

Brixham Town Council

Report No:	28-2018		
Report Type:	Public		
Title:	Battles Over – A nations Tribute – 11 th November 2018		
To:	Community Services Committee	Date:	24.09.18
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk	Linda McGuirk	
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Purpose of Report

To consider a request from Torbay Council events team that Brixham Town Council manages the 'Battles Over – A Nations Tribute - Beacon of Light' event in November 2018.

The Town Council are aware Brixham Arts and Theatre Society (BATS) have been working with Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust (TCCT) to replace the existing Beacon located at Berry Head Nature Reserve, which was damaged in a lightning strike. Investigations are ongoing to achieve a replacement beacon in time for the 11th November.

To consider working in partnership with Brixham Arts & Theatre Society (BATS) and the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust (TCCT) to ensure Brixham is represented in the Battles Over - A Nations Tribute Beacon Lighting and avoid duplication of work.

Representatives of both BATS and TCCT have been invited to attend the Community Services Committee on Monday 24th September 2018.

To agree on a representative to light the Beacon.

Background

On the 11th November 2018, the United Kingdom and its friends overseas will mark the day 100 years ago when the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War.

Many councils will be playing their part in remembering the sacrifice of millions of men and woman by joining in Battles Over, a unique series of events in the morning and evening involving organisations and communities the length and breadth of our nation and in many countries abroad.

6:55pm Battle's Over – The Last Post.

In association with the Air Training Corps, Army Cadet Force, Sea Cadet Force, Boys' Brigade and the Light Infantry Buglers Association, the Last Post will be played at many of the 1,000 WWI Beacon sites throughout the United Kingdom, involving young people and others paying their personal tribute to those that gave their lives during World War I.

7:00pm Battle's Over – WW1 Beacons of Light.

after darkness has fallen, more than 1,000 Beacons of Light will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories, with the first of these Beacons being lit at Westminster Abbey, London, that evening. This is a commemoration inspired by a comment made on 3rd August 1914 by Britain's Foreign Minister, Sir Edward Grey. He was looking out of his office window at dusk as gas lights were being lit along London's Mall when he remarked to a friend, "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."

7:05pm Battle's Over – Ringing out for peace!

As beacons blaze around the country, bells in 1,000 churches and cathedrals will ring out in celebration of the end of the First World War. Many people in Britain live within hearing of church bells, which call congregations to prayer and mark special occasions. But the sound of mighty bells, some of which are hundreds of years old, also provides a stirring soundtrack to historic events. The stirring sound of church and cathedral bells will provide a fitting conclusion to a day of contemplation, commemoration and, ultimately, celebration as our country and other nations reflect on events a century ago on the battlefields of Europe and at home in our factories and farms.

How to take part & Beacon Lighting Ceremony.

Step 1: The event must be registered which will enable the event details to be shared and the beacon listed as part of history. Notification of participation must be submitted by the 25th October 2018.

The Beacon lighting ceremony should be undertaken as follows:

Step 2: Invite your Lord Lieutenant, DL, Lord Mayor, Mayor, High Sheriff, High Steward, Lord Provost, Chairman or Leader of the Council.

Step 3: Professional photographs taken during the event should be sent to brunopeek@mac.com including the name of the photographer, the Beacon location, including postcode, along with the name of the Council or Organisation.

Step 4: Promote the event on social media channels - Twitter, Facebook etc.

Step 5: On 1st November 2018 a Press Release will be issued.

Step 6: Before the lighting of the Beacon at 7pm consideration of reading out the names of those from the Parish killed in action, during WWI, in remembrance of the sacrifices made.

The Beacon

- (1) Build and light a traditional bonfire beacon.
- (2) Purchase the gas-fuelled beacon being specially produced for this project. Afterwards, it can be stored and used for future events.



The example shown above costs £360 +VAT and requires the purchase of a propane gas cylinder separately.

(3) Build and erect a new beacon brazier on a tall wooden pole, using it as a permanent tribute to those that lost their lives in the local community during World War I. Installing a permanent beacon at Berry Head requires an application to English Heritage to be submitted, which is a timely process. TCCT would be responsible for submitting any application.

(4) Installation of a temporary beacon brazier. BATS are currently liaising with TCCT on design and location. They have identified a maker of braziers. The structure is likely to be temporary to protect it from damage by the environment and vandalism. However, an application is still needs submitting to English Heritage. Consideration is required for the storage of any temporary structure and timescale for order and construction.

Locations

We are aware beacons will be placed in Torbay in the following locations:

- Corbyn Head provided by Torbay Council.
- Daddy hole provided by the National Coast watch Institution.

In addition;

- National across the entire country.
- Internationally

It is important for Brixham to be represented. Due to the lack of time and the application process for English Heritage consideration must be given to alternative locations to ensure the opportunity is not missed.

The preferred location is:

- (1) Berry Head Nature reserve. Located where existing damaged beacon brazier is. Land managed by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust. Application required to English Heritage.

Alternative locations:

- (2) Shoalstone Pool: Land managed by Shoalstone Pool CIC Ltd. Permission would be required from SP CIC Ltd to proceed. This location provides a good opportunity for the gas fuelled beacon shown above.
- (3) Jubilee Gardens:
Land owned by Torbay Council. Permission would be required from the Torbay Council to proceed.
- (4) Battery Gardens:
Land owned by Torbay Council. Permission would be required from the Torbay Council to proceed.
- (5) Bonsai Gardens:
Land owned by Torbay Council. Permission would be required from the Torbay Council to proceed.

Lighting the beacon

Further investigation into how any beacon is safely lit is required. Weather conditions and the time of year can make it very difficult.

It is appropriate for the Chairperson or the Vice Chairperson of the Town Council to light the beacon.

Risk assessment and Public liability insurance (PLI)

Risk assessments and PLI are both a necessity for any event being held, dependant on the location an Event Management Plan (EMP) may also be required.

Advertising

The lighting of the beacon will be registered with the organisers of the 'Battles Over- A Nations Tribute'. Public events will be shared with the media. Social media channels and a press release will all be issued prior to the event.

Recommendations

That the Town Council:

- works in partnership with Brixham Arts and Theatre Society (BATS) to find a suitable location to organise a Battles over – Nations Tribute – Beacon Lighting event.
- The ideal location should be at Berry Head and partnership working should include the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust (TCCT) with the alternative site being at Shoalstone.
- issues invitations to key representatives of the Town
- issues all press releases and social media publicity
- registers the event with Battles Over – A Nations Tribute and organises the event in conjunction with the recommendations in the Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute – A guide to taking part and to include:
 - The Chairperson or, if unavailable, the Vice Chairperson of the Town Council lighting the beacon.
 - The 'Tribute to the Millions' (See appendix one) is read.
 - The 'First Post' at 6:55pm.

Appendix One

