

## Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>23 October 2018</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Thame Fairs 2018</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager</b>

### Purpose of the Report

1. To receive an update on the 2018 September and October Fairs, executed in line with the 2018-20 Agreement.

### Summary

2. The September and October Fairs took place effectively, the partnership with the police, fire service, employed security firm and the diligences of councillors', officers and volunteers ensured the event was monitored efficiently.
3. The President of the Showmen's Guild and Town Mayor officially opened the September Fair at the Waltzer. The London & Home Counties Section Treasurer presented a cheque for the Mayor's Charities.
4. The Community Services Manager will take account of all that follows in detailed planning for the 2019 fairs

### Road Closure Operations / Setup

5. The professionalism of the security firm who worked with businesses, residents and Showmen ensured the safety conditions imposed were upheld.
6. The marking out of the emergency lane on the Tuesday evening was effective for attraction placement and emergency access.
7. Because the car parks were clear, the Guild organised the pull on of larger amusements from 5:15pm, slightly earlier than the agreement time of 6pm. The subsequent regimented times for smaller attraction placement worked well. The Guild have requested that the pull on be permanently allowed earlier, to reduce the length of time spent into the evening / darkness in attraction set-up. This will be considered for next year, perhaps with a 30 minute or 60 minute earlier closure of the car parks, still allowing the full half-days trading on the Wednesday, as reinstated a few years back.
8. One attraction located within the confines of the Upper High Street was delayed from leaving until after 12 noon on Sunday due to manpower issues, but this did not impact traffic or the road closure.
9. Safety concerns have been raised by the maintenance team and street cleaning team as residents ignored the road closure on Sunday morning during final clear-up. Consideration will be given to manning the barriers on Sunday morning.
10. Thame Lions raised £500 for local good causes, from monitoring the parking on Southern Road Recreational Ground (SRRG). Unfortunately, due to the high winds the orange safety fencing

protecting the football pitch was removed and the some ground damage occurred due to vehicle movement. The volunteers also found it difficult to close SRRG at 11.30pm due to the number of vehicles belonging to Showmen still parked on site.

### **Event Monitoring / Complaints / Compliments**

11. The contracted medical company was on site for the September Fair with only two people requiring medical treatment connected with the fair; one feeling unwell from going on a ride and the other a Showman accidentally cutting himself.
12. 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. Due to the wind directions the Fair noise did travel across the town on Thursday and Friday which caused some comments to be made but nothing formal logged at the Town Hall. The records show that there was no significant difference between noise levels recorded in 2016 and 2018. It was however the first year that a Showman complained about the volume of noise inside the fair at the Upper High Street which the Chief Steward dealt with.
13. One written complaint was received before the September Fair was in place and a further one received regarding generator fumes at a High Street location. One other written and 2 verbal complaints was received from a business's regarding the impact on their trading. A further 10 verbal complaints were received regarding lack of parking, fumes and the event being held in the town centre. Two compliments were received from residents about how nice it was to have the fair back. No complaints were received for the October Fair.
14. During the September Fair event footfall was monitored by the Security Firm. Results recorded the peak number of event goers within the fairground on Friday (at 9pm) as 4237 (3457 in 2016) and on Saturday (at 7pm) as 965 (significantly less than 4235 in 2016 - due to the rain).
15. Event monitoring from the September Fair found damage to Christmas lighting due to two tree branches being cut at the Upper High Street Car Park. This has been reported accordingly with Highways and cost for replacement lighting will be recharged to the Guild. Two incidents of accidental damage were resolved directly by the individual Showman.

### **Recommendation:**

#### ***The Committee is asked:***

- i) To note this report.***