

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

15 July 2008

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Summary

This report updates Members on the number of confirmed participants in this year's event.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Heritage Open Days celebrates England's architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Coordinated nationally by the Civic Trust in partnership with English Heritage, the event thrives on the enthusiasm and expertise of local people and volunteers.

1.1.2 It is a partnership event, with Parish/Town councils and local historical societies gathering support on the ground in local communities across the borough.

1.2 Confirmed Participants

1.2.1 This year 23 properties across 14 villages in the borough will be taking part in this national event. This provides residents and visitors with a unique opportunity to explore a wide range of varied establishments free of charge throughout the weekend.

1.3 Venues

1.3.1 Participants range from churches, gardens (Broadview, Downderry and Great Comp) to places of historic interest including St Leonards Tower and St Mary's Abbey in West Malling as well as Aylesford Priory. Ightham Mote has also confirmed its inclusion in the event this year.

1.3.2 A full list of participants can be seen at **[Annex 1]**.

1.4 Marketing

- 1.4.1 A leaflet listing all the venues and opening times will be available in Tourist Information Centres, Libraries and Council owned leisure facilities from the beginning of July. The public will be able to download a copy of the leaflet from a dedicated page on the Council's website. For those properties who registered by 1 May, their details will be published in The Guardian newspaper.
- 1.4.2 The Civic Trust's website, www.heritageopendays.org, lists what places of interest are open nationally throughout the weekend.

1.5 Legal Implications

- 1.5.1 None.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.6.1 Access to properties is free of charge to visitors and, in the majority of cases is run by volunteers in the local community. The cost to the Council relates primarily to staff time and the printing of leaflets, which can be met from the 2008/09 revenue budget.

1.7 Risk Assessment

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

1.8 Policy Considerations

- 1.8.1 Community.

Background papers:

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Nil

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