

## **STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 19 July 2021

**Title:** Advent Fayre

**Contact Officer:** Venue & Events Officer - Tomas Smith

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### **Background**

The purpose of this report is to update and inform Councillors and new Councillors on the annual Advent Fayre hosted by the Town Council.

Historically we have run the Witney Town Council Advent Fayre for the children and families of Witney in the Corn Exchange, this is a FREE event and is normally held between 11am and 3pm on the closest Sunday to the beginning of Advent and after the Town's Christmas Lights are switched on.

Activities have included craft tables for the children, meeting Father Christmas and a display by the model club. This year the actual location of the Model Clubs display would have to be either moved or incorporated into the main hall due to café 1863 now up and running. We would need to source a Father Christmas who would be in attendance all day.

The fayre can only take place with the help of volunteers as this is not an Officers function. The Venue and Events Officer organises the event and is the only officer who attends; therefore, we are reliant on the goodwill of the Air Cadets and Councillors to help run the various activities.

Historically volunteers have dressed as elves (costumes supplied by WTC) which added to the Christmas Theme.

### **Environmental impact**

If the event should go ahead, the activities provided should complement the Council's climate objectives, a climate emergency having been declared in June 2019.

### **Risk**

There is a financial risk to the Council that funds may be wasted if the event should have to be downsized or cancelled due to any, yet unknown, Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

### **Financial implications**

The Council is invited to note this report and consider the following:

- The budget is set at £2,000 for this year and does restrict the addition of extra attractions or activities.
- There is an additional cost for the hire of the Corn exchange plus the caretakers' additional hours.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note this report and consider the following:

- 1) Whether the Town Council should run an Advent Fayre at the end of November/ beginning of December based on the previous formats.