

Committee	FULL COUNCIL
Date	15 June 2020
Agenda Item	14

To consider events planned by HTC later in 2020

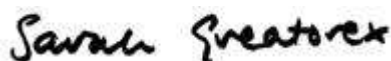
In mid March, as the lockdown was imposed, councillors agreed that the first 3 outings for the over 60s, in May, June and July, should be cancelled, and payments refunded to those who had booked. As the country now grasps more clearly the enduring implications of the pandemic, it would seem prudent to cancel the two outings planned for September and October as well. Some elements of lockdown will still be in place, and the older members of the population will not feel safe sitting on a crowded coach. If this were agreed, it would simplify the task for the Finance Officer as all the repayments could be made with one payment to each passenger instead of several. There is £9164 in total to be repaid.

There is also a Beavers concert planned for 16 August, as one of the band in the park events. Although this is an outside event, it is unlikely that by that time it would be safe or allowed to hold a mass event where over 500 people were originally expected. There is also the risk that people would be afraid to attend, and that not enough money would be raised to pay for the band.

HTC has received enquiries from regular users of Queens Hall as to when the hall might re-open. Councillors are asked to consider the possibility of opening for users such as Weightwatchers and small meetings, where users could be kept at a social distance of 2 metres, but remaining closed for any kind of party/exercise/activity where participants cannot be kept apart. Government has expressed an ambition to re-open indoor spaces in early July.

Recommendation : that HTC agrees

1. to cancel the two remaining outings for 2020, and to refund the monies taken
2. to cancel the Beavers concert planned for 16 August
3. to offer to re-open Queens Hall to users who can demonstrate compliance with government social distancing and other measures, at the beginning of July. Decision to accept individual users delegated to Town Clerk on a case by case basis



Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk