



REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Item No:- ME24/24

Committee:-	Markets and Events Committee
Date:-	27 th November 2024
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Armed Forces Parade June 2025
Wards Affected:-	William Knibb mainly

1. Purpose of Report

To consider proposals from the county colonel, Royal Anglian Regiment for a major armed forces event in June 2025 in Kettering.

2. Recommendations

Members' views are requested

3. Information

3.1. The Town Council has been approached by Col Robert Blomfield, who is the county colonel for the Royal Anglian Regiment. The role of county colonel is distinct from that of the regular army command structure and provides a point of contact with cadet and other affiliated organisations.

3.2. Col Blomfield is proposing that Kettering hosts a major Armed Forces Parade in June 2025 which is similar in size and scope to that which took place as part of the late Queen's Jubilee in 2022. That event took place in Northampton and included cadets from all thirteen county Combined Cadet Force contingents (including Southfield School, Buccleuch Academy and the Brooke Weston Trust, Kettering Business Academy), Sea Cadet Corps training ships (including TS 800 Naval Air Service), Army Cadet Force detachments (including the Kettering Detachment of 'D' Company Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland ACF) and Royal Air Force Air Cadet squadrons (including 1101 Squadron).

3.3. For the parade currently planned, they are planning the inclusion of all six of the county military cadet marching bands (including the TS 800 Naval Air Squadron Band). Having spoken to the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment, in addition to the cadet bands. It is possible that the combined 1st

Battalion and 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment Corps of Drums (which is currently stationed in Kendrew Barracks would also be available to take part in the parade.

3.4. The event was offered to Northampton but Northampton Town Council had to decline the opportunity because

- A suitable date was difficult to agree
- The Town Council were unable to accommodate the necessary workload alongside their other commitments in June
- The Town Council were unable to meet any additional costs associated with stewarding the event

3.5. Col Blomfield and his colleague Corporal Major Palmer are attending the meeting of the committee to outline their idea and describe its implementation and answer members' questions. It will be useful to understand what external resource can be bought to the event to address the considerations below.

3.6. This is clearly intended to be a county wide event in its draw and impact.

4. Considerations

4.1. **Date** The event is proposed for June 2024. The Council already has booked in for June:-

- Kettfest on 14th June
- Summer Saturday with an armed forces theme on 28th June
- The first skateboarding event on 21st June at the Ise Skate park
- Bands in the park starts in mid June at Rockingham Pleasure Park

To avoid a clash or consecutive weekends involving extensive events and road closures, then only the 28th June would be suitable for this event, and that would necessitate the cancellation of the Summer Saturday or at least its merger into this other wider event.

Armed Forces Day is the 28th June

4.2. **Costs and workload.** These have not yet been worked out, but, similar to Northampton's concerns, there are resource pressures in providing an event only two weeks after Kettfest – this will place considerable strain on the Council's staffing resource at the busiest time of the year. Likely direct costs will include

- Management of the road closures – about £1500 depending on what was required
- Stewarding - using volunteers will help reduce costs but they will need recruiting, training, managing and supervising so two event supervisors might be needed for a large scale event – say 10 hours = £200
- First aid cover and security – about £2000.
- Crowd barriers would probably be needed including transport and installation, from, so even if they can sourced for free, transport and installation costs will be about £500-£1000.

- 4.3 **Engagement** The event will occupy all of the town centre given the scale proposed. There will be, as with Kettfest, a great deal of communications and engagement required beforehand, including with the event safety partnership for North Northants and there will be a high level of alert for counter terrorism measures, which in turn might generate further costs around security.
- 4.4. **Effect on KTC programme** As mentioned above, the Summer Saturday event would need to be removed and the armed forces elements of it (vehicles, displays and gazebos) possibly reconfigured, to take place in another part of the town centre that day.
- 4.5 **Market** – assuming it is held on a Saturday, the general market would have to be cancelled.

5. Consultation and Engagement

There has been no opportunity as yet to consult any partners on the event including NNC, the Royal British Legion branch or cadet groups.

6. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

There is £1000 in the budget for the June Summer Saturday – net of income from traders.

7. Policy Implications

The Council's policy is to support the economic vitality of the town centre.

The Council has signed the Armed Forces Covenant and will apply it wherever possible; it will support veterans and mark the work of the country's armed forces,

Background Papers

Introductory email from Col Blomfield