

Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee

26 April 2021

EVENTS IN THE PARK

Head of Service: Ian Dyer, Head of Operational Services

Wards affected: Nonsuch Ward;

Appendices (attached):

1. Application from parkrun
2. Application from Classic Events

Summary

To consider event applications from parkrun to return to hosting their regular, weekly parkrun sessions in the park and an application from Classic Events to host their annual Town and Country Show in the park on 30-31 May 2021.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked :

- (1) To consider the event application from parkrun as attached in Appendix 1 of this report
- (2) To consider the event application from Classic Events as attached in Appendix 2 of this report

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 In line with the government's Roadmap for the return of outdoor events, the Committee are asked to consider the applications received and decide if they wish to grant permission for the return of these long standing events.

2 Background

- 2.1 On the 22 February 2021, the Prime Minister set out the government's roadmap for cautiously easing lockdown restrictions in England.
- 2.2 The roadmap provided guidance for event organisers, site managers and landowners to determine when and how social activities could be resumed in a COVID-secure manner.

Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee

26 April 2021

- 2.3 Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, who are responsible for managing outdoor fitness and event bookings for Nonsuch Park, along with all other Councils in the country have started accepting applications for outdoor events and have assessed each application in line with government guidance.
- 2.4 Low risk activities such as 'bootcamps' where numbers are easily restricted in line with the guidance have been granted permission to return to Park.
- 2.5 The current list of approved classes are as follows:

2.6	Name of group	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
E	Go Fitness – Outdoor Fitness	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Poles Apart – Nordic Pole Walking	✓			✓	✓	✓	
	Be Military Fit – Outdoor Fitness	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Chi Clinic - Tai Chi Qigong					✓	✓	

event organisers have provided COVID-secure risk assessments alongside their usual risk assessments.

- 2.7 In order for an event to be approved, organisers and attendees must adhere to all legal requirements, including maintaining group sizes permitted by social contact restrictions at the relevant step in the Roadmap and prevent mixing between groups, enforcing social distancing guidelines and mandating face coverings in indoor areas where required.
- 2.8 The two events presented to the Committee in this report are considered a higher risk than the events approved to date.

3 Parkrun

- 3.1 Prior to the pandemic, the parkrun event has been a regular feature in the Nonsuch event calendar for the past six years. The parkrun regularly attracts 600+ participants each Saturday morning for the adult parkrun and around 150+ participants each Sunday morning for the junior parkrun. The event is well managed and enjoyed by many local residents from both London Borough of Sutton and Epsom and Ewell.

Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee

26 April 2021

- 3.2 The parkrun organisation has a unique business model, whereby participants can turn up to any event in the country and take part without the need to pre-book. This means that it is difficult to control numbers of participants each week.
- 3.3 However, the organisation has invested considerable time and energy into their risk assessments and feel confident that they can deliver a COVID-secure event.
- 3.4 As of the 11 April, parkrun have successfully reopened 48 junior parkrun events across the country in parks and open spaces and would like to reopen all parkrun events from 5 June, please see application attached in Appendix 1.

4 The Nonsuch Town and Country Show

- 4.1 The second application which falls into the higher risk category is the Nonsuch Town and Country Show.
- 4.2 This event has been successfully run in the park for the previous six years usually over the late May Bank Holiday weekend.
- 4.3 The show is themed around a fete/country show style atmosphere and provides food, drink, retail, displays and a popular dog show. The show generally attracts around 3000 people per day, but the audience is transient and therefore people come and go throughout the course of the day.
- 4.4 As this show is a ‘ticketed’ event, numbers can be restricted to comply with regulations.
- 4.5 If the Committee grants approval for this event to take place in the park, the event plan and risk assessments will be passed to Epsom and Ewell’s Safety Advisory Group, where it will be analysed by Council Officers and the Police and recommendations made where necessary, to improve the safety of the event.

5 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

5.1 Impact Assessment

- 5.1.1 The impact of accepting these two events will be predominantly around increasing visitors to the park, when the park is already very busy.
- 5.1.2 This could mean that social distancing in the whole park becomes harder to achieve and COVID-security is breached.

Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee

26 April 2021

5.1.3 There will also be an impact on the park's facilities such as parking and toilets.

5.2 Crime & Disorder

5.2.1 There are risks around COVID breaches and the pressure this may put on the Council's Operational staff and the Police.

5.3 Safeguarding

5.3.1 Risk Assessments are in place to cover safe-guarding at both events.

5.4 Dependencies

5.4.1 Whilst parkrun do not compensate the park financially for holding their events, the events are free to participants and the Council is keen to support fitness initiatives which promote both physical and mental wellbeing.

5.4.2 The Town & Country Show is a small, family run business which rely on these shows for their livelihood as do the independent traders and performers who also attend. The show pays a substantial fee to the park which helps the Joint Management Committee achieve its financial objectives.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 The Town and Country Show pays a substantial fee to the park for this event, which is accounted for in our annual income targets.

6.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 The Council must act within the guidance set out in the government's roadmap for easing out of lockdown.

7.2 Both of these events are permissible under the current guidance.

7.3 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** none arising from the contents of this report.

8 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

8.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

8.1.1 Supporting our Community

8.1.2 Managing our Resources

8.1.3 Supporting Businesses and our Local Economy

Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee

26 April 2021

- 8.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
 - 8.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None for the purpose of this report
 - 8.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**
 - 8.4.1 There are community safety implications with regard to potential for COVID security breaches.
 - 8.5 **Partnerships:**
- ### 9 Background papers
- 9.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:
 - Previous reports:**
 - Events in the Park 24 February 2020
<https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=905&Ver=4>
 - Other papers:**
 - None