

**1. Background**

The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will take place on the morning of Saturday 6 May 2023. Monday 8 May has been declared a bank holiday with the intention that there will be a weekend of celebration. National Events will include a Big Coronation Lunch and a Big Help Out. There will not be a National Beacon event.

**2. Wem Town**

Although the Coronation is an event of national and historical significance, it is proposed that the Town Council marks it with a few focused activities in keeping with the events supported by the King and Queen Consort, who want to encourage people to spend the Coronation weekend celebrating with friends, families, and their communities. The aim would be for the event to be marked simply, but memorably.

**3. Saturday 6 May: The Coronation**

No activities would be planned for Coronation Day, leaving friends, families and local communities to make their own celebration arrangements.

**4. Sunday 7 May: The Coronation Big Lunch**

The purpose of the Big Lunch is to share food and fun together. The Town Council could facilitate a 'bring your own' picnic on the Millennium Green between 12pm and 3pm on Sunday 7 May. This could involve entertainment from Wem Jubilee band and Wem Community Choir. Methodist Church could provide toilet facilities.

A wet weather venue would need to be identified.

**Costs: PA system for entertainment, hire of wet weather venue, staff time.**

**5. Monday 8 May: The Big Help Out**

Nationally, members of the public will be invited to take part in the Big Help Out which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join in with work which supports the local areas. This does not need to take a full day and could be as simple as a focussed hour of litter picking across the town – could focus on a big tidy of Drawwell Walk and the footpath alongside the railway between Isherwoods and the vets, followed by refreshments for the volunteers.

Additionally, the Town Council could publicise the Big Help Out and encourage participation in activities being carried out by other local organisations on 8 May.

**Costs: Refreshments and staff time.**

**6. Promotion**

All local organisations will be encouraged to take part. A mix of traditional posters and social media would be used to publicise the events as widely as possible.

**Costs: Copying and staff time.**

**7. Town Decoration**

The Town Council owns bunting and Union Flags and these could be used to decorate the area between the Millennium Green and Maunds Corner. They should be removed during the week following the event.

In the run up to The Coronation the Town's shops could also be decorated with crowns made by local children.

**Costs Staff time**

**8. Recommendation** That the Town Council consider whether it wishes to

- take a lead in organising a Coronation Big Lunch and a Big Help Out for the Town and arrange for the Town to be decorated to mark the Coronation.
- Allocate up to £1000 for coronation events which will be made up from the following Budget codes  
£500 from the 2023-24 events budget.  
£350 underspend from the 2022-23 events budget allocated in earmarked reserves.  
£150 for 2023-24 Town Promotion Budget

Hidden costs will include staff overtime working a Sunday and Bank Holiday