

Dear Cllr Judy Stevens – Chairman Culture OSC

At the Cabinet meeting of 18th February 2020 I agreed to provide a written response on the status of the Bourne CiCLe festival.

As Cabinet Member for Culture and Visitor Economy I am responsible for the consideration of events and festivals on behalf of the Cabinet. I do not make decisions in isolation.

SKDC is committed to delivering festivals and events across the district but must ensure they meet the needs of local communities as well as visitors, whilst offering value for money for council taxpayers. The assessment of value for money comes through the development of a detailed business case which assesses visitor numbers, spend in local shops and other social and economic benefits against the cost of staging the event - the cost to the taxpayers of South Kesteven.

The business case should also identify other funding streams and the extent to which the event is supported by the local residents and the business community.

The Council cannot wholly support the Bourne Cicle event, and I have not seen a proposition as to how Council money can be leveraged to support an event that has wider financial and community support. For these reasons, there is no budget allocation for Bourne Cicle, and the event is not going ahead this year

There is a review of all the festivals we support across the district, because as a council, we provide many services to our residents and businesses and quite rightly we should be reviewing how and where that money is spent.

The two major festivals we hold in the district are Gravity Fields in Grantham and Georgian Festival in Stamford, with support to the Deepings Literary Festival, all events held on a bi-annual basis. We are interested in supporting an event at Bourne, however, as I have mentioned previously it does need to be inclusive and benefit the wider residents, business communities and demonstrate value for money.

The Council will only support events that have a sound business case and where a positive social and economic impact can be demonstrated. This is how we ensure that taxpayers' money is used properly.

While I cannot say that the Bourne Cicle festival will return in 2021. What I can say is that I would welcome the submission of a sound business case for any event so that it can be considered through the right processes at the Council. The business case needs to demonstrate the economic and social benefit of staging the event, as well as the funding sought from the Council and from other stakeholders and sponsors. This business case, and the requested budget, can then form one of the considerations that the Council must take into account in setting its budget, for the whole district, for 2021/2022.

Best regards

Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew
Cabinet Member- Culture & Visitor Economy