

## **STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 11 July 2022

**Title:** Children's Advent Fayre

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

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### **Background**

The Advent Fayre is normally held on the last Sunday in November and is an opportunity for the children of Witney to attend a free event, undertake in some crafting and meet Father Christmas. It runs from 11am – 3pm. Last year Witney Town Council provided craft bags for the children, free face painting and constructed a Grotto in 1863. The Town Council also ran a 'letters to Father Christmas' post service with every child who wrote a letter getting a response. Last Year the event was mainly in the café area with some overflow tables in the Main Hall due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

### **Current Situation**

This year the Advent Fayre could run along the same lines as the previous year with the Venue and Events Officer happy to undertake the role of Father Christmas again. The date would be Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Face painting was successful, so the recommendation would be to run this again alongside the letters to Father Christmas and the free craft bags. The event was supported by Town Councillors who volunteered a couple of hours to help with the crafting and queue management for the Grotto.

Witney Model Club have shown an interest in returning this year and have suggested they could use the Main Hall for a strong impact. It has been suggested that Witney Wonderland be approached to put up decorations in the Main Hall.

### **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.

Craft Activities should reflect the Council's obligations against climate change and should be as sustainably sourced and recyclable, as much as possible.

### **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**

- The budget for the Advent Fayre is
- Cost of Crafting bags and a face painter
- Opening of 1863 on a Sunday

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider:

1. If the Advent Fayre should be run this year
2. If Witney Model Club can use the Hall for display
3. If a grotto is required again
4. If Witney Wonderland should be invited to take part