

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 7

meeting date: 13th March 2018
title: CLITHEROE CASTLE PARKRUN
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: PETER FLETCHER, SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide information on an offer from Ribble Valley Runners and Clitheroe Castle Running Group to work to gain permission, set up, and establish an adult Saturday parkrun event within the Castle grounds, Clitheroe.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
- Community Objectives – To improve the opportunity for adults to participate in recreational and sporting activity.
 - Corporate Priorities - To help make people's lives safer and healthier, to promote stronger, more confident and more active communities throughout the borough.
 - Other Considerations – To develop, with relevant partners, measures to support the visitor economy (parkrun tourists). To support Sport England and NHS to tackle inactivity.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Parkrun is a national charity aimed at getting more people running across the country and the globe. They offer free, safe, timed runs every week in parks around the UK and the world. The runs are normally 5km at 9.00 am on Saturday mornings. The nearest local Parkruns for Ribble Valley residents are at Wilsons Playing fields, Hyndburn; Towneley Park, Burnley; or Avenham Park, Preston.
- 2.2 Parkrun events are free, safe, and easy to take part in and currently operate in approximately 500 locations throughout the UK.
- 2.3 Clitheroe Castle Junior Parkrun has been operating successfully on a Sunday morning in the Castle grounds since October 2017. This was set up initially by Ribble Valley Runners members and currently attracts around 50 children on average aged 4–14 years every week. Clitheroe Castle Parkrun would complement this and broaden running opportunities for the whole community.
- 2.4 Ribble Valley Runners are a community group which have as their objective, the interest of the whole running community within the Ribble Valley. The group is a constituted group and anyone with an interest can become a member of the group. Clitheroe Castle Running Group is a local running group who currently meet every Saturday to run up to 5K around the Castle grounds. The group are open to all and have grown slowly and steadily since forming in January 2017. The group is now keen to further promote local community running, and develop a regular Saturday Parkrun event in the Castle grounds.

- 2.5 Ribble Valley, mirroring the national trend has seen a real surge in running and running groups in the area recently.
- 2.6 A Parkrun event would look to be held every Saturday morning at 9am. It would comprise of five laps of a 1km circuit, using the existing tarmac paths within the castle grounds.
- 2.7 Clitheroe Castle parkrun will be organised for the local community by local volunteers and will be all inclusive and open to all. It will encourage the local community to come together and be more active – to run, walk, jog, and volunteer.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 Parkrun as an organisation requires that landowners (Ribble Valley Borough Council) in this instance provide written consent that they are happy for event to be staged on their land every week.
- 3.2 Parkrun provides substantial public liability insurance for any runner injured during an event.
- 3.3 Parkrun requires that there is an AED (defibrillator) within five minutes of the event. There is publicly accessible AED located at Trinity Methodist Church.
- 3.4 Parkrun requires that there is an established volunteer group to administer events – Clitheroe Castle Running Group are an established running group who will work with Ribble Valley Runners to provide the required team of volunteers including a core group of 3 – 6 people who will oversee the Event set up and a further group of 6 – 12 people prepared to volunteer as marshalls / time keepers etc for the first few months of the event until it becomes established and a volunteer rota is in place.
- 3.5 Ribble Valley Runners will be required to fund the initial outlay of a Parkrun which is £3000. The group is exploring a variety of funding options for this, which will include an approach to the Council for a Recreational and Culture grant. This outlay is for IT equipment to monitor runners' registration, and keep track of times.
- 3.6 Clitheroe town centre is relatively quiet on Saturday mornings at 9.00, and runners will be strongly encouraged to walk / cycle or use public transport to get to the event, where possible, or car share, if they need to drive. Town centre car parks usually have spaces at that time and, in addition, it is planned to approach Booths and Sainsburys / Homebase to see if their car parks could be used by runners attending the event. Staging of the Parkrun does not prevent other members of the public from using the Castle Grounds at the same time, and the organisers do not require or seek exclusive use.
- 3.7 Ribble Valley Runners would require the use of Bandstand for this event. The Bandstand forms a natural base and meeting place for the event.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – The Council is responsible for the maintenance of the parks path; however, the impact of the proposal will be minimal taking into account the nature of the activity

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Council will have to provide written consent to Ribble Valley Runners / Clitheroe Castle Running Group to formally allow a Parkrun to take place.
- Reputation – Granting permission of a parkrun can only be seen as enhancing the reputation of the Council as an organisation that wants to make people's lives safer and healthier, support the community in physical activity and tackle the nation's problem of inactivity.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

Notes the report and authorises the Director of Community Services to formally write to Ribble Valley Runners, and Clitheroe Castle Running Group, and give them approval to set-up a Parkrun within Clitheroe Castle Grounds.

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For further information, please ask contact Peter Fletcher: 01200 414435.

Community Services 13.3.18/Peter Fletcher/IW