

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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| Date: | 29 October 2019 |
| Title: | Thame Fairs 2019 |
| Contact Officer: | Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager |

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive an update on the 2019 September and October Fairs, executed in line with the 2018-20 Agreement. The Fair Agreement has one year left to run expiring on 30 October 2020.

Summary

2. The September and October Fairs took place effectively, the partnership with the police, fire service, employed security firm and the diligence of councillors, officers and volunteers ensured the event was monitored efficiently.
3. The Chief Steward of the Showmen's Guild and the Town Mayor officially opened the September Fair at the Waltzer, followed by a walk around the Fair and afternoon tea at the Spread Eagle.
4. The Community Services Manager will take account of all that follows in detailed planning for the 2020 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 with the Thame Fire Station Watch Manager on the Tuesday evening was effective for attraction placement and emergency access.
7. The support of the Thame Neighbourhood Policing Team was paramount at both fairs moving three cars that had blocked the emergency lane. With one car moving off site at the September Fair two minutes before the Fire Engine had a callout.
8. 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. Enabling The Guild to pull on earlier to aid the length of time spent working into the evening / darkness in attraction set-up.
9. The maintenance team and street cleaning team undertook their duties on the Sunday as drivers ignored the road closure on Sunday morning during final clear-up. Consideration will be given to manning the barriers on Sunday morning.
10. This year the community group who monitored the parking on Southern Road Recreational Ground (SRRG) raised £950 significantly more than the £500 raised in 2018 for local good causes.

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The purchase of new directional parking signage to SRRG to aid with the lack of town centre parking was a contributing factor to the increase in donations.

Event Monitoring / Complaints / Compliments

11. The contracted medical company was on site for the September Fair with nine people requiring minor medical treatment connected with the fair; one graze, a wasp sting, a fall, nosebleed, head knocked from getting off a ride, minor eye injury, and a Showman unintentionally scalding themselves. With two other pre-existing medical concerns not related to the Fair dealt with.
12. Noise monitoring was undertaken throughout the September Fair by Councillors, volunteers and Officer. On Thursday night attractions based in the Upper High Street were given a verbal warning by the Chief Steward. The records show that there was no significant difference between noise levels recorded in 2016 and 2019. No formal noise complaints have been received for the September and October Fair.
13. One written complaint was received before the September Fair regarding parking enforcement of cars parking along Wellington Street. An email was received on Thursday evening regarding a safety concern with an attraction and suspected drug dealing. One twitter complaint was received from a business regarding the impact on their trading due to lack of parking for their staff highlighting that the Cattle Market also takes place on the Friday. 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 8pm) as 3749 (4237 at 9pm in 2018) and on Saturday (at 6.30pm) as 2725 (less than 4235 in 2016 and higher than the 702 record in 2018-due to the rain).
15. Security and Community Services Manager reunited three lost children with guardians. Lost property was minimal due to the aid of social media assisting with locating owners of one lost purse and 2 bank cards.
16. The Thame Neighbourhood Policing Team assistance was required to locate a car owner who had blocked the emergency lane completely on the Friday morning which caused issues with deliveries to businesses. The weather was not kind for the October Fair with the attractions closing early on the Friday evening and packing down by 7.30pm on the Saturday evening.
17. The layout of the September and October Fair within the town centre has to be considered if any additional infrastructure is required. Currently, the Maintenance Team remove street furniture, parking signs, traffic bollards, cycle racks, benches and floral standards to accommodate both events.

New Agreement

18. The Town Fairs Working Group will be called on to assist with negotiating the new agreement. Volunteers to join the working group are welcome.

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) ***To note this report.***