

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEADER SIGNING HELD ON THURSDAY, 25TH AUGUST, 2016, 09:00.**

## **PRESENT:**

**Councillor Claire Kober (Chair)**

### **41. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Leader referred those present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting and asked that those present reviewed and noted the information contained therein.

### **42. URGENT BUSINESS**

None

### **43. HIRE OF FINSBURY PARK FOR MANNING'S AMUSEMENTS LTD AUGUST FUNFAIR**

Approval was sought for the hire of Finsbury Park to Manning's Amusements Ltd for a funfair to take place between 27 August and 4 September.

## **RESOLVED**

- I. To agree that Finsbury Park is hired to Manning's Amusements Ltd for the funfair to take place between the said dates, which is in line with the Outdoor Events Policy.

## **REASONS FOR DECISION**

Events in Finsbury Park are a long standing feature of the summer season in the park. They are met each year with a mixed opinion from most, with some objectors.

The rationale for holding events is both economic and cultural. Hosting events in parks supports the cultural offer in the borough, enables communities to come together and promotes economic growth benefiting local business. Overall a vibrant event programme supports the council's outcome of the Borough as a great place to live and work.

Income derived from events are very much at the heart of sustaining the Parks Service rather than exposing it to further cuts which would mean a lower standard of parks maintenance across the borough and within Finsbury Park itself.

Finsbury Park was often viewed as a no-go zone prior to its restoration in 2005. It has now held a Green Flag Award, the national standard for excellence in parks, for 10 years and has benefited from further investment of £500,000 over the last two years, all funded from event income. But the benefit is much wider as income is used to support projects in other parks and raising standards across all parks.

Manning's funfairs in Finsbury Park are a long standing feature of the holiday season and have operated in the park for many years. They are enjoyed by many and are recognised as providing family entertainment to local people.

All stakeholders were given 10 days to respond, as outlined in the Outdoor Events Policy. A full list of stakeholders is attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

No stakeholders responded to the consultation.

The application is brought to the attention of the Leader for approval in accordance with paragraph 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 of the Outdoor Events Policy, in that:

- (a) event lasts more than 7 days

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

With the adoption of the Outdoor Events Policy in 2014, the Council established their commitment to using parks for events, and especially increasing community events.

The recommendations contained within this report are in line with that Policy and as such no alternative options have been considered other than to reject the Manning's Amusements Ltd funfair application.

The rejection of this application would have an implication for the Parks Service budget and reduce the opportunity for reinvestment into parks. It would also mean that the wider cultural and economic benefits to the borough would be lost.

## **44. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

N/A

## **45. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

### **RESOLVED**

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the items below contain exempt information, as defined under Paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **46. HIRE OF FINSBURY PARK FOR MANNING'S AMUSEMENTS LTD AUGUST FUNFAIR**

Noted the information contained within the Exempt Part B of report.

**47. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS**

N/A

CHAIR: Councillor Claire Kober

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....