

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Licensing **Date:** 22 February 2011  
**Subject:** Temporary Road Closures – The Royal Wedding  
**Chairman:** Councillor Pat Brooks **Item:**

---

## **Recommendations:**

- (1) That the Council agrees delegated authorities be granted as set out in the report to enable Temporary Road Closures to be made in connection with the celebration of the Royal Wedding; and**
  - (2) That no fee be charged except to cover any necessary expenses**
- 

## **Background**

1. At its meeting on 14 December 2010, the Council received a report from the Licensing Committee asking for delegated authority for officers, where no objections were received, or the Licensing Sub-Committee, in cases where objections were made, to decide whether to agree to a temporary road closure to permit an event such as a fete or street party to take place. It was reported that the fee that it was intended to charge was £150 for a small road or £400 where more consultations were required.
2. The Council resolved:  
  
That the report be referred back to the Licensing Committee for further consideration and at that time officers present a more detailed explanation of the process, costs of the County Council and fees.

## **Royal Wedding**

3. The District has received a number of applications from members of the public requesting it to make road closure orders to allow street parties to be held to celebrate the Royal Wedding. One of these requests had been referred to the District Council by officers from the County Council. Until now County had used their powers. These applications have been referred to County Highways service.
4. Enquiries have been made of the County Council and officers have been informed that the County will be making a policy decision as to how the applications in connection with the Royal Wedding would be administered. There is no timescale for this decision.

## **Road Closures for the Royal Wedding**

5. The process of making a road closure can take time depending upon the type of road. The police, highway authority and fire authority need to be consulted, and if there is a bus route

affected then the bus companies will also need to be consulted. If an objection is received then the Licensing Sub-Committee will be required to make the decision. This could take at least six weeks and many authorities stipulate three months.

6. The Communities and Local Government website contains a guide to holding a street party which provides a simple form for a street closure which it states should be submitted to the District Council. There is therefore an expectation that District Councils will process these applications.
7. There is therefore a concern that if the County Council decides not to make these orders but directs applicants to the District Council that there would be insufficient time to obtain delegated authorities.

### **Process**

8. The fees set out in the previous report to the Council were intended to make the process self financing. The estimated costs of processing the application included the costs of undertaking consultations and the supply of road closure and other signs (returnable) which the County Council may require and making inspections to ensure any conditions were complied with. However, a number of other Councils require the applicants to undertake the consultations and provide any necessary signs themselves. If Epping Forest adopted this approach it would reduce the costs to this Council.
9. It is not intended that this Council should process the road closure applications unless the County Council direct that the Districts do so.
10. It is therefore requested that the Council gives delegated authority to agree road closures for events to be held to celebrate the Royal Wedding:
  - To officers where all information/ consultation is undertaken by the applicant(s) and the responses are satisfactory and no objections have been received or
  - To the Licensing Sub-Committee in all other cases.
11. A full report will be made to the Licensing Sub-Committee as required by the Council's previous decision in respect of other temporary road closures.