

Full Council

Date:	11 August 2020
Title:	Town Fairs
Contact Officer:	Jayne Cole, Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the Town Fairs in September and October 2020.

Background

2. The reconvened Fair Working Group has met via Zoom meetings with the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain, London & Home Counties Section (the Guild) twice to discuss the safety requirements and Government Guidelines on holding open air events.
3. The Guild provided a professional blue print of their safety management plan and risk assessment to remain compliant with the Government Guidelines which are frequently updated. All Fairs are unique and have their own challenges to deal with regards to size and location e.g. field, heath, car park or a town centre street fair.
4. Following the cancellation of St Giles, the Guild remain resolute that the Thame September and October Fairs would adhere to the COVID19 Safety measures required. At the time of writing this report it should be noted that no other street fair has taken place since the COVID 19 Pandemic lockdown.
5. Two members of the Fair Working Group will be traveling to Maidenhead to visit an operator run funfair to assess the safety measures in place and will report back at the Council meeting.
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>
7. The safety measures the Guild will put in place will address most concerns such as cleaning of equipment with the same recognized cleaning solution used for the underground train stations, hand sanitizer stations, taking of temperatures, Fair Operatives will wear facemasks and additional signage. Additional stewarding to prevent people entering the fair ground and town centre would be provided to compliment the SIA Trained security personnel the Council organise. The Guild are unable to guarantee social distancing requirements or a track and trace system that non-smart phone users can use. Claiming this would be up to members of the public to adhere to.
8. The social distancing is a key part of reducing the risk of transmission of infection to avoid an outbreak, and any event must ensure it enables the public to adhere to these rules. At the peak operating times the September Fair attracts an estimated 4k visitors not including the operators of the attractions. Emergency requirements ensure that there is a 4 meters space in the middle of the Fair to enable an emergency access. The back line build up from a three-storey property is 2.8 meters and two-storey property is 2.5 meters. There are 10 entrances into the Town Centre that can access the Fair and businesses. We are still in a pandemic and a local lockdown could be implemented via the Oxfordshire Public Health. The social distancing guidance is here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july>

9. Government advice is to avoid crowded areas, with the cancellation of St Giles, this could lead to more visitors who are seeking something different to do. As in previous years public transport links to Oxford, Aylesbury, High Wycombe and out lying villages have been well used to travel to Thame for the Fair.

Risk Assessment

10. The Event Management Risk Assessment and Management Plan has been forwarded to the Safety Advisory Group at the District Council for review of the COVID 19 Safety measures implemented by the Guild.
11. For Thame Town Council there are uninsurable risks.

Resource Appraisal

12. Financial resources have not been finalized for CoVID secure requirements from contractors who would need to reassess additional operational requirements. However, cancellations charges may be imposed for road closure requirements from 13 August 2020.

Legal Powers: Local Government Act 1972 S145

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- j) To consider given the challenges associated with holding the fair during a national pandemic should the fair in September go ahead'?***