

MEETING REPORT

Meeting: Council – 11th December 2023
Agenda item: 23-089
Report subject: D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024
Report author: K Elliott-Turner, Town Clerk

6th June 2024 marks 80th anniversary of D-Day, and Bruno Peek, Pageant Master has invited Town and Parish Councils to join in a national event.

Mr Peek is encouraging councils to join the nation in lighting beacons, as outlined in his letter below, to pay tribute to those who gave so much to enable the freedom we have today. Beacons will also be lit on the five beaches in Normandy which saw allied forces who died or came home wounded during Operation Overload – Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.

Ivybridge doesn't have a beacon; however, consideration could be given to purchasing/hiring a free-standing gas beacon. A lighting ceremony could take place at an appropriate location, such as MacAndrews Field (with its WWII history), or in the car park at the front of the Town Hall, as central location. The anniversary could be marked in another form, working with local schools and the Ivybridge Heritage Group, particularly with the WWII history and MacAndrews Field. Council should be mindful that this is a commemoration anniversary.

Letter from Bruno Peek, Pageant Master

Dear Town or Parish Clerk,

D-DAY 80 – 6TH JUNE 2024

As you are aware, we are organising D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024, throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and at the site of the British Normandy Memorial, overlooking Gold Beach in Normandy, France, one of the five Beaches landed on 80 years ago on 6th June next year. The event is in celebration and commemoration of this important occasion and will enable communities and individuals to pay their 'tribute' to those that gave so much during this campaign to help ensure the freedom we all enjoy today, with the flames from the Beacons representing the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war all those years ago.

We feel sure you will agree with me/us when we say that individuals and communities of all sizes were deeply affected in many and various ways during WWII. So, with this in mind, we would like to encourage your Town or Parish Council to take part in D-Day 80 on 6th June next year, as we would like to achieve the lighting of at least 80 Beacons per County, within England and Wales, as part of this 80th Anniversary event. We would be extremely grateful if you would be kind enough to discuss your possible involvement with your Council members, at your earliest convenience please, with the view to ensuring we achieve the lighting of this number of Beacons in your County at 9.15pm on 6th June 2024.

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Those taking part will be sent the Certificate of Grateful Recognition (found on page 46 of the Guide) enabling them to frame and display it as a lasting reminder of this moment in history commemorated/celebrated. The Guide, the message from the Prime Minister encouraging local communities to take part in lighting Beacons and the logo for your use are all available to download from the D-Day 80 website www.d-day80beacons.co.uk.

From pages 24 through to 28, you will see there are various types of Beacons that can be used on 6th June, which could be lit on town and village greens, local farms and country estates, or other locations of your choice that night. We do hope that your Town and Parish Council will take part, and look forward to hearing from you in due course and hope that your Beacon is one of the 80 within your County.

My warmest regards to you all,

Bruno Peek

Resource implications

- To purchase a free-standing beacon £549 plus vat (incl. delivery), plus gas bottle (details on pages 44 and 45 of attached D-Day 80 Anniversary Guide)
- Temporary Events Notice (TEN): depending on potential number of attendees, whether an event would include food, entertainment or alcohol, cost for a TEN is £21
- Insurance – our insurers would need to be notified of such an event, risk assessments undertaken, and any other requirements identified by our insurers

PROPOSAL: to consider whether this council wishes to take part in D-Day 80, and in what form.