

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

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| 1. | Meeting:- | Cabinet Member for Town Centres, Economic Growth and Prosperity |
| 2. | Date:- | 19 th March 2012 |
| 3. | Title:- | Fairs Applications & Fairs Charges Review 2012 All Wards |
| 4. | Directorate:- | Environment & Development Services |

5. Summary

To report on the fairs applications received and annual review of Fairs Charges in accordance with audit requirements.

- Wath Bonfire Ground 29/03/12 – 01/04/12
- Spring Fair Herringthorpe Playing Fields 17/05/12 – 20/05/12
- Kimberworth St. Pauls Fields 21/06/12 – 25/06/12
- Clifton Park x 2 04/07/12 – 09/07/12 & 22/08/12 – 27/08/12
- Rawmarsh Victoria Park 19/04/12 – 22/04/12
- Greasborough Recreation Ground 12/09/12 – 15/09/12
- Maltby Woodlea Common 19/09/12 – 22/09/12
- Rotherham Show
- **New Application** – Bow Broom Recreation Ground Swinton
10/05/12 – 13/05/12 or 14/06/12 – 17/06/12

6. Recommendations

That the new application for a fair at Bow Broom Recreation Ground be refused.

That all other fairs itemised in section 5 be approved.

That increases be approved as itemised in section 7. effective from 29th March 2012.

7. Proposals and Details

Having raised concerns over their falling attendances and increasing operating costs – in particular the cost of fuel; Showmen have requested that rents are frozen for 2012.

Market management propose that the following should be considered by Cabinet Member:

- Wath Bonfire Ground increase from £188.50 per day to £194.50
- Kimberworth St. Pauls Fields increase from £88.50 per day to £91.50
- Rawmarsh Victoria Park increase from £224.00 per day to £231.00
- Wood Lea Common Maltby increase from £ 120.00 per day to £124.00
- Greasborough Recreation Ground increase from £193.50 per day to £199.50
- Spring Fair HPF no increase in the charge of £6,682.00 as this fair is already charged much higher than all others. The operator previously applied for a reduction in the rent, this request was refused.
- Clifton Park no increase in the charge of £1,664.00 is considered for both fairs in 2012 as these fairs are already charged much higher than other fairs of comparable size and visitor attendance.
- Rotherham Show increase of 3.0% on all equipment charges.
- A new application has been received for a fair at Bow Broom Recreation Ground Swinton. All 3 Swinton Ward Councillors have expressed opposition to this application citing the following reasons:
 - Previous bad experiences of fairs in the area.
 - The site being too close to housing.
 - Strong resident opposition at public consultation.
 - Avoidance of damage to an area which has had considerable externally funded improvements since it was last used as a funfair site.

A previous application for a funfair on this site in 2008 was refused.

8. Finance

The proposed 3% increases are just below the current rate 3.6% rate of inflation and are considered to be the highest that the Showmen can stand in the current economic climate.

These increases will attract additional income of £250.00 to RMBC.

RMBC management costs for all these events are minimal.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

With any increase in operating costs there is a risk that the fair may no longer be financially viable. This risk is considered to be minimal.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The provision of fairs for recreation and leisure is in line with the councils' corporate vision of attracting more people into the Town and helping them to enjoy the Parks and Green spaces.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Discussions have taken place with Showmen.

Emergency Services, RMBC Highways, RMBC Health & Safety section, RMBC Culture & Leisure services and the Earl of Scarborough will be informed of the proposed fairs following approval.

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