

Essex Book Festival – briefing for Councillors (info from Louisa Steel, Maldon CVS)

The Council for Voluntary Services CVS are seeking a venue for this and would like it to be in Burnham, ideally on 2nd June as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. As yet they haven't decided on a venue for the event. It would probably need to have a hub of some sort (e.g. the station house maybe?) and the events would take place across the town – possibly in the countryside park, the quayside etc.

The event would be led by the Essex Book Festival (EBF) working with partners, so of course MDC would be involved.

EBF's preferred date is 2nd June 2022 as being a bank holiday it means that families will be able to get involved and it also enables us to apply for funding from the Arts Council Jubilee Fund. It could be seen as part of the town's Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations, although there is no royal theme as such, or it could be that the town do something else on one of the other days that weekend.

An email was sent to Cllr Bell and Cllr Munford as Louisa wasn't sure who best to send the info to. It gives more context as follows:

In Louisa Steel's previous role at Essex Libraries she worked very closely with the Essex Book Festival and was Adviser to the board for 5 years. In her current role at MDCVS she has been looking at the potential for so called "green and blue" social prescribing, which builds on the research which shows the massive impact on health and wellbeing that "green and blue" spaces (countryside and water) can have.

It struck Louisa that this concept may be of interest to the Festival and she is in the early discussions with its Director, Ros Green. To that end, they are hoping to have an Essex Book Festival Day in Burnham during the Queens Platinum Jubilee Festival next June. The focus would be on outdoor, family based activities which would be free of charge. The activities are yet to be decided but are likely to be things such as interactive storytelling, radical walks, art activities, etc.

Louisa has suggested Burnham as the location because so much already happens in Maldon and she felt that there would be lots of support for an event here – she hopes Town Councillor's agree.

At this early stage she needs to agree a date as Ros is in the process of planning a whole month of activities across the county. She is keen to do something on one of the days of the Platinum Jubilee weekend and Louisa was thinking that Thursday 2 June may be best. She wants to make sure that this doesn't clash with anything the town may be planning as part of the jubilee celebrations.

Louisa would appreciate the Town Council's feedback and comments and would like to agree the date with the town council.

Resolution – the Town Council is asked for their support for this initiative and to agree a date for feedback to Louisa Steel and Ros Green