

Meeting: Full Council

Date: 8th April 2025

Authors: Community Engagement & Events Officer

Subject: VE Day plans and return of The Kingswood Lantern Parade

1.0 Purpose of the report

- a. To note the plans for the VE Day events taking place on the 8th May 2025.
- b. To seek councillors to support the VE Day activities.
- c. To note the re-introduction of the Kingswood Lantern parade to the 2025 events programme.

2.0 VE Day –Thursday 8th May 2025

2.1 There are 3 key activities taking place in Kingswood on Thursday 8th May 2025 as part of the 80th anniversary of VE Day and in line with the national level recommendations.

2.2 At 9:00 the VE Day flag will be raised outside of the Civic Centre.

2.3 In the afternoon (14:00-16:00) we have organised an afternoon tea for older residents who live in Kingswood or access groups in the area. This will take place at the Kingswood Community Association. We have 65 people attending the event. Music will be provided by a vintage harmony trio, and Dee Moxon will be attending to collect stories for the Kingswood oral history project. Councillor support is sought for this event including the setting up and packing down of the venue.

2.4 In the evening (18:30-21:45) we have organised a community event in Kingswood Park in collaboration with the Kingswood Park regeneration team. The public are invited to bring a picnic dinner to eat in the park and enjoy music from local musicians. There will also be moments of reflection, and 2 lanterns of peace will be lit throughout the evening. At 21:30, 'I vow to thee my country' will be sung. This activity is taking place across the UK at the same time. Vice Chair Councillor Rabone has agreed to say a few words prior to the lighting of the lanterns of peace on behalf of Kingswood Town Council.

3.0 Kingswood Lantern Parade Sunday 2nd November 2025

3.1 At the February 2025 full council meeting, it was noted that the Window Wanderland had been re-added to our programme of events in place of the Lantern Parade, due to Kingswood Park being out of use, due to the

improvement works. We have now been informed that the town council will be able to have access to the park in November 2025 and therefore will be including the Kingswood Lantern Parade in our events programme and removing the Window Wanderland. The Kingswood Lantern Parade will take place on the **Sunday 2nd November 2025** and will be delivered in collaboration with the Kingswood Park regeneration team. Planning will begin for this in the Summer.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 For Councillors to share the information about VE Day activities with their networks.
- 4.2 For three Councillors to volunteer at the VE Day afternoon tea event on the 8th May, 12:00-17:00 in the Holy Trinity Church hall which includes support with the set-up and pack down of the venue.
- 4.3 To note the reintroduction of the lantern parade into the event schedule.