

Priory Park: Motion to Full Council 21st September, 2021

Proposer: Councillor Richard Plowman

Seconder: Councillor Martyn Bell

The construction and dismantling of the large stage for the BEL Events in Priory Park on July 30th and 31st caused serious damage to fabric of Park similar to the damage caused by the operation, construction and dismantling of the Ice rink. The weather was a contributing factor but with climate change, this will become more severe and unpredictable.

1. In the light of this and recognising the Events Strategy and Policies for Chichester District 2020-2025 are evolving documents, the following addition of a third bullet point is proposed to Page 5 under the heading CDC hire of land to recognise the limitations of Priory Park.

*The district has its challenges when it comes to hosting events, the following needs to be recognised in order to manage expectations:*

- *CDC Hire of Land*
  - o *We have limited number of suitable spaces for events to take place, with the majority of these being in Chichester City Centre*
  - o *The largest spaces and most suitable spaces are close to residents and a major tourist destination, both of which impact the number, size and type of events we are able to host*
  - o *Priory Park has limitations in terms of access and the dual role as a war memorial making it unsuitable for Headline and large scale feature events involving construction of major temporary buildings or structures which have the potential to damage the fabric of this historic Park.*

2. That any Events Policies affected by this addition are reviewed by Officers and subject to public consultation.

3. That Overview and Scrutiny committee consider setting up a Task and Finish group to look at the operation, management and future of the Park particularly given the poor state of the buildings with the exception of Fenwick's Café and the Guildhall.