

Culture, Leisure & Recreation

Date:	3 December 2013
Title:	Thame Fairs
Purpose of the Report:	To receive a review of the Fairs and consider future agreement requirements for 2014.
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Review

The September and October Fairs took place effectively, the partnership with the police, fire service and the diligence of the security firm employed by the Council ensured the event was monitored successfully.

The Agreement between the Town Council and The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain was extended this year for one year only to monitor the event. It is recommended that the Agreement (Appendix A attachment) which is due to expire on the 31 January 2014 is reviewed by a working group made up of three Councillors from this Committee.

Road Closure Operations

The professionalism of the security firm that worked with the businesses and residents 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 day of trading.

Thame Lions raised £714 for local good causes, doubling the amount raised in 2012, from monitoring the parking on Southern Road Recreation Ground.

Setup

The marking out of emergency lane was delayed to the Wednesday morning due to wet weather but was effective for the placement of attractions. The Guild organised the pull on of amusements within the allocated time set, build up on site worked well with the regimented times for placement. Monitoring found that eight plots had encroached in to the emergency lane, negotiation were undertaken with the Fire Officer, which resulted in agreed compromises for this year only.

The police dealt with the removal of a parked car left in the High Street, as this was preventing a stall holder building up.

Event Monitoring

St. John Ambulance was on site for the September. Over the three day period sixteen people received medical attention. Fourteen patients had minor injuries with a further two patients taken to the JR by ambulance with pre-existing medical conditions.

The security firm played a crucial role in assisting the police by dealing with a public order offence on the Saturday afternoon of the September Fair.

Noise control was undertaken throughout the event by Councillors, various plot holders based in the Upper High Street were given a verbal warning by the Chief Steward.

Thirteen verbal complaints have been received for the September Fair, six regarding bus stop relocations, three about noise and three concerning generator fumes and one complaint regarding an injured child. No complaints were received for the October Fair.

The Council imposed late paperwork fines on six Guild members.

Risk Assessment

An Event Management Risk Assessment is attached to this report as Appendix B.

Resource Appraisal

The agreement put in place in February 2013 imposed a fee of £26,668 to cover all operational charges. An additional charge has been received for late paperwork and damaged road closure equipment will be invoiced to the Guild once quotations have been obtained.

Extra staffing hours were incurred due to the employment of the St Giles Fair Superintendent, who undertook monitoring duties during the set-up, day to day operations and close down. Maintenance Team working hours remained unchanged dealing with road closure requirements and Sunday clear up.

Savings were made with the security personnel charges due to the changes with road closure requirements and change of street cleaning contract.

Net Expenditure: 2013-2014 -£9,479

Legal Powers:

Local Government Act 1972, section 145, power to promote entertainment and the arts.
Local Government Act 1972, section 144

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives: No objectives have been identified

Recommendation:

The Committee is recommended:

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