



Date: Thursday, 24 March 2022

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

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## PLACE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

### TO FOLLOW REPORT

#### 8 Road Closures - Temporary Traffic Restriction Order Charges (Pages 1 - 6)

To examine proposals for charging for events on the highway that require a Temporary Traffic Restriction Order. **(To Follow)**.

Contact: Gary Parton (Tel: 01743 258786)

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| <u>Committee and Date</u>       | <u>Item</u>          |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Place Overview Committee</b> | <b>8</b>             |
| <b>24 March 2022</b>            | <b><u>Public</u></b> |

## Introducing a fee/charge for events on the highway involving Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO's)

### Responsible officer

Gary Parton– Network Coordination and Compliance Manager

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01743 258786

### **1.0 Summary**

1.1 A proposal to consider introducing a reasonable / defensible fee for events that take place on the highway which involve either a temporary road closure or some other form of Temporary Traffic Regulation order such as a temporary rescind of parking or parking restrictions.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 For the committee to consider the proposal and offer recommendations on a revised draft policy and fee structure. Also to advise on a possible timeline to finalise a revised policy/fee structure with a view to presenting to Cabinet in June/July 2022.

## **REPORT**

### **3.0 Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal**

3.1 An opportunity for a further income stream allowing assistance to fund and maintain a range of key services for Shropshire residents and those who visit the county.

3.2 Any revised charge/process would be new to regular and historical event organisers. There may be some consideration to ensuring revisions/fees are reasonable, defensible, pass Audit scrutiny and accurately reflect officers time and incurred costs.

3.3 Consideration of Town/Parish Council, community led and charitable events and an appropriate, reasonable process to reflect partnering initiatives, community engagement, Authority ethos and reputation.

### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 Opportunity for increased income year on year.

4.2 Some community/charitable organisations may be have limited budgets.

## **5.0 Climate change appraisal**

5.1 None

## **6.0 Background**

6.1 The council has always supported events in the county, which are popular with residents and visitors. They promote active lifestyles and, in most cases, boost the local economy. However we also have challenging financial savings to deliver in 2022/23 and future years with a large structural deficit. Some commercial organisers have been achieving healthy profits from events in recent years and it seems both reasonable and appropriate to consider and apply charges for the use of the council's highways as many other local authorities do.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

7.1 There is now an initiative to review the current process, look to increase income and introduce a reasoned/defendable charge where appropriate to do so.

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| <b>List of background papers:</b>   |
| <b>Initial briefing note</b>  |
| <b>Cabinet member: Dean Carroll</b>   |
| <b>Local member N/A</b>   |
| <b>Appendices</b><br><br><b>i. Initial briefing note to Directors and Portfolio Holder</b><br><b>ii. List of current known 2022 events county-wide.</b> |

# **Briefing Note on introducing a fee/charge for events on the highway involving Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO's)**

**Gary Parton, Network Coordination and Compliance Manager 04/03/2022.**

## **Purpose:**

To gain initial feedback and comment from Leader, appropriate Directors, Portfolio Holders, on the background, considerations and proposals outlined – with a view to presenting a draft policy and fee structure to Scrutiny/Place Overview Committee for consideration and next steps.

## **Background:**

“Events” on the highway which require some form of TTRO (usually temporary road closure and/or temporary suspension of parking) include large annual shows such as Shrewsbury Flower Show, regular local Market events, fairs and festivals and sporting events. Organisers include but are not restricted to; Town & Parish Councils; private; community led and charitable organisations; television and film companies.

The reasoning for temporary road closures and other restrictions to be applied is predominantly to protect participants and attendees and to temporarily allow useable space on the highway to allow equipment and apparatus to be installed and people to attend without risk of traffic conflict.

Historically, whilst Shropshire Council have the ability and facilities to charge event organisers for the assessment, advice, and processing of the legal order if deemed necessary, the process has been largely accommodated as part of a wider ethos to assist event organisers on limited budgets and to promote events as beneficial to community engagement, increasing footfall, trade & tourism whilst raising Towns and County profile.

There is now an initiative to review this policy, look to increase income and introduce a reasoned/defendable charge where appropriate to do so.

## **Considerations**

Whilst the pandemic affected the number of events being applied for and taking place over the last two years – we are now seeing a resurgence with 34 separate events involving a TTRO planned from March to October, so far this year, and 39 Market events.

- Any revised charge/process will be new to regular and historical event organisers. There may be some consideration to ensuring revisions are reasonable, defendable, pass Audit scrutiny and accurately reflect officers time and incurred costs.
- An initial “Benchmarking” exercise with similar neighbouring authorities has evidenced that, predominantly they do impose a charge for this function although the calculations involved are varied.

- How to resolve events led or promoted by Town/Parish Councils or “Business Improvement Districts (BID’s) i.e. community or authority led.
- Consideration of either a fee waiver or “discount” for those events evidenced to be non-profit making and /or led by a charitable organisation where all or a percentage of any takings is donated to charity.
- Consideration of a sliding scale model of charge based on the “disruption effect” for each individual closure. i.e. higher charge for traffic sensitive streets and lower charge for minor roads.
- Confirmation that full consideration has been given to the “pros and cons” of any revised process. Applicable consultation has been carried out, Members are aware and agreeable to any revised process or policy and there is effective communication of any change.
- The current charge levied to process individual TTRO’s for planned “works purposes” (i.e. Public Utility / Statutory Undertakers) is £1635.00 which is based on recouping officers time, legal and advertising costs – and includes a small percentage profit element.

### **Summary**

There is currently a dedicated post of “Events & Contingency Officer” within the Street Works team who handles all applications from event organisers, offering guidance and advice. Any “Officer time” calculated charge could be based on this, plus required legal and advertising costs, or could equally be calculated on a “sliding scale” appropriate to the disruption level / type of event or none of the above - as a set figure taking into account whether the organiser is commercially, community or charity led.

The council has always supported events in the county which are popular with residents and visitors. They promote active lifestyles and in most cases boost the local economy. However we also have challenging financial savings to deliver in 2022/23 and future years with a large structural deficit. Some commercial organisers have been achieving healthy profits from events in recent years and it seems both reasonable and appropriate to consider and apply charges for the use of the council’s highways as many other local authorities do. This allows us to help fund and maintain a range of key services for Shropshire residents and those who visit the county. Officers have taken into account the type and nature of events that would be covered by this proposed change including fee waivers and/or discounts for non profit making, charitable events.

Comments and advice on the initiative and considerations to review and present a revised process to Members are welcomed.

## EVENTS LIST 2022 (to date-1<sup>st</sup> March 2022)

### Markets:

Much Wenlock -16 Apr/18 Jun/20 Aug

Whitchurch-5 Mar/2 Apr/7 May/4 Jun/2 Jul/6 Aug/3 Sep/1 Oct/5 Nov/3 Dec.

Shrewsbury-12 Mar/19 Mar/1 Apr/9 Apr/6/May/14 May/21 May/3 Jun/11 Jun/1 Jul/9 Jul/16 Jul/5 Aug/13 Aug/2 Sep/10 Sep/17 Sep/7 Oct/8 Oct/15 Oct/4/Nov/12 Nov/19 Nov/2 Dec/10 Dec/17 Dec.

Shrewsbury 10K -13 Mar

Bishops Castle 10K-20 Mar

Myddle Fun Run-27 Mar

Bridgnorth Tractor Run-3 Apr

Shrewsbury Fake Festival-23 Apr.

Shrewsbury to Cosford Bike 4 Life Ride out-26 Apr.

Bridgnorth Lions Walk-2 May.

Albrighton Approbation-7 May.

Weston Park Triathlon-7 May.

Ludlow Storm The Castle Duathlon-8 May.

Shrewsbury West Mids Agricultural Show-28 May.

Shrewsbury Krazy Races-29 May.

Market Drayton Rock n Bowl Festival-2-4 Jun.

Queens Platinum Jubilee street parties/events-many various locations 3-5 Jun

RAF Cosford Air Show-12 Jun.

Alderford Triathlon-18 Jun.

Oswestry Festival In The Park-18 Jun.

Whitchurch Triathlon-12 Jun.

Broseley festival-20-21 Jun.

Shifnal Carnival-25 Jun.

Shrewsbury Food festival-25-26 Jun.

Shrewsbury Yeomanry Freedom Parade-2 Jul.

Cleobury Mortimer 10K-3 Jul.

Shrewsbury event-18 Jul.

Bridgnorth event-23 Jul.

Burwarton Show-4 Aug.

Clun Carnival and Show-6 Aug.

Farmer Phils Festival-12-14 Aug.

Shrewsbury Flower Show-12-13 Aug.

Camp Bestival, Weston Park-18-21 Aug

Shrewsbury Folk Festival-26-29 Aug.

Shrewsbury Sprint triathlon-4 Sep.

Shrewsbury Oktober Fest-30-1 Oct.

Shrewsbury Half Marathon-9 Oct.

Oswestry 10K-16 Oct.

Updated:1 Mar 2022