

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 10

meeting date: 4 September 2018
title: JUNIOR PARK RUN
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide an update and review on Clitheroe Castle Junior Park Run (JPR). This report will form the basis for the annual review as set out in Ribble Valley Runners offer letter.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To improve and continue the opportunity for young people 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 (Park Run tourists). To support Sport England and NHS to tackle inactivity.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Park Run 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 on Saturday mornings. The nearest local Park Runs for Ribble Valley residents are at Towneley Park, Burnley, or Avenham Park, Preston.

2.2 Junior Park Run follows an identical model but are exclusively for 4-14yr olds. The junior events are still timed but cover a junior distance of 2km. The events are free, safe, and easy to take part in. Junior Park Runs currently operate in 157 locations throughout the UK. Junior Park Runs take place on Sunday mornings.

2.3 Ribble Valley Runners are a community group which have, as their objective, the interest of the whole running community within Ribble Valley. The group also operate the Clitheroe Castle Park Run (12+). All events are operated on a voluntary basis.

2.4 To date, here are some of Clitheroe Castle Junior Park Run's achievements, Autumn 2017- Summer 2018;

- Number of events: 35
- Number of first finishers: 24

- Average number of runners per week: 45.7
- Largest attendance: 76
- Average run time: 00:13.24
- Number of runners: 388
- Average number of runs per runner: 4.1
- Total distance run: 3200km
- JPR has had runners from Northern Ireland and Warwickshire (Park Run tourists)
- Minimum of 13 volunteers each week
- 95 different people have volunteered

2.5 At Community Services Committee on 16th May 2017, it was agreed that Clitheroe Castle Junior Park Run would be given permission with a 12 month review (minute14)

3 ISSUES

3.1 Park Run, 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. This consent will need extending for a minimum of twelve months.

3.2 The Council, in this period Autumn 2017–Summer 2018, has received no complaints about the staging of Junior Park Run events on Clitheroe Castle grounds.

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 age of the runners.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Council will have to provide written consent to Ribble Valley Runners to formally allow a Junior Park Run to continue.
- Reputation – Granting permission extension of a Junior Park Run 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 young people 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 Clitheroe Castle Junior Park Run organisers and extend their permission to use council land for a minimum term of twelve months.

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JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS - Community Services Committee Minutes May 2017

For further information, please contact Peter Fletcher 01200 414435

Ref: Community Services 4.9.18 / Peter Fletcher