**20 July 2022**

**Festival Sites in Leamington and Warwick**

Taking place every day over the course of the Commonwealth Games from Thursday 28 July – Monday 8 August, there will be two festival sites in Warwick District: one in the Pump Room Gardens in Royal Leamington Spa and another in Market Square in Warwick where you can visit any time between 10am to 10pm and enjoy live streaming of the Games on the big screen, a picnic with friends or just soak up the atmosphere.

Both are completely free to attend and provide the opportunity to catch not just the sporting action from across the West Midlands, but also a selection of locally made films and aminations from local creatives as part of Warwick District’s CultureFest.

At the Pump Room Gardens, the action kicks off with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony on 28 July, with a CultureFest screening from 10am. From 5pm the excitement builds with performances from Interplay Jazz, Steel Drums Band and Bhangra Fit Leamington; the opening ceremony will be screened from 8pm.

Throughout the event there will be family friendly activities taking place in the Pump Room Gardens including arts and crafts, Bowls, yoga, and volleyball. Food and drink concessions will be available on site with a designated picnic area allowing you to pitch up and watch the sporting competitions.

Cllr Liam Bartlett, Warwick District Council Portfolio Holder for Economy and Culture, said:

“If you’ve not been able to secure tickets, this is the perfect opportunity to experience the atmosphere and big moments from the Games. There’s something for everyone across the 12 days, from having a go at bowls and other Commonwealth Games sports, to taking part in arts and crafts activities or simply just relaxing in the Pump Room Gardens with a picnic.”

In addition to the festival sites, CultureFest is currently taking place until Sunday 21 August 2022. CultureFest showcases and celebrates the arts and heritage venues, artists, and creatives in the area, with events and activities taking place across Royal Leamington Spa, Warwick, Kenilworth and Whitnash.

CultureFest aims to encourage the people who live, work and visit the area to discover or rediscover world-class venues and artists across the four towns, finding new stories and experiences by young people and emerging talent.

For further information on the festival sites, visit [www.warwickdc.gov.uk/festivalsites](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/festivalsites)

For further information on Warwick DC CultureFest, visit [www.warwickdc.gov.uk/culturefest](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/culturefest).

**Ends**