

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 2 JUNE 2015
title: CLITHEROE CASTLE MUSIC EVENT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES, MARK BEVERIDGE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 This committee, at the last meeting in March 2015, considered the further details relating to an event approved at the meeting in September 2014 to be staged in the Castle Grounds (Minute 197, No. 2, 2 September 2014). This report provides an update to that report, and seeks approval for the staging of the event in 2016.

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 Committee approved in principle the staging of a music event on the Castle Field last year. The scale and scope of the event required clarification with the promoter and the Fire Officer in terms information and detail. That was provided in a number of reports both last year and early this. Since the last Committee in March, the promotor has considered the options and determined that the availability of artists for this year does not meet the timescale for organising the event. He has, therefore, decided to look at staging the event next year.

2.2 The promotor engaged a company who had experience of similar large scale music festivals. Correspondence was exchanged between them and the Fire Officer on escape routes, steward numbers, and emergency plans to establish a capacity figure for the field in respect of the music event alone. That work will serve to form the basis of their plan for an event in 2016.

3 PROPOSALS

3.1 The promoter is now looking to stage a music festival for three days as per his original proposal. This would be on a weekend between July and early September 2016, excluding any Bank Holiday weekend. The actual date will be determined by availability of artists. The event would be staged from Friday to Sunday. Gates will open early afternoon each day and the headline act finishing by the 10pm curfew.

3.2 The capacity for the event as agreed with the Fire Officer would be 10,500 including staff working on the event. The area of the Castle Field would be fenced to control access; the event would be all ticket, with a ticket price in line with artists performing.

- 3.3 The footpaths around the area would be kept open, wherever possible, although there will be times during load-in and load-out when relevant access gates and paths will be unavailable for health and safety reasons.
- 3.4 A full Resident & Community Impact Management Plan as part of the planning process would be put together. Measures used elsewhere have included: information about the event sent both direct; published in local papers, and put up as notices prior to the event going ahead.
- 3.5 It would be expected that an independent and mobile noise monitoring person would be provided, who can visit residents during the event to ensure noise levels are not going beyond license conditions.
- 3.6 The promoter has asked that the Council provide him with a letter of approval for the event, and not permit any similar large scale music event on the area during the same period, to avoid conflict with his event.

4 ISSUES

- 4.1 Events, by their very nature, cause a degree of disturbance and interfere with the normal day to day activities of the people in the surrounding area. However, they also are enjoyed by large numbers of people. They bring a positive economic impact to the area, and the promotor is planning to discuss accommodation options with local camp sites and other providers.
- 4.2 The proposals submitted by the promoter to-date have provided a sensible step towards minimising the impact the event in the Castle would have on local people. By the very nature of the event, it is not possible to remove all impacts; however the promoter is working with a professional event company, which has extensive experience of staging major music events.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

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, if required the Council would charge for any services required. In addition, the Council will receive a commercial fee for the use of the space to stage the event.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Events, by their nature, have some impact, this event would need to be considered by RVSAG during the development stage
- 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.

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Approves the staging of the music festival next year, 2016, subject to the normal licence approvals and confirmation by the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group of the promoters' arrangements.

- 6.2 Delegates the Director of Community Services to write to the promoter with confirmation of the Committee's decision.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
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BACKGROUND

Agenda Item 8, Community Services Committee 10 March 2015

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