

Report No. 1

Report to Town Council 20th December 2016

Potential balloon flight.

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To advise the committee of the outline proposal for there to be a balloon flight taking off from the Cross Hayes to commemorate the flights made by Walter Powell MP towards the end of the 19th Century.
- 1.2 The request was originally considered by the Community and Town Promotion Committee on the 3rd November 2016 who declined to support the request for assistance if the event was held in the Cross Hayes.
- 1.3 At the meeting of the Town Council in November it was agreed that the issue should be reconsidered by the Town Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The current Member of Parliament, James Gray MP and the High Sheriff, David Hempleman-Adams are seeking to commemorate the ballooning activities of Walter Powell who was the Member of Parliament for Malmesbury when he became interested in the then new technology.
- 2.2 Walter Powell disappeared on his last flight but until that time he had been a very successful enthusiast.
- 2.3 The leaflet available in the museum contains a photograph of an inflated balloon tethered in the Cross Hayes prior to a flight taking place.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 The Member of Parliament and the High Sheriff are proposing to fly a balloon from the lower section of the Cross Hayes to commemorate the activity of Walter Powell.
- 3.2 It has been suggested that the event could possibly take place on a Sunday afternoon or early evening in April, subject to weather conditions.
- 3.3 To enable this to take place the Cross Hayes Car Park would need to be closed and a road closure order obtained to prevent traffic flow through the Cross Hayes for a short period of time.
- 3.4 In the event that weather conditions prevent the flight the organisers are seeking to plan for it to happen on another day, possibly the following week.
- 3.5 The event will be organised through the Friends of Athelstan Museum with a view to raising funds for the Moravian Church project but some assistance may be required from the Town Council.

4. Financial implications and risks

- 4.1 Any necessary insurance would be provided by the event organisers and not the Town Council.
- 4.2 The Town Council could offer assistance to obtain the necessary road closure as the experience rests within the office team and ensure that the Town Hall is open to enable

access to the toilet facilities.

4.3 The Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council is in support of the flight and has offered to ensure that the Cross Hayes car park is closed to enable the event to take place

5. Recommendations

5.1 At this time the project is at an early stage and the committee is requested to consider if it is of such a nature that support should be offered to the Friends of Athelstan Museum.

Jeff Penfold
Town Clerk
13th December 2016