

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:-	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development
2.	Date:-	Monday 18th March 2013
3.	Title:-	Fairs Applications and Fairs Charges Review 2013 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.

- a) Wath Bonfire Ground 4 days 21st – 24th March 2013
- b) Rawmarsh Victoria Park 4 days 18th – 21st April 2013
- c) Spring Fair Herringthorpe Playing Fields 4 days 16th – 19th May 2013
- d) Kimberworth St. Pauls Fields 5 days 20th – 24th June 2013
- e) Clifton Park x 2 6 days 3rd – 8th July & 21st – 26th August 2013
- f) Rotherham Show 2 days 7th & 8th September 2013
- g) Maltby Wood Lea Common 4 days 11th – 14th or 25th – 28th September 2013
Final date to be agreed.
- h) Greasborough Recreation Ground 4 days 18th – 22nd September 2013

6. Recommendations

That the fairs itemised in section 5 of this report be approved.

That rental changes itemised in section 7 of this report are agreed and introduced with effect from 29th March 2013.

7. Proposals and Details

An annual review of fairs applications and charges has been carried out in accordance with audit requirements. The review was carried out by the Markets Management team and included discussions with Showmen

After raising concerns over their falling attendances and increasing operating costs – in particular the cost of fuel; Showmen have requested that rent increases are kept to a minimum. Showmen have also indicated that for the higher rental fairs held in Clifton Park they are considering reducing the number of operating days from 6 to 5 in order to reduce operating costs.

Having reviewed the current agreements and charges it is considered that the following changes would be appropriate for 2013:

a) Wath Bonfire Ground

An increase in rent from £194.50 per day to £200.00

b) Rawmarsh Victoria Park

An increase in rent from £231.00 per day to £238.00

c) Spring Fair Herringthorpe Playing Fields

The operator, HPF, has requested a reduction in rent for this fair from £6,862.00 to £2,500.00 on the grounds that this fair is already charged at a higher rate than other fairs and that it is proving difficult to sub-let machine space. Previous requests for a reduction in rent for the Spring Fair have been refused.

This year it is recommended that alternatives are offered to the operator as follows: -

- 1) the rent remains at £6,862.00 with the option to increase the number of operating days from 4 to 6.
- 2) the operator is charged for equipment hire at a level equivalent to the charges at Rotherham Show with a minimum fee payable of £4,000.00 for a 4 day fair.

d) Kimberworth St. Pauls Fields

An increase in rent from £91.50 per day to £94.00

e) Clifton Park

No change in charges - the rent for both fairs to remain at £1,664.00. Having considered comparisons with other fairs of similar size and visitor attendance it is considered that there is no scope to increase the charges for this fair.

f) Rotherham Show

An increase of 2.7% on all equipment charges.

g) Wood Lea Common Maltby

An increase in rent from £ 124.00 per day to £127.50

h) Greasborough Recreation Ground

An increase in rent from £199.50 per day to £205.00

8. Finance

All fairs income is split 50:50 with Leisure & Green spaces.

The proposed 2.7% increases are generally in line with current inflation rates and are considered to be the most that can reasonably be expected to be achieved in the current economic climate. This is expected to generate an additional £214.00 in fairs income, £107.00 of which is the Markets share.

Reducing the rental of Spring Fair to £4,000.00 would result in a net reduction in the total fairs income of £2,648.00.

Markets budget would have to accommodate £1,324.00 of this reduction.

If the Showmen were to reduce the number of operating days from 6 days to 5 at both fairs in Clifton Park this would lead to a further loss in income of £277.00 to both markets and Green Spaces.

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.

There is the further risk that the Showmen could request a reduction in operating days for the higher charged fairs at Clifton Park.

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 the RMBC Leisure and Green Spaces Manager and with Showmen .

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

Contact Name : Robin Lambert, Markets General Manager, ext 6956,
robin.lambert@rotherham.gov.uk.