

## ITEM 7

### James Richards Circus

#### Final Report 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Before the event:** James Richard Circus contacted the council in January 2019 about the potential of holding the circus on the Thackeray Drive field in Vicars Cross from 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 and Cllr Bulmer and Jones and the Clerk met with James Town and a colleague on site to discuss the idea in detail. The circus has a low ticket price and visits smaller towns or boroughs away from the areas that the larger shows would normally go to.

- The circus provided copies of their insurance, risk assessments, method statements and references from parish and town councils.
- The parish council wrote to residents of Thackeray Drive who face the field, informing them of the event and asking for their support
- The circus needed a water supply and the parish council worked with Cestrian Scout Group to provide an outside water supply from the Scout Hut at a cost of £80
- The circus lorries were 13ft high – some lower branches of a tree needed to be removed by the Maintenance Officer.
- The circus sent posters and flyers for distribution a couple of weeks before the event
- The parish council had a complaint from a resident of Green Lane, whose homes back onto the field, unhappy that no notice/warning/consultation had been taken place



#### During the event:

- The circus arrived on the Sunday evening and the box office was open from the Monday
- Performances took place from Wed – Sunday
- Neighbouring residents were given free tickets to compensate for any inconvenience
- The circus made a contribution of £400 to cover any costs
- The circus brought plastic boarding/matting which provided protection for the grass
- The circus hired local porta-loos which were positioned out of sight of the road
- The parish council managed the traffic/parking although the circus did nominate two workers to support. The local PCSO also arranged for a police presence on the first evening, however, there were minimal parking issues
- The music and noise from the circus lasted between around 6 – 8pm
- It was estimated by the circus that an average of 150 seats were sold for most performances, meaning that over 6 performances, around 900 people attended the show

## After the event:

- The parish council received positive feedback during and after the event, through facebook and emails, see appendix A.
- The field was undamaged and recovered within a week of the circus leaving
- There was no additional noise or anti-social behaviour from visiting circus goers
- The porta loos were collected on time
- The Cestrian Scout Group contributed the cost of the water for the week (6M<sup>3</sup> - about £17 in total for the supply of fresh water and the removal of waste water)

## Summary and lessons learned:

In summary, the event was very successful, the circus was well managed and proved popular with the local community. Many families walked to the field and included a trip to the play area which celebrated its first birthday at the same time. There were some key learning points:

1. If Thackeray Drive field is used for events, all residents bordering the field should be informed ie Green Lane, Makepeace Close and Thackeray Drive itself.
2. No other events should be planned alongside the circus – the summer picnic at the community centre was held on the Saturday afternoon and caused some minor issues eg. two events both selling refreshments, additional parking needed
3. Local press and radio stations could be contacted next time for additional publicity for council and circus.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the parish council actively encourage negotiations with James Richard Circus with a view to hosting the event on an annual basis.

## APPENDIX A – FEEDBACK

### RESIDENTS:

**From:**

**Date:** 24 June 2019 at 18:20:28 BST

**Subject:** Circus

I would like to inform you that my concerns over the circus on Thakeray field were unfounded. The generators were silent running, we couldn't hear them The field is not too badly damaged and will recover quickly. Car parking wasn't a problem because from what I saw most people appear to have walked plus Beth was on hand. The only poor side to the whole affair was the fact that the residents on Green lane, whose homes overlook the field, were not consulted but hopefully that has been a lesson learnt.

Green Lane Resident

*I'm pleased you wrote regarding the circus as I wanted to leave some feedback. We live on green lane backing onto the field. We were pleased to receive free tickets for all 4 of us and didn't expect not to have to pay, especially when the circus was located as far away as possible from our gardens.*

*We thoroughly enjoyed the circus, our kids are 5 and 3 so they loved it and all of The performances were good, plus I found the entertainer quite funny!*

*My kids are already asking when it is coming back, we could be more than happy to have it on the field again. I appreciate all the planning and effort everyone put into making it such a great show. I didn't find they disturbed us with any noise at all.*

*Kind Regards,*

On 29/06/2019 15:40, ----- wrote:

Hi

Thanks to the council for asking for feedback on the recent circus.

Our house overlooks the field and we also walked past the circus on numerous occasions.

We are pleased to report there was never a hint of a problem. We did not experience any disturbance on the field at all.

Everything was extremely well organised, there did not seem to be any traffic or parking issues, it was quiet at night and the circus people were unobtrusive and tidy.

It was lovely to see happy local families attending. All the comments we have heard from locals have been very positive.

We were actually quite sorry to see it go! and we would be more than happy to see this circus return.

Regards

----- Original Message -----

*As a resident of Makepeace Close I can honestly say I have no issues with the circus being on*

*Thackeray Drive playing field. I am one of the local people who attended the show and thoroughly enjoyed it.?? I would be delighted to see this circus back on the playing field.*

*yours faithfully,*

Hi

I live on Green Lane and received your letter regarding James Richards Circus and them potentially being invited back next year.

We loved the circus being here. Both of our kids were so excited all week and enjoyed their visit. I thought noise levels were respectful, we didn't hear a peep from them after 8 every night. We also feel they were a very professional set up which clearly made every attempt to minimise any disruption to the local residents. I also think their communication prior to their arrival letting us know when they were arriving and when the shows would be starting was a nice thoughtful touch.

We would welcome them back and I hope the majority of residents feel the same.

Kind Regards

*Fabulous!*

*The circus was very welcome in our families opinion.*

*We live on Green Lane and look out onto Thackeray Park.*

*The Circus was very well managed, caused no disruption and offered some much needed local family entertainment.*

*We did visit the circus and really enjoyed ourselves. My daughter is 17 and I am 53, were impressed with the quality of the acts and their performances. Very professional indeed and look forwards to their next visit to Thackeray Park. It would be great to have them visit again. They have our votes*

*Many thanks for making this event possible.*

Regards

The ----- family

**COMMUNITY CENTRE USER GROUPS:**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Helen**

Date: Tue, 25 Jun 2019 at 14:11

Subject: Re: Circus Visit

To: Jodie Ronan <[vxcc@greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:vxcc@greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk)>

Apart from them using the hard court that we had booked. But we moved over to the grass.

The actual circus didn't make a difference to us. Still managed to park without too much of an issue.

Helen  
Rabble

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Steven** >

Date: Wed, 26 Jun 2019 at 11:45

Subject: RE: Circus Visit

To: Jodie Ronan <[vxcc@greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:vxcc@greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk)>

Dear Jodie,

Below is feedback from our perspective for the recent circus booking at Thackery drive.

The site has been audited by the DVSA and the space, area/size/substrate and run off is taken into account to determine if the site is safe and how many students we can train at our sessions. The parked vehicles reduced our conformance to the sanctioned site. If future bookings are to utilise parts of the area this could then effect our trade to deliver motorcycle courses. Our use of the area at the rear of the centre is for total area and to be free from any obstacles and personal due to the nature of our booking with health and safety in mind for our students/instructors/public.

Kind regards

Anthony Heaton, Arrow Motorbike Training Academy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kerry** >

Date: Tue, 25 Jun 2019 at 19:05

Subject: Re: Circus Visit

To: [vxcc@greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:vxcc@greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk) <[vxcc@greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:vxcc@greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk)>

Hi Jodie

After my initial reservations, I'm pleased to say that all went well and we actually used the circus as a distraction and teaching time.

I'm very pleased to say the parish council were a fantastic help. Putting out barriers for my class, checking on the class, directing my customers.

I'd have no worries regarding the circus visiting again,  
Kerry  
(Puppy Training Classes)

