

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee

Date: Wednesday 14th November 2007

Report of: Director of Environment

Subject: Events Programme in Parks and Open Spaces 2008

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To set out the proposed programme of special events for the parks and open spaces in 2008 and to seek Landlord's consent.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee grants consent for the events listed in Appendix A.
- 2.2 That the Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee authorises the Director of Environment, after consulting the Chair and Opposition Spokesperson, to make any alterations to the events programme as necessary.
- 2.3 That the Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee authorises officers to continue negotiations with the Brighton Festival and agree the final details for their outdoor events programme for 2008.
- 2.4 That the Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee authorises officers to enter into formal agreements with event organisers and to determine conditions and fees as appropriate.

3. Information

- 3.1 Events continue to form an increasingly significant part of the council's overall tourism strategy and contribute to the city's economy. People experience civic pride and satisfaction when major recreational and sporting events take place in their locality. These help to bring regional and national recognition for the host town and enhance the reputation and identity of the area, as well as bringing significant economic benefits.

3.2 Images of Brighton & Hove have been projected both nationally and internationally through extensive television and press coverage of such events as Pride, the Veteran Car Run and the London to Brighton Bike Ride. At the other end of the scale community events are positive means by which each local community can develop with council advice, encouragement or grant support.

3.3 Most of the events contained within appendix A have taken place before and retain their usual place in the calendar and format. Any new requests or alterations to previously approved events are listed below.

3.3.1 The Children's Parade – Saturday 3rd May 2008

Reacting to complaints regarding severe traffic disruption and long waiting times for young participants in 2006, the Children's Parade took a new route and had a different finale location in 2007. Using the newly completed Jubilee Street and New Road (instead of Church Street and Pavilion Gardens) and finishing on Madeira Drive (instead of between the Piers), the revamped parade proved a great success. It is therefore proposed to repeat this formula in 2008. This will make the route – Pelham St, Trafalgar St, Sydney St, Kensington St, Jubilee St, New Rd, North St, East St, Upper Promenade to Madeira Drive.

3.3.2 Loop Digital Festival – Saturday 16th August 2008

Loop – a multi-media digital music event – first took place in Victoria Gardens in August 2007. Both the public and organisers regarded it as a major success – attracting a sell-out audience of 5000 people. Despite initial concerns that Victoria Gardens (chosen because of its proximity to the University site and the Sallis Benney Theatre where the event also took place) might be an unsuitable site and attract considerable noise complaints, these fears did not materialise. Noise nuisance is still the major concern with this event but the organisers, working very closely with Environmental Health Officers and the Events Office, proved capable of reducing noise nuisance to a minimum.

3.3.3 Udderbelly – Friday 2nd – Monday 26th May 2008

The sight of a 40 metre high, purple, upside-down cow greeted residents and visitors to the Old Steine for the first time in May 2007. Fresh from winning the Edinburgh Festival 'best new venue' category in 2006 this cabaret/comedy/music venue proved an interesting and eye-catching addition to the Brighton Festival. It is not proposed to make any changes to the style of programme or operating hours in 2008. I.e. the venue will operate between 1200 and 0030 hours from Sunday to Wednesday, and between 1200 and 0200 hours from Thursday to Saturday during the Festival in May.

3.3.4 Pride – Saturday 2nd August 2008

Pride 2007 was universally regarded as the most successful ever, with over 60,000 attending the event at Preston Park. The only change proposed for 2008 is for the procession to return to its pre-2007 route. The route was altered in 2007 due to the

major road works taking place in North Street. With the anticipated completion of these works, the route would revert to – Madeira Drive, Kings Road, West Street, North Street, London Road to Preston Park.

The council's traffic department is supportive of this change as, whilst it is a longer route, it maintains traffic circulation around the city better and keeps the seafront traffic moving more freely than a longer, total closure of the Aquarium roundabout as in the 2007 route.

3.3.5 Brighton Festival Outdoor Programme – Saturday 3rd- Sunday 25th May 2008

Brighton Festival is currently compiling an outdoor events programme that will take place over the four weekends of the Festival in May. Focusing on the 'cultural quarter' encompassing Jubilee Square, Pavilion Gardens (areas not administered by the Events Office and therefore not included in this particular report) and New Road, the events are small –scale art installations and street theatre. At the time of writing this report, complete details are not available but consent is sought for the closure of New Road to facilitate these events. A full programme of events will be brought before the next available committee.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with Ward Councillors, Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, South East Coast Ambulance Service, Sussex University Hospital NHS Trust, Environmental Health and Licensing and Traffic. Their comments are as follows:

Councillors wanted confirmation that any damage caused to public open spaces (in particular the Old Steine and Victoria Gardens) was made good at the expense of the event organisers/promoters. This is confirmed. Any commercial event taking place on council land is charged a re-instatement deposit against any damage caused/costs incurred on top of their hire rental fee for the use of the land.

There were also concerns regarding noise nuisance from the Udderbelly site. In 2007 one show in particular – a rock show featuring one of Brighton's top indie bands – caused a number of public complaints. The organisers were made aware of these complaints at the time and will not programme this type of show for the venue again.

5. Contact Officer:

Ian Taylor - Events Officer [Tel: 01273 292711]

APPENDIX A

SPECIAL EVENTS – Events requiring the use of open spaces in Brighton & Hove

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIMES
Thurs 17 – Sun 20 Apr	Funfair	Carden Park	1300-2200 hrs daily
Thurs 1 – Sat 10 May	Festival Funfair	The Level	1300-2200 hrs daily
Fri 2 – Mon 26 May	Udderbelly	The Old Steine	See 3.3.3
Fri 2 May – Sat 1 June	Ladyboys of Bangkok	Victoria Gardens	Shows approx. 1700 hrs, 2030 hrs each day
Fri 2 – Sun 4 May	Brighton Festival Horse Driving Trials	Stanmer Park	1000-1800 hrs daily
Sat 3 May	Festival Children's Parade	Town Centre	1100-1300 hrs (See 3.3.1)
Sat 3 – Sun 25 May	Festival Outdoor Programme	Various	See 3.3.5
Thurs 8 May – Tues 20 May	Moscow State Circus	Preston Park	Shows approx. 1700 hrs, 1945 hrs each day
Fri 16 – Mon 19 May	Funfair	Victoria Recreation Ground	1300 hrs-2200 hrs daily
Mon 26 May	Hove Lions Carnival	Hove Park	1000-1700 hrs
Sat 31 May-Sun 1 Jun	Relay For Life	Stanmer Park	1000 Sat-1800 Sun overnight event
Fri 13 – Sun 15 June	Medieval Festival	Greenleas Recreation Ground	1000 hrs Fri – 2200 hrs Sun
Sat 21 – Sun 22 June	Race for Life	Stanmer Park	1000-1600 hrs
Sat 5 – Sun 6 July	Paddle Round The Pier	Hove Lawns/Seafront	1000 hrs-1800 hrs
Sat 12 – Sun 13 July	Brighton Kite Festival	Stanmer Park	1000-1700 hrs
Sun 13 July – Sun 3 August	Open Air Theatre Incisor Productions	St Ann's Well Gardens	Shows 1800 hrs & 2000 hrs each day
Sun 13 July	Capital to Coast Bike Ride	Hove No 1 Lawn	1000-1800 hrs
Sat 2 August	Pride	Preston Park	1100-2000 hrs (See 3.3.4)
Thurs 14 – Tues 26 Aug	Zippos Circus	Hove Lawns	Various
Sat 16 Aug	Loop	Victoria Gardens	See 3.3.2
Fri 12- Sat 14 Sept	Extreme Dirty Weekend 2008	The Level	1000-2000 hrs daily
Thurs 18 – Sat 27 Sept	Funfair	The Level	1300-2200 hrs daily

Meeting/Date	Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee Wednesday 14 th November 2007
Report of	Director of Environment
Subject	Events in Parks and Open Spaces 2008
Wards affected	All

<p>Financial implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The level of support given to community events and free public entertainments are financed from income from commercially organised events to produce an overall zero budget and will be monitored as part of the TBM process. The only contribution from the Authority's revenue budget is for the Events Officers' salaries. ▪ All major event organisers are required to provide a deposit. This is in order to cover the cost of reinstatement of the park or open space, including the removal of litter should it prove necessary for the council to undertake the work itself and use its own contractors. <p>Finance Officer consulted: Derek Mansfield Date: 9th October 2007</p>	
<p>Legal implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brighton & Hove City Council is empowered under the East Sussex Act 1981 to use each park and open space for up to 28 days a year in order to facilitate the staging of major outdoor events. ▪ The council has powers to close roads for special occasions under section 28 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847. ▪ The proposals in this report are made in accordance with the Outdoor Events Policy. The policy incorporates relevant considerations in respect of convention rights incorporated by the Human Rights Act 1998. The policy is clear that a balancing act is required between the competing interests of those who attend the events and those who do not wish to attend and consultation is suggested to ensure that this balancing exercise is properly carried out. <p>Lawyer consulted: Liz Woodley Date : 8th October 2007</p>	

<p>Corporate/Citywide implications The events programme uses public open spaces throughout the city.</p>	<p>Risk assessment Each major outdoor event has its own site specific risk assessment.</p>
<p>Sustainability implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All events are planned and staged in accordance with the statutory powers and planning obligations as set out in the Outdoor Events Policy of January 1998. ▪ Work will continue to be done to promote recycling at outdoor events. 	<p>Equalities implications The Events programme caters for people from all sectors of the community.</p>

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

- Multi Agency Groups have been convened for the major outdoor events, which had the potential to attract significantly large numbers people. A protocol between the council and the Emergency Services was agreed and operated in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and will be repeated in 2008.
- The Police are involved in both the consultation and planning of all major events.

Background papers

Proposals from organisers.

Contact Officer

Ian Taylor - Events Officer 01273 292711