

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 5

meeting date: 15 MARCH 2016
title: BEATS FOR CANCER - EVENT IN CLITHEROE CASTLE GROUNDS
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 A request has been submitted to hold a music event in the Castle Grounds for Saturday 20 August this year. This Committee approved delegated powers to the Director of Community Services in September 2014, to work with event operators to provide a range of annual events in the borough, to achieve a positive economic impact, and help to promote the area from a tourism perspective (Minute 197, No. 2, 2 September 2014). This report is submitted because of the nature of the event proposed, and the potential impact for local residents.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
- Corporate Priorities - To encourage economic development throughout the borough, with specific focus on tourism
- Other Considerations – To develop, with relevant partners, measures to support the visitor economy

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The organisers are two local people who held similar events in 2014 and 2015, based in the Castle at the bandstand. The event is based around DJs playing music, with no live acts. In the two previous years, it has run as a free-to-attend event, and people made donations, which last year amounted to over £6,000 for the cancer charities the event is run to support.

2.2 The crowd estimate for the two years it has run were 600 and 2,000. This year it is planned again to be around two thousand. The hire period will commence in the week before the event, plus a couple of days following the event to de-rig the equipment.

2.3 To maximise the funds raised and introduce control on the numbers attending, it is planned to ticket the event this year, charging, perhaps, £10 per person. To enforce this will require the organisers to place a fence around the event area of the bandstand and the grass banking, and some of the grass area alongside the bandstand for food and drink outlets.

2.4 The charge for the bandstand will be approximately £100, which is the normal rate for the space, plus any additional costs associated with any work if the Council were asked to help with the set up or clear out.

- 2.5 The organisers will need to apply for their own licence to enable them to stage the event, which will cover the sale of alcohol.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The central location and the impact on local residents is the most significant issue arising from staging the event. There would be some implications for local residents and users of the Castle, including music and people arriving and departing from the site until curfew at 10pm.
- 3.2 The bandstand area itself would largely be out of use for the duration of the event, with some disturbance in the set up and de-rig periods. It is planned to fence around the space to control access. The footpaths around the bandstand would be available for general use until the fence went up, at which point access would be limited to ticket holders within the designated area.
- 3.3 It is not anticipated road closures would be required to stage the event. The number of people would be spread across the day, although the peak load is expected in the evening. Although it is difficult to determine what the largest number in attendance at any one time would be, given the experience of previous years, most of the crowd will attend late afternoon into the evening. The event organisers will provide the stewarding, and deal with litter arising from the event. Parking in the immediate area could be at a premium, because no on-site provision can be made, though that could be beneficial to the Council's own car park income.
- 3.4 The event has not yet been considered by the RVSAG.
- 3.5 The event, because of the nature of the music, will attract a predominantly young audience, although the organisers are hoping to attract a family-based audience during the day, as in previous years. In the evening, control of the audience and dispersal would need to be a key element of the event safety plan. Last year, the organisers arranged buses to take around six hundred people to a club in Whalley for an event when the bandstand one finished; a similar arrangement would be planned again this year.
- 3.6 The organisers are local people who are doing it for charitable purposes. However, if significant issues arise with the event, it could be an issue as they may not have the resources to rectify them. There are no plans to create an organisation or company to run the event. A number of meetings have taken place with the organisers, and the wish to grow the event in the future, to continue providing funding for cancer and charging this year is part of that plan.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – The event discussed would not be underwritten by the Council, nor promoted as such. It would be on Council land and, if required, the Council would charge for any services required of it. The organisers have made a request for funding to the Culture and Recreation grants.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Events, by their nature, have some impact. This event would need to be considered by RVSAG during the development stage, if approval is granted by the Committee.

- Reputation – Tourism is an integral part of the Borough's offer, and events that are well run and of high quality will help to promote the Borough and the businesses based within it. The primary risk is anti-social behaviour in the evening associated with alcohol, either from ticket holders or people who go the castle and stay outside the perimeter fence to enjoy the music played.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

Considers the request and determines if approval, in principle, can be granted, subject to the normal licence approvals and confirmation by the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group of the event organisers' arrangements.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda Item 5, Community Services Committee 2 September 2014

For further information, please contact Mark Beveridge 01200 414479

Community Services Committee 15 March 2016/MB/IW