

Report on	VE Events 2020
Date of Meeting	Thursday 12 March 2019
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne/Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Michael Browne/Tony McCance

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Purpose of the report is to update the Council regarding the events that will be delivered directly or in partnership with other groups to commemorate the 75 th anniversary of VE Day, 8 th May 2020.
2.0	Background
2.1	This year's May bank holiday will be moved forward by four days to coincide with the 75 th anniversary of VE Day. The May Day Bank holiday is traditionally held on a Monday, but will be moved forward to Friday 8 May 2020 to allow for commemorative events to be held over the holiday weekend.
2.2	VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day, marks the day towards the end of World War II when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	To commemorate the 75 th anniversary of VE Day a series of events have been proposed to take a place before and during the weekend of the 8 th May 2020.
3.2	<p>Friends of Killymoon – VE Day Celebrations</p> <p>The Friends of Killymoon Castle are planning a three day event to take place between Friday 8th & Sunday 10th of May 2020. Over the weekend a comprehensive series of activities events will be delivered at Killymoon, consisting of talks, period dress and vehicles along with wreath laying ceremonies in Cookstown and Stewartstown on Friday 8th @ 2.45pm.</p>
3.2	Hidden Heritage and Living History Tours
3.3	<p>Killymoon Castle and Benburb Priory Hidden & Living History Tour</p> <p>Date: Saturday 2 May 2020</p> <p>Time: 10.45am – 4.00pm</p> <p>Cost: £10 per person (booking essential)</p>

	<p>Lough Neagh – VE Day Boat Tours Date: Sunday 10 May 2020 Time: First tour: 11.00am – 12.30pm Second tour: 1.00pm – 2.30pm Third tour: 3.00pm – 4.30pm Cost: £10 per person (max 12 persons per tour - booking essential)</p>
3.4	VE Day Talks
3.5	Monday 4th May - Bridewell Tourist Information Centre, Magherafelt. Speaker - Richard Collins “Darkness into the Light” talk on the GI’s in Mid Ulster with Q&A.
3.6	Tuesday 5th May - Burnavon - John McCann (Talk on the US 52nd Diversion with - Q&A
3.7	Wednesday 6th May – Seamus Heaney HomePlace - Eoin McNamee Book Launch - Book based on the US Airdrome in NI - Q&A
3.8	Thursday 7th May - Ranfurly House -Vivienne Quinn, local lady, to give a talk to mark VE Day. - Q&A
3.9	Fivemiletown – Venue (TBC) @ 7pm Speaker - Richard Collins “Darkness into the Light Talk on the GI's in Mid Ulster with Q&A
3.10	App Development
3.11	Council are producing a GuidieGo, Self-Guided augmented reality app that will give the visitor a district wide tour outlining and detailing some of the significant sites in Mid Ulster, where the GI's were location.
3.12	<p>Marketing</p> <p>Council will also be publishing marketing material in the form of flyer that will be designed in house with a print run of 3,000 units. The Council have been approached by other organisations, such as Newmills & District VC Group and The British Legion who are also organising VE Day Celebrations and therefore it would prudent to include their events in this leaflet.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
4.2	Financial: Costs will be meet within Tourism and Arts & Culture current budgets. Total cost to Council £6,000.

	Human: Tourism & Arts and Culture staff required to deliver events. .
	Risk Management: Risk assessment will be carried at the stand.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	For information.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	<p>In addition to the events listed, the Council staff are assisting the Killeeshil & Clonaneese Historical Society with a Memorial Project for Ft Lt Fred Barton USAF who was killed in Air Crash at Eskragh, Killeeshil 1 July 1945.</p> <p>Date: 1 July 2020</p>