

Amenities and Leisure Committee Meeting – 31st May 2023

Agenda Item 7.1 – Green Fair

Background

For many years, Earley Town Council has organised an annual Green Fair at Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve. The event takes place on the first Saturday in August, entry is free. The purpose of the Green Fair is to showcase and promote all things ‘environmental’ and this theme is borne in mind when accepting bookings from prospective stallholders.

In recent years we have made improvements to the way the event is organised, stall holders now pre-book items such as tables and chairs and all are issued with an arrival time which alleviates congestion on the entrance road. The health and safety side of the event has also been updated and more staff now volunteer to help for a couple of hours on the day, thus alleviating the pressures on the principal officers.

Green Fair 2023

42 out of the 63 pitches have already been booked. This includes the Earley Town Council stall which is manned by council officers and offers information to residents as well as putting on free activities for children. Last year, town councillors also had a (non-political) stall, councillors will need to decide if they wish to do the same this year and what the theme of their stall should be.

Refreshments

Previously, a charity had provided refreshments such as tea and coffee on the day but they are no longer in a position to do this. Last year we booked a commercial contractor to provide refreshments but were let down at the last minute (literally the last minute, they arrived, had difficulty accessing the site and drove off without a word). This year the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk have met with the Maiden Erlegh Rotary Club who have confirmed they would be happy to serve refreshments on the day. Some of the logistics need to be discussed further but both parties have agreed to meet again in the near future to iron out the details.

New for this year

Whilst many of the stall holders return year after year, we are keen that the event evolves, that new stall holders are encouraged to book and that the fair is always slightly different to the year before.

For 2023 we have booked First Class Falconry to bring along their beautiful birds of prey. Visitors will be able to see up to ten different birds and talk to knowledgeable staff about them. Unfortunately, there will be no full flight demonstrations, as the site is not clear enough, but just seeing these amazing birds, will certainly be an experience.

Emma Carroll
Deputy Town Clerk
19.05.2023