

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Title:** Report Item 8 - Proposals for PC involvement in Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022)

**By:** Cllr. M. Keller

**Purpose of Report:** To update councillors on a liaison meeting with village organisations to co-ordinate jubilee celebrations.

**Recommendations:**

1. That councillors approve Parish Council sponsored activities at the Recreation Ground on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, culminating in the lighting of a fire beacon.
2. That councillors approve the expenditure required to erect a permanent beacon on the Recreation Ground.

### Introduction

Following my approach to village organisations in July, an initial meeting of the Platinum Jubilee Co-ordinating group was held on 7<sup>th</sup> September. The Parish Council was represented by myself and Cllr. Thorogood, while the Admin Officer kindly agreed to attend and take notes of the meeting. These notes will be circulated to councillors, but in summary, the village organisations at the meeting are considering the following activities:

- PC and Cricket Club – Sports activities for families on the Recreation Ground on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Continuing into the evening and culminating in the lighting of a fire beacon.
- Village Hall Trust – Social evening in the Village Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> June with live relay of the Buckingham Palace concert.
- Residents Association – Fete on the Greensward on 4<sup>th</sup> June.
- Church – Special service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Also possibly, a live relay of the service from St Paul's Cathedral on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

The commitment to these activities is now dependent on approval from the organisations concerned and a further meeting has been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> October to confirm these events. This report seeks approval for the PC involvement on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

### Parish Council/Cricket Club event – 2<sup>nd</sup> June

The proposal is for an afternoon sporting activity, organised by the Cricket Club. This would consist of children's cricket and/or stoolball tournaments, followed by adult exhibition T20 or 100 cricket matches. As evening drew on, a barbeque and music event would be held to keep people from the afternoon and bring in new visitors. As dusk approached (around

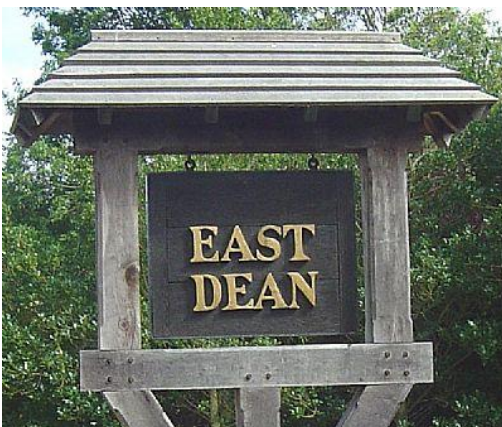
8:30pm), there would be an official proclamation and possibly bagpipe introduction to the lighting of the official Jubilee Beacon (part of a national and commonwealth chain) at 9:15. This could be followed by a “self-ignited” firework display, bringing the evening to a close. Costs (excluding the beacon which is dealt with below) would be fairly small as the barbeque would be hopefully self-financing. A modest firework display would be around £80-£130. For the event itself and any costs for decorations, bunting etc. it is suggested that a budget of around £300 be allocated. A bucket collection could be organised with the proceeds going to the PC charity of the year. It is hoped that councillors, together with friends and family would participate in the running of this event in conjunction with members of the Cricket club.

## The Jubilee Beacon

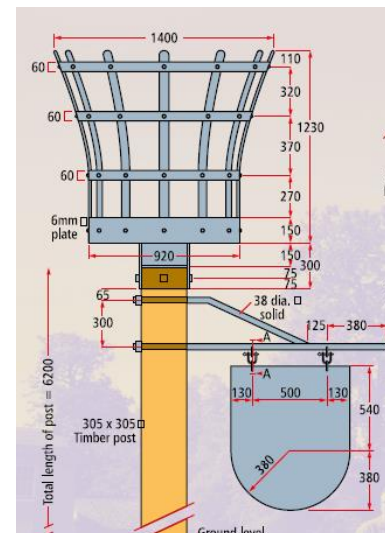
An Official events guide to the Jubilee Beacon ceremony has been produced and this lists three possible options for participants. These are, firstly a simple bonfire in a prominent place, secondly, a semi-portable gas-fired beacon and, thirdly, a pole-mounted brazier containing firewood. The first option would clearly be the cheapest but would not be particularly visible from the Recreation Ground and would result in the scorching of a large area of grass.

A gas-powered beacon would cost around £600+VAT and cost of gas, would have limited future use and would not be seen as environmentally friendly in the current context of climate change.

A wood-fired brazier, despite being more environmentally friendly, would also not be justified if it were to be used just once. However, the official design (shown right) incorporates a hanging sign and this could provide a lasting legacy for the village by providing a rustic signpost where none currently exists.



Any internet search for “East Dean Village” inevitably results in an image of the iconic signpost erected on the A259 by the Downlands Estate Development Company in the 1930s. It embodies the rural nature of the village in a way that no modern road sign can. Yet on the other main approach to the village, heading north along the Birling Gap Road, there is no sign post at all (except for the 30 MPH speed limit).



This proposal is therefore for a rustic sign, combined with a beacon fire-basket, to be placed within the Recreation Ground but adjacent to the Birling Gap Road. This would be lit for the first time on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 but would then be restored as a permanent gateway sign to the village. A photo-montage of how the sign/beacon could look is shown on the next page.



Possible placement of a combined Fire Beacon/Rustic Sign

A quote from Leander Architectural Ltd, who have supplied fire baskets for beacons at previous national events, amounted to some £1800 + VAT for the metalwork alone. However, Alan Godwin, a resident who is a semi-retired Blacksmith and Ironworker, has offered to make this at no labour cost and with materials adding up to around £725 + VAT (at current prices). With the addition of the wooden post and erection costs this should mean that a permanent legacy of the Platinum Jubilee could be created on the Recreation Ground for around £1000. It may be possible to offset some of the costs through donations or CIL dividends but that cannot be assumed at this time.

(There is, of course, the risk that the Platinum Jubilee celebrations might have to be cancelled if the Queen were to die before June 2022. However, in those circumstances there would still be the need for constructing a beacon to be lit in order to celebrate the consequent coronation of the future King Charles III.)

Council members are requested to approve the principle of holding a Beacon lighting event on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, as part of the official Platinum Jubilee celebrations and also to approve the construction of a permanent Beacon and village sign on the recreation ground, adjacent to the Birling Gap Road. Costs should be allowed for in the 2022/23 budget.

Mike Keller.