

Proposal to mark Ukraine Independence Day by Malmesbury Town Council as a Civic Reception

Report to the June 2023 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee

Introduction

Currently there are approximately 90 Ukrainian refugee women and children living in and around Malmesbury

The majority of these are being hosted by local families, who stepped forward to provide accommodation soon after the Government announced their scheme.

Malmesbury Stands with Ukraine is a group of residents from Malmesbury and surrounding villages who have come together to raise awareness of the plight of these refugees, to raise funds to support a central Ukrainian hospital and organise events to celebrate cultural important Ukrainian days and events.

Malmesbury Town Council has kindly agreed to the flying of the Ukrainian flag from our Town Hall on such occasions.

Malmesbury Abbey has hosted two services to mark Ukrainian Orthodox Church Christmas Eve and the first Anniversary of Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

Last year, our Town Council waived fees for the hiring of Town Hall rooms on 24th August, Ukraine Independence Day.

The Proposal

That given the significance of this conflict and the number of Ukrainian refugees being hosted here, Malmesbury Town Council elevates the status of the celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day to that of a Civic Reception.

That the Town Council staff are requested to work with **Malmesbury Stands with Ukraine** on the invitations to and organisation of this event.

Guests to be invited to be drawn from Ukrainian refugees living in the Malmesbury and surrounding villages, their hosts and the **Malmesbury Stands with Ukraine** support group.

That in accordance with our adopted flag policy, the Ukrainian flag is flown from our Town Hall on Thursday 24th August 2023 to mark Ukrainian Independence status for an annual Ukrainian Independence Day celebration.

This event to be subject to annual review by the Policy & Resources Committee.

Cllr Gavin Grant
Mayor of Malmesbury
29 May 2023