

Report
The Chair and Chief Executive attending the
69th Anniversary of the Raid on Dieppe Commemoration
18 and 19 August 2011

History

The Raid on Dieppe, known as Operation Jubilee, took place in 1942, and was an Allied attack on the German occupied port of Dieppe. The attack was launched from several English coastal towns including Newhaven. The Raid on Dieppe resulted in casualties to the Royal Air Force, the Royal Navy and heavy losses incurred to Allied troops with many Canadians killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

The Raid on Dieppe can be seen as a prelude to D-Day two years later. Every Year Newhaven pays tribute to the soldiers that fought, and to those that lost their lives during the Raid on Dieppe.

Newhaven was both an embarkation port and the main reception for the wounded.

In 1977 Newhaven was chosen by the Royal Canadian Engineers as the home of the Dieppe Memorial. Since then parades and commemorative services have been arranged. The Mayor of Dieppe and representatives are invited to Newhaven to participate in the commemorations.

In Dieppe the commemoration takes place over two days the 18th and 19th of August. An evening ceremony is held on the 18th August at the cemetery in Vertus. On the 19th August (the date of the Raid) further ceremonies take place with visits to monuments located in and around Dieppe.

British Civic Dignitaries and support staff are invited by the Mayor of Dieppe to attend the commemorations in France. The main purpose is to pay tribute and to recognize the sacrifices made during WWII, with several wreath laying ceremonies taking place. The commemoration this year was attended by the High Sheriff of East Sussex, Kathy Gore, the Chairman of East Sussex County Council, Chris Dowling, the Chair of Lewes District Council, Councillor Eileen Russell, The Mayor of Newhaven, Councillor Steve Saunders and the Mayor of Brighton, Ann Meadows. Councillor Eileen Russell was accompanied by the Chief Executive Jenny Rowlands.

Attendance in relation to PI and Role Profile

The National Association of Civic Officers (NACO) classifies commemorative events under the category of Council/Statutory/Tradition, which scores as 3 (1 low-5 high).

NACO recommend that the Civic Office aim for engagements that score 3 or above.

The Role Profile for the Chair states that the Chair shall continue to attend Remembrance services because they are recognition of individual sacrifice.

Combining the role of the Chair with the Council's priorities

There are many different types of engagements that the Chair can attend during the term of office. The best quality engagement is the type that contributes to the Council's strategic objectives combined with the Chair's role and specific theme.

The English delegation was invited to a Breakfast Reception, 19 August 2011, by the Mayor of Dieppe/Vice President of Seine Maritime, Sebastien Jumel. This is the first time a Breakfast Reception has been included in the programme.

Members of the administration including Hugues Falaize (equivalent of the Leader of the Council) were present. In a speech, the Mayor of Dieppe stated that the historical links between Newhaven and Dieppe were important but of equal importance was the cooperation between the two towns and the need to work together, in the present and future. A meeting is scheduled to take place between French and English political leaders in Lewes/Newhaven in October 2011. The meeting is being organised by office of MP Norman Baker.

The Breakfast Reception was an opportunity for the Chief Executive, Jenny Rowlands to be introduced to the Dieppe administration on an informal basis.

Outcome

The Chair, Councillor Eileen Russell, fulfilled the role as Civic Head, by attending the Raid on Dieppe Commemoration in France. As the role of the Chair of Lewes District Council is apolitical, it was important that the Chief Executive formed part of the delegation. Opportunities arose for informal discussions, as the French conduct business both inside and outside the office.

Dieppe and Newhaven are interdependent. The Raid on Dieppe Commemoration is an opportunity for Newhaven and Dieppe to remember a shared history and to strengthen the current and future relationship between Newhaven and Dieppe to benefit both towns.



Appendix 1 Expenditure

Expenses	Chair's/Civic budget
Lunches/dinner/ tea for 4 people	£186.55
Ferry to and from France and taxis 4 people	£172.40
Total expenditure	£358.95
Expenditure/head	£89.75

4 people = Chief Executive, Chair of LDC, Partner of Chair, Civic Officer

Please note that over night stay/hotel and transport to and from the different sites whilst in France was courtesy of the Town Hall in Dieppe.