

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs N Aldis, A Gibson, A M Hill, T Knagg, R Lock, C Osborne, S Paterson, M Scott, S Sutton (Chairman), N Thompson
c.c. P Blaine, J Hewitt, W Jackson, M Pettitt, P Sharman

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 4 October 2021 commencing at 7.30pm.



Chris Robson
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy, SG19 1JE
01767 681491
28th September 2021

Following the easing of Covid19 restrictions the government has stated that it is 'expected and recommended' that people should wear face coverings (unless exempt) in crowded public settings. Due to the size of the Council chamber and the potential number of people present, Councillors, officers and members of the public are encouraged to wear face coverings during the meeting.

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of interest

Under the Localism Act 2011 members of Council are not required to make oral declarations of interest at meetings but may not participate in discussion or voting on any items of business in which they have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and under Sandy Town Council's Standing Orders must leave the room for the duration of all discussion on such items. (All members' register of interests are available on the Sandy Town Council website or on application to the Clerk.)

*This item is included on the agenda to enable members to declare new DPIs and also **those who wish to do so** may draw attention to their stated DPIs and also any non-declarable personal interests which they have declared under Sandy Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct and which may be relevant to items on the agenda.*

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests*
- ii) Non-disclosable Interests*
- iii) Dispensations*

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

To consider the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 23rd August 2021 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

Sandy Town Council

4 Public Participation Session

Members of the public may ask questions or make representations to the committee about items of business which are on the agenda.

5 Guest Speaker

To hear from and hold a discussion with Steven Beer from Bedfordshire Police's Community Cohesion Team on fostering positive relationships with organisations, groups and communities in Bedfordshire.

6 Action List

To receive the Action List and any updates.

Appendix I

7 Newsletter Publication Review

To consider a report reviewing the Council's publication of a regular newsletter/bulletin.

Appendix II

8 Lamp Post Banners

To consider future use of lamp post banners and any associated costs which may need to be recommended to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee.

Appendix III

9 Remembrance Commemorations 2021

i) To receive information on the proposed arrangements for the 2021 Remembrance Parade.

Appendix IV

ii) To note the requested location for the siting of a memorial bench by the Sandy branch of the Royal British Legion, marking 100 years of the Royal British Legion.

Appendix V

iii) To consider the purchase of a 'Tommy' soldier statue as part of the Council's Remembrance Commemorations and marking of 100 years of the Royal British Legion.

Appendix VI

10 Skatepark Project

To receive and note an update on the Skatepark Project.

Appendix VII

11 Events Working Group

i) To receive feedback on the recent performances by The Pantaloons on Beeston Green.

Appendix VIII

ii) To note the next meeting of the Events Working Group will be held on 5th October 2021, this will include forward planning for 2022/23.

12 Chairman's Items

13 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 8th November 2021

Agenda Item 6 - Community Services and Environment Committee - Action list

| Subject | Action to be taken Action | Response /Status |
|--|---|---|
| Full Council Meeting 20/04/16 | | |
| Allotments and Community Orchard At Beeston (CBC owned land) Min (22-16/17) | Progress and update reports to go to the Community Services and Environment Committee | <p>April 2019 – STC agreed initial Heads of Terms and raised some points of clarification.</p> <p>May 2019 – Responses received to points of clarification and STC confirmed it was happy to sign HoTs.</p> <p>June 2019 – STC chased progress and CBC stated the next step was to appoint solicitors. STC went out for solicitor quotes.</p> <p>August 2019 – STC appointed preferred solicitor and passed details to CBC.</p> <p>September 2019 – CBC officer was awaiting confirmation from manager to progress matter.</p> <p>October 2019 – STC chased matter and CBC responded saying there had been positive internal steps and movement on the lease which was expected by the end of the month.</p> <p>November 2019 – No movement and STC chased progress. CBC officer chased internally and indicated permission would be given to move the lease forward and that HoTs were to be re-visited in preparation.</p> <p>December 2019 – Due to the long period of time waiting for instruction the review of HoTs took CBC officer longer than expected. Further points of clarification raised with Clerk which were responded to during December 2019 and January 2020.</p> <p>January 2020 – Officer dealing with matter fell ill and was on sick leave.</p> <p>February/March 2020 – Revised site maps provided by CBC. Officer stated final approval from CBC management to send matter to LGSS Law was still awaited.</p> <p>July 2020 – Progress chased by STC. Delay in chasing due to reacting to pandemic. Responsibility for the community land passed to CBC Housing. HoTs for site were not raised between departments when transfer happened. Officer had to re-visit and renewed HoTs with housing department.</p> |

APPENDIX I

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | | <p>July/August 2020 – STC renewed solicitor quotes and re-engaged solicitor.</p> <p>October/November 2020 – CBC confirmed LGSS law were on standby to move matter forward. Some finer details of CBC commitments under the HoTs were still under internal discussion with CBC Housing.</p> <p>February 2021 – Delay in lease raised with MP Mr Fuller and CBC Leader, Cllr Wenham. Cllr Wenham said matter was with solicitors and should now be progressing.</p> <p>April 2021 – STC solicitors have not heard anything from LGSS Law. Clerk raised with CBC project officer and Cllr Stock for support in getting action from LGSS.</p> <p>28th May 2021 – CBC provided update on housing project. Status of lease chased again. Name of appointed solicitor for CBC provided and passed to STC solicitor.</p> <p>June/July – CBC solicitor advised LGA Act relating to Open Spaces is to be followed for the disposal of CBC owned land to STC. Clerk taken advice from STC solicitor who confirmed procedure that should be followed. Advised CBC that STC solicitor agrees with proposed way forward but query raised with LGSS law by STC solicitor for clarification.</p> <p>September 2021 - No further updates at time of issuing agenda. Matter chased, hold up may be with CBC's solicitor LGSS. CBC single point of contact investigating to push forward. Officer dealing with LGSS Law due to call Clerk on 29th September with update. Clerk to provide update verbally at meeting.</p> |
| <p>CSE Meeting 24/08/2020</p> | | |
| <p>Use of former Days Inn conference site</p> <p>Min (24-20/21)</p> | <p>RESOLVED to write to CBC with ideas about potential use of the former Days Inn conference site.</p> | <p>Letter summarising Council's comments issued. Clerk liaising with CBC who has confirmed receipt of the letter.</p> <p>15/12/20 – Communication indicating thoughts about how it could be used were well received. CBC waiting for other projects to feedback, which they will by the end of the April 2021. Board deferred matter until this time, at which point CBC will be able to pick up dialogue again with the local community. CBC T Keaveney provided update to Council on 24th May 2021. A further letter was issued by the Clerk to Mr Keaveney in response to his update and reminding him of the Council's views. No further updates. Raised in Clerk's project status notes and questions to CBC single point of contact for further update.</p> |

APPENDIX I

| CSE Meeting 05/10/2020 | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>SID Sign locations and Installation</p> <p>Min (37-20/21)</p> | <p>RESOLVED to approve sign locations and the Clerk work with CBC to arrange installation.</p> | <p>Local policing team to express their support for SID signage in Sandy to CBC. CBC Highways informed the Clerk that due to the number of requests for SID signs they wanted to review their approach. No new signs to be agreed by Highways until a new guidance document is produced.</p> <p>13/07/21 – CBC Highways contacted the Clerk and stated that they have considered request and do not consider that a SID would be appropriate along Sunderland Road, however they have added the issue of 'vehicle speeds along Sunderland Road' to their four-year plan.</p> <p>September 2021 - Cllr Maudlin is pursuing further with CBC officers. Matter discussed with the PCC by Cllrs Pettitt and Gibson. PCC will be raising the matter with CBC's Richard Wenham.</p> |
| CSE Meeting 23/08/2021 | | |
| <p>Min (33-21/22)</p> <p>EV Charging Points</p> | <p>RESOLVED that the Clerk submit a list of STC owned sites for consideration as part of CBC's EV Charge Point Scheme</p> | <p>EOI for sites submitted on 24th August 2021. Acknowledgment of receipt received. No further updates at present.</p> |

Community, Services & Environment

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|-----------------|--|
| Date: | 4th October 2021 |
| Title: | Regular News Bulletin/Publication |
| Contact: | Town Clerk |

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a brief overview of costs associated with the publishing of a regular news bulletin and to provide potential alternatives to the current publication used for Members' consideration.

Background

2. At a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 6th September 2021, Members raised a query about the cost of publishing a monthly news bulletin in the Mid Beds Bulletin magazine. Members raised concerns over whether publishing in the Bulletin is the best use of the funds, especially given recent concerns that it was not delivered to all houses in Sandy, as it should be. It was agreed that the matter go to the Community, Services and Environment Committee for further consideration.
3. The Council has used the Bulletin publication for the regular monthly release of a news item in a local publication for over 10 years. Prior to this, the Council produced a quarterly newsletter which all Councillors delivered to houses within their wards. One of the quarterly additions included the Council's Annual Report.
4. It is the Clerk's understanding that a change was made to utilise the Bulletin instead of an in-house publication as costs and resources involved in the production of a quarterly newsletter increased, including printing costs. The budget for the newsletter in 2010 was £7,500, up from £7,000 in 2009. This compares to a current budget of £3,000. Advertising from local businesses was sought to support costs, but the difficulties in getting advertising sponsorship was one of the reasons the switch to the Bulletin was made.
5. The issuing of a regular newsletter forms part of a Quality Council status criterion, and printing a regular item in the Bulletin, which is delivered to houses, helps meet that criteria. The news items are written by Council officers and sent to the Bulletin as one entry, to be formatted and included in the publication.

Information/Proposals

6. The Council currently uses the Bulletin magazine to release a brief monthly news item each month. Biggleswade Town Council uses the magazine for the same purpose and the two Councils' items appear opposite each other. The Bulletin is released each month and should be distributed to houses across Sandy and Biggleswade. The publisher informed the office that 4,520 issues of the magazine are delivered to homes across Sandy each month. Seddington and Georgetown are not included.
7. The Council recently used the Bulletin to deliver 'Shop Sandy' leaflets to households across the town. It became apparent from social media and Councillors' own experience, that many households stated they had not received a copy of the Bulletin or the leaflet. Some members of the public suggested they had not received a copy of the Bulletin for some time. This raised concerns that the magazine does not have the coverage the Council thought it had.
8. There are two potential alternative, regularly published local magazines which the Council could consider;

| Publication | Circulation | Cost (£) | Comments |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| The Villager | Publisher states is delivered to a 'handful of houses in Sandy'. | N/A | The Council has previously issued some articles to the Villager. However, the publication's low distribution level means it would not be a good alternative to the Bulletin. |
| Inside East Beds | Publisher confirmed that they deliver across all of Sandy and Beeston, as well as Potton & Biggleswade. They deliver 17,500 copies per month. | Double page spread (around 800 words, as we now have in the Bulletin) would be £300+VAT PM with a minimum 12 month booking Full page (around 500 words) would be £170+VAT PM with a minimum 12 month booking | Similar set up at with the Bulletin. STC would send a plain copy & any photos and publication would format in the style of the magazine. |

9. Members may want to consider looking at returning to the production and issuing of an 'in-house' newsletter. This would allow the Council to publish a greater quantity of written material as part of its engagement at regular intervals. As well as being used for Council articles, there would be opportunities for other groups/organisations to submit articles. An online version could also be produced. However, this would of course involve significantly more resources than at present, both financial and time which will be difficult with current workloads. As well as funding printing and delivery, resources would need to be put into writing articles, gathering and formatting, proof reading and distribution.
10. A quarterly newsletter would mean that some items might be less topical and would not allow the inclusion of too many recent/short-notice items which are currently covered by press releases and monthly Bulletin submissions.

Financial Implications

11. The current cost of publishing a news item each month in the Bulletin is £2,904 per annum. The cost of publishing a similar sized news item in 'Inside East Beds' would be £3,600 per annum.
12. The cost implications of completing an independent Town Council newsletter are currently unknown and more costing work and quotations will be required if this is something the Council wants to consider. However, based on the potential costs for formatting, designing and printing the newsletter, along with paid distribution, it is highly likely there would need to be an increase in the revenue budget to accommodate this.

A brief review of the council budgets of some councils which issue regular in-house newsletters showed that budgets ranged from £4,500 for a council which produces quarterly newsletters that are left at key locations in the town, to a council with a budget of £6,000 that delivers quarterly newsletters, to a council with a budget of £15,500 which produces 6 issues a year and delivered to all houses. Costs are of course down to the size of the parish (printing and distribution)

Policy Implications

13. The use of the Bulletin for the publishing of regular news items forms part of the Council's Community Engagement Policy. A regular newsletter/bulletin is required for any quality status that might be obtained.
14. The production of an in-house regular newsletter to be delivered to all houses would impact on the Council's Environmental Plan, where the production and creation of a new hard copy newsletter, delivered to households in Sandy would create a larger carbon footprint via printing, paper use and delivery.

Community, Services & Environment

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|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Date: | 4th October 2021 |
| Title: | Lamp Post Banner Use |
| Contact: | Town Clerk |

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a report from the Clerk on future use of lamp post brackets. Committee to agree how it would like to see the banner brackets used so the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee can consider any associated costs.

Recommendation

2. That the committee recommend to the Policy, Finance and Resources committee that;
 - 9 Union Jack or Platinum Jubilee banners are allowed for in the 2022/23 budget.
 - In 2022 Union Jack or Jubilee banners are left in place from May to October to celebrate this significant event and the revenue costs for their installation be allowed for in the 2022/23 budget.

Background

3. As part of the government's 'Welcome Back Fund', the Council was granted funding for the supply and installation of lamp post banner brackets and banners for lamp posts in the town centre. Funding covered brackets, Sandy themed banners, Remembrance banners and the erection swap over and taking down of banners during 2021.
4. The initial banners did not make the impact that was hoped for due to the size and height at which they were erected. The sizing guidance was in line with advice/restrictions from the printer and Central Bedfordshire Council Highways. However, following further discussion, the Remembrance 'Lest We Forget' banners are to be longer which will hopefully give the banners more impact. Banners could also potentially be installed lower down the lamp post column to make them more noticeable.
5. The design for the Remembrance 'Lest We Forget' banners was finalised and they are due to be installed in October – date to be confirmed. The image to the right is a mockup of the banner for Members' information.
6. The brackets are now the Town Council's asset and can be used to display whatever the Council might consider appropriate. There will however be cost implications for the Council depending on proposed use and the frequency of when banners will be erected and swapped. These costs will need to be included in budget considerations. Therefore, the committee should consider 2022/23 use of the banners to ensure the budget is in place for the forthcoming financial year.
7. Members may wish to repeat this year's banners to avoid capital expenditure. Alternatively, it has previously been suggested that the brackets could be used to display banners advertising local events or that businesses could pay to have their logos included on banners.



Information/Proposal

8. As 2022 will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, banners could be used to mark the occasion by displaying Union Jacks or Jubilee banners. Union Jack banners could of course be used to mark any national occasions the Council may wish to celebrate in future years. Jubilee banners would be specific to 2022.

Examples are shown below purely for illustration.



Financial Implications

- 9. There will be a capital cost of approximately £65 per new banner.
- 10. There will be an annual revenue cost for the erection/swapping of banners each year. This cost will be dependent on how often the Council wish to have banners erected/swapped. This cost would need to be factored in to the 2022/23 budget and precept calculations for the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee.
- 11. The tables below give examples of potential 2022/23 costs dependent on when banners might be installed/swapped. The examples are based on repeating this year's banners or including banners to mark the Queen's Jubilee.

Example one;

| Month | Action/Banner | Cost (£) |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------|
| May | Installation of 9 Sandy themed or summer banners | £385 |
| October | Swap of Sandy themed banners for 'Lest We Forget' banners | £385 |
| November | Taking down of 'Lest We Forget' banners and erection of Christmas light motifs. | £80 |
| Total Annual Revenue Cost | | £850 |

Example two;

| Month | Action/Banner | Cost (£) |
|--|---|---------------|
| April | Installation of 9 Union Jack/Queens Jubilee banners | £385 |
| June | Swap for 9 Sandy themed or summer banners | £385 |
| October | Swap of Sandy themed banners for 'Lest We Forget' banners | £385 |
| November | Taking down of 'Lest We Forget' banners and erection of Christmas light motifs. | £80 |
| Total Annual Revenue Cost | | £1,235 |
| Capital cost of purchasing 9 Union Jack banners | | £585 |

Example three;

| Month | Action/Banner | Cost (£) |
|--|---|-------------|
| May | Installation of 9 Union Jack/Queens Jubilee Banners. <i>Leave up during summer as recognition of this significant year.</i> | £385 |
| October | Swap Jubilee banners for 'Lest We Forget' banners | £385 |
| November | Taking down of 'Lest We Forget' banners and erection of Christmas light motifs. | £80 |
| Total Annual Revenue Cost | | £850 |
| Capital cost of purchasing 9 Platinum Jubilee banners | | £585 |

12. Banners could of course be installed in January when the Christmas lights come down. When banners were initially discussed it was thought better not to have them up all year round as they lose their impact and may become weathered and tired looking. However, putting banners up when the contractor is already removing xmas lights could give a cost reduction.

Policy Implications

13. The Council has no existing policy around banners and how they will be used.
14. The use of banners to promote Sandy, local events and the Council would form part of the Council's Community Engagement Policy and offers another tool the council can use as part of its engagement strategy.

Legal Powers

15. Council holds the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort (Localism Act 2011, s.1)

Community, Services & Environment

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Date: | 4th October 2021 |
| Title: | Remembrance Parade Update |
| Contact: | Katie Barker, Administrator |

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a brief update on arrangements which are underway for the town's Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service, which will be held on Sunday 14th November 2021.

Background

2. Following the lifting of all government restrictions on large gatherings, the Council and the local branch of the Royal British Legion are looking to hold a more traditional Remembrance Parade and Service in November 2021.

3. Members of the Events Working Group met with RBL Sandy and District Branch Chairman, Roger Sparks and Parade Marshal, Colin Baker on Tuesday 28th September to begin to make arrangements for this year's event. Below are the key points and actions from that meeting.

Information

4. It was agreed that the parade will run as closely as possible to the usual format, with the reservation that, due to a scheduling clash for this meeting, it is not currently known whether a normal service at St Swithun's Church will be permitted, or, if so, whether attendee number restrictions would be imposed. A further meeting will be held on 5th October, when this will be clarified and details of any service confirmed. If a Church service is possible, the parade route will run from Swan Lane, along Bedford Road, pausing at the War Memorial, through the High Street to the Church and then, following the service, from the Church to the Market Square, via the High Street and Cambridge Road. If a Church service is not permitted, the parade could travel directly from the War Memorial to the Market Square, for a short outdoor service.

5. Some minor changes to the timings used in 2019 were agreed, in accordance with feedback from the children's groups that the younger children struggled with the length of the day:

- The time spent at the War Memorial will be reduced by having wreaths laid two at a time, with representatives of similar groups, eg. the Police and Fire Service, going together.
- The Church service, should it go ahead, will be reduced to 40 minutes, allowing the whole event to conclude by 1pm.

6. At a national level, RBL's policy on branches' involvement in parade organisation has shifted over recent years. In 2019, the parade had to be covered by the Council's public liability insurance, but the RBL Chairman still applied for the road closure and Police support to enforce this. However, the organisation has taken a further step back since this time; these events are now considered civic matters and RBL members must not be involved in arranging or enforcing any road closures. Therefore, the following administrative tasks involved in the road closure and street parade will fall to the Council moving forward:

- Applying to Central Bedfordshire Council for road closures.
- Requesting support from the Police to enforce closures.
- Sending letters of invitation and instructions to community groups and individuals participating in the parade.

Community, Services & Environment

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Date: | 4th October 2021 |
| Title: | Royal British Legion Memorial Bench |
| Contact: | Town Clerk |

Purpose of the Report

1. To note the location for the siting of the Sandy Branch of the Royal British Legion's (RBL) memorial bench as requested by representatives of the Sandy RBL.

Background

2. The RBL approached the Council in January 2020 to enquire about the siting of a public commemorative bench in the Market Square. The bench is to be a permanent reminder that the town still remembers the sacrifices made for our freedom.
3. The RBL wish to locate the bench in the area around the Sandy Market Square sign. The land is under the ownership of Central Bedfordshire Council Highways department. The CSE committee was asked to consider if they wish to support the installation of the bench, where the most appropriate location may be and whether the Council should assist in getting the relative permissions from Highways. It was noted that Highways would want to know who would be taking on any future required maintenance of the bench.
4. At a meeting of the CSE committee held on 27th January 2020 it was resolved that the Council support the siting of a commemorative bench in the Market Square area but that the bench must not prohibit the erection of the Christmas Tree. That if approved by CBC Highways, the Town Council take on the responsibility for maintaining the bench.
5. The Council awarded the RBL a grant of £500 towards the cost of the bench.

Information

6. The commemorative bench has now been delivered to the Council depot and is ready for installation. The Clerk and Outdoor Team Leader met with a representative of the RBL on Thursday 23rd September to agree a location. It was agreed that the preferred location of the bench would be either in front of the Sandy sign or to replace an old bench in front of the sorting office garden.



7. Location 1 is on land owned by CBC Highways and permission to install a new bench is needed. A request has been sent. Locating the bench at location 2 will be quicker, as the Outdoor Team can spend a morning removing the old bench and installing the new bench. It was noted that work to tidy up the garden was underway and the locating of the bench at this point would help improve this area. The RBL would like to have the bench installed before 11th November and this may dictate where the bench goes dependent on any Highways response time.
8. The benches measurements are L 49in X W 20in X H 39in

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implications for the Town Council currently. The Council did previously agree a grant contribution of £500 towards the cost of the bench. This grant payment has already been made. Future maintenance costs may be incurred following the installation of the bench. The Council's established maintenance revenue budget for benches can cover future maintenance costs.

Policy Implications

10. There are no specific policies which would be impacted by the installation of this bench. However, the future maintenance of the bench and the inclusion of the bench on the Council's asset register and insurance cover will be required.

Legal Powers

11. Council holds the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort (Localism Act 2011, s.1)



Community, Services & Environment

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|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Date: | 4th October 2021 |
| Title: | Tommy Soldier |
| Contact: | Town Clerk |

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the purchase of a 'Lest We Forget' statue as part of the Council's Remembrance commemorations and to help recognise 100 years of the Royal British Legion (RBL).

Recommendation

2. That Members note the purchase of an 'Unknown Tommy' Statue and advise the Clerk on a preferred location.

Background

4. The 'Unknown Tommy' statue has become a common sight in parishes across the Country as Councils and their communities look to commemorate Remembrance and mark the sacrifice so many people from communities made.
5. Following discussion with the Chairman of the PFR and the Chairman of the CSE committees, the Clerk has purchased one 'Unknown Tommy' statue at a cost of £175 for display in the town as part of this year's commemorative activities and to help mark 100 years of the RBL. Expenditure is within delegated authority levels. The statue should be with the Council for the end of October 2021 and can be displayed throughout the year at the same or different locations or displayed during November each year as the town marks Remembrance.

Information

6. The committee is asked to consider where the statue is to be displayed. The statue can easily be moved to any location the Council may wish. There are three potential locations listed below;
 - a) The War Memorial – Due to the need to make as much space available as possible during the Remembrance Parade, it would not be practical to locate the statue here for the day of the parade. It could be located here in the lead up to, and following, the parade date.
 - b) Fayne's Corner – A statue could be placed facing the Flagpole at Fayne's Corner
 - c) St Swithun's Church Yard – In the past couple of years, Councillor representatives have gathered in St Swithun's churchyard to observe the national silence on the 11th itself. With permission from the Church, the statue could be located at the front of the churchyard and would be visible to those who pass by.



Community, Services & Environment

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|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Date: | 4th October 2021 |
| Title: | The Pantaloons |
| Contact: | Katie Barker - Administrator |

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a report/feedback on recent performances by The Pantaloons at Beeston Green.

Recommendation

2. To note the report.

Background

3. For the last two years, the Council has agreed for The Pantaloons to use Beeston Village Green for a number of performances during the summer. The Council has welcomed the performances which add to the number of events happening in Sandy over the year and provide something different for residents to enjoy. The Council receives 30% of ticket sales in way of rent for use of the Green. This year £5,214 was taken, so the Council's 30% share is £1,564.20.

Information

4. The Pantaloons provided the following feedback to the Council;

Q. Were attendance numbers good?

Attendance was good. It's currently very hard to gauge what is the largest size of crowd we could attract to the venue as we have only ever attended with social distancing in place. In 2020 and 21 we had to hold back on publicising as we had limited tickets available to sell. We are hoping we can at least double the numbers we had when things return to normal.

Q. Did you enjoy performing in Beeston?

We did indeed. There was a good mix of people who used to visit our shows at the RSPB and new audiences, some of whom live in the village and seemed very happy to have us visit. Very friendly appreciative crowds.

Q. Did you have any issues?

The only real issue this year was caused by the toilet hire company not collecting the toilets when they were supposed to. In future we will anticipate this better and follow up immediately after the show so they cannot forget to collect them. Carparking would become an issue if we can indeed double our audience in future; we would need a solution for that.

Q. Do you think you would be looking to return in 2022?

We would very much like to. In a 'normal' year it would be good to be able to coordinate some more marketing with the Town Council and make more of the events. For the past two years, being low key and relaxed has been a good thing, though.

5. The following feedback was received from Cllr Hill, who help coordinate with The Pantaloons on use of the Green;

Over 400 people attended the three productions by the Pantaloons outdoor theatre group over the summer on Beeston Green. The event was very well managed with all cars parked along the road and no rubbish left at all. Just a couple of issues with the portaloos. Upon speaking to the company, they confirmed they think the Green is an ideal location and hope to return in 2022.