

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 14th MARCH 2017
title: BEATS FOR CANCER EVENT IN CLITHEROE CASTLE GROUNDS
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 A request has been submitted to hold a music event in the Castle Grounds for Saturday 19th 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, September 2nd, 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 local people, who have held similar events since 2014 based in the Castle at the bandstand. The event involves DJs playing dance music, with no live acts. In the first 2 years it ran as a free to attend event and people made donations, last year the event was ticketed. The proceeds from the event were donated to a cancer charity.

2.2 The crowd capacity for 2016 was 2,000. This year it is planned to increase this to 3000. 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 An admission charge will again be levied; this will be around £10-12. 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, plus the labyrinth and approximately one third of the field area. Access will be limited to ticketholders to this area, for the whole of Saturday, 19th August.

2.4 The normal hire charge for the bandstand is £98 per day, plus any additional costs associated with any work if the Council were to be asked to help with the set up or clear out, together with a refundable deposit held to cover any damage to the site. In previous years the Council has for a fee, collected the bags of rubbish, once the organisers have cleaned the event area. Given the more extensive use of the Castle

Grounds it is thought that the fee should now be greater than simply that for the bandstand itself.

- 2.5 The organisers will need to apply for their own Premises 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 the music curfew at 10pm. It is estimated that the crowd will have dispersed by 10.30 from the Castle grounds itself.
- 3.2 The bandstand area itself would 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. Therefore public access would be restricted to the museum side of the Castle and part of the field not enclosed by the fence. Access to the Castle itself and the keep will be maintained until around 5pm on the 19th, after this time the area will be closed off to avoid any safety issues arising with people gathering there to watch the event without payment.
- 3.3 Road closures have not previously been required to stage the event; the number of people arriving 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. 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. Although in previous years the age profile has been such that most people have attended without cars.
- 3.4 In previous years the event organisers have staged the event under the Councils own Premises Licence and just applied for a temporary licence for the sale of alcohol. This year because of the increased numbers it is proposed that the organisers are asked to apply for their own Premises Licence to stage the event for the period including the set up and breakdown of the area. That will be subject to approval from the Councils Licencing Committee.
- 3.5 The event has not yet been considered by the RVSAG. The emergency services and LCC will have their own input into the plans the organisers have for staging the event.
- 3.6 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 time as in previous years. In the evening, control of the audience and dispersal will need to be a key element of the event safety plan. Last year the organisers arranged buses to take around 600 people to a club in Whalley for an event when the bandstand one finished. A similar arrangement is planned again this year.
- 3.7 The organisers are local people who are doing it for charitable purposes and 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 they wish to grow the event in the future to continue providing funding for cancer. They hope to run a 2 day event in 2018.

- 3.8 The event will require some preparatory work by the organisers to facilitate staging it. This will include delivery of equipment, such as extra staging, marquees/gazebos and fencing.
- 3.9 There is no specific fee for the area required, commercial use fees are set depending upon the nature of the event, the normal bandstand fee is £98 per day, the cost of the field is £380.70 site fee plus £142.10 per day for a fair/circus, PRS (Performing Rights Society) is £371.70. Therefore it is proposed to charge a fee of £250 for the event plus the PRS fee, which the Council is charged by PRS for the music played.
- 3.10 If this were a purely commercial event the hire fee would be in the region of £3,000 per day. The rationale for not charging the event such a figure is because it is for charitable purposes. Although the organisers themselves are not a constituted as a registered charity, although they are staging the event this year for Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 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, if required the Council would charge for any services required of it.
- 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. In addition the organisers will need to apply for their own premises licence to stage the event.
- 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 of the perimeter fence to enjoy the music played.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Consider the request and determine 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.
- 5.2 Consider the charge to be levied for the hire, a fee of £250 is proposed, plus the PRS fee and a refundable deposit of £600.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda Item 5, Community Services Committee 2nd September, 2014
For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge, extension 4479.