

Policy & Resources Committee

Title: Holding an Event on Town Council Land Policy

Date: 20 April 2021

Contact Officer: Cassie Pinnells, Acting Town Clerk

Purpose of Report

1. To approve the Holding an Event on Town Council Land Policy attached to this report as appendix1.

Background

2. The Town Council have received numerous requests by commercial organisations to use public areas at Southern Road Recreational Ground or Elms Park.
3. There is no formal hiring application process and each organisation need to complete the Holding an Event on Town Council Land Application as directed. The commercial hourly rate has been set at £20. A review of local venues that hire their facilities are charging at £20 - £25 per hour or have allowed their normal hirers to use their outside space due to the pandemic.
4. Thame Town Council has never charged or encouraged commercial exercise groups to use public space and there was an unprecedented rule taken that if a group of 10 persons or more was using an area for a class a fee would be implemented.
5. It is challenging to monitor any classes and a concern is raised regarding interruptions for essential maintenance or grass cutting schedule to accommodate requests.
6. To date Thame Town Council has received five requests to use public open space for their requirements.

Resource Appraisal

7. The monitoring and day-to-day administration costs associated with the hiring of the facilities.

Risk Assessment

8. The business interruption, public space not available to residents due to commercial opportunity. Terms and conditions to be put in place to ensure legal requirements are held such as public liability insurance and appropriate licences to indemnify the Council.

Legal Powers:

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s 19
- Local Government Act 1972, s144

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- i) The Holding an Event on Town Council Land Policy is adopted*
- ii) To consider if commercial requests to use Public open space should be formalized.*