

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 29th January 2024

Title: Third Party Events Report

Contact Officer: Venue & Events Officer

Background

The Council works hard to facilitate a range of third-party events which are primarily held on the Leys.

Current Situation

Current planned events for 2024:

- **Hatwell's Funfair – 13th – 20th May:** A yearly fairground event, aimed at younger children and families. This event is on a smaller scale than Witney Feast, but still a substantial event for the town.
- **Witney Pride – 25th May:** Witney pride will be hosting their 3rd annual event in May 2024, celebrating the LGBTQ+ community. This event traditionally involves a procession through town, with local stalls set up on the leys.
- **Witney Music Festival – 7th & 8th June:** As usual, the festival will take place on the leys in June. The Town Council has developed a close relationship with the festival over the last couple of years and we look forward to continuing to work with them.
- **Witney Carnival – Saturday 13th July:** Witney Carnival returns in July 2024. This year's theme is Children's TV through the ages. The carnival is organised by Witney Round Table, Witney Lions Club, Witney Rotary Club and the Witney Air Cadets.
- **Oxfordshire Play Association – Thursday 1st August:** Yearly free children's Play Day supported by WTC, held at different locations in town. This year it will be held at West Witney. The Sports and social club will be open for refreshments and toilet use.
- **Witney Feast – 9th & 10th September:** A traditional event for the town that dates back as far as 1243! Wilsons Funfair will return this year.
- **Circus Ginnett: 30th September – 6th October:** A popular touring circus event returning to the leys this year.

The venue and event staff are hoping to welcome back Oxford Playhouse outdoor theatre to the Leys again this year. The venue & event staff have been in discussion around the potential to collaborate with WODC to provide a more expansive and diverse calendar of events for the town in areas such as Market Square and Marriot's walk. This will be thoroughly researched and reported back to the Town Council.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implication

The Corn Exchange is operating to budget with no forecasted risk of annual overspend.

Recommendations

Members are invited to consider the following.

1. Members are invited to note the report.