

Nafferton Recreation Club

Report of Fun Fair Event 1st – 3rd Oct 2014

At the Recreation Club meeting held on 15th Sept 2014 the Parish Council (sole trustees of the Recreation Club) voted as a majority to hold a small Fun Fair event at the Recreation Club grounds on 1st – 4th October 2014.

Although this item had been on the PC / Rec Club Agenda as a possible event for some months, and we had had prior verbal and written correspondence with the Fair organisers, we had not been able to schedule a face to face meeting at the Rec Club to assess the site and access until Sat 13th Sept due to diary conflicts. Once they had confirmed that although not ideal, the access was in their professional view acceptable and they would like to hire the Club grounds, we then tabled the item as a formal Agenda point at the next available Rec meeting on 15th Sept.

Due to the Fair organisers busy schedule, we had an option to hold the event in 16 day's time or put the event back to Oct 2015. Although there were concerns about the short timescales, the Parish Councilors agreed that with some hard work it was manageable to hold in 2014 and a project plan was put into place.

Items included in the project plan were :

- >Hiring Agreement, Risk Assessment, Indemnities and Insurances all to be in place with Fair organisers a minimum of 5 days prior to the event
- >Informing local Police, Fire, Ambulance and East Riding Council of the event, and taking advice from them
- >Informing the Teams and local residents of the event and alleviating concerns they might have
- >Advertising the event on Facebook and Nafferton.net, putting up Posters and Leafleting to ensure as high attendance as possible
- >Controlling the siting of the rides and stalls to ensure minimal noise pollution and protecting the pitch areas on the fields
- >Marshaling and traffic management during the Fair

We held an informal meeting on 26th Sept as a final run through to ensure that all of the above was in order, and had there been any major issues at that point we would have cancelled the event.

However, all paperwork was in place, there had been no issues raised by the emergency services (and the local police had agreed to provide a presence during the event), and we had a rota of willing volunteers to help with the marshaling, so we decided to go ahead as planned.

Some residents had attended the meeting on 26th Sept and raised potential concerns regarding noise, access and damage. Although the Parish Council could not guarantee there would be no problems during the event we had mitigated the risk wherever practically possible and the residents in attendance were accepting that we had done as much as we could in advance. Additionally, they raised the issues of short notice and lack of engagement with the local residents, which were valid points and ones we will take on board for future events.

The event itself was deemed overall to be a success. We measured this on a number of factors:

- >the Recreation Club benefited from a hiring charge, and funds are badly needed to make the operation self-funding
- >the Recreation Club benefited from higher visibility of the Rec facilities to residents that potentially would not have been there before, and hopefully will come again
- >there was good attendance on the 3 days it ran, and the Fair operators would like to be considered for future events
- >there were no formal complaints from residents to Parish Councilors whilst the Fair was in operation
- >there were no Fair related issues where the police were called during the event
- >there was very minimal / superficial damage to the Rec grounds and the surrounding areas

Unfortunately, due to inclement weather on Sat 4th, the Fair operators decided to pack up early. Protection of the pitches was paramount to the Parish Council, and the Fair operators were considerate of this and deemed it better they move the heavy machinery before any real damage was done. Due to this action, only a small amount of repair work to the outfields was needed, which Parish Council volunteers performed on 11 Oct and the groundsman is happy with the result. We are very sorry for any residents who were planning to go to the Fair that day only to be disappointed!

There was one complaint after the Fair vehicles were leaving regarding diesel spillage and damaged kerb stones. The local police officer, Chris Webster, went to look and could not see any damaged kerbs; the

diesel spillage was slight and some sand was put down. The spillage had occurred whilst the Fair operators had to wait for residents vehicles to be moved out of the way. Chris Webster commented that the Fair operators were very polite, unlike one of the residents!

After te also received a letter (attached) signed by 10 local residents regarding the access due to the size of the vehicles , late arrival of one of the vehicles (it broke down and got separated from the main convoy), and lack of resident consultation prior to the event. One of the signatories on the letter attended the Rec Club monthly meeting on 20th October and was given a full breakdown of the timeline and reasons for the decisions made around the event.

Although the Parish Council had arranged for leafleting and door knocking for information for local residents beforehand , due to the limited time frame and notwithstanding that all the Parish Council members are volunteers and have other commitments to family and work, we clearly did not do enough of this prior to the event in some residents opinions.

However, we also had members of the public at the meeting on the 20th Oct who enthusiastically supported the event, and we had dozens of positive comments on Facebook, emailed to PC and in person , a selection of which are below:

I live at number 33 Eastlands and I believe that my house was the nearest to the fair, of course we heard the music but it wasn't too loud or too disturbing and nor did it affect my 5month old daughters sleep, both me and my partner commented on how early we thought the fair finished, 830pm during the week and 9pm on the Friday therefore we felt it was considerate to the families with children and people who were at work the next day. Even though I have parking available in front of my house for one of our two cars, I did not see that the street was overparked with non-residents cars which I know was a concern of some people, nor did I note any damage or vandalism to any cars or property. When we visited the fair on the Thursday night, we had a good time and it appeared that so did all who were there. As my bedroom window over looks the playing field, I did not notice any damage to the field itself once the fair left. The only concern would be would the access and time of arrival of the fair, as one lorry was arriving at 10.30 at night, however, I don't think there could be anything done to improve the access, however, arrival times need to earlier? My family would support the fair returning, and perhaps staying for longer! VICKI OLDRIDGE

As a resident of Nafferton it is about time something was done for the children and I personally know we will all be up there having a great time. Where is the community spirit? LEANNE NELLIST

Think the Fair is a great idea! As was the scarecrow festival earlier this year and hopefully there will be many more community events in the future. Nafferton has stood still for long enough, I should know I've grown up here, and generations beyond. Let's get positive and try the unknown, you never know you might enjoy it and if you don't then please don't spoil it for other residents! KAREN NICHOLSON

Really wish people would support new ideas and events. To have a fun fair in Nafferton is a great idea. Of course there are going to be pro's and cons as with any event, BUT at least we have a council that are willing to take risks and try and provide things on our doorsteps. If and when a problem occurs, then I'm sure the council will make sure no-one loses out. On the other hand, if they don't try new things, the village will never move forward. The village will prosper from this. It will bring people into the village who will probably buy from the shop, maybe buy fish and chips, and more than likely have a drink in one of our 4 pubs that the village has to offer.

If the council don't try new things they will be slated, and if they do and it doesn't work out, they can try other things. Please do not slate them before the event has happened. The parish meetings are open for people to attend so perhaps the best way of raising your concerns would be to attend the meetings. JEZ FRANCIS

Good luck for Nafferton Fun Fair! Hope it is a success and not spoiled by anything. I always admire those who try new ideas to bring communities together. Look at the Scarecrow Festival; major triumph! NAOMI TRUEMAN

Had a lovely evening at the fair. The guys on the rides were great with the kids and very friendly. Support staff visible and reassuring. Well done to the committee! NAOMI TRUEMAN

Glad to see lots of people out supporting the fair tonight. Would be great if the next one could be bigger with more rides for the younger ones JENNY EDWARDS

It looks like Nafferton Fair is packing up, what a shame! I hope it comes back even bigger and better next year. I think it was a success! VICKI OLDRIDGE

Just wanted to say thank you to everyone who helped in organising this event and to the volunteers. We visited twice and we all enjoyed it especially our little ones . It was lovely. Looking forward to the next event ★★★:-)
BESSIE DREWERY

At the Recreation Club meeting on 20th Oct 2014, it was voted unanimously in principle that the Fair be held again next year. We will give residents 6 months' notice of this event in future and we are looking at alternative access routes into the Rec grounds but we cannot guarantee this will be in place within the next 12 months.

The aim of the Recreation Club Charity is, as stated in the conveyance documentation, "to promote sports and recreation in the village", and we hope that the Fair is just one of a number of events over the coming months that will help us do that.

Remember , the Recreation facilities are for the benefit of all local residents , please feel free to utilise them when there are not league games or team practices on, and if you would like to volunteer, or have any ideas on how we can improve things going forward, please contact us on Nafferton.net or www.facebook.com/NaffertonRecreationClub , or attend one of the monthly meetings. The dates of the meetings are posted on Facebook, website and village noticeboards.

Kind regards

Your Parish Council