

Report No: 5

Report to Policy and Resources Committee

1. Purpose of the report

To request agreement for use of the entire Town Hall on Monday 27th May 2019 for St Aldhelm's Fair, an event organised by Community and Town Promotion committee each year. The working group have met and decided it would like to use the Town Hall this year. Here, it could go ahead whatever the weather. There is a stage and electric on hand unlike other venues. There is also a bar ready to use. The feeling was this was the better option, with each room being used for different things. Theme would be based on an Olde Worlde Fayre. Timings 12 noon to 3-30pm music could last longer depending on the uptake from local bands.

Assembly Room would be a Battle of the Bands from Malmesbury School if they would like to join in, there would also be open mic as such with local bands/singers. It was suggested that perhaps The Long Players would maybe like to help and join in.

Along with the music, the bar would be open, and in the Wesleyan Hall, the Archery would be held. In the Hobbs Parlour there could be a craft room, in the Old School Room could be a craft market.

We would have a stall promoting the Great West Way, so the public could find out more about this. Also, a sweet stall, and a cake and produce / flower stall in the Malting Hall.

Outside would hopefully have some hoopla stalls and small fair, just 3 or 4 items to help attract people into the Town Hall. Morris Dancers too would be invited to be part of this event.

The lute player could be in the foyer welcoming people, if the budget allows for this.

We would also try and get a food outlet outside to feed the visitors. Also, an ice cream van.

It was agreed to ask Tony McAleavy if he would support this event as he has done other years with giving a talk near to the event.

Cllr Campbell Ritchie has also informed me he is arranging a walk based on St Aldhelm in the town that day to support the event, the walk would end at the Town Hall for the start of the fair at 12 noon .

2. Background

St Aldhelm was an abbot of Malmesbury Abbey who died on the 25th May 709.

After his death he was venerated as a saint, his feast day being the day of his death, 25 May.

For several years now St Aldhelm's Fair has been arranged with some stalls, in the Market Cross or Bird Cage Walk, Along with Archery in the Cloisters with a craft tent along with sometimes a couple of other stalls. Also, Morris Dancing and art on the railings of the Abbey. A wandering lute player and a flower festival in St Aldhelm's Church.

The last couple of years a noted decline in numbers attending or asking for stalls has happened. Also, the art on the railings were down to just a couple of exhibitors.

This event is not helped by being in three different areas of the Town.

3. Proposal

To request the hire of the whole of the Town Hall for 27th May 2019. So as to consolidate the whole event into one place, which can still go ahead whatever the weather.

4. Risks / Financial Cost.

A risk assessment would need to be drawn up.

The cost is that no bookings would be able to be taken for that day, and of course the caretakers cost although this would be hopefully covered by the bar takings.

Cllr Julie Exton