

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	25 October 2016
Title:	Thame Fairs 2016
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To review the September and October Fairs and consider setting up a working group to review current arrangements now the agreement has expired.

Review

2. The September and October Fairs took place effectively, the partnership with the police, fire service, employed security firm and the diligences of Councillors' ensured the event was monitored successfully.
3. The three year Agreement (Appendix 1) between the Town Council and The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain will expire on 31 October 2016. It is recommended that a working group made up of three Councillors from this Committee review the Agreement in time for negotiations to commence in January 2017.

Road Closure Operations

4. The professionalism of the security firm who worked with businesses, residents and showmen ensured the safety conditions imposed were upheld. The operational procedures were refined to allow the town centre road closure to be delayed until the afternoon of the Wednesday to enable local businesses an additional half day of trade.
5. Thame Lions raised £613 for local good causes, from monitoring the parking on Southern Road Recreational Ground.

Setup

6. The marking out of the emergency lane undertaken on the Monday evening was effective for attraction placement. The Guild organised the pull on of amusements to commence from the agreed time of 6pm. This did cause some issues with larger rides placed in the car parks setting up later in the evening than normal. Otherwise, the regimented times for smaller attraction placement worked well. Advanced negotiation with the Guild steward, plot holder and Fire Officer, regarding the installation on a plot of a BT DSLAM cabinet, assisted with placement of the attraction within an agreed section of the emergency lane. The Guild will be dealing with an internal dispute with an individual member via their internal processes.

Event Monitoring

7. The contracted medical company was on site for the September Fair with no one requiring any medical treatment connected with the fair; however one person was monitored due to being the worse for wear from alcohol consumption.

8. Noise control was undertaken throughout the September Fair by Councillors and Officers, attractions based in the Upper High Street were given a verbal warning by the Chief Steward.
9. As requested by the Committee last year there were no goldfish offered as prizes. It was noted that some stall holders were running a petition for reinstatement.
10. Two verbal complaints were received before the September Fair was in place and a further one received regarding generator fumes at a High Street location. An investigation was undertaken and found to be within the Guild specified guidelines. A further nine verbal complaints were received regarding lack of parking and the event being held in the town centre. A compliment was received from a resident who has lived in the High Street for 11 years, stating how quiet the September fair was when it left, how little rubbish was left and how quickly everything was back to normal. No complaints were received for the October Fair.
11. During the September Fair event footfall was monitored by the Security Firm. Results found that at 20.30hrs on Friday peaked to 3,864 (2,498 in 2015) and on at 19.00hrs on Saturday peaked to 4,256 (3,394 in 2015) event goers within the fair ground.
12. After event monitoring from the September Fair found one car parking post damaged. This has been reported accordingly with Highways, who will recharge the Guild direct for repair costs. Damage to road closure equipment will be recharged to the Guild for replacements.

Risk Assessment

13. A full risk assessment is attached to this report as Appendix 2.

Resource Appraisal

14. The agreement in place imposed a fee of £27,521 to cover all operational charges. An additional charge for late paperwork, damage to damaged road closure equipment and street furniture will be invoiced to the Guild in due course.
15. Extra staffing hours were incurred from Council Officers, the Maintenance Team, Car Park Attendants and employment of ex St Giles Fair Superintendent to ensure effective event operational monitoring requirements.

Net Expenditure: Approx 2016-2017 -£18,665

Legal Powers: Local Government Act 1972, section 145 and section 144

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To note this report.***
- ii) To nominate three Councillors to review the Showmen's Guild Agreement.***