

## **Hambleton District Council**

**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date:** 8 February 2022

**Subject:** **May Fair Northallerton – Event Licence Renewal**

**Portfolio Holder:** Governance  
Councillor I Sanderson

**Wards Affected:** Northallerton

---

### **1.0 Purpose and Background**

- 1.1 The report seeks approval of Cabinet on the terms and conditions of the renewal of the May Fair Licence with the Showmens Guild Northern Section to operate the Northallerton May Fair.
- 1.2 Over the past few decades operation of the May Fair has been licenced to the Northern Area branch of the Showmens Guild, typically for a period of 3 to 5 years. The most recent longer-term licence was for the period 2013 to 2017 inclusive, with 2018 and 2019 being subject to a single year licence. The covid pandemic led to cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 events.
- 1.3 Organisation of the May Fair is split between the District Council and the Showmens Guild. The Council manages the road closures including the associated traffic management requirements in coordination with North Yorkshire County Council, as well as the necessary waste collections. The Guild supervises the event itself including the Showmen and the operation of the rides and attractions. They are also responsible for the provision of temporary toilets to supplement the public toilets at the Town Hall.
- 1.4 The Showmen occupy a designated area of the Long Stay Applegarth Car Park, this is available from Sunday though typically Showmen start to arrive on Tuesday evening and through the course of Wednesday and depart during Tuesday after the event. In effect the licence fee includes lost pay and display parking income.
- 1.5 The dates of the May Fair are based around the Early May Bank Holiday. Set-up of the event is on the evening (after the market) of the Wednesday preceding the Bank Holiday Monday and the event operates from Thursday evening through until close on the Bank Holiday Monday. In 2019 a consultation on the Sunday hours of operation came out in favour of an extension through to 8.00pm on an initial one-year trial basis subject to reduced volume of music and announcements between 6.00pm to 8.00pm. The longer Sunday hours trial has not been implemented due to the 2020 event being cancelled. It is therefore intended that the trial takes place this year, with the situation being reviewed afterwards.

- 1.6 The proposed position is that a five-year licence is agreed with the Showmens Guild covering the period 2022 to 2026 inclusive. This will give the Showmens Guild greater planning certainty after two cancelled events in 2020 and 2021 and two single year licences in 2018 and 2019. It will also alleviate the need for an early negotiation during the first few years of the new North Yorkshire Council.
- 1.7 It is also proposed that a review of the 2022 event is undertaken to evaluate the success of the extended operating hours on the Sunday.

## **2.0 Link to Council Priorities**

- 2.1 The provision of the event contributes to the Council's priorities of "Providing a Special Place to Live" and, especially for younger people, "Enhancing Health and Wellbeing".

## **3.0 Risk Assessment**

- 3.1 There are no significant risks associated with this report.

## **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The fee payable in the 2013 to 2017 licence agreement started at £14,000 and increased over the licence period to £15,200.
- 4.2 The Showmens Guild report that they have been largely excluded from the Government's Covid financial support arrangements. It is therefore proposed that a waiver of fees for the 2022 May Fair is provided. It is proposed that a baseline fee of £16,000 is identified for 2023, with the fees, details and arrangements being delegated to the Director of Leisure and Communities to agree with the Guild for the remainder of the licence period (clearly these responsibilities will transfer to the North Yorkshire Council from vesting day).

## **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Showmens Guild will be required to enter into a licence with the Council to secure the terms of the agreement for the operation of the Northallerton May Fair and use of the Applegarth Car Park, including appropriate indemnity.
- 5.2 The Council will secure the required road closure with the Highway Authority together with closing taxi ranks in accordance with Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 Section 63.
- 5.3 There is to be provision to terminate the Licence by either party by giving the other party at least 6 months' notice in writing.

## **6.0 Equality/Diversity Issues**

- 6.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered however there are no issues associated with this report.

## **7.0 Health and Safety Issues**

7.1 Health and Safety issues have been considered. A detailed event safety plan including a noise management plan and risk assessments will be prepared by the Showmens Guild which will be subject to assessment by the Hambleton Safety Advisory Group in advance of the 2022 May Fair.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

8.1 It is recommended that:-

- (1) Cabinet approve the proposed approach of a five-year May Fair licence to be agreed with the Showmens Guild for the period 2022 to 2026 inclusive;
- (2) Cabinet approve a proposed waiver of a licence fee for the 2022 May Fair and the adoption of the fee setting arrangements outlined in paragraph 4.2 for the remaining licence period and
- (3) authority to agree the terms and conditions of the licence for the May Fair and the use of the Applegarth Car Park is delegated to the Director of Leisure and Communities.

Steven Lister  
Director of Leisure and Communities

**Background papers:** None

**Author ref:** CT

**Contact:** Clive Thornton  
Corporate Facilities Manager  
01609 767052