



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION

| | |
|--|--|
| Date: | 8 th July 2016 |
| Name of person proposing topic: | Cllr. Chris Mason |
| Contact: | Cllr.chris.mason@cheltenham.gov.uk |
| Suggested title of topic: | Cheltenham Festivals – Use of Imperial & Montpellier Gardens |
| <p>What is the issue that scrutiny needs to address?</p> <p>Firstly, the benefits the various festivals bring to the town is fully acknowledged. There is no suggestion that the Council's Licence with Cheltenham Festivals should be terminated.</p> <p>It was suggested at the last "Gardens Forum" that a committee of Cheltenham Borough Council should further investigate 2 issues. The consensus of the forum was that the O&S committee would be the most appropriate.</p> <p>The 2 issues the O&S committee should consider are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The noise levels produced by the various events and in particular the Jazz Festival. It is acknowledged that the organisers have tried various ideas and improvements have been made. Nonetheless with regard to the Jazz festival the national guideline that 60dB should not be breached in locations such as Montpellier Gardens has never been achieved. This raises the question of whether Cheltenham Borough Council should knowingly let activities that breach national guidelines take place on its property? 2. The potential long term damage to the ground and trees from such intense activities should be assessed and discussed. | |
| <p>What do you feel could be achieved by a scrutiny review (outcomes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A detailed and holistic exploration by the Council's officers and Festival organisers of how to meet the national noise guidelines. 2. Whether an environment and financial strategy is required to ensure the vibrancy, feasibility and viability of Imperial and Montpellier gardens as attractions to the Town's residents and visitors. | |
| If there a strict time constraint? | No but time to implement any recommendations that the Council wishes to make before the next Jazz festival will be a constraint. |
| Is the topic important to the people of Cheltenham? | Very much so. |
| Does the topic involve a poorly performing service or high public dissatisfaction with a service? | Indirectly, duty of care with regard to the use of the Council's estate. |
| Is it related to the Council's corporate objectives? | Yes. Economy and well-being |
| Any other comments: None | |

OFFICER IMPLICATIONS (for office use only)

| | |
|---|--|
| Date: | 21/07/2016 |
| Officer name: | Adam Reynolds/Tracey Crews/Tim Atkins |
| Officer title: | Green Space Manager |
| Contact: | 01242 774669 |
| Please give your comments on this proposed topics, for example is there any other similar review planned or in progress, are there any potential resources constraints etc | |
| <p>The Forum was established to gather information about the festivals and special events in Montpellier and Imperial Gardens held during the period March – October 2012. The intention was that the information would be used to help frame a new planning application to be submitted for renewal of the temporary permission granted in January 2012. The forum prepared a 52 page report to accompany the 2013 planning application which contained numerous recommendations governing future use of the gardens by events. Following consent of the planning application in January 2013 the local planning authority strongly advised that the Garden Forum continue in its role monitoring the activities of festival organisers.</p> <p>The Garden Forum Consists of Council Officers representing parks, trees, planning enforcement and public protection and the Director of Environment; special event managers from Cheltenham Festivals and The Food Festival; representatives for both Montpellier and Imperial Gardens Friends Groups, five councillors, and chaired by the Cabinet Deputy for clean and green environment.</p> <p>The role of the forum is to monitor the activities of special event organisers. Council officers prepare written reports to the forum relating to land use, tree protection, and sound management. Issues are discussed and where appropriate actions carried forward to improve site management.</p> <p>The forum entails considerable input in terms of officer hours, and it is likely that the same officers, festival reps, friends groups and councillors will be required, because of their knowledge, to take part in and give evidence to the proposed scrutiny review group.</p> <p>In addition a piece of work is due to start in August looking at the options and arrangements for events across the town, as part of this work it is expected that constraints on locations will also be considered. Cllr McKinlay will be the lead member for this piece of work and it will pull in expertise from across the council and festivals/Cheltenham Trust.</p> <p>Officers are of the view that the continuation of the Gardens Forum Group together with assessment of events provide both an existing mechanism to deal with the issues raised and a new opportunity to consider the demands events place upon existing and potential new locations.</p> | |