

**Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council**

**Action Taken Under Delegated Powers**

**Bonfire Events 2017**

**1 Summary Statement**

- 1.1 Following the bonfire event in 2016, an independent report was commissioned by the council to review the safety arrangements for council run bonfire events.
- 1.2 Rospa were commissioned to produce the report and whilst the report was being finalised, the council did not set any fees for attendance to the bonfire event in 2017 by the public.
- 1.3 Having considered the report and the recommendations of Rospa, a decision is needed on whether to have a bonfire event in November 2017 and to determine the charges for the event.
- 1.4 The most appropriate dates for Bonfire events to be held in 2017 would be Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November respectively. This will enable cleansing of the venues to take place on Sunday.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That approval is given for bonfire events to be held at Victoria Park, Smethwick (3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 and Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich (4<sup>th</sup> November 2017);
- 2.2 That the Dartmouth Park bonfire is a chargeable event to be organised and managed by the council.
- 2.3 That ticket sales are managed online and extensive marketing is undertaken to promote this;

2.4 That a "pay at the gate" option is made available which will attract a premium price compared to on-line booking;

2.5 That the admission price is as follows:

	On-line	At the gate
Adults	£ 5.00	£ 6.00
Children (up to 17 years old)	£ 2.00	£ 3.00
Family (2 adults and upto 3 children)	£10.00	£15.00

2.6 That the existing events budget is used for the organisation and management of the council run bonfire;

2.7 That the Victoria Park bonfire is a free event to be organised and managed by the Friends of Victoria Park.

In accordance with the authority delegated to Chief Officers to act on matters within the authority delegated to them under Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, I intend to take the action(s) recommended above.

I ~~do~~ do not have an interest to declare in this matter

  
**Interim Director of Neighbourhoods**

**Date** 7. 8. 17

*If the Constitution requires the decision to be taken in consultation with another chief officer, the following signature box should also be included*

I confirm that I have been consulted on the above proposals and have no objection to their proceeding.

**Director of**

**Date**

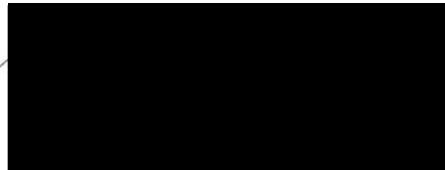
*If the Constitution requires the decision to be taken in consultation with a Cabinet Member, the following signature box should also be included*

I confirm that I have been consulted on the above proposals and have no objection to their proceeding.

**Cabinet Member for Leisure**

**Date**

7/8/17



**Contact Officer**

Kate Kirkpatrick, Events Co-ordinator  
[Katherine\\_kirkpatrick@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:Katherine_kirkpatrick@sandwell.gov.uk)

### **3. Background Details**

- 3.1 In 2015 the council hosted three bonfire events at Victoria Park (Smethwick), Jubilee Park (Tipton) and Dartmouth Park (West Bromwich). In previous years an entrance fee was charged solely for the Dartmouth Park event with the others being free to attend. Approximate costs for hosting each event in 2015 were £30,000 resulting in total costs of circa £90,000 for the three events.
- 3.2 In 2016 the council hosted two events. One took place at Victoria Park (Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016) and did not include a bonfire but had both fireworks and a stage with entertainment. This event was free to enter. There was a second bonfire event at Dartmouth Park (Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016). This event did include a bonfire along with fireworks, stage and entertainment. Charges to attend this event were as follow:
- Adults £3.00;
  - Children £1.50;
  - Family ticket £7.50
- 3.3 Although, neither event had a fun fair, both were well attended, but the Dartmouth Park bonfire experienced problems with access and crowd control which resulted in the council commissioning an independent report to look at event management and safety. ROSPA carried out the investigation and produced a report with recommendations for improvement for future events. One such recommendation was to review the pricing structure and ensure tickets were booked in advance and on-line. The proposed price structure set out above in paragraph 2.5 reflects those recommendations and is designed to discourage customers from paying at the gates. The prices, whilst higher than in 2016, are consistent with those charged by neighbouring authorities for similar events.

### **Source Documents**