

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**

### **RESPONSE TO PETITION: SAVE OUR FUNFAIR - EDWINSTOWE**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report informs Committee of the Council's response to a petition presented at Full Council on 25 February 2016.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. A petition with 969 signatures was presented to Full Council on 25 February 2016 by Councillor John Peck. The petition stated "Despite purchasing 2 fields specifically for the site of the new visitor centre the County Council has now decided that the preferred location for the visitor centre is forest corner which is the current location of the funfair. The funfair has been given notice that the Council will now renew their licence when it expires next year. The only land that the Council has offered the funfair to relocate to is the field across the road. This location is not suitable because the deterrent of the busy road for children would potentially make the funfair unsustainable. As no other suitable site has been offered this could mean that we will lose the funfair forever." The petition was compiled in December 2015.
3. Members will recall that following a public procurement exercise the County Council has contracted with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to design, build and manage a replacement visitor centre for Sherwood Forest Country Park, and manage the Country Park on a long term basis on behalf of the Council.
4. The RSPB is currently part way through the design and planning stage of its work to establish the replacement visitor centre. The RSPB's chosen location for the new centre is the Forest Corner site. Public and stakeholder consultation on the design concept for the new centre is currently underway.
5. It is the case that the selected location of the replacement visitor centre will require the Funfair to be re-sited. The Funfair currently holds an annual licence, operative from March-October, to operate from the Forest Corner site. The licence is required to be renewed each year. The replacement visitor centre is due to be operative from the winter of 2017/18. 2016 will be the final year the Funfair will operate from its current location.
6. As part of this consultation process, RSPB and Council officers are in contact with the Edwinstowe Funfair operators regarding the future location and operation of the Funfair. Both the County Council and the RSPB have publically committed to support the Funfair to effectively relocate its operations. To this end, an initial meeting with the Funfair operators took place on 18 March. A further meeting is scheduled for 29 April. The initial meeting

was constructive, and focused on how the funfair might operate sustainably from a site integrated within the replacement visitor centre's customer parking area on Naish's Field. This site offers access to a greater number of potential customers, would provide the Funfair with sufficient and appropriately designated space and access to necessary utilities. Issues of access and road crossing will be addressed by the RSPB and the Council through the formal planning process for the replacement visitor centre.

### **Other Options Considered**

7. No other options have been considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

8. To inform Committee of the Council's response to a petition presented at Full Council on 25 February 2016. The Committee's decision will be reported to the next available meeting of the Full Council.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Committee notes that discussions are ongoing with Edwinstowe Funfair operators regarding the future location of the Funfair, and that the Council remains committed to supporting the effective relocation of the Funfair, and the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

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### **Constitutional Comments (SMG 02/04/16)**

10. The proposals set out in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

**Financial Comments (SS 31/03/16)**

11. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0811