

The New Town Hall, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG

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Councillors nominated to the **Services Committee** are hereby summoned to attend the following meeting. Please inform the Town Clerk if you are unable to attend.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**MEETING:** Services Committee Meeting

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 5.30pm

**PLACE:** Council Chamber, The New Town Hall, Commercial Road, Weymouth,

DT4 8NG

This is a meeting in public, not a public meeting. If you would like to attend and have any special requirements eg access or a copy of the agenda in another format, e.g. large print, please contact us. Agenda and papers are available at [www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generatedAnyone wishing to ask a public question should do so by email to [office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk) by 9am on the day prior to the meeting.

Attendees are asked to respect social distancing and are encouraged to wear masks if they wish. Please do not attend the meeting if you feel unwell. Attendees will be asked to sign in to assist with health and safety including fire evacuation.

J L Biscombe, FSLCC, CiLCA

Town Clerk 16th February 2023 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Agenda

1. Welcome by the Chair
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the last meeting
5. Councillor questions and statements
6. Public questions
7. Revised Options to Fairground Bookings in 2023
8. - Actions from previous meetings

- Forward Plan

## Welcome by the Chair

## Apologies for Absence

To note any apologies for absence.

## Declarations of Interest

To receive members declarations of interest in matters on the agenda.

## Minutes of the last meeting

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 18th January 2023 as a true and accurate record.

### Recommendation:

Members are asked to agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 18th January 2023 as a true and accurate record, and that they be signed as such.

## Councillor Questions and Statements

In accordance with Standing Order 29, one clear day’s notice in writing to the Clerk of the meeting is required. In the case of urgent items permission must be sought from the Chairman and the question submitted to the Clerk of the meeting by 3:00pm on the day of the meeting.

## Public Questions

Members of the public are able to attend the meeting to ask a question but this must be pre-arranged with the meeting clerk via [office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk) by 9am on the day prior to the meeting.

Questions referring to the work of Dorset Council or other external organisations will not be taken at this meeting. The length of time available for public questions will be determined by the Chairman.

## Revised Options to Fairground Bookings in 2023

### Purpose

To propose options for dates and locations for funfairs on Weymouth seafront in 2023.

### Background

In January 2023, the Services Committee considered proposals for funfair bookings for 2023 at both the Jubilee Clock (Promenade) and Pavilion Forecourt sites. At the meeting, the following dates/locations for funfairs were agreed:

* a total for 20 days on various separate occasions at the Jubilee Clock;
* the Easter funfair on the Pavilion Forecourt site *(*April 7th - 16th*)*.

A decision on the remainder of the proposed dates at the Pavilion Forecourt (typically bank holiday weekends, school holidays and Bonfire Night) was deferred subject to further investigations by officers as to alternative locations.

Specifically, the Committee agreed that: *Members voted unanimously to defer the full option, to instruct Officers to investigate costings to relocate the fairgrounds to either the Swannery or Pavilion (Peninsula) car park. An extraordinary meeting of the Council will be called once further information is gathered by Officers.*

Subsequent to this, officers have been in discussion with Dorset Council’s Parking Services and Harbourmasters Office to explore the options. The results of these discussions are set out in **Appendix A** and can be summarised as follows:

**Swannery car park**: Following discussions with Dorset Council and an assessment by officers are to the area required, it has become apparent that this car park is **not** suitable, contrary to the initial assessment. There are two main obstacles:

* Firstly, given the density of the parking spaces, the cost of hiring the required space would be in excess of £700 per day, making it economically unviable as any hire fee (paid to Dorset Council) would be passed on to the operator along with the town council’s own booking fee resulting in a daily charge to the operator of at least £1,000 depending on the size and number of rides. This daily fee would be approximately twice that charged on the Pavilion Forecourt.
* Secondly, Dorset Council have concerns about the stability of the car park surface (given that its reclaimed land) and its capacity to accommodate heavy fairground rides and vehicles. Dorset Council would require details of any equipment (e.g. weight and bases) but doubt that the surface would be a suitable for a funfair.

**Peninsula (Pavilion) car park**: This car park and area is controlled by the Weymouth Harbourmaster’s office. Discussions with the Habourmaster’s office have indicated that the Peninsula car park will definitely **not** be available in 2023 and perhaps in following years due to a combination of construction works on the harbourside and peninsula walls, and the need to retain car parking.

Given that the Lodmoor event site has also been ruled out due to concerns raised by the Sealife Centre, the Pavilion Forecourt site is the only remaining viable option for the location of a funfair to compliment the bookings at the Jubilee Clock site on the Promenade.

The continued use of the Pavilion Forecourt for funfairs in 2023 has again been discussed with representatives from Weymouth Pavilion and the Weymouth Hoteliers, Guest House & Leaseholders Association (WHGHLA) and submissions from both as set out in **Appendix B**. Similar concerns were submitted to the council when the issue of funfairs bookings was discussed by Services Committee in December 2022 and January 2023.

In summary, the main concerns are:

* Noise created by the larger, more thrilling rides on a regular basis throughout the hours of operation as a result of machinery, music and customer screams.
* Anti-social behaviour from groups attracted to or gathering in the vicinity of the funfair.

Both Weymouth Pavilion and the WHGHLA consider that the funfairs, particularly the long booking from late July until the end of August has a detrimental impact on their businesses and income.

Given that there would not appear to be an alternative site to accommodate the funfair bookings that have taken place on the Forecourt for many years, the council has the option of either:

* abandoning this type of income generating activity which provides entertainment for both visitors and residents,
* or continues to book the Forecourt car park and seeks to introduce mitigation measures.

If the council wishes to pursue the mitigation option, to enable the continuation of funfair bookings on the seafront, then the following mitigation measures are proposed:

* Additional security – the funfair operator must provide accredited security at times of peak risk for anti-social behaviour including the evenings of any firework displays. The requirement for deployment on additional dates may increase depending on reported incidents of anti-social behaviour. The cost of security is likely to be approximately £20 per hour per person with enhanced rates on Bank Holidays.
* The funfair operating times is reduced so as to cease operations at 9.30pm apart from on the evenings of council’s summer firework displays when the closing time will be 10.00pm (firework displays start at 9.30pm in summer).
* Additional CCTV – discussions are in progress with Dorset Council as to whether there are any suitable locations (which must be street lamp columns) for a temporary CCTV camera. This may only cost approximately £200 for installation and be monitored by Dorset Council’s CCTV service. However, if no suitable location can be found then a free-standing CCTV unit (telescopic tower on a trailer) would need to be hired at a cost of c. £700 per week with perhaps additional monitoring costs by the private contractor. This option is still being explored.
* Noise monitoring has been discussed with Dorset Council’s Environmental Health team but not thought to be useful. Instead, it was suggested that the council discusses with the operator the reduction in volumes of music, no sirens (or similar sound effects), and limited use of PA systems apart from safety announcements.
* The adjacent businesses have also raised objections to the noise from the very large rides, particularly the Oxygen ride. It is proposed, therefore, that only two large rides are permitted for any booking on the Forecourt, although this will reduce the fee to be paid to the town council and the income generated by the operator.

However, it may well be that depending on the final cost of these mitigation measures for each booking, the funfair operators may consider the Forecourt no longer financially viable. The effectiveness of these measures, if agreed, will need to be reviewed as the year progresses.

**Appendix C** sets out, in full, the proposed dates, mitigation measures and licencing condition that will be imposed on any operators at the Pavilion Forecourt site for 2023. In addition, officers from the council’s Resort will meet on a regular basis with representatives from the *Weymouth Hoteliers Guesthouses & Leaseholders Association* (WHGLA) and Weymouth Pavilion. The funfair operators will be expected to attend these meetings.

The committee is asked, therefore, to consider the proposed dates and licence conditions are set out in **Appendix C** for the 2023 season of funfair bookings for the Pavilion Forecourt. These will be in addition to the funfair bookings at the Jubilee Clock site which have already been agreed by committee.

### Impact Assessment

The impact assessment is designed to give a high-level overview of the possible impacts of the decision before Councillors. The impact assessment is undertaken by Officers and Councillors may wish to take specialist advice on certain aspects.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rating** | **Impact area** | **Impacts** |
|  | Equalities | Access to fairground rides for those with mobility impairments is limited. The cost of the rides may, however, prevent those on low incomes from enjoying the funfairs. |
|  | Environment, Ecology and Climate Change | Operators are being asked to improve the energy efficiency of their operations and reduce the use of diesel generators. This is an on-going process as officers work with operators to reduce carbon emissions. |
|  | Crime and Disorder | Anti-social behaviour in the Peninsula area has also affected the fairground rides sites and, as outlined above, local businesses have expressed serious concerns. The licences issued to operators will require that appropriate security is put in place at appropriate times. |
|  | Financial | Fairground bookings make a significant contribution to ensuring the Events service meets its income targets and the council generates more income to support services. Appendix B sets out the likely costs and income resulting from the proposed bookings at the Pavilion Forecourt.  The fee charged to the operator by the Town Council for each fairground varies as, in addition to the site fee, there is a fee per ride per day. These prices were included in the council’s fees and charges for 2023-24. |
|  | Resources | The administration of the bookings and on-site liaison with operators is undertaken by the Contracts & Procurement Officer with support from the Resort team. |
|  | Economic development | Seafront attractions can help to attract visitors to the resort, particularly in the evenings. However, some local hospitality businesses have expressed concerns as to the significant adverse impact of the fairgrounds on their customers and the overall financial performance of their businesses. |
|  | Social Value | Fairground rides can provide entertainment for young people, in particular. |
|  | Risk Management | The failure to attract sufficient fairground rides could have a negative impact on the council’s income budgets. However, any anti-social behaviour may pose a reputational risk of the council. |
|  | Corporate priorities | * Improve the wellbeing of the people of Weymouth. |

**Ratings:**

Red indicates that:

* there are negative impacts

Yellow indicates that:

* there is an issue that Councillors may wish to consider in more depth
* there are unanswered questions

Green indicates that:

* There are identified benefits from this decision

No colour indicates that:

* There are no direct impacts from this report

### Recommendations:

That the committee approves the proposals for funfair bookings on the Pavilion Forecourt as set out in Appendix C.

## Information Items

### Actions from previous meetings

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Who | Action | Status |
| 18/01/23 | CD | Ask Dorset Council why there are portal cabins in the Lodmoor Car Park and whether Dorset Council have plans to repair damage to the car park. | Completed: Containers – Several spaces at the back of the Premier Inn have been leased by the Premier Inn for ongoing works and several containers have been placed within the compound while these works take place.  Repairs – general surface repairs are ongoing, Posts and potholes.    One other thing that is going on in the car park is that the trenching works for the new Electric vehicle charging bays has started over by the Wessex water flood defence trench that will run through the entrance of the Premier Inn. |
| 18/01/23 | CD/IGG | Investigate ways to generate income from the currently unutilised space at the Lynch Lane Nursery | In Progress |
| 18/01/23 | WH | To provide regular updates on the cashless beach equipment hire trial, including a return on investments in the next report. | In Progress |

### Forward Plan

WTC Forward Plan – this is not a definitive list and is subject to change

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 22/02/23 | HR | Restructure update and impacts |
| 01/03/23 | Services | Events Programme 23 – including Coronation events  Applications for free use of Dorset Council car parks  Resort Service – service plan 2023-24  Review of public toilet opening times.  Review from Development Board (info prior to FC)  Draft Bench Policy  PID – Sea Swimming Event |
| 15/03/23 | F&G | Asset Maintenance Programme.  Information Item – Chapels Update  Draft Bench Policy – Information item only following Services on 1/3/23  Weymouth Business Improvement District (We Are Weymouth) Ballot |
| 29/03/23 | Full Council | Endorsement of Release of Draft Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan (Reg 14 Consultation)  Review from Development Board (info)  Armed Forces Covenant update from Cllr James (following event on 23/02)  Draft Bench Policy  Nursery Relocation Business Case  Events Programme 23 – including Coronation events |
| 05/04/23 | HR | HR Support Review |
| 12/04/23 | Services | Purple Flag – promotion and future options  Review of public toilets – final report  Seafront lighting (including lasers) - future options  Seafront Strategy Consultation Results  Request to remove bench on Westbourne Road  TIC Options paper |
| 26/04/23 | F&G | Louviers twinning report.  Seafront digital advertising screens procurement |
| 10/05/23 | Full Council | Annual Meeting  Election of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor Elect  Election of Leader and Deputy Leader  Nominations to Committees  Nomination of Champion roles  Nominations to outside bodies  Confirmation of Working Group membership |
| 24/05/23 | Services | CSAS annual report |

### Recommendation

That Members note the information items.