

**Proper Officer's Report**  
**August Community Services Committee Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

**Communication:**

- 1. Events and Civic Commemorations:** I have investigated a range of national, civic and community events that the Town Council may wish to recognise throughout the year and consider the different ways in which these could be marked.

As a starting point, I have prepared a draft schedule of significant national, civic, military, religious, educational and community events for Members' consideration. The schedule also includes a suggested approach for each event, ranging from a simple social media post, to the flying of flags where appropriate, through to larger community events or activities where these may be considered proportionate. The document is intended as a discussion paper rather than a final proposal.

Given the breadth of events identified, it may be appropriate for Members to consider developing a simple protocol to determine how different categories of events should be recognised. This would provide consistency in the Council's approach whilst allowing flexibility where local circumstances or significant anniversaries justify additional recognition.

This report is presented to facilitate an initial discussion, following which I will prepare a refined programme reflecting Members' views and priorities.

**1. National Civic & Cultural Events (England / UK)**

| Date          | Event                                                          | Notes                                     | Mark         |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 January     | New Year's Day                                                 | Community celebrations and civic messages | Social Media |
| 14 February   | Valentine's Day                                                | Often supported by local businesses       | Social Media |
| 8 March       | International Women's Day                                      | Celebrating women's achievements          | Social Media |
| 21 March      | International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | Equality and inclusion initiatives        | Social Media |
| 22 April      | St George's Day                                                | Particularly relevant for town councils   | Flags        |
| May (varies)  | Local Elections                                                | Civic engagement                          | -            |
| June (varies) | Volunteers' Week                                               | Recognition of local volunteers           | Social Media |
| July          | Love Parks Week                                                | Promoting local green spaces              | Social Media |
| September     | Heritage Open Days                                             | Celebrating local history and heritage    | Social Media |
| October       | Black History Month                                            | Educational and community activities      | Social Media |

**2. Military & Historical Commemorations**

| Date                      | Event                  | Notes                                      | Mark         |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 27 January                | Holocaust Memorial Day | National remembrance                       | Social Media |
| 8 May                     | Victory in Europe Day  | End of war in Europe (1945)                | Social Media |
| June                      | Armed Forces Day       | Support for serving personnel and veterans | Social Media |
| 6 June                    | Normandy Landings      | Commemoration of the 1944 landings         | Social Media |
| 15 August                 | Victory over Japan Day | End of WWII in the Pacific                 | Social Media |
| 15 September              | Battle of Britain Day  | RAF remembrance                            | Social Media |
| 11 November               | Armistice Day          | Two-minute silence at 11am                 | Social Media |
| Second Sunday in November | Remembrance Sunday     | Major civic commemoration                  | Social Media |

### 3. Religious Events

| Date             | Event                               | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mark                                                           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 February       | Ramadan                             | Muslim: Date changes yearly. because it follows the Islamic lunar calendar instead of the Gregorian (solar) calendar, the month shifts backward by about 10 to 11 days each year                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Social Media                                                   |
| February / March | Magha Puja                          | Buddhist : Festival of the Fourfold Assembly, is one of the most important Buddhist holidays. Celebrated on the full moon of the third lunar month (usually February or March), it commemorates the spontaneous gathering of 1,250 enlightened monks to hear the Buddha's core teachings at Veluvana Bamboo Grove in Rajgir, India. The day emphasizes unity, ethical living, and devotion to the Buddhist community. | Social Media                                                   |
| March / April    | Palm Sunday                         | Christian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Social Media                                                   |
| March/April      | Good Friday                         | Christian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Social Media                                                   |
| March/April      | Easter Sunday                       | Christian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Easter Egg hunt??<br>Can be laminated eggs in shop windows etc |
| March            | Holi (Festival of colours)          | Hindu: It marks the arrival of spring and the victory of good over evil, with vibrant public celebrations involving colour powders, water play, music, and festive foods.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Social Media                                                   |
| March / April    | Passover                            | Jewish: Commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, as described in the biblical <i>Book of Exodus</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Social Media                                                   |
| April            | Vaisakhi                            | Sikh: Festival marking both the founding of the Khalsa Panth in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh and the Punjabi harvest season                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Social Media                                                   |
| May/June         | Ascension Day                       | Christian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Social Media                                                   |
| May/June         | Pentecost                           | Christian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Social Media                                                   |
| May              | Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice) | Muslim: Because the exact date of Eid al-Adha (the 10th of Dhul Hijjah) is dictated by the Islamic lunar calendar, it shifts backward by about 10 to 11 days each Gregorian year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Social Media                                                   |
| May              | Vesak                               | Sikh: Commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and death (Parinirvana) of Gautama Buddha. Observed on the full moon of the lunar month Vesakha—usually in May—it is recognized internationally as a day of deep spiritual reflection, compassion, and peace. In 1999, the United Nations declared Vesak an official international observance.                                                                          | Social Media                                                   |
| 16 June (Varies) | Hijri New Year (Islamic New Year)   | Muslim: Marks the first day of the first month ( <i>Muharram</i> ) in the Islamic lunar calendar. Because the Islamic calendar is strictly lunar, it contains 354 or 355 days, making the New Year fall 10 to 12 days earlier each Gregorian year.                                                                                                                                                                    | Social Media                                                   |
| 25 August        | Mawlid                              | Muslim: the annual observance commemorating the birthday of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Social Media                                                   |
| 4 September      | Janmashtami                         | Hindu: Celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna, the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Social Media                                                   |

| Date                | Event                         | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mark         |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| September / October | Rosh Hashanah                 | Jewish: Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year, observed on the first and second days of the Hebrew month of Tishrei                                                                                                                             | Social Media |
| September / October | Navaratri                     | Hindu: Celebrated over nine nights to honour the divine feminine power embodied by the goddess Durga and her various forms.                                                                                                                    | Social Media |
| September / October | Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) | Jewish: The holiest and most solemn day in the Jewish religious calendar. It is devoted to repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation with God and others,                                                                                    | Social Media |
| October / November  | Guru Nanak Gurpurab           | Sikh: Commemorating the birth of <b>Guru Nanak</b> , the first of the ten Sikh Gurus. It celebrates his teachings of equality, compassion, and devotion to one God, which form the foundation of the Sikh faith.                               | Social Media |
| October / November  | Diwali                        | Hindu: Festival symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. Observed by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists, it is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in South Asia and across the global Indian diaspora | Social Media |
| 25 December         | Christmas Day                 | Christian: Civic celebrations and decorations                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Social Media |
| December            | Hanukkah                      | Commemorates the rededication of the Jewish: Second Temple in Jerusalem in 164 BCE after its desecration by the Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes.                                                                                          | Social Media |

#### 4. Education

| Date        | Event                        | Notes                                    | Mark                    |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 15 February | National Apprenticeship Week | Skills and education focus (date varies) | School Work experience? |
| August      | A Level Results Day          |                                          | Social Media            |

#### 5. Royal & Constitutional Events

| Date        | Event                   | Notes                                                      | Mark         |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| June        | Trooping of the Colour  | Ceremony in June to mark the Sovereign's official birthday | Social Media |
| 21 June     | Prince William Birthday | Born 1982 (50 <sup>th</sup> in 2032)                       | Social Media |
| 14 November | King Charles Birthday   | Born 1948 (80 <sup>th</sup> in 2028)                       | Social Media |

## 6. Community, Charity & Awareness Events

| Date      | Event                        | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mark         |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| March     | International Women's Day    | celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women while advocating for gender equality.                                                                                                                                              | Social Media |
| 22 April  | Earth Day                    | Celebrate Earth's natural environment and promote sustainability                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Social Media |
| May       | Mental Health Awareness Week | promoting mental health awareness and wellbeing. Founded and organized annually by the Mental Health Foundation since 2001, it brings together individuals, workplaces, schools, and communities to foster understanding and reduce stigma around mental health. | Social Media |
| June      | Volunteers' Week             | Recognize and thank the millions of people who contribute their time and skills through volunteering.                                                                                                                                                            | Social Media |
| June      | Pride Month                  | Recognizing the LGBTQ+ community's history, struggles, and achievements.                                                                                                                                                                                         | Social Media |
| September | World Alzheimer's Month      | Aims to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, challenge stigma, and advocate for better support and policies worldwide                                                                                                          | Social Media |
| October   | Black History Month          | Celebrate and recognize the contributions of Black people to British society. It highlights African and Caribbean heritage, culture, and achievements while promoting education on Britain's colonial history and ongoing struggles against racism.              | Social Media |

## 6. Sporting Events

| Date                    | Event                                     | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mark         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                         | Olympics (2028 then every 4 years)        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Flags        |
|                         | Winter Olympics (2030 then every 4 years) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Flags        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> January | Bathtub Race                              | The Poole Bathtub Race is a wacky annual charity event held on New Year's Day (January 1st) at Poole Quay, featuring creative amateur crews racing homemade bathtub vessels in fancy dress while raising money for local causes like the RNLI. | Social Media |
| February                | Six Nations Rugby                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Social Media |
| April                   | World Snooker Championships               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Social Media |
| April                   | The Grand National                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Social Media |
| April                   | London Marathon                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Social Media |
| April                   | The Boat Race                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Social Media |
| May                     | Women's FA Cup                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Flags        |
| June                    | The Championships (Wimbledon)             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Social Media |
| June                    | Royal Ascot                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Social Media |
| June                    | ICC Woman's T20 World Cup                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Social Media |

| Date      | Event                                     | Notes | Mark         |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
|           | Olympics (2028 then every 4 years)        |       | Flags        |
|           | Winter Olympics (2030 then every 4 years) |       | Flags        |
| June      | Henley Royal Regatta                      |       | Social Media |
| July      | British Grand Prix (F1)                   |       | Social Media |
| July      | The Open (Golf)                           |       | Social Media |
| July 2027 | Tour de France (Grand Depart GB)          |       | Social Media |
| July      | Dorset Knob Throwing                      |       | Social Media |
| August    | British MotoGP                            |       | Social Media |
| August    | European Athletics Championships          |       | Social Media |
| August    | Premier League Football                   |       | Social Media |
| August    | England Cricket Test                      |       | Social Media |
| August    | AIG Women's Open (Golf)                   |       | Social Media |
| September | The Great North Run                       |       | Social Media |
| December  | World Darts Championship                  |       | Social Media |

## 2. Quarterly Town Council Newsletter

Members may recall previous discussions regarding opportunities to further improve communication and engagement with Broadstone residents. As part of this work, Cllr Sidway has investigated a number of newsletter platforms and has identified a package that appears to meet the Council's requirements and is available free of charge.

As a starting point, it is suggested that the Town Council considers producing a quarterly electronic newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter would be to provide residents with a concise update on Council activities and decisions, helping to raise awareness of the Council's work and encourage greater community engagement.

A suggested format could include:

- A general update on Town Council business and current projects.
- A short message from the Chairman.
- A **"Get to Know Your Councillors"** feature, with one Councillor each quarter providing a brief introduction about themselves, their background and what motivated them to become a Town Councillor.

Particular care would be required to ensure that the newsletter remains politically neutral, factual and informative, and that the Councillor profile section is not perceived as promoting individual Members or providing an electoral advantage.

At this stage, the purpose of this report is to seek Members' views on whether they wish to develop this proposal further. Should Members be supportive, a draft newsletter template and editorial guidelines could be prepared for consideration at a future meeting.