

WHPC Meeting 7th November 2023

Item 23/350

D-Day 80 - Thursday 6th June 2024

Purpose of this paper: To consider a request for Town + Parish Councils to join the D-Day 80 commemorative events being organised for 6th June 2024 across the UK.

Background

In 2024 the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 1944 with a series of major commemorations and events across the UK and in France.



Town & Parish Councils are encouraged to join with their local communities to celebrate and commemorate the events of D-day 1944.

The Pageantmaster, Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR, has written a letter (Appendix 1) to all UK town and parish councils inviting them to light 80 beacons across the county and to join the D-Day 80 commemorative celebrations being organised for 6th June 2024 across the UK.

- Communities are asked to join a national event to light 80 beacons across the country at 9.15pm to represent the 'light of peace' that emerged from the darkness of war.
- Communities that would like to take part in D-Day 80 on 6th June 2024, but do not have the land or facilities available to light a Beacon are encouraged to purchase [a Lamp Light of Peace](#) to pay 'tribute' to those that gave so much to enable us to share the freedom we have today.
- To view the [Guide to Taking Part](#), a message from the Prime Minister and more information, please go to www.d-day80beacons.co.uk
- Other events scheduled for the day include
 - D-Day 80 Proclamation Town Criers 8.00am
 - Poem for Schools - D-Day Heroes To be undertaken by Schools at 11am
 - The International Tribute To be undertaken at 9.15pm

For further information [D-Day 80 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

In recent years WHPC has encouraged residents to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and the Coronation of King Charles III. On each occasion, WHPC supported the West Hill RBL Branch through grant awards towards the costs of organising a street party open to the community. These events were very popular and well regarded.

For Consideration

Councillors are asked to consider if they wish to explore opportunities to celebrate and commemorate D-Day 80 in West Hill. If so, what actions do they wish to take?

Anne Oliver, Parish Clerk

24th October 2023

Dear Town or Parish Clerk,

DEVON & D-DAY 80 – 6TH JUNE 2024

As you are aware, we are organising D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024, throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and at the site of the British Normandy Memorial, overlooking Gold Beach in Normandy, France, one of the five Beaches landed on 80 years ago on 6th June next year. The event is in celebration and commemoration of this important occasion and will enable communities and individuals to pay their 'tribute' to those that gave so much during this campaign to help ensure the freedom we all enjoy today, with the flames from the Beacons representing the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war all those years ago.

We feel sure you will agree with me/us when we say that individuals and communities of all sizes were deeply affected in many and various ways during WWII. So, with this in mind, we would like to encourage your Town or Parish Council to take part in D-Day 80 on 6th June next year, as we would like to achieve the lighting of at least 80 Beacons per County, within England and Wales, as part of this 80th Anniversary event. We would be extremely grateful if you would be kind enough to discuss your possible involvement with your Council members, at your earliest convenience please, with the view to ensuring we achieve the lighting of this number of Beacons in your County at 9.15pm on 6th June 2024.

Those taking part will be sent the Certificate of Grateful Recognition (found on page 46 of the Guide) enabling them to frame and display it as a lasting reminder of this moment in history commemorated/celebrated. The Guide, the message from the Prime Minister encouraging local communities to take part in lighting Beacons and the logo for your use are all available to download from the D-Day 80 website – www.d-day80beacons.co.uk.

From pages 24 through to 28, you will see there are various types of Beacons that can be used on 6th June, which could be lit on town and village greens, local farms and country estates, or other locations of your choice that night. We do hope that your Town and Parish Council will take part, and look forward to hearing from you in due course and hope that your Beacon is one of the 80 within your County.

My warmest regards to you all,

Bruno Peek

Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR
Pageantmaster
D-Day 80
6th June 2024
Telephone: + 44 (0) 7737 262 913
Email: brunopeek@mac.com
www.d-day80beacons.co.uk

