

Report No.

Report to Extraordinary Community and Town Promotion Committee 5th February 2015

St Aldhelm's Day Fair

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To invite the committee to consider the level of events to be planned for St Aldhelm's Day fair and the budget to be allocated.

2. Background

- 2.1 Over the years the Town Council have held St. Aldhelm's Fair in the Market Cross .the Saturday nearest the 25th May, the saint's feast day.
- 2.2 The committee previously held the view that this event required major changes
- 2.2 A small team has been working with others, including the Chamber of Commerce, to investigate potential enhancements.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It has been suggested the event be extended to include other areas in addition to the Market Cross.

- 3.2 Activities suggested for the areas are as follows:-

Market Cross – subject to obtaining the relevant permissions and licences the area could include traders' stalls, food provision and a beer and mead tent. Charity stalls could be situated in Birdcage Walk and a hog roast could be considered.

Cloister Gardens – craft demonstrations, minstrels, children's games, animals, stocks, maypole dancing and hair braiding. The minstrel group could be commissioned to roam around the town during the day.

Abbey – refreshments could be provided by the café operating within the Abbey which would lead visitors to view the Aldhelm's window. The Abbey would also be a suitable venue for talks about Medieval Malmesbury.

Bell tower – organised visits to the tower.

St Aldhelm Church – a flower festival and competition hosted in the church.

- 3.3 A competition for children could be organised aimed at promoting a knowledge and awareness of St Aldhelm and involve the children from local schools and Hope Church.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 A financial appraisal is not possible until the scale and scope of events has been determined.
- 4.2 A quote has been received from a Minstrel Group in the region of £600 for the day and other costs needed to be taken into consideration will include any road closure applications and stewarding of the same.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The committee is requested to consider the suggested enhancements for the St Aldhelm's Day celebration and agree a maximum budget to be allocated whilst further research is undertaken into the costs and practicalities of enhancements

Councillor S Cox
4th February 2015