

ITEM 21 – APPENDIX P

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE – 1 OCTOBER 2013

Title:

FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH - PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT
[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Robert Knowles]
[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

This report covers the successful Freedom of the Borough Parade by the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in Godalming on 13th July, and suggests a framework for future Parades

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The Parade gave the community an opportunity to show its support for the local Regiment, and contributes to Leisure and understanding residents' needs

Financial Implications:

The costs will be well within the Supplementary budget agreed by the Executive.

Legal Implications:

As a Borough Council Waverley has the power to grant the Honorary Freedom of the Borough to individuals and service units.

Introduction

1. Waverley granted the Freedom of the Borough to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in April 2011, after agreeing a Bond of Friendship with the three Town and Cranleigh Parish Councils in April 2010.

Exercising the Freedom

2. The grant gives the Regiment the right to march through the Borough, on ceremonial occasions, with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying. It recognises the historic links with the Regiment and its predecessors and Surrey.
3. The Regiment exercised this right in Godalming town centre on 13th July this year, and this report sets out the result and suggests guidelines for future such events.
4. The Regiment first exercised the Freedom at a parade in Farnham in the summer of 2011, during the Mayoralty of Councillor Richard Gates. This event

was successful, and the Regiment approached the Council in the Autumn of last year offering a further parade in Godalming this summer. The Executive agreed a supplementary estimate of £10,000 to cover the costs of the Parade.

5. The event was organised in conjunction with the Regiment, and very helpful support from Godalming Town Council and Surrey Police. The Godalming Chamber of Commerce were involved and were supportive, and the Godalming Lions and Round Table provided stewards on the day to help with traffic and crowd management. Barlow Robbins, Solicitors very kindly allowed use of their car park for logistical support.
6. The event took place on the morning of 13th July, and consisted of a Parade by the 3rd Battalion of the Regiment, of Territorial soldiers including the Farnham Company, and Regimental and Army Cadet Bands. This included young Cadets from the Waverley Cadet units. The Parade route was along High Street and Church Street, followed by presentation of Afghanistan Campaign medals to troops returning from active service. The salute was accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Dame Sarah Goad accompanied by the Mayor, along with the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J C Coote.
7. Both the parade and medal presentations were well attended by members of the public showing their support for the Regiment, and the whole event was an excellent example of inter- authority and voluntary organisation partnership. Around 200 members of the troops' families attended the reception.
8. Letters of thanks have been received, and Colonel Coote has thanked the Mayor for 'the stupendous welcome that you gave us ... the whole event was organised and run to perfection ... and that all ranks present ... were humbled by your welcome, generosity and support.'

Budget

9. The total expenditure including equipment hire, first aid support, printing and cleaning and refreshments is around £7,000 to date. It is likely the total cost will be around £7,500. This compares with the cost of the previous Farnham parade of around £7,000.

Future Parades

10. As Farnham and Godalming as the two largest towns have now had parades, it seems fair to suggest to the Regiment that any future Parades should take place in Haslemere and Cranleigh. The Executive may also want to suggest that, Regimental commitments permitting, it might be appropriate to hold one Parade in the four year life of each Council. This would mean that the next Parade might take place after 2015, and any following Parade four years later. This would enable future budget planning to be based on this pattern.

Conclusion

11. This year's Parade was very successful and it seems appropriate to help future planning to agree a framework for future events.

Recommendation

That the Executive adopts the guidelines set out in paragraph 10 above and that future events be held every four years from 2015 onwards.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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