

COUNCIL: 30 MARCH 2023

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT

HRH King Charles III Coronation Celebrations

In partnership with the Welsh Government, UK Government Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS), BBC and the Military, the Council will be celebrating the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend's activities at three distinct events to be held at Cardiff Castle (The Coronation Service & Gun Salute; Right Royal Picnic) and Roald Dahl Plass in Cardiff Bay (The Coronation Concert). These events, together with other community events and street parties taking place across the Bank Holiday weekend, will provide the public with a variety of opportunities to take part in the festivities being held in Cardiff to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and the Queen Consort. All times of the events listed below are to be confirmed until further details are released:

- **The Coronation Service and Gun Salute**
Saturday 6th May 2023 (10am-2pm) – Cardiff Castle
The Coronation Service, processions to and from Westminster Abbey, and balcony moment will be broadcast on a screen in the grounds of Cardiff Castle. This will provide a direct link with the gun salute taking place in the Castle, part of a network of salutes, which will take place across the country as the crown is placed on the King's head. The Castle will remain open to the public throughout.
- **The Coronation Big Lunch**
Sunday 7th May 2023 (8am to 8pm)
The Coronation Big Lunch is being organised by the Big Lunch Team at the Eden Project. The Big Lunch is an idea from the Eden Project, made possible by The National Lottery, which brings millions of people together annually to boost community spirit, reduce loneliness and support charities and good causes. Further details can be found at: [The Big Lunch | Eden Project Communities](#)

Bilingual Coronation Big Lunch digital packs are available to help support people with their own community events and street parties. People are being encouraged to print what they need, however there are hard copy posters and invitations available if required. A map of events is being developed with a sign-up form, which people are being encouraged to complete. Merchandise is also available for those who place their event on the map: [Pop your Big Lunch on the map! | Eden Project Communities](#)

In support of the event, Cardiff Council will be facilitating road closures for Coronation street parties at no charge between 8am and 8pm on Sunday 7th May.

- **Right Royal Picnic**

- **Sunday 7th May 2023 (12pm-4pm) – Cardiff Castle**

- On the afternoon of Sunday 7th May, the public will be invited to dress up, gather family and friends together and join together at Cardiff Castle for a 'Right Royal Picnic' as part of The Coronation Big Lunch. The festivities will include a programme of live music and themed walkabout entertainment, creating a celebratory atmosphere and a focus for people to share food and fun together. Visitors will be encouraged to bring their own picnic or to make use of the catering facilities within the Castle. The event will be free of charge and the Castle will remain open to the public throughout.

- **The Coronation Concert**

- **Sunday 7th May 2023 (7pm-11pm) – Roald Dahl Plass**

- On the evening of Sunday 7th May, we will show the Coronation Concert – broadcast from Windsor Castle – on a big screen in Roald Dahl Plass in Cardiff Bay. The centrepiece of the Coronation Concert, 'Lighting up the Nation', will see the country join in celebration as iconic locations across the UK are animated using projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations. The Council has been in discussions with the BBC over their plans for this event and how best to take advantage of the spectacular light display by providing one co-ordinated event to be held in Cardiff Bay.

- **The Big Help Out**

- **Monday 8th May 2023**

- The Big Help Out will be held on Monday 8th May and aims to encourage people to try volunteering for themselves, join the work being undertaken to support their local areas, and to create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation Weekend. Further details can be found at: www.thebighelpout.org.uk

Coed Caerdydd

As our 2022/23 Coed Caerdydd Planting Programme draws to a close, I'm delighted to report that in excess of 30,000 trees have been planted, with activity taking place in all wards across the city. The contribution from the volunteer workforce has been significant, resulting in the generation of over 1,300 hours worked. In addition, 88 public, 35 community group and 29 school events have been held over the period. Officers will be commencing another round of local ward member consultation in the summer to inform the scoping exercise and detailed plans for the 2023/24 programme.

One Cut Mowing Regimes

The Council has made a commitment to increase the numbers of sites falling under this classification year on year. Such regimes serve to promote biodiversity as well as enhancing the visual amenity and I am delighted to report that this year's proposals have the potential to see an increase in total area terms from 87.7 hectares to 197.7 hectares – an additional 110 hectares. Where appropriate, paths will be cut through the areas to encourage users to walk through them and to observe and enjoy the increased biodiversity. Information signage to help promote awareness, education and engagement will be displayed at each new site. Consultation with local ward members on a site-by-site basis has commenced.

There are approximately 1,500 species of insect pollinators in the UK; however, the decline in insect pollinators, particularly bees, is of significant concern owing to the important role they play. The decline can be linked directly to the loss of quality native grassland and wildflower areas. Long grass and wildflowers provide shelter, foraging, nesting and breeding habitat. Leaving grass to grow long significantly increases the number of wildflowers, which in turn increases the number of bees and other pollinator species, the proposals being implemented will help to address the decline.

Cardiff International BMX Facility

I'm pleased to report the progress being made at Riverside Park with the development of the international BMX facility. The Welsh Government, Welsh Cycling and Sport Wales have grant funded the final development of the scheme, which I anticipate will open in May 2023. Furthermore, British Cycling have assessed the site and have awarded international accreditation. As a consequence, national, European and international events can be hosted in Llanrumney, which I hope will inspire new generations of cyclists from the local community.

A significant amount of interest from local and city-wide children has already been generated with many looking to join the club and take up the sport. The facility will also be designated as a pupil referral centre for children at risk of falling out of education and those requiring additional support needs, with learning opportunities for cycle maintenance and BMX riding course through a BTEC qualification framework. This type of proactive engagement will go a long way to developing our young people and supporting their educational attainment as well as improving levels of physical activity.

Councillor Jennifer Burke
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
24 March 2023