

PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2019

EVENT 2020 – DENMARK STREET BIG BAND

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To agree whether the Town Council will promote a concert by the Denmark Street Big Band in 2020.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Town Council has been approached by the [Denmark Street Big Band](#) who are interested in performing in Abergavenny. The Denmark Street (concert) Big Band based in London's West End is an established international professional 17- piece swing and jazz orchestra plus professional international performers.

2.2 The Denmark Street Big Band has for a number of years performed in locations outside London including a number a venues in Wales. Their Reaching Community events are funded by various public organisations providing bespoke events and comes with no cost to any community wishing to apply.

2.3 In their words “These unique events provide a fantastic musical platform for Abergavenny and the surrounding communities and performed by one of counties finest swing and jazz orchestra's, coming direct from London's West End.”

3. PROPOSAL

3.1 The Band is keen to work with a school and provide a workshop for music students with the opportunity for a number of individuals to take part in the performance. They would also be keen to involve a Male Voice Choir.

3.2 Although they state that it's free of charge that is not strictly accurate. The host town would provide the venue, professional technician and required lighting and sound, grand piano, dressing room and refreshments. If the performance requires an overnight stay then the host town would be asked to cover these costs.

3.3 In discussions with the band, they have said that in other school venues the ticket sales have been split 50/50 with the Band and the School to cover the band's expenses.

3.4 This proposal has been discussed with the Borough Theatre Manager who interestingly has also approached by the Denmark St Band as was MCC Events Manager. He advised to be cautious as regards the final cost of such an event.

3.5 There is no set date, the Band anticipate that it will take about 3 months for them to secure the funding once the host town expresses an interest. The details of the funding sources are not clear but the Band take care of this aspect.

3.6 It is understood that the host can request the style of concert ie Glen Miller, Abba, Songs from the West End, Frank Sinatra etc. Therefore, this provides an opportunity to link in with other events taking place in the town such as VE75, Arts Festival etc.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

4.1 If the Town Council is interested in exploring this further, then the next step should be a meeting with the Head of Music at KHS as soon as possible. If there is interest from the school then it is advised that an in principle yes is given to the Band subject to final costs and dates are considered.

4.2 It would be preferable to have a couple of interested town councillors working on this event with the Town Clerk so volunteers are sought.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 To agree whether to pursue this proposal