

PETITION – RAMSGATE SPRINT

Cabinet	03 October 2017
Report Author	Penny Button, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Lin Fairbrass, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Environmental Services
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	Cliffsend and Pegwell, Central Harbour

Executive Summary:

An e-petition containing 39 valid signatures has been received by the Council from residents who ask for the council to specify any remaining obstacles to the return of the Ramsgate Sprint in 2018.

This report sets out how the Council will respond to the issues raised within the petition.

Recommendation(S):

That the petition is noted and that the Cabinet Member for Community Services is kept fully updated on the support provided to the Ramsgate Sprint organisers.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	There are no direct financial impacts to providing support to the event organisers. Any events held on Thanet District Council land are subject to application and land hire fees.
Legal	This matter is dealt with under the Council's scheme for dealing with petitions from the public which is contained within the constitution.
Corporate	In accordance with the Council's petition scheme if a petition has over 25, but less than 650, signatories, it will be referred to Cabinet or an appropriate committee without debate for report to Council within three ordinary meetings.
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.	
	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	
	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	
	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	
There are no specific equity and equalities issues arising from this report.		

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	x

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
Delivering value for money	
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	x

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 An e-petition was received from Mr Coombes which had been validly signed by 39 persons. The petition read:

“We the undersigned petition the council to specify any remaining obstacles to the return of the Ramsgate Sprint; and ask TDC to work closely with the organisers and other relevant community groups in Ramsgate to try and ensure that the Ramsgate Sprint takes place in 2018.”

- 1.2 This petition was considered at the full Council meeting on 13 July 2017 where it was referred to this meeting of Cabinet for decision.

2.0 Current Situation

Thanet District Council (TDC) is committed to enabling events that contribute to our vibrant culture, coastal environment and economy by working with event organisers, partners and agencies to provide a variety of safe and enjoyable events. Events play a vital part of the visitor experience that Thanet aspires to achieve and they help draw visitors to Thanet as a destination. They are also an essential part of building and bringing together local communities.

Sprint Racing took place on the undercliff at Ramsgate between 1956 and 1968 and consisted of a ¼ mile sprint race. In 2015 a group of local enthusiasts organised the Ramsgate Sprint Revival to commemorate the Sprint Racing of the 50's and 60's.

The main event focused on untimed, non-competitive sprint demonstration runs on the undercliff to recreate the sights, sounds and smells of the historic vehicles that once raced, there were also static displays and fairground rides on Government Acre above the sprint. This was able to go ahead because an existing long standing event on the site, Lark in the Park, agreed to move their event to a different date in a one off gesture of goodwill.

In 2016 a smaller event was held called Ramsgate Rev Up. Due to the event organisers being unable to use a secured part of the Port of Ramsgate which had

previously been used they were unable to hold sprint demonstrations. Instead they held static displays on the undercliff and Government Acre working together with Lark in the Park to share the same event space and equipment in order for the event to go ahead.

The space that the organisers wished to use within the Port of Ramsgate was not available in 2017 and whilst alternative suggestions were made these were not taken up by the organisers.

As yet we have had no formal approach with regard to a Ramsgate Sprint being held in 2018, so have assumed that this petition relates to the same footprint as used in 2015. Without complete details it is difficult to specify all obstacles to the return of the Ramsgate Sprint.

Using the assumption that it will be the same footprint and timing as 2015 then Government Acre is already booked from the 6th to 20th August so different dates will need to be chosen.

The area of Ramsgate Harbour previously used is now located within a secure fenced area which must remain available for commercial purposes so the event organisers will need to change the footprint of their event possibly within a different location.

Thanet District Council is committed to providing support to event organisers and will work with them in their planning for any future events. In 2017 an Event Policy was adopted which lays out the event process which the event organiser will be provided with.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 Under the Council's petitions scheme, the decision of Cabinet regarding the petition will be reported back to Council for their information. This will be done at the Council meeting on the 12 October 2017.

Contact Officer:	Suzie Hooper, Events and Community Projects Officer, Ext 57409
Reporting to:	Penny Button, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods

Annex List

None	N/A
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
Events Policy	https://www.thanet.gov.uk/media/3740514/Events-Policy.pdf

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Ramesh Prashar, Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer