

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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| Title: | Thame Fairs 2021 |
| Date: | 26 October 2021 |
| Contact Officer: | Cassie Pinnells, Acting Town Clerk |

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive an update on the 2021 September and October Fairs, executed in line with the Agreement.

Summary

2. The September and October Fairs took place effectively, the partnership with the police, fire service, employed security firm and the diligences of councillors', officers and volunteers ensured the event was monitored efficiently.
3. The Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor undertook an unofficial walk about on the Thursday afternoon of the September Fair to welcome all the attraction operators from the Showmens Guild following last year's cancellation.
4. The Community Services Manager will take account of all that follows in detailed planning for the 2021 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 on the Monday evening for the September Fair was effective for attraction placement and emergency access. The Fire Chief highlighted two rides larger than their plot, compromised both rides but has highlighted this will not be acceptable in future.
7. Due to both central car parks and side road cleared of parked cars, enabled the Guild organised the pull on of larger amusements from 5pm, slightly earlier than the agreement time of 6pm. The subsequent regimented times for smaller attraction placement worked well.
8. The OX9ers raised £1,400 for local good causes in Thame, from monitoring the parking on Southern Road Recreational Ground (SRRG). The volunteers found it challenging and encountered some abuse by trying to prevent vehicles from entering the exit gate rather than the designated entrance. Also, the police had to contact the event organizer to release a parked car that was locked in.

Event Monitoring / Complaints / Compliments

11. The contracted medical company on site for the September Fair dealt with two people requiring medical treatment connected with the fair; one feeling unwell from going on a ride caused by whiplash and the other a minor friction burn from an attraction. There were a further eight further people were medically treated with no connection from the event: Female going into labour,

allergic bite, two mental health cases, toxication, panic attack, collapse from flu jab and a febrile child. Overall, a total five ambulances were called on site.

12. Noise control was undertaken throughout the September Fair by Councillors and Officers, only one attraction 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 2019.
13. One written complaint was received before the September Fair regarding generator fumes monitoring within the High Street. Nine verbal complaints were received regarding lack of parking, reduced retail trade and the event being held in the town centre. 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) 3,238 and on Saturday (at 6pm) as 3,769.
15. A meeting will be arranged in February 2022 with the Showmen's Guild to commence negotiation for a new agreement.

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To note this report.***