

Finance & Administration Committee 13th June 2019

Agenda Item FA1450/19

NYE Fireworks Display

Introduction

This document reports the conclusions from the Firework Working Group and presents an updated plan for NYE 2019 event for approval by F&A.

Report

- Meeting held with Whizzz Bang on March 19th to review the 2018 event where our concerns were raised.
 - They had provided us with an out of date risk assessment for the event
 - They thought they had provided barriers around the fireworks and were following up with their team
 - They agreed to a possible move of the firing site and better crowd barriers
 - They are no longer registered with the British Pyrotechnics Association but their paperwork still states this being the case.
 - They are at the limit of what they can provide regarding the display as they primarily use retail fireworks and not display standard.
 - No follow up to points raised has been received since the meeting with them despite this being promised.
 - The Working Parties conclusion is that the scale of the event now has outgrown their capability as a company and we should contract with a bigger commercial company.
- Meetings and site visits have been held with three larger commercial companies to provide a comparison to the offering provided by Whizzz Bang. These included Shellscape Pyrotechnics, Fantastic Fireworks and Star Fireworks who are all local to our area. All these companies run UK wide displays using display category fireworks and could supply an all electrically fired display synchronised to music to our budget of £5000. They also demonstrated the required level of compliance with H&S legislation and membership of professional trade bodies. They also had operatives who were trained and accredited with the UK British Pyrotechnics Association, the accepted industry standard for professional firework operators. The largest of the companies was Fantastic Fireworks who are based locally in Luton.
- Following the site visits all companies recommended changes to the site layout and public viewing areas to improve crowd safety and viewing space. Improved crowd barriers and some on site security were also recommended based on the scale of the event.
- Shellscape dropped out of the process during our review as they contracted for the NYE display at Greenwich, London, so no longer had the capacity to do the event. Written proposals were received from Star Fireworks and Fantastic Fireworks and the decision of the Working party was that Fantastic Fireworks be offered the contract for 2019. The cost for the display would remain at £5000 which is the budgeted contract cost for Whizzz Bang.
- The following additional budget items are requested and require approval by F&A
 - Professional site security (2 personnel) from when the firework company arrive on site (~£800)

- Hire and Supply, Installation and removal of metal pedestrian crowd barriers (<£2000)
- Potential improvements to the PA system to provide better music coverage for the audience (~£200).

Recommendations

1. Whizzz Bang is notified that CGPC do not wish to contract with them for the 2019 display.
2. Fantastic Fireworks is contracted for the 2019 display.
3. Additional budget of £3000 is allocated from Council funds to provide for improved crowd barriers, site security and improve PA provision for the 2019 event.

Cllr David Montague
Cllr Andy Hobbs
Cllr Derek Wallington

5th June 2019