

5th October 2017

Agenda Item: 12

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING, RESOURCES AND CULTURE

AUTUMN AND WINTER EVENTS AT SHERWOOD FOREST COUNTRY PARK

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek endorsement of this year's autumn and winter events at Sherwood Forest Country Park including the winter illuminations weekend – Sparkling Sherwood.

Information and Advice

2. For the past few years the country park has put on a programme of autumn and winter events starting with a series of small scale activities for children and families around October half-term then the Halloween trail followed by the winter illuminations weekend, Sparkling Sherwood, and finally the various Christmas themed events such as Santa's Grotto, the ever popular Dog Grotto, Tree Dressing which this year is being supported by the Woodland Trust Forest Charter Celebrations, Christmas Ceilidh evenings and the Yuletide Trail and seasonal walks. The proposed events for autumn and winter 2017/18 are detailed in **Appendix 1**.
3. Sparkling Sherwood is the largest of these events and requires considerable logistical effort and expertise but Members who have attended in the past will no doubt testify that the effect is quite magical. As it takes place in the evening it is managed as a pre-booked ticket only event to ensure visitors have time to enjoy the spectacle. An example of the publicity for the event is available as a background paper. The other events have been advertised in the Council's What's On Guide and through the events page on the Council's website.

Other Options Considered

4. There is always the option of not putting on an event programme but this one is tried and tested and has proved to be very popular with visitors as well as generating additional income. Event providers have already been booked for a number of these events as this has to be done in the summer in order to secure their services.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

5. The autumn and winter programme of events at Sherwood, as well as providing entertainment, showcases the natural beauty of the site and serves to introduce people to the Park who might otherwise not have visited. It also encourages visitor spend in the

catering and retail outlets at an otherwise quiet time of the year. The Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre Santa's Grotto has gained a reputation for being a charming traditional style grotto much enjoyed by families looking for a less commercial experience and the Dog Grotto has certainly been a popular way of attracting new repeat visitors to the site.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. 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.

Financial Implications

7. There is a cost associated with all events but this is provided for in the budget and is offset by the additional income from parking charges and event charges (where levied) and additional spend in the catering and retail outlets.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

8. The park rangers supplemented as required by additional stewards and visitor reception staff have a system in place to deal with children or vulnerable adults who become separated from their carers in a crowd.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

9. As Sherwood is a National Nature Reserve all likely environmental impacts are examined and where necessary consent is obtained from Natural England, the government's conservation body.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the autumn and winter events programme for Sherwood Forest Country Park is endorsed.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 20/09/17)

10. The Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 20/09/17)

11. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 7 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Sparkling Sherwood A5 hand bill

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1032