration, an event of this scale is held over until 2022**
- 2) **Members question the value of the event and consider any alternative or complementary options**
- 3) **Members consider future event delivery mechanisms (eg event planning group)**

Background

When the Covid regulations were introduced in 2020, members agreed in principle to the creation of a Back Together Again event when it is safe to hold one

£5000 was allocated in the projects budget in 2021/22

£5000 is considered to be a contingency for the unknown costs of eg insurances, security, road closure orders, organiser's fees etc

Several income generating initiatives would be needed to boost the funds available, eg rental for fast food outlets, seek sponsors etc

In 2020, we asked experienced event organiser, Roger Crouch to provide ideas for a new, possible future annual, event. His brief was to create an event that complemented the Council's stated aim of being *"a strong voice for residents and local businesses, working to improve the overall area both built and natural, whilst preserving its sense of place; notably its trading and transportation heritage"*

He has come back with ideas for an event based on SWAN's railway past which members are asked to consider further.

There are no costings at this stage. Just ideas

If members are generally happy with his ideas, we can start to build a business case for the event and develop a way forward. **However, there are several issues for members to carefully consider, for example**

- **What is the event's prime purpose? eg to reconnect, come back together, to entertain/educate/provide an income stream for the Council/market the area and its businesses??**
- **Should the focus just be on Newtown when, arguably, the marketing need is to create awareness of the newly created SWAN as an entity?**
- **Is it too ambitious for a "first stab" Do we have the time/skills? Should such an event be a longer term aspiration for the Community Plan eg linked to the 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebrations**
- **Would it be appreciated more than a simpler and less expensive event such as holding a specialised market on the Green (eg local trades/ overseas etc)**
- **Could it have a more local focus? Do we need to import acts from other parts of Kent/Sussex?**

- Could it be more locally inclusive? Eg SWAN Centre, local school, local charities
- Are there any crime or environment issues we need to consider?

Appendix 1

VICTORIAN / EDWARDIAN CELEBRATION OF THE ASHFORD RAILWAY WORKS



NEWTOWN GREEN



This Victorian/Edwardian event will celebrate not only the beginning of the Railway Works and the birth of Newtown but the successful period which established the works as one of the leading railway manufacturers in Great Britain.

The event will take place at Newtown Green with the backdrop of the Railway Works and in the heart of the community which was established because of the works.

FEATURES



VICTORIAN / EDWARDIAN OLD TIME MUSIC HALLS

Performances by Little Pixie Productions



Victorian Fun Fair

Based in Kent



Local Performing Arts and Theatre Groups

Songs and Dance from the periods



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Vintage Cars



The Time Machine.

Replica of the iconic 1961 film based on HG Wells famous story. HG Wells with strong Kent links. Screen set up in front of the Time Machine with Railway works Newtown and Ashford photographs through the ages projected onto screen (I (Roger) own the Time Machine)



Punch and Judy Shows



Children's Vintage Fun Fair



Victorian Music Bandstand - Bandstand hire. Music from the periods

(Scene from Victoria Park Ashford 19th Century smaller picture)



Football Heritage

Ashford United FC folded in 1906 and a new town football club was formed Ashford Railway Works FC in 1907, many members being drawn from the works which gave it the nickname of "The Nuts and Bolts".

Ashford United given the opportunity to have a promotional stand at the event with a player dressed in the Railway Works colours of red and green quarters

The 20s

The event takes us up to the 1920s, a golden era with the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, later to be King George VI to the Railway Works in 1926. To celebrate that- an exhibition of Charleston dancing.



A HUMAN IMAGE

A human image with the community and visitors filmed from the air by drone (example from Isle of Wight Dinosaur event below) forming the words

SWAN

1850

An image for the community, the heritage and media to celebrate SWAN



Victorian Entertainers - Street magic, barrel organ, singers etc



Alfred Arms Themed Day

The Alfred Arms celebrate 140 year anniversary (1881)



Rob Woods/Sarah Evans

Clerks

June 2021