

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 17 May 2021

**Title:** Leys Recreation Ground - Request to run a Doughnut Stall

**Contact Officer:** Maintenance & Environmental Services Officer - Angus Whitburn

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### **Background**

A request has come in from Baker Sweet to run a doughnut stall at the Leys Recreation Ground. They have requested to run on Saturdays and Sundays only.

### **Current Situation**

A doughnut stall at the Leys Recreation Ground would be an additional offering for users. The offering is an artisan product and not cheaply produced for mass consumption.

The council did use to have a contract with an Ice Cream van that operated on the leys. There were complaints received from parents about its operation outside the play area. This was an added pressure for parents who were taking children to the play area for a free day out.

There are two locations the town council can offer to Bakers sweet to set up. One would be on the concrete area outside the play area. The other would be across from the districts public toilets. The latter of the two choices would cut off any view from the bench installed in the location.

Baker Sweet have already shown their willingness to work with the council by not offering hot drinks on their menu. They believe this will help support the Coffee shed as doughnuts and coffee go hand in hand.

### **Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind 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.

Any additional food and drink retailers on the leys could cause an issue with the Coffee Shed. The Coffee Shed do serve a full menu not limited to hot drinks.

If the council were to give permission to a stall near a children's play area selling doughnuts only this could be seen as the council not supporting healthy eating habits. And this could raise issues with parents taking children to Leys for a free day out.

### **Financial implications**

There would be an expectation that some sort of pitch rental would be charged and a formal contract should be entered into in order to make sure terms and conditions are adhered to.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the request from Bakers Sweet to run a doughnut stall on the Leys Recreation Ground, and agree following:

1. a fixed term period for operating along with clear terms and conditions – which will be reviewed and monitored by officers;
2. Decide on the area of set up if councillors permit the doughnut stall to operate;
3. Delegate to officers to handle all the legalities and charges associated.