

Amenities and Leisure Committee Meeting – 14th September 2022

Agenda Item 5 - Green Fair Report

On Saturday 6th August 2022, we saw the successful and long-awaited return of the Earley Green Fair.

The fair was well attended by a large number of visitors throughout the day and saw the return of many of our regular stallholders, along with some new ones such as CAB Mobile Unit, Herbie Hedgehog Rescue, Twinkle Trading, Garden Goodies and Becki's Blossoming Books.

We were extremely lucky to have such beautiful weather on the day and speaking to many people, they told us that it was great to have the fair back and that it had been nice catching up with people that they had not seen in a long time due to the pandemic.

The ETC stall was pleased to receive many visitors who were able to look at our '26 to Cop26' display and general information boards. Officers on the stall were on hand to give advice and answer questions. We also had free 'Hook a Duck' for children with a variety of prizes such as flower seeds, insect magnifying glasses, giant insects, butterfly laces and sweets.

The ETC councillors' stall was manned by a number of councillors throughout the day, offering information, free squash and running a drawing competition. Mayor Maher had the honour of judging the tree drawing competition and there were three winners in different age categories who each won a deluxe bug hotel.

In previous years, the Green Fair has only operated with the help of a few members of staff but this year we encouraged the involvement of many officers who volunteered to help on the day with manning the gate, putting out tables, erecting gazebos, helping out on the ETC stall and packing up at the end of the day. In terms of the arrival/departure of stall holders, health & safety and the general operation of the day, we organised it differently from previous years and are pleased to report that the day ran smoothly with minimal incidents.

As it was the first Green Fair organised by the Deputy Town Clerk, the Operations Manager and the Town Clerk we were able to learn from the day for future fairs. In general, the feedback we received from visitors and stallholders was very positive.

Unfortunately, a major downside on the day was the lack of refreshments/food, caused by being let down by the provider on the day of the event. We have been in talks with someone about next year's event so this should not happen again.

A press release has been issued and a write up of the day, along with photos can be found on the town council website.

Emma Carroll
Deputy Town Clerk
23.08.2022