

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 9th MARCH 2021

Agenda item 11 – Events: Fun and Music in the Park

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the most recent legislation regarding events and the roadmap out of lockdown.

2. Events in general

- 2.1 On 24th February 2021 Government issued 'Reopening businesses and venues in England' guidance that details the steps to reopen certain businesses and venues in England, which included information on events being held.

- 2.2 The guidance has been carefully read and unfortunately still leaves significant ambiguity around holding events. The details for step 2, which is no earlier than 12th April 2021, say:

*'Outdoor gatherings or events, organised by a business, charity, public body or similar organisation, can be organised, subject to specific conditions: that they comply with COVID-Secure guidance including taking reasonable steps to limit the risk of transmission, complete a related risk assessment; and ensure that those attending do not mix beyond what is permitted by the social contact limits (unless another exemption exists, such as for work purposes, or supervised activities for children). This could enable spectators at a grassroots sports match or a village fete, provided people do not mix beyond groups of 6 people or two households. **We will update guidance to local authorities on how smaller outdoor events like these should be run safely.**'*

- 2.3 This updated guidance has not yet been forthcoming and as a result we are not yet in a position to be able to advice on events until this has been received.

- 2.4 Members may wish to consider delegating the decision on events to the Town Clerk to make prior to the next Community Services Committee meeting once this guidance has been issued.

3. Fun and Music in the Park

- 3.1 The guidance issued on 24th February 2021 states that at Step 4, which is no earlier than 21st June 2021:

'we hope to reopen remaining settings such as nightclubs and adult entertainment venues, and to lift the restrictions on social contact and large events that apply in Step 3. This is subject to the outcome of the Events Research Programme, and a review of social distancing measures.'

3.2 Councillors may wish to consider organising a small-scale Fun and Music in the Park event in Autumn, however circumstances may still change, and no contractual commitments should be made that we are not prepared to lose.

Louise Brown
Communications, Marketing and Events Officer
4th March 2021