

Full Council

Date:	14 July 2020
Title:	Town Fairs
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on current Government Guidelines and open air events with the view of operational requirements for the Town Fairs in September and October 2020.

Background

2. The Town Council is responsible for the organisation and management of the fair on 17, 18 and 19 September and the small charter fair on 9 and 10 October 2020. This includes monitoring the letting of sites by the Guild and dealing with the general safety and emergency arrangements that have to be adhered to during the presence of the fairs in the town.
3. Due to these unprecedented times from the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain, London & Home Counties Section (the Guild) communicated in June to respectfully request that they are involved with decisions to cancel the Town Fairs at an early stage and to wait until phase 3 from the government road map was released on 4 July 2020.
4. The Guild advised that they are working closely with the H&SE and the Amusement Device Safety Council, with a specifically appointed Safety Consultant to devise a safety plan and risk assessment to ensure that fairgrounds can remain compliant with the government guidelines, mindful that these are changing constantly and of course to enable to operate under COVID 19 Protection measures.
5. One of the Guild's major players, who still travels funfairs had been appointed to the Government Task Force to advice phase 3 for implement which was came into force on 4 July.
6. The current government guidelines which allows funfairs to reopen but are expected to follow COVID19 Secure guidelines.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do#gatherings-public-spaces-and-activities>
 However, these guidelines are unclear at this time, on how a street funfair can operate, as unlike the market there is no additional space available to enable social distancing. The Community Services Manager has asked for advice from the Guild for best practice especially as they are advising St Giles Fair.
7. To date the road closure application has been submitted with the date of the 18 July given by Highways Authority to proceed, the cost for the Application will be approximately £875 and we have until beginning of August to consider cancelling the events.
8. In 2017, the Councillor Fair Working Group membership was the Town Clerk, Community Services Manager, Cllr Tom Wyse, Cllr Nigel Champken-Woods and Cllr Mary Stiles. It would be beneficial for this Working Group to be reconvened, with consideration for the Chairman of Policy and Resources or another interested Councillor to take the place of the retired Cllr Stiles.

Risk Assessment

9. The Event Management Risk Assessment and Management Plan will need to be reviewed to include COVID 19 Safety measures.

Resource Appraisal

10. Resources are contained within allocated budgets. However, cancellations charges may be imposed from contractors.

Legal Powers: Local Government Act 1972 S145

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To reconvene the Fair Working Group and agree Councillor Membership to negotiate the Town Fairs 2020 with the Town Clerk and Community Services Manager.***
- ii) To note the report.***