

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

CIVIC HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

29 September 2021

Report by Deputy Chief Executive

REQUEST FOR CIVIC HOSPITALITY  
50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CLARKSTON DISASTER

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To consider the provision of civic hospitality to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clarkston disaster in 1971.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the committee considers the request referred to in this report and the accompanying Appendix.

**BACKGROUND**

3. On 26 June 2013 the Council agreed to establish a Civic Hospitality Committee with the following terms of reference:-

To be responsible for all civic hospitality matters on behalf of the Council including the:-

- consideration and determination of all requests for the provision of civic hospitality by the Council with an estimated cost of over £400;
- consideration and determination of any proposed new Council events to be funded from the civic hospitality budget; and
- consideration and approval of all protocols and procedures associated with civic hospitality.

**REPORT**

4. A request for civic hospitality has been received which requires to be considered by the Committee in view of the estimated cost of the proposal exceeding £400. Details of the request and related proposals are set out in the remainder of this report and Appendix 1.

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CLARKSTON DISASTER**

5. A proposal has been received about arranging a commemorative event to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clarkston Disaster which occurred on 21 October 1971, when tragically 22 people lost their life and many others were left injured. The Council previously marked the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2011.

6. Through discussions with representatives of Clarkston Community Council and others, a proposal has been developed to arrange a short Act of Remembrance beside Clarkston Hall on the afternoon of 21 October this year to which a number of people would be invited, including some members of the families most directly affected by the explosion that happened in 1971, representatives of the emergency services which provided support then and others. Further details are provided in Appendix 1. To complement what is arranged, and as part of the Act of Remembrance itself, it is intended to hold a Minutes Silence at 2.50pm to mark the time the tragedy occurred, and various churches in the local area will be open for private prayer and reflection for several hours that day.

## **BUDGET**

7. The 2021/22 budget for civic hospitality is £11,300. As well as being used to fund events organised in response to external requests for civic hospitality, the decision was taken previously that those annual events organised by the Council such as the Holocaust event and Remembrance, are to be funded from this budget. Examples of other things also funded from this budget are the costs of attendance at various charity events on approval of requests such as fundraising dinners; the costs associated with school debates; and the purchase of flowers for those known to be celebrating a special wedding anniversary or birthday (e.g. 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, diamond wedding anniversary etc.).

8. When the committed costs for various events and estimated costs of others that are expected to take place this financial year are taken into account, the amount of funding that remains at present in the 2021/22 budget to deal with new requests for civic hospitality such as this one is currently estimated to be £5,385.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

9. It is recommended that the Committee considers the request referred to in this report and the accompanying Appendix.

Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

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Background Papers – Correspondence relating to the request for civic hospitality

**REQUEST MADE FOR CIVIC HOSPITALITY****ACT OF REMEMBRANCE TO MARK THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE CLARKSTON DISASTER****UNALLOCATED 2021/22 BUDGET BALANCE AT 23 SEPTEMBER 2021 - £5,385**

Details of Group making request for civic hospitality	In response to discussions with Clarkston Community Council and others, it is proposed that civic hospitality is provided to arrange an Act of Remembrance on 21 October 2021 to mark the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clarkson Disaster in 1971.
Why the request is being made	In 1971 tragically 22 people lost their life and many others were left injured following a gas explosion in Clarkston. It is considered important to mark the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this event, the 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary having also been marked in 2011.
When would the event be held	Afternoon of 21 October 2021.
Details of any specific hospitality requested	A short Act of Remembrance for a range of invited guests, following which tea and coffee would be offered to those invited to attend the commemorative event. Approximately 45 people are expected to attend in total.
Where would the event be held	The Act of Remembrance would take place beside Clarkston Hall in the vicinity of a commemorative tree that was planted and a related plaque which mark the tragedy. Tea and coffee would subsequently be offered in Clarkston Hall.
Who would be invited to participate	Representatives of families affected by the tragedy, Clarkston Churches Together, Williamwood High School and Clarkston Community Council.
Other Guests	Local MP/MSPs; Chief Executive; and representatives of the emergency services and local business.

Which elected Members would be invited	In addition to the Deputy Provost, the Leader of the Council and all Elected Members from the Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood Ward.
What catering would be appropriate	Tea and coffee for approximately 45 in total.
Would a gift be required	No, but the Deputy Provost will lay flowers as part of the commemoration.
Approximate cost of event	Approximately £730 for the hire of Clarkston Hall, a piper, tea and coffee, flowers and barriers to ensure the safety of those attending.