



Resident Experience Board

19 November 2015

Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Debrief

Purpose of the report: Scrutiny of Services and Budgets

Magna Carta is of tremendous importance to our residents and visitors - now and in the future - in terms of heritage, education, economic development, tourism and great pride in our county. The purpose of this report is to debrief the Resident Experience Board on the programme of events and activities supported by Surrey County Council to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta in Runnymede. The commemorations included the national anniversary event on 15 June 2015, a dedicated art commission, and a wider event / activities programme. This paper principally reports on the programme and final budgets associated with these three work streams. The Board is asked to note the report.

1.0 Introduction:

- 1.1 The 15th June 2015 marked the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta by King John in Runnymede. This important historic event is a major part of Surrey's heritage, cultural identity and civic pride and was seen as an occasion of national and international prominence and significance - a great opportunity to promote and raise the profile of Surrey.
- 1.2 Surrey County Council supported this scheme because of the tremendous importance of Magna Carta in terms of heritage education, economic development, tourism and civic pride in our county. Through the events in 2015, and the legacy of an enhanced visitor offer, the profile of the area will be improved both nationally and internationally – with continuing benefits for the profile and economy of the area.
- 1.3 Surrey County Council provided strategic leadership to the project and worked closely with a wide range of partners to ensure the appropriate commemoration activities and events were programmed for residents and visitors alike. Partnership collaboration is continuing to ensure a lasting legacy is implemented.
- 1.4 Plans included:-
 - 1.4.1 Commemoration events – including the national anniversary event on 15 June 2015 and an event programme to raise the profile of the area, brought the community together to participate in a variety of cultural, healthy and educational pursuits, and provide an international celebration worthy of the occasion
 - 1.4.2 A Magna Carta art commission - a public artwork 'The Jurors' by artist Hew Locke, to commemorate the 800th anniversary.
 - 1.4.3 A lasting legacy – one of the key ambitions of local stakeholders for the 2015 anniversary was to provide improved visitor facilities and interpretation arrangements at the historically important site in Runnymede with minimal impact on the natural environment.
 - 1.4.4 A detailed breakdown of expenditure and income across the County Council is shown in attached Annexe A.

2.0 15th June 2015: Official national event Foundation of Liberty Runnymede 800 celebration

- 2.1 The organisation and successful delivery of this prestigious event has been widely acknowledged as a major and spectacular triumph for the County Council and it has greatly enhanced the reputation and standing of the council with many important individuals and organisations.
- 2.2 Background:-
 - 2.2.1 With strategic leadership from the County Council and working with partner organisations and stakeholders from across the County, the event needed to ensure that Runnymede was the focus of this important and historical anniversary.

2.2.2 Surrey County Council (SCC) worked in partnership with a variety of organisations, including The National Trust, Runnymede Borough Council and The City of London Corporation to develop the plans for this important event.

2.2.3 Whilst the creative content, programme planning and practical delivery were the responsibility of Surrey (with local partners) a governance structure was established with a strategic board on which the key partners - the national Magna Carta 800th Committee, American Bar Association, Houses of Parliament and City of London were represented.

2.3 The Vision and objectives:-

2.3.1 The vision for the Foundation of Liberty through Magna Carta Runnymede 800 event national commemoration event was:-

To celebrate the contribution of the Magna Carta in the foundation of liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law throughout the world”

2.3.2 The Foundation of Liberty through Magna Carta had 4 key objectives:

- To demonstrate the relevance of the Magna Carta, locally, nationally and internationally.
- To reaffirm the principles of rule of law, fair justice, equality and safety from the abuse of governmental or judicial power.
- To promote the vital importance of individual rights and acknowledge the role of Parliament in promoting these rights.
- To acknowledge the impact of Magna Carta on constitutional and democratic development since 1215.

2.4 The Event:-

2.4.1 The 15 June 2015 Foundation of Liberty 800 celebration on Runnymede Meadows was a State Occasion held in the presence of HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, HRH The Princess Royal and Vice Admiral Timothy Lawrence. An invited audience of around 3,000 guests, representing local, national and international stakeholders witnessed a contemporary event which ran from 7am until 3pm full of music, drama and action that remembered the past and acknowledged the future.

2.4.2 A small core team of Surrey County Council Officers who, working in partnership with the National Trust and with professional contractors and artists, took responsibility for the key areas of delivery: concept and event content, guest list, invitations, vetting and ticketing, infrastructure build, transportation, production and direction.

2.5 The Programme:-

2.5.1 The formal / official ceremony comprised:-

- Dedication of the Magna Carta Art Commission
- Short programme of orchestral and choral work
- Civic introductions to HRH and others
- Speeches by key national leaders
- Unveiling of a commemorative plaque by HRH for permanent installation on the site

2.5.2 Other elements of the programme included:-

- 150 young people from Surrey Arts led the procession of the Parliamentary Flags project and delivered an extract performance of the Freedom Games concert from the Royal Albert Hall
- A performance of the 799 Magna Carta anniversary event Giant Puppets
- Freestyle music programme and screen broadcasts
- Music programme
- ABA memorial rededication
- A reprise of the Freestyle music programme and screen broadcasts after the official event closed

2.5.3 Throughout the morning, creatively integrated with the screening of specially made and assembled films and videos on wide range of aspects of Magna Carta and the Runnymede site, there were musical celebrations by a range of musicians and groups. Music for the formal proceedings was led by the London Philharmonic Orchestra supported by the Temple Church Choir, and a choir of 30 students from nearby Royal Holloway, University of London, Surrey Arts performed an excerpt from their opera The Freedom Game.

2.5.4 A highlight of the musical programme was an especially composed anthem by John Rutter was performed as Her Majesty The Queen arrived at Runnymede.

2.5.5 A specially commissioned dedication written by Owen Sheers was performed as part of the dedication of the especially commissioned artwork ' The Jurors' by Hew Locke.

2.5.6 There was a sequence of American music that accompanied the rededication of the ABA memorial.

2.5.7 The event passed off without security or technical incident.

2.6 Event Planning:-

2.6.1 The challenges were significant:

- To transform a meadow into a world class arena, suitable for hosting such a prestigious event that would not only be attended by members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury, but also be broadcast across the world.
- Ensuring that throughout the build and breakdown of the infrastructure and the arena all the required licences, permissions, health and safety rules and regulations were documented, monitored and adhered to.
- Co-ordinate all the requirements for the event pertaining to the emergency and security services, highways, contractors and logistics through the formation, chairing and administration of the MC800 delivery board.
- Generate a guest list that represented a wide cross section of British and international society to witness the celebration. Adapt an existing ticketing site into a secure invitation process that enabled the gathering of personal information necessary for the vetting of guests, performers, volunteers and staff by Surrey Police.

- Develop a transport and traffic management plan capable of ensuring that volunteers, performers staff and guests were able to access the meadow during the morning rush hour using a variety of transport options (car, coach and train).
- Coordinate the delivery of the musical and artistic content into an overall programme of events, ensuring that the various mediums dovetailed into a seamless performance within a strict timetable.

2.7 Event facts and figures:-

- 2.7.1 The event site was surrounded by over 2 miles of security fencing and had a total of 1.8 miles of track-way laid to protect the meadow during construction and the main event itself.
- 2.7.2 The stage, built to accommodate a full orchestra and choir as well as the Royal Party and various dignitaries, measured 20 meters in width and was 24 meters deep.
- 2.7.3 Over 3,000 guests attended the event.
- 2.7.4 58 Nationalities were represented within the guest list.
- 2.7.5 927 of the guests were from overseas.
- 2.7.6 Over 600 Surrey County Council Councillors, employees and guests of SCC attended the event.
- 2.7.7 Over 250 volunteers supported the event, many working at park and ride locations and Staines rail and bus stations.
- 2.7.8 Over 8,000 invitation emails and reminders were sent out.
- 2.7.9 Over 12,000 emails associated with event enquiries and administration were handled.
- 2.7.10 A fleet of 36 coaches were used to transport volunteers, performers and guests to and from the event site, the majority undertaking multiple journeys. A further 38 coaches were hired by specific groups and required coordination and parking during the event.
- 2.7.11 4,000 people were transported to the event site by 9am.
- 2.7.12 A total of 300 performers were involved in the event, including: 140 children, 85 British military personnel supported the event – 35 Royal Marines (Band), 25 Royal Navy and 25 Coldstream Guards (Route liners). Representatives from the RAF attended to coordinate the fly-past.
- 2.7.13 123 children involved in the Freedom Game production displayed 80 parliamentary flags. 60 of the parliamentary flags were produced specifically for the event.
- 2.7.14 More than 200 people were formally presented to the Royal Party, The Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury, 70 of those presented were local to Surrey.

- 2.7.15 128 gallons of water had to be transported from a single tap at the National Trust Lodges (a quarter of a mile away) to fill the bases for the medieval banners.
- 2.7.16 Over 800 row and seat labels were printed, hole punched and cable tied to seats.
- 2.8 Guests represented the following groups:-
- The Legal profession
 - The American Bar Association
 - Academics
 - Dames and Barons
 - Charter Towns
 - The City of London
 - Ambassadors and High Commissioners
 - Civil Servants
 - Community Representatives
 - Religious Groups
 - Members of Parliament
 - Local Borough and District Councils
 - County Councils
 - The National Trust
 - Local Stakeholders.
- 2.9 The event culminated in a fly-past by the red arrows after which guests enjoyed a picnic lunch on the meadow with the informal musical programme continuing until 2pm.
- 2.10 After contributions of £100,000 from the National Trust, £85,000 from City of London, £15,000 from the American Bar Association and £12,700 from the National Society of the Dames & Barons, the net cost of the event was £580,019.90. A breakdown of expenditure from the event is provided in Annex B.

3.0 Magna Carta Art Commission:- ‘The Jurors’ by Hew Locke (Artist)
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- 3.1 Plans to commemorate the anniversary included providing a lasting legacy of the sealing of the Magna Carta through an iconic commission in the landscape of a British memorial for Magna Carta. A number of possible locations were identified in the Landscape MasterPlan that was commissioned by the National Trust for the long term development of the Runnymede and Ankerwycke estate. The artistic brief required that any structure / installation in this location must address flooding issues.
- 3.2 Surrey County Council (SCC) and the National Trust, as the landowners, formed a selection panel, chaired by the Leader of SCC. Hew Locke was selected from a short-list selection exercise to undertake the art commission to mark the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.
- 3.3 The artist was inspired by the impact of the Magna Carta’s fundamental principles of justice, the basis of common law which has influenced the development of the United States constitution, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and over a third of the world’s legal systems.
- 3.4 The commission was completed in time and within budget - and despite the tight timescale for such an important commission of such social / cultural

significance there was time for a modest local schools / community engagement programme.

- 3.5 The art commission has attracted considerable positive media coverage and The Jurors continue to be very popular with visitors. The NT have 3 or 4 volunteers on site talking about the art work every weekend and during the school holidays.
- 3.6 A mark of its popular appeal is that the visitor footfall has totally worn away all the grass around the chairs and the area has become bare ground. The British Council are running an online English language course from November focussed on Magna Carta so that students pick up some knowledge of MC as well as practice their English. The third and final session looks at the contemporary relevance of Magna Carta and they want to make The Jurors and the Dedication video a focus for this session.
- 3.7 Feedback from local stakeholders and engagement groups has been extremely well received. Although the concept of a contemporary public art installation drew some initial scepticism and concern two sample quotes sum up the success of the installation:-
- 3.7.1 From Mrs Jill Reynolds of the Magna Carta Action Group:-
“The legacy of ‘The Jurors’ is immensely fitting – it is not a static, dead structure to be gazed at and forgotten but rather a dynamic and interactive installation which will encourage thought and debate for years to come. Thank you for working so hard to find something so appropriate to the time and the setting.”
- 3.7.2 A quote from an international visitor (India):-
“I did not think a group of chairs set in the middle of a beautiful Runnymede, would teach me so much about individual freedom, parliamentary democracy and supremacy of law. I am so glad I was able to see this great piece of art.”
- 3.8 A dedicated website, featuring educational materials for teachers/students can be found at <http://artatrunnymede.com/>
- 3.9 The National Trust General Manager for Runnymede has advised they have experienced a most significant increase in car park takings in comparison to last year. Whilst commemorative activities and other incremental factors and the new cafe' offer have contributed to this he has commented that:-
“The Jurors are playing a significant part in this increased use of the site. There have only been a very few times in the day when someone is not sitting on, or photographing the Jurors and they appear are creating more interest than say the Kennedy or ABA Magna Carta memorials which were the previous draws to the site. One of the key benefits is that they have created new opportunities for volunteering and our weekend Art Interpretation Volunteers have been kept very busy to date. So the Jurors are a huge asset and rapidly have become a part of the Runnymede experience.
- 3.10 ‘The Jurors’ is owned by SCC and are on loan do the National Trust via a formal loan agreement.

4.0 World Premier of ‘The Freedom Game’ Magna Carta Concert at the Royal Albert Hall 12th May 2015

- 4.1 'The Freedom Game' was a new community opera commissioned by Surrey Arts (with a grant contribution from Arts Council England), performed for the first time at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday 12 May 2015 by over 1,000 Surrey residents, watched by an audience of over 3,000 people including HRH the Earl and Countess of Wessex.
- 4.2 A very high quality creative team was put in place to deliver the project including Karen Gillingham (Director of the Youth Company at the Royal Opera House), Sir Richard Stilgoe (Libretto) and Hannah Conway (Composer), Tim Murray (Conductor).
- 4.3 The project had a great impact across the County of Surrey, as there were county-wide rehearsals from January onwards involving many hundreds of people (*including 17 schools*) – young and old engaged in exploring the values of freedom and democracy through regular rehearsals in preparation for performance
- 4.4 As well as showing the fantastic wealth of talent we have in Surrey, and providing an exciting opportunity for Surrey's young people and amateur groups, the project provided apprenticeship type opportunities for a number of 'up and coming' young performers, choreographers and backstage crew who are seeking to build a career in the performing arts. The project also broke new ground by including amateur community theatre, dance and choral groups as well as its well established County Youth Orchestra, County Wind Orchestra and County Youth Choir and 4 professional opera singers in the performance.

5.0 Other Magna Carta activities and events
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- 5.1 A comprehensive partnership events programme was delivered to raise the profile of the area, bring the community together to participate in a variety of cultural, healthy and educational pursuits, and provide an international celebration worthy of the occasion.
- 5.2 'Runnymede Explored' Smartphone App
 - 5.2.1 *The app was launched on Tuesday, April 7th 2015 at Runnymede Meadows.*
 - 5.2.2 On behalf of the Magna Carta Partnership (National Trust, Egham Museum, Surrey County Council, Runnymede Pleasure Grounds Trust, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead) Royal Holloway students developed an exciting app, *Runnymede Explored* to help visitors explore the area.
 - 5.2.3 The app follows paths around the site and adds value for visitors to Runnymede Meadows who, for years to come, will be able to get more out of their experience of visiting the meadows. Written by students from Biology, History, Drama, Creative Writing and Geography, the app unlocks the fascinating story of the world importance of Magna Carta and Runnymede and offers the options of seven trails to follow, all based around the historic site, along with a field guide to over 100 species that make their home in the ponds, grasslands and woods.
 - 5.2.4 Each trail page offers visitors an image or sound clip and around 100-150 words of information, in a tone and style which is warm, informal, and engaging. Users can switch between topics of interest e.g. moving from the history of the Kennedy Memorial to a note about the political importance of

that memorial or the swamp oaks deliberately planted at the site to provide deep red autumn foliage.

5.2.5 Royal Holloway University have a refreshment schedule in place to review and update the information provided to ensure it is current and accurate.

5.3 Runnymede 800 Magna Carta Garden at Chelsea Flower Show

5.3.1 Supported by Surrey County Council, Runnymede Hotel and Kier PLC the garden designed on the theme of Magna Carta by previous Chelsea medal winners Janet Honour and Patricia Thirion (partners in A Touch of France Garden Design Company) won a Bronze in the Artisan Garden category.

5.3.2 Chelsea Flower show is attended by 161,000 visitors each year. The garden was prominently featured in the extensive national and international media coverage of Chelsea.

5.3.3 The formal layout was evocative of the gardens of the medieval period - involving a wattle arbour over a turf bench provided support for climbing plants; wattle obelisks, raised beds and a fountain – other typical garden features – and with heraldic pennants and other artefacts adding to the Magna Carta setting. The garden's symmetry also symbolised the new law and order of the time.

5.3.4 The garden is now installed in the grounds of the Runnymede on Thames Hotel where it is maintained by the hotel - and Surrey residents can visit and enjoy.

5.4 Great Charter Festival - held at Royal Holloway - Sunday 14th June 2015

5.4.1 The vision for this event was to create a Festival to creatively and critically explore Magna Carta, its history and legacy.... to entertain, surprise and delight the festival's audience...to inspire curiosity and enable learning....and to illuminate and explore the theme through critical inquiry, debate, play and other forms of active engagement. The chief aim was to help people connect with the importance of Magna Carta today rather than seeing the charter only as a historical event.

5.4.2 With a programme including music art and drama, exhibitions, family activities and debate and evening lectures etc it appealed to a wide-ranging demographic.

5.4.3 Surrey Arts helped arrange the large number of performers and artists taking part at the festival (e.g. 120 people performing in the Magna Carta Giants performance, 150 in the Youth Arts Platform, 60 DAiSY (Disability arts) performers and 120 in the Freedom Game Opera) and most will have been supported by friends and family.

5.4.4 The festival attracted an estimated 5,000 visitors (against a target of 2,000)... and initial discussions have been held with RHUL with a view to developing this into a regular feature of the Surrey cultural calendar.

5.5 Banner Project co-ordinated by Egham Museum Summer 2015

5.5.1 Egham Museum with representatives of Windsor and Staines Museums planned a series of banners to convey the Magna Carta story, with the King's side of the story being conveyed in Windsor, the Barons' arguments in Staines and a mixture of the two plus additional sectional interests explained and explored in Egham, giving visitors to one town a reason to go on to the others to see more of the story.

5.5.2 The project implemented:-

- 10 lamp post banners for Egham High Street and 2 hanging banners for St. John's in Egham
- 6 pull up banners to split between Egham Library, Virginia Water Library and a venue in Englefield Green
- 11 banners to be printed as decals to go on the inside of empty shop windows in Egham High Street
- 8 large hanging banners installed in the Elmsleigh shopping centre; double-sided to hang outwards in the atrium

5.5.3 For Staines, the project was funding using Cllr. Saliagopoulous's members contribution. Surrey County contributed the shortfall to fund the banner display in Staines, Virginia Water and Englefield Green.

5.6 Magna Carta events at Guildford Cathedral in partnership with Surrey County Council June - August 2015

5.6.1 Display of Salisbury Cathedral's Magna Carta facsimile and seal... and touring of Salisbury's contemporary art installation projects on Magna Carta.

5.6.2 Display of the Surrey Heritage 'Surrey and the Magna Carta' exhibition display and a set of the magna carta site banners from the 15 June event were also loaned.

5.6.3 Guildford Cathedral also acquired 6 hanging banners from the Egham Museum Banner project for the nave and one pull up banner for their treasury.

5.6.4 In addition there was a programme of summer activities Magna Carta Family Fun Day / art workshops - display of the Magna Carta Quilts ...and a programme of eight public lectures.

5.7 Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum (SMEF) Event (staged at Guildford Cathedral) 6th- 12th June 2015

5.7.1 An important objective was that all Surrey communities should engage with Magna Carta 800. SMEF proposed a project that engaged with ethnic minority communities via a workshop to discuss ideas for producing an image for the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. Participants - young and old - from diverse ethnic backgrounds; African, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Greek Cypriot, Indian, Nepali, Pakistani, Portuguese and White British made up the group.

5.7.2 Through workshop discussions on what freedom means to each one of us participants chose symbols that resonated with their idea of freedom, liberty and democracy. An artist then worked with the group on the composition of all these symbols into a drawing which became a 7ft square mosaic that was then produced at Guildford Cathedral on Wednesday 10th June. While the group worked on the image visitors to the Cathedral watched on with great

interest many commented positively on opening the sacred space of the cathedral for the use of community groups. After five hours the image came together to rapturous applause from the participants and onlookers.

5.7.3 The project directly involved 50 volunteers and engaged SMEF's 53 member groups reaching out to over 200 people of different ethnicities.

5.7.4 Evaluation indicates that the following was achieved:-

- 100% of the participants agreed that taking part in the activity helped them to integrate with the larger community.
- 100% of the participants agreed that taking part in the activity increased their sense of belonging and pride.
- Verbal feedback from visitors to the Cathedral indicated that the art work helped raise awareness on the historical significance of the Magna Carta.

5.8 David Starkey Lecture @ Guildford cathedral
22nd April 2015

5.8.1 The Library Service successfully booked a lecture by David Starkey. The event, staged in partnership with Guildford Cathedral, was used as the pre launch event for the historian's new book *Magna Carta: The true story behind the charter.....* and was a sell out event (640 seats). People came from as far away as north London, Colchester and Poole.

5.9 Englefield Green Village Fair

5.9.1 In recognition of the local traffic disruption that residents would inevitably experience due to the road closures required to stage the 15 June event SCC made a contribution to Englefield Green Village Fair on 20th June, towards the costs of a medieval combat society doing a historical re-enactment event to reflect their own 2015 Magna Carta theme.

5.10 Surrey Heritage 6 Panel Pop up Exhibition (w/ Lincoln Facsimile)

5.10.1 Surrey Heritage developed a 6 panel pull up exhibition on telling the story of Surrey and the Magna Carta. Several sets were commissioned and these have toured all Surrey Libraries and been used at many other meetings and exhibitions.

5.11 ABA Magna Carta touring exhibition
Woking Library: 16 June - 26 June 2015
Addlestone Civic Centre: 29 June - 10th July 2015

5.11.1 An exhibition on Magna Carta developed by the American Bar Association was offered as a touring exhibition after it had been used at a conference in London and was displayed in Woking library for two weeks - where it was seen by an estimated 25,000 people using the library.

5.12 15th June 2014 '1 year to go event'

5.12.1 On 15th June Surrey Arts - in association with the National Trust staged an event on Runnymede Meadows to mark the 799th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta - and to raise awareness to the 800th anniversary.

5.12.2 The event was devised around eight large scale animated / performance puppets - each representing a character important to and representing rights

and liberties in each of the eight centuries that have elapsed since 1215 .. ranging from Robert Fitzwalter (Leader of the Barons 1215) to Wat Tyler (Leader of Peasants revolt 1381) to Emmeline Pankhurst (Suffragette leader 1903 onwards) to Malala Yousafzai. The Giants and school children paraded through Runnymede meadow, with a performance (live music and dance) at the Magna Carta memorial, followed by a community picnic.

5.13 Other activities and minor costs:-

- 5.13.1 Purchase of a fully illustrated Magna Carta Chronicle timeline exhibition (8 metres in length) for permanent display at Egham Library
- 5.13.2 SCC contributed to the practical costs of arranging the Magna Carta 800 Committee national stakeholder visit and meeting at Runnymede on 17th June 2014 (jointly co-hosted by Royal Holloway University London).
- 5.13.3 Partnership branding development of the 'Festival of Liberty logo'
- 5.13.4 Partnership coordination and exhibition of the Magna Carta Womens Touring Exhibition by Tracy Satchwill: a playful collage that captures the journey of British women over the last 800 years since the signing of the Magna Carta. The 4-piece panel highlights some of the notable women and men that have had an influence on British women and their long and arduous journey towards individual rights and freedoms.
- 5.13.5 The Community Learning and Skills service held a Magna Carta themed Lace Work exhibition.

6.0 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Legacy Bid

- 6.1 At its meeting in March 2015 the Heritage Lottery Fund decided not to award a grant on that occasion for the Magna Carta Surrey Partnership Magna Carta 'Legacy' bid of £4.3million; however the partners - principally led by the National Trust - have been invited to resubmit the application.
- 6.2 Despite the unsuccessful earlier bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund the National Trust undertook more localised site improvements at Runnymede (the improvement of the Tea Rooms, footpath and access improvements / visitor interpretation and site notice boards / countryside management and landscape conservation works etc) part of plans for the 2015 season.
- 6.3 The Magna Carta Surrey Partnership is still committed to long-term plans to improve aspects of the visitor offer at Runnymede and the development of Facilities and to ensure that the importance and relevance to Magna Carta is fully understood. The National Trust has worked closely with HLF to understand why the previous bid was not successful.
- 6.4 As part of a shared ambition to develop the site and Runnymede and improve the visitor experience SCC supported the National Trust in the preparation of a Landscape MasterPlan (partly required to identify possible suitable locations for the siting of the art commission). The NT remains fully committed to a Legacy for Runnymede and a more modest scale bid (not exceeding £2 million) is currently being discussed. This bid would purely focus on Access (paths, ferries and improved links to local population), Accessibility (DDA) and Interpretation (of the whole history, rather than the events on or around a single day).

7.0 A308 Highway Improvements

- 7.1 The busy A308 road divides the ancient meadows from the river Thames and feedback from residents at early public meetings commented on this pedestrian-vehicular conflict as a hazard that was an issue for local residents using the site and as something that would be even more critical for 2015 when many more visitors could be expected to visit because of the raised profile of the anniversary year.
- 7.2 Surrey County Council Highways along with the National Trust and Brunel University London have worked in partnership to improve the safety at the busy stretch of road and a number of much needed improvements were completed prior to the anniversary celebrations, these being:-
- Reduction of speed limit to 40mph
 - New signalised pedestrian crossing near the National Trust tea rooms.
 - New site identification gateway features, signing and road markings.
 - New pedestrian island near the junction with Yardmead.
 - 3 new traffic islands through the series of bends (including 2 new pedestrian islands).
 - Upgrades to the 2 existing traffic islands near the National Trust car parks (including installation of dropped kerbs/tactile paving and refurbishment of lamp columns).

7.0 Magna Carta Volunteering

- 7.1 Promoting opportunities for volunteering was an important objective. The Surrey Ambassadors are administrated by SCC and are a strong local volunteer force of Surrey residents, originally assembled in advance of the 2012 Olympics; they continue to provide much needed assistance with community events and they have directly assisted in the stewarding of the Smartphone app launch, Royal Albert Hall 'The Freedom Games' RAH Community Concert, Chelsea Flower Show, and Magna Carta 799 event, Magna Carta River Relay & Pageant, Runnymede 800 15th June 2015 event, Great Charter Festival and the Magna Carta Day (Egham).
- 7.2 National Trust Volunteers and Rangers assist with the maintenance of the Runnymede site, event coordination, site walking tours and stewarding of the Magna Carta exhibitions - and The Jurors - at weekends. Elsewhere other volunteers have been hugely supportive of a wide range of events and activities organised by other partners / stakeholders as part of their Magna Carta programmes.

8.0 Public Engagement and Consultation

- 8.1 In addition to briefings, seminars and reports and attendance at meetings of Cabinet, Select Committee and Local Committees (Runnymede and Spelthorne) Surrey County Council and key partners arranged and attended a number of public meetings with residents and stakeholders prior to and throughout the programme lifetime; including a regular series of local stakeholder / public meetings including briefing meetings with Runnymede Business Partnership and Egham Chamber of Commerce.

- 8.2 SCC officers and Helyn Clack regularly attended the monthly meetings of the Magna Carta 800 Committee, attended briefing meeting with Philip Hammond MP, and there was a briefing to the Speaker's committee responsible for the coordinating the Houses of Parliament festival activity.
- 8.3 Helyn Clack did presentations on the Surrey Magna Carta programme at the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in February 2015 - and also at the LGA Conference in Harrogate in June 2015.
- 8.4 The Magna Carta anniversary featured in the Visit Surrey 2015 Guide book (and all events were listed on its website) ...and Lady Cobham (Chair of Visit England) visited Runnymede in November to be briefed on local activity to celebrate Magna Carta 800.
- 8.5 In addition there was a public education / education programme in connection with The Jurors art commission.
- 8.6 Surrey County Council has established good working relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders and partners - both locally and nationally... and many of these will stand the reputation of the organisation in good stead for the future.

9.0 Conclusion

- 9.1 The 800th Anniversary commemoration programme was a great success, has showcased Surrey to the world and established and consolidated a number of excellent partnership relationships.

10 Recommendations

The Board are asked to note the report.

11 Next steps:

- Continue dialogue with key partners for the continued development and improvement of Runnymede, and to explore opportunities to maintain the profile and public interest in Magna Carta on an ongoing basis.
- Support the National Trust in a further bid to the HLF – and to finance an audience development manager to assist with the development of the bid.
- Work with RHUL to investigate possibilities for the continuing development of the Great Charter Festival, and other legacy activities in future years.
- Leverage legacy ambitions with key partners in the local area and throughout Surrey.
- Archive key documents / 15th June 2015 video for future reference.
- Continue to pursue the possibility of obtaining a facsimile copy of the 1297 Surrey County Inspeximus issue of Magna Carta, held by the Australian Parliament.

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Sources/background papers: [List of all documents used in compiling the report, for example previous reports/minutes, letters, legislation, etc.]

- Great Charter Festival Evaluation Report
- Surrey Minority Ethnic Foundation Evaluation Report

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