



To: Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation - Cllr Julie Smith  
Report by: Alistair Wilson, Green Space Manager  
Nigel Cutting, Head of Arts and Entertainments

Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 16/11/2006

**MANAGEMENT OF EVENTS ON MIDSUMMER COMMON**  
**Not a Key Decision**

**1. Executive summary**

1.1 This report details how the Licensing team, Active Communities, Arts and Entertainments, Statutory Agencies and the Organising Committee of Strawberry Fair have responded to changes in the licensing of regulated entertainment.

1.2 The Licensing Act 2003 is intended to legislate 'licensable activities' rather than events. The Act states that licensable activities are the sale of alcohol by retail; the supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club to, or to the order of, a member of a club; the provision of regulated entertainment; and the provision of late night refreshment.

1.3 Large events in close proximity to local residents have an impact. How these are assessed and arrangements put in place to mitigate the consequences of holding events such as Strawberry Fair and Midsummer Fair are detailed and documented in the Event Control Procedures, Structures and Documentation, post event Safety Advisory Group minutes and reports.

1.4 In its enabling role the Premises Licence held by Active Communities and the Open Space Event Agreement operated by Active Communities are both intended to regulate the activities and detail the controls and measure to be put in place by both the Hirer and Cambridge City Council to ensure compliance with the Premises License, Health and Safety and therefore minimise the impact of the event too residents in the vicinity.

1.5 Officers from Arts and Entertainments and Active Communities have been made aware of concerns from local residents and elected members from this years Strawberry Fair and Midsummer Fair, and agree further work is needed with Hirers and Statutory Agencies to address these identified issues and concerns. This report details the approach to be used to address these requirements.

**2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

2.1 To note the current legislative and regulatory arrangements for events on Midsummer Common:

2.2 To note the proposals from Arts and Entertainments, Active Communities and Statutory Bodies to address identified issues and concerns regarding events on Midsummer Common

### **3. Background**

3.1 Midsummer Common is registered pursuant to the provisions of the Commons Registration Act 1965.

3.2 The landscape setting affords the park opportunities to host large events in a variety of formats and scale.

3.3 Cambridge City Council can permit events on the Common for the purposes of  
(a) for games and recreation and  
(b) for any agricultural, horticultural or other show or for any other entertainment or exhibition or for any other public purpose of a temporary nature.

3.4 Midsummer Common hosts a series of events, including Funfairs, Strawberry Fair, Midsummer Fair, London to Cambridge Bike Ride, the Circus visit and the Bonfire Night Celebration.

3.5 A well organised event can be hugely beneficial to both local business and local residents, showcasing arts, crafts, sport and general activities, creating a sense of local identity, promoting diversity and raise the profile of the common.

3.6 The Licensing Act 2003 requires that land must have a Licence to permit regulated entertainment and therefore Cambridge City Council has licenced Midsummer Common to allow the continuation of these events.

3.7 The activities associated with travelling fairs, Midsummer Fair and the November Fireworks Display are not classed as 'licensable activity' under the Licensing Act 2003 and therefore are not covered by the Premises Licence. All other current events are regulated by the Licensing Act 2003.

3.8 Conditions associated with the Premises Licence for Midsummer Common (CAM000492) are intended to ensure that the City Council promotes the four licensing objectives:-

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of public nuisance; and
- The protection of children from harm.

3.9 In addition to the City Council's obligations under the Premises Licence both parties sign an Open Space Event Agreement, to ensure that the provisions of the Act and the conditions of the Licence are met. A copy of this agreement is available on request and on the Council's website.

3.10 Hirers of the Common are also required to complete an Event Control Document which includes a comprehensive Risk Assessment pertinent to the activities taking place. The creation of an Event Control Document is required to detail how the organiser of an Event will manage the event, respond to incidents and contains a hierarchy of control for dealing with larger incidents. This Control Document is circulated to the  
Report Page No: 2

Safety Advisory Group, one month prior to the event for consideration and revision. In the case of large events such as Strawberry Fair and Midsummer Fair the Safety Advisory Group work with Cambridge City Council and organisers for up to 6-9 months prior to the event taking place.

3.11 Membership of the Safety Advisory Group includes, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Services, East of England Ambulance Service, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, Cambridge Pub and Club Watch. All of these organisation have input into the running and operating of events on the Common, through formal meeting prior to and after the event.

3.12 The Safety Advisory Group has reviewed the operation of both Strawberry Fair and Midsummer Fair, and have identified areas that need further consideration by the City Council and Cambridgeshire Police, as follows:-

#### 3.12.a **Strawberry Fair**

- On street parking enforcement around Walnut Tree Avenue and Brunswick Area;
- Toilet provision in the 'pound' area towards Walnut Tree Avenue;
- Refinements to the help line number for local residents;
- Clearance of illegal encampments at Walnut Tree Avenue end of the Common;
- Public Disorder off site on other open spaces and surrounding streets;
- Additional litter on surrounding streets.

#### 3.12.b **Midsummer Fair**

- Illegal encampments on sites across the City prior to the event;
- Elements of Anti social Behaviour;
- Public Disorder off site on other open spaces and surrounding streets;
- Additional litter on surrounding streets;
- Noise to local residents.

3.13 Officers from Active Communities and Arts and Entertainments are committed to working with the Safety Advisory Group, Local Residents Groups and elected Members to address these issues. Strawberry Fair is broadly well run and Officers will continue to work with the Organising Committee to make improvements. Midsummer Fair is a chartered Fair and Officers from Arts and Entertainments, in association with the Showmens Guild, will continue to develop and explore opportunities for improvements to this event.

## **4. Implications**

### **Financial/ Procurement Implication**

4.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report

### **Staffing Implications**

4.2 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

4.3 There are no direct equal opportunities implications arising from this report. The provision of events on Midsummer Common seeks to ensure that residents have access to cultural and leisure activities regardless of age, ethnic profile or any disability

### **Community Safety Implications**

4.4 There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report. The Licensing Objectives contained within the Licensing Act 2003, reflect the issues that need to be considered when providing regulated entertainment.

## **5. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Notes on the History of Four Cambridge Commons by Ena Mitchell;  
Amenities and Recreation Committee Minutes 5<sup>th</sup> December 1980 –  
Management Arrangements for Events on Commons;  
Managing Large Events Licensing Act 2003 a LACROS Guide

## **6. Appendices**

None

## **7. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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