

18th June 2019

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Wyken

Title: Petition – Objection to proposals to hold a Fun Fair on Stoke Green Park

Is this a key decision? : No

Executive Summary:

This report responds to a petition containing 70 signatures which was submitted to Coventry City Council and objects to proposals to hold a fun fair on Stoke Green Park.

The petition reads:

“Proposed fun fair to be held in Stoke Green Park. Objections: Conservation area, newly planted trees, old trees an existing safety issue not adequately fenced off against crowds, 9.30 cut off not for young children, parking already an issue, heavy vehicles churning up grass, littering already a problem. We feel a fun fair would exacerbate the stated existing problems and that there are far more suitable sites within the city”

Reductions in the budgets set aside for the management and maintenance of the city’s parks and open spaces have increased emphasis on maximising the income generating potential from parks and open spaces and reliance on securing external funding.

As part of the Park Service Commercialisation Project the Operator Tommy Wilson Funfairs has been asked to explore using additional sites in Coventry. Stoke Green Park has been identified as a suitable site and it is proposed that the Funfair is held on from June 24th for set up and leave site by noon on July 1st 2019.

Operating hours would be restricted, and operational guidelines applied to control noise levels. Site access changes will be made to minimise any potential traffic flow issues and the operator will be required to remove litter etc generated by the event.

It is not anticipated that the event will result in parking issues in the surrounding area as indicated from similar funfairs held in other locations. Parking arrangements have not been put in place for any event held at Stoke Green Park including the Bands in Parks Event and this has not caused any issues.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

1. Note that that budgetary reduction have increased the emphasis on the Parks Service to generate and maximise income from its parks and greenspaces.
2. Agree that Tommy Wilsons Funfair be allowed to take place at Stoke Green Park on from June 24th for set up and leave site by noon on July 1st 2019

List of Appendices included:

N/A

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel, or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: **Petition - Objection to proposals to hold a Fun Fair on Stoke Green Park**

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Reductions in Government spending has seen a corresponding reduction in the budgets set aside for the management and maintenance of the city's parks and open spaces. In 2016 the parks budget was reduced by £1m this represented 25% of the overall budget. This had a real impact on our ability to maintain standards, improve and develop the parks.
- 1.2 There is now an increasing emphasis on maximising the income generating potential from parks and open spaces and reliance on securing external funding. Income generated will contribute towards maintaining existing standards and preventing further decline. It may also enable an improved standard of maintenance to be achieved and the development of parks in meeting community needs and providing an ongoing and valuable contribution to the health and wellbeing of that community.
- 1.3 A draft commercial strategy has been developed which seeks to increase footfall within parks and increase income. This was shared with all friends of groups and volunteers at the Coventry Green Space and Heritage Forum in Autumn last year. Although the strategy did not mention fairs specifically groups were made aware that several commercial opportunities for the service were being explored.
- 1.4 Fairs are an extremely popular event attracting may thousands of people into the city's parks and open spaces each year.
- 1.5 As part of the Park Service Commercialisation Project we have asked a well-known and experienced supplier, Tommy Wilson Funfairs, to explore using additional sites in Coventry. It is proposed that the operator will be on site from June 24th for set up and will leave site by noon on July 1st 2019.
- 1.6 This operator has previously used Morris Common, Longford Park and Edgwick Park with very positive results.
- 1.7 There are booking conditions to all park site bookings that mean any damage caused must be repaired or paid for. The only damage that has ever occurred with the fair is some ground damage when conditions became unfavourable, which the fair staff repaired themselves at no cost to the council. There has never been an issue with litter generated from the event being left on site.
- 1.8 There is no evidence that this operator has caused damage to the tree stock during previous events however a method statement to ensure trees are not damaged will be requested from the operator during their movements whilst on site.
- 1.9 Officers within the Parks Service have visited sites with the operator and looked at making access easier at Stoke Green by installing a new removable bollard to allow fair traffic to enter more easily and safely off Stoke Green Road to the south of the site.
- 1.10 The fair will be located away from the new avenue nearer the play area end of the site and distance of the fair to houses is comparable with other successful sites. The Fair provider is willing to meet with residents and agree final area and location.
- 1.11 Although some noise is inevitable, the funfair have strict operating guidelines and will be operating between 5pm-09:30pm on weekdays, 1pm-09:30pm Sat and 1pm-7pm Sun. No

complaints have been received from the operator's events held at Edgwick or Longford over the past 18 years.

- 1.12 Other sites which have been booked as trial venues are Barras Heath (moved from Morris Common due to new cricket infrastructure) and Radford recreation ground.
- 1.13 Historically parking arrangements have not been made for any events held at Stoke Green, including visitors to 'Bands in Parks' and no issues have been reported. It is projected that the majority of the Fair audience will walk locally or be young people dropped off and collected.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The option not to allow the Funfair to be held at Stoke Green Park has been considered however this has been rejected. The Parks Service operational budget was reduced by £1m from 2016 and it is important that the service explores opportunities to generate and increase income in accordance with the draft commercial strategy and on which service budgetary income targets have been set.
- 2.2 It is considered that Stoke Green Park is an appropriate location to hold a suitably sized Funfair as offered by Tommy Wilson Funfairs and the option to allow the event to go ahead is recommended.
- 2.3 That the event goes ahead as recommended with certain conditions as may be determined by the Cabinet Member.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

No consultation has taken place on this issue

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Subject to approval the funfair will take place from June 24th for set up and leave site by noon on July 1st 2019.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Customer Services

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations at the present time although income generated by the event will contribute to meeting commercial income targets.

5.2 Legal implications

No legal implications associated with this matter.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?

Parks and green spaces are highly valued by the citizens of Coventry and contribute greatly to improving the quality of life to those that live and work in the City, help address health inequalities and provides valuable wildlife habitats. Deterring misuse by proactive capital work prevents even more costly repairs in the future.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Risk will be managed through the existing Place directorate risk profile.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Events substantially increase footfall within parks and open spaces and contribute greatly to the generation of income

6.4 Equalities / EIA Implications for (or impact on) the environment

No equality impact assessments have been undertaken.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

No direct impact

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
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Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant	Resources	6 th June 19	6 th June 19
Gill Carter	Solicitor Team Leader (Regulatory)	Resources	6 th June 19	7 th June 19
Michelle Rose	Governance Services co-ordinator	Place	6 th June 19	6 th June 19
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				

Andrew Walster	Assistant Director (Streetscene and Regulatory Services)	Place	7 th June 19	7 th June 19
Councillor Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member for (Policy and Equalities)	-	7 th June 19	7 th June 19

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