



To: Executive Councillor for Communities: Councillor  
Richard Johnson

Report by: Head of Community Services

Relevant scrutiny  
committee: Community Services  
Scrutiny  
Committee 6/10/2016

Wards affected: Abbey Arbury Castle Cherry Hinton Coleridge East  
Chesterton King's Hedges Market Newnham  
Petersfield Queen Edith's Romsey Trumpington West  
Chesterton

## **MIDSUMMER FAIR 2017**

### **Not a Key Decision**

---

#### **1. Executive summary**

In March 2016 the Executive Councillor for Communities took a decision to cancel the funfair at Midsummer Fair. In a debate on the issue at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Council on 26 May 2016, the Council agreed that proposals for the 2017 event should be brought forward for discussion and approval at the Community Services Scrutiny Committee. Cambridge Live has now considered options for the 2017 event, discussed these with stakeholders and taken into account their feedback. Council officers are supportive of the final proposals.

#### **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended to agree the arrangements proposed by Cambridge Live and supported by officers for the Midsummer Fair 2017.

#### **3. Background**

3.1 Midsummer Fair is a 10 day event, open to the public for 6 days, covering a large area of Midsummer Common. In an incident on 4th November 2016 a member of the public was seriously injured in the build up to Bonfire Night. Following this the Council and its contractor for the City Events, Cambridge Live, have taken advice from the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) to review arrangements for the management of all events on open spaces, including Midsummer Fair.

3.2 In March 2016 the Council and Cambridge Live concluded that it was not possible in the time available to safely organise the funfair aspect of

Midsummer Fair. The Executive Councillor took a decision to cancel the funfair aspect in 2016 and the event went ahead with the traditional traders market. The Council committed to work with all parties in order that a safe and successful event could take place in 2017.

### **3.3 Revised plan**

Cambridge Live has now developed a revised plan for the event in liaison with the Showmen's Guild, fair operators and the Council. The plan builds on learning from revisions to events which took place on both Midsummer Common and Parker's Piece in 2016. The plan is subject to feedback from the Cambridge Safety Advisory Group (SAG) when it meets on 6 October 2016. The main features of the revised plan are as follows.:

- Retention of event on Midsummer Common.
- Retention of funfair on the scale of previous events, with the same number of rides.
- Retention of a 'top' and 'bottom' traders market on scale of previous event.
- Increased measures to assist in separating vehicles and pedestrians via use of pedestrian barriers and heras fencing.
- Repositioning of some showmen's living accommodation into the existing main accommodation area. No vehicle movements will be permitted in this area during the event without advance permission from the organisers.
- Reconfiguration of market trader stalls (following discussion with traders at 2016 event) to include a secure entrance and exit system.
- Secure area for vehicles which require site access/egress adjacent to toilet area – no vehicles will be permitted outside this area once get-in is complete.
- One full event-long path closure (from toilets to mid-point, abutting sterile area) – subject to approval by the County Council.
- Repositioning of an estimated 7 funfair rides to reduce risks along main footpath thoroughfare.
- Temporary closures of paths to facilitate get-in and get-out managed by security staff.

### **3.4 Implications of the changes**

- The proposed new layout provides the groundwork for effective pedestrian vehicle separation at the same time as maintaining the overall scale and feel of the event.
- As with all events held since the introduction of new safety measures, there will need to be an increased emphasis by all parties on implementation of the event management control document.
- Increased emphasis to all showmen on compliance with a) their terms and conditions of contract with Cambridge Live, also b) the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.
- Increased costs for fencing and security.

- The changes are compliant with the contract for services between the Council and Cambridge Live.

### **3.5 Feedback on the proposals**

The proposal has been shared for comment and feedback with Cambridge City Council Streets and Open Spaces and Corporate Health and Safety teams. It has also been shared and discussed with the Showmen's Guild. At a meeting with Cambridge Live on 14 September, the Guild confirmed that they were happy in principle with the revised layout. If the Executive Councillor agrees the approach, once the SAG has considered the plans, the next step will be for Cambridge Live to communicate with individual ride operators and begin more detailed planning.

## **4. Implications**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

There is likely to be some additional cost associated with the changed infrastructure which will be covered by Cambridge Live in discussion with the Council. Any residual shortfall will be addressed between the two organisations.

(b) **Staffing Implications** - None

(c) **Equality and Poverty Implications** - Not applicable

(d) **Environmental Implications** - None

(e) **Procurement/Legal** - None

### **(f) Consultation and communication**

Consultation has been undertaken with the parties indicated in the report.

(g) **Community Safety** - None

## **5. Background papers**

Refer to previous Council decisions related to this matter

## **6. Appendices**

Site plan

## **7. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Debbie Kaye

Author's Phone Number: 01223 - 458633

Author's Email: [debbie.kaye@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.kaye@cambridge.gov.uk)