

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

17 July 2007

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the progress being made towards the above event.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Heritage Open Days (HOD) celebrate England's architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. It is a once-a-year chance to discover hidden architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities which bring to life local history and culture. Nationally the event is organised by the Civic Trust.
- 1.1.2 Locally the event is co-ordinated by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and will take place during the weekend of Saturday, 8 and Sunday, 9 September 2007. It is a true partnership event with Parish Councils and various historical societies gathering support on the ground in local communities across the borough.
- 1.1.3 Preparations for HOD 2007 are well underway. Previous participants have been contacted asking if they would like to register, and Parish Councils have been written to asking them to nominate properties that might like to take part. The response this year has been positive with 23 confirmed participants. This figure is the same as last year's event. As in previous years, Tonbridge Castle will be opening its doors free of charge to the public on Sunday, 9 September offering partial tours of the Gatehouse. Cranbrook Town Band will be performing in the afternoon as visitors make their way round the Castle.
- 1.1.4 A leaflet is currently in production and will be available from the Customer Services Office at Tonbridge Castle from mid-July. The leaflet will also be distributed to Tourist Information Centres across the Heart of Kent region as well as libraries and major attractions. The information will also be on the Council's website.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 Once participants have submitted their forms to the Civic Trust, they automatically receive public liability insurance cover for the days that their properties are open.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 This event is free of charge to visitors and largely run by volunteers in local communities.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 None.

Background papers:

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Nil

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Chief Leisure Officer