Andover Town Council

Item No.
9

To: Community and Events **From:** Cllr K Bird **Date of Report:** 29 July 2026

Purpose of the Report

To report back to Members on the progress of the Charter Working Group

1. Event Date

It was noted that St Mary's Church is unavailable on 10 April 2027. The Working Group agreed to propose moving the event to **17 April 2027**, subject to staff availability, as it is important that St Mary's Church is involved in the celebrations.

2. Commemorative Marker

The Working Group discussed how Charter celebrations are most commonly marked by an event rather than a permanent object. However, it was agreed that, as this will be the first Charter celebration and commemorates the designation of the Common Acre as belonging to Andover, it would be appropriate to install a small stone marker with a commemorative plaque.

Action:

- Cllr E Reynolds to investigate costs and pricing for a suitable marker and plaque.

3. Historical Content

It was agreed that the event should have a strong connection to the history of Andover. The Working Group felt it would be beneficial to involve Andover Museum and explore whether they could provide a historical activity or exhibition as part of the celebrations.

Action:

- Cllr K Bird to contact the museum regarding potential involvement.

The Working Group also discussed the original Charter documentation and whether any original records still exist. This should be investigated to support the historical interpretation of the event.

Action:

- S. Hardstaff and Cllr K Bird to research the original Charter documentation.

4. Procession

The Working Group would like to organise a procession beginning along Bridge Street, travelling through the town centre and finishing at the Common Acre. Schools, community groups and local

organisations would be invited to participate, with the suggestion that different groups represent different periods of Andover's history.

To support school participation, it was recognised that an educational resource pack would need to be developed, demonstrating how the project aligns with the National Curriculum.

5. Activities and Attractions

The Working Group discussed holding stalls and themed attractions within Vigo Park and the Common Acre. Suggestions included inviting Three Bees or a similar organisation to provide historical livestock displays, alongside other stalls reflecting the historical theme of the celebration.

As the Common Acre was historically used for archery practice, the Working Group agreed that Andover Archery Club should be approached to see if they could provide a demonstration.

The requirement for a stage and public address (PA) system was considered. It was agreed that a stage would not be necessary, although a PA system may still be required and should be considered during the event planning process.

6. Next Meeting

Date: 25 August
Time: 5.00 pm
Venue: Incuhive

Recommendation

- To receive and note the report.