

Report for: Leader Signing

Item number: 3

Title: Hire of Finsbury Park for Manning's Amusements Ltd August Funfair

Report authorised by : Stephen McDonnell, Assistant Director – Commercial and Operations

Lead Officer: Simon Farrow, Head of Direct Services (interim)
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Ward(s) affected: Harringay Ward and Stroud Green Ward

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 A park hire application has been received from Manning's Amusements Ltd to host a funfair in Finsbury Park during the summer holidays which would operate for 9 days between 27 August and 4 September 2016.
- 1.2 Manning's Amusements has requested to move onto site on 25 August and would leave site on 5 September, a total of 13 days.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Leader is recommended to:

- (a) 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.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.4 Many people will recall the no-go place Finsbury Park was 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 No stakeholders responded to the consultation.
- 4.8 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

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.

6. Background information

- 6.1 In January 2014 the Council introduced the Outdoor Events Policy.
- 6.2 The Policy recognises the value and benefit that a varied and well managed outdoor events programme can offer the residents of Haringey, and the Council is committed to supporting events that contribute to our vibrant culture, environment and economy.
- 6.3 The Policy assists the decision making process behind building a sustainable and varied programme of events and sets out how the council will notify and consult with recognised stakeholders for each park, for each park hire application received.
- 6.4 Manning's Amusements Ltd do not need a licence to operate within the parks.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1 Hosting events in Finsbury Park contributes to supporting the local economy, developing the cultural offer in the borough and provides an opportunity for local people to enjoy this type of event with minimal travel.
- 7.2 The recommendations made will contribute to policy and practice primarily in relation to Priority 3 of the Corporate Plan: 'A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live and work'.
- 7.3 In addition there are links to the Corporate Plan in relation to:
Priority 2: 'Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives'
Priority 4: 'Drive growth and employment from which everyone can benefit'
- 7.4 The Medium Term Financial Plan sets out an increase of £600,000 of income during the period up to March 2018. All money raised by events is ring fenced back to the Parks budget to maintain and improve parks in the borough.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

8.1 Finance

- 8.2 The Chief Finance Officer has been consulted and has commented. This information is exempt and is attached as Part B of this report.

8.3 Legal

- 8.4 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and confirms that the Cabinet Member has the authority to make this decision. Accordingly, there are no direct legal implications arising out of the report.

8.5 Equality

- 8.6 Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy was agreed by Cabinet in December 2013. An equality screening tool was completed in regard to the proposed policy and that the proposal had no impact on protected characteristics other than religion or belief.

9. Use of Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – List of Finsbury Park stakeholders who were consulted
- 9.2 Part B – Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Haringey Outdoor Events Policy -
<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s48887/OEP%20-%20CLEARED%20COVERING%20REPORT.pdf>