

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 8 November 2021

Title: Public Halls & 1863 Café Bar Report

Contact Officer: Venue & Events Officer - Tomas Smith

Background

The Corn Exchange and Burwell Hall are open as normal, and both have welcomed back all the groups who were here pre pandemic. 1863 continues to open and has a dedicated group of regular customers as well as being open and offering a great service to the groups hiring the hall.

All staff are working well and are at the forefront of what the Town Council offer in terms of commitment and customer service.

Current Situation

1863

The café continues to open Monday to Friday 10:00 – 16:00 and has become a popular destination for our regular customer who use the facility daily. The outdoor tables are still out every day and represent good advertising for the Halls as well as a pleasant area in which to enjoy a drink. Staffing continues the same as the previous report with two part time staff covering the opening and closing of 1863. Standards are consistently high, and feedback is consistently positive. The opening of a coffee shop two doors down has slightly impacted takings, since they provide a full lunch selection as well as opening 08:00 – 18:00 Monday to Saturday and 09:00 – 17:00 on a Sunday.

In addition, all groups hiring the Corn Exchange are using the café instead of using urns/hot water from the kitchen.

Corn Exchange

The Corn Exchange has welcomed back 95% percent of pre-pandemic groups and has potentially got a new English Literature group who will be starting. Buttercross Theatre Company continue to be in four days a week and have started rehearsals in earnest for the December Pantomime. Work is scheduled to start by Henley Theatre Services on the infrastructure for installation of the lighting and sound upgrade on the week commencing 8th November. This has been communicated to all hiring groups to minimise any disruption that might occur during the works.

Burwell Hall

Burwell Hall continues to be busy every day with all groups now back in. The last to return was the Probus Club, and they have had a successful first meeting since lockdown. Weekends have been busy with children's parties, looking forward there are Christmas Parties lined up starting from the end of November.

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.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- Ongoing operation of the café and importance of groups in both halls.

Recommendations

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

1. Members are invited to note the Public Halls report.