

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 16th MAY, 2017
title: EVENTS ON COUNCIL-OWNED LAND
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide information on the scale and range of events on Council owned land.

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 Council owns a number of locations where events are staged. The most popular outdoor sites are Kestor Lane recreation ground in Longridge and the Castle Grounds in Clitheroe. The others being the car park at Edisford and Ribblesdale Pool.

2.2 The events for the current year are listed in the appendix to this report.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The primary issue is the impact any event will have on either the users of the area, e.g. Castle Grounds or the residents in the surrounding areas.

3.2 When events are staged, the Council asks in most instances, for a refundable deposit to be paid up front, which is returned or not, depending upon the state of the ground after the event has been staged.

3.3 Not all events are granted permission, for some it is because the ground conditions for a grass area are not suitable early in the year. They may not be suitable in the summer either, depending upon the weather, in which case a discussion with the event organiser would be arranged and the event might be called off.

3.4 Where events have traditionally been held e.g. the fair at Edisford car park, other factors now come into play. Ribblesdale Pool, Roefield Sports Centre, the tennis centre and the artificial pitches all place their own demands on the available parking spaces for example, which was not the case in the past when the fair was staged. This makes parking on the days when the fair is staged more difficult in the area.

3.5 The Council does not run many of its own events, the majority are a result of other people or organisations wishing to host something be that for profit or charity. Events can provide opportunities for local residents to participate in a community activity, e.g. Longridge Field Day or assist in economic development, such as the Tour of Britain. Overall they add to the cultural fabric of the Borough.

3.6 There are many more events which are staged around the Borough, e.g. Beat Herders, Chipping Steam Fair, which have little or no Council support, yet have established themselves and thrive in their chosen area. It is encouraging that people are willing to put in the time and effort necessary for these to be successful as they help in no small part to the cultural offer in the Borough for residents and visitors alike.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – Most events pay the rate applicable for the space being occupied. Some pay less and a few pay nothing.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – All events are required to apply for permission to stage their event and are issued a contract to sign. Depending upon the scale of the event they might be asked to present their plans to the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group. This comprises ourselves, LCC and the emergency services, the members of which can then ask questions of the organisers to ensure the plans being proposed are robust and have taken account of the various safety issues that might apply.
- Reputation – A single event can result in a positive or negative response from all sorts of directions. The Council's primary function is to provide a range of services and events is not one which has specific priority. Yet some local residents will also feel that the Council ought to help facilitate events on the land it owns for people to attend or participate in.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

Committee note the report.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge, extension 4479

APPENDIX

19 March 2017	-	Amelia Cup Fun Run	Castle Grounds
23-26 March 2017	-	J W Shaw Funfair	Edisford CP
16 April 2017	-	Triathlon (No other booking for Roefield/Edisford)	Pool/Edisford CP
29 April 2017	-	Busk Vinyl	Market
30 Apr - 1 May 17	-	Jazz & Blues Festival NOT USING BANDSTAND THIS YEAR	
7 May 2017	-	Wolves Presentation Day	Roefield
9 May 2017	-	Orienteering	Castle Grounds/Field
11 June 2017	-	Longridge Field Day & Funfair (8, 9 & 10)	Kestor Lane
18 June 2017	-	Crossroads Bed Race Event CANCELLED	Castle Grounds
24 June 2017	-	Christian Churches BBQ	Castle Field
25 June 2017	-	Civic Sunday (Mayor)	
16 July 2017	-	Sunday Band Concert	Bandstand
5 August 2017	-	Last Night of the Proms	Bandstand
19 August 2017	-	Beats Cancer Music Festival	Castle Grounds
19-22 Oct 2017	-	J W Shaw Funfair	Edisford CP
9 Dec 2017	-	Santa Dash	Castle Grounds/Field