

STOCKPORT COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE REPORT – SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: The Big Kids Circus, Woodbank Memorial Park

Report to: (a) Central Stockport Area Committee Date: Thursday 23rd July 2020

Report of: (b) Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration

Key Decision: (c) NO / YES (Please circle)

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency (Tick box)

Summary:

To seek approval for an event application by The Big Kids Circus

Recommendation(s):

The Corporate Director - Place recommends that the Central Stockport Area Committee approves the application

Relevant Scrutiny Committee (if decision called in): (d)

Communities & Housing Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers (if report for publication): There are none.

Contact person for accessing

Officer: Richard Daniels

background papers and discussing the report 0161 474 4284

'Urgent Business': (f) YES / NO (please circle)

Certification (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor _____ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as 'urgent business' was obtained on _____ /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.

Big Kids Circus, Woodbank Park, Stockport

Report of the Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek to approve the event application submitted and deferred in March 2020 Area Committee for the Big Kids Circus to operate at Woodbank Memorial Park 23rd-27th September 2020.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. At the March meeting of the Central Stockport Area Committee it was agreed that the application from Big Kid Entertainment Ltd to hold its event (a non-animal circus) in Woodbank Memorial Park between 18-20 September 2020 be deferred in order to enable a consultative meeting to take place between residents, the organisers of the event and Ward Councillors to discuss residents' concerns about noise and the amount of fly posting in the area which would advertise the event.
- 2.2. A site meeting was arranged on 17th July 2020 with Manor Ward Cllrs Clingan, Peers and Stewart with Julie Kirilova representing Big Kids Circus with Kath Hughes Neighbourhood Project Officer and Richard Daniels Senior Neighbourhood Officer also present
- 2.3. The cricket field' site of Woodbank Park was identified as the Big Top location with the entrance just off the hard standing driveway with caravans parked in a protective line to the furthest edge. The site is well drained but in the event of heavy rainfall prior to the event the Circus would lay boarding down or hire tracking to minimise any damage. There will be a £1,000 bond in place in the event any remedial work had to be carried out-any cost to the Council would be taken from this bond. The circus would be operating on approximately 1/3 of normal capacity to comply with Social Distancing. This in itself has an impact on the way the Circus will advertise as the circus cannot be filled to capacity and the focus would be to use social media platforms which in turn minimises the circus costs. It was agreed that banners could be placed facing inwards within the park and that there would be no advertising on street furniture or using empty properties as this is both illegal and unsightly. Posters would be displayed in local shops or business with the owners permission. Neighbourhood Officers would monitor this for compliance. Directional signage for parking would be displayed at the Memorial Arch entrance for members of the public to use the Littlemoor Lane car park near Woodbank Community Centre. The circus advertising on social media would identify public transport routes and direct those travelling by car to this car park . Neighbourhood Officers will discuss with Traffic Services any measures that need to be put in place to prevent parking on the bend at the Memorial Arch entrance on Turncroft Lane. In terms of the noise management plan provided this was reviewed by the Specialist Environmental Health Officer Jackie McDonald. Show times and finishing hours would not be considered unreasonable and it was agreed on site as a recommendation from the EHO that the Circus would letter drop residents (streets to be identified by Cllrs and Officers) with a contact number to ring with any concerns. The Control Room would be notified to manage any complaints and Neighbourhood Officers will monitor noise levels being

recorded and respond to complaints to The Control Room. Circus staff would litter pick the site daily and carry out a last sweep of the area prior to leaving. Social distancing measures would be in place on entry and exit to the Circus with audience seated in their own 'bubbles' as per Covid-19 govt advice.

- 2.4. Neighbourhood Officers will continue to liaise with the Circus organisers to ensure that the agreed measures to prevent flyposting and limit any noise impact are put in place prior to the event with monitoring taking place before and during the event.
- 2.5. The Circus approach to the meeting was that they want to return to Stockport each year and want a good working relationship with local people and Cllrs and were keen to address the concerns before the event.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1. To approve the event application

4. LEGAL POSITION/IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The Neighbourhoods Service can exercise its powers in relation to flyposting under Section 43 Anti-Social behaviour Act 2003.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

- 5.1. No other alternatives were considered

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. The Local Ward Councillors have been consulted and no adverse comments were received.
- 6.2. A letter drop will be completed to identified properties following discussion with Cllrs to further address concerns raised about noise and provide contact numbers for residents to contact the circus directly

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Event fees of £300 daily will be applied and a bond of £1000 will be in place to cover and remediation work carried out by the Council in relation to the event.

8. TIMESCALES

Circus performance dates 23rd-27th September with arrival on site on 20th Sept and depart on 28th September

9. EQUALITIES/COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1. Equal Opportunities

- To provide a suitable and safer environment for pedestrians and other road users. The scheme contributes to the Council's vision statement "Promote equal life outcomes for all by tackling known inequalities across the borough of Stockport".

9.2. Sustainable Environment

- To develop and sustain a healthy, safe and attractive local environment which contributes to Stockport. Stockport Council understands the responsibility it has to lead by example and help the broader community make a positive contribution to the local environment.

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Director - Place recommends that the Central Stockport Area Committee approves the application in that the concerns raised have been addressed with all reasonable actions in place to prevent occurrence.

Background Papers There are no background papers to this report.

Anyone wishing further information please contact Richard Daniels on telephone number 0161 474 4284 or by email on richard.daniels@stockport.gov.uk