

# REPORT TO EVENTS WORKING GROUP

## SUMMER EVENTS PROGRAMME UPDATE



**Report Reference** E-21-07  
**Meeting Date** 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
**Agenda Item** 7  
**Prepared by** Events Officer

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### 1.0 BACKGROUND

There were three events planned for the summer period:

- 1) Knutsfordian III on 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> July
- 2) Knutsford Art Trail on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> July
- 3) Knutsford Music Festival on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> August.

The Events Officer has discussed upcoming events with Andrew Latham, Outdoor Events Manager at Cheshire East Council, following a meeting he had with Public Health England. PHE have expressed concern at rising numbers of coronavirus cases related to the delta variant in the borough, amongst others, and advised that at present no 'extra gatherings' are organised to discourage spread of the virus. As such, some changes have been made to these events which are outlined below.

### 2.0 UPDATES

#### 2.1 KNUTSFORDIAN III EXHIBITION

This event was planned for early July, with a launch evening to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> July and a public opening of the exhibition on 4<sup>th</sup> July. In addition to the extension of restrictions, advice from Cheshire East Council was to postpone this event if possible to avoid any gatherings.

The Events Officer has worked with GGM Properties to secure a new date for the event. The launch evening will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September with the public exhibition across three days from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> between 11am – 4pm.

#### 2.2 KNUTSFORD ART TRAIL

Cheshire East Council advised that this event was OK to proceed without the inclusion of the street stalls on Regent Street. This was the main area of concern for this event as Cheshire East Council felt it is not possible to strictly control numbers nor track and trace in an open public space. The other aspects of the event are pop-up shops inside local businesses and displays; these are not of major concern as numbers inside businesses hosting the pop-ups can be strictly controlled and the displays will only be viewable externally.

On this basis the Events Officer cancelled the stalls but did not make any other changes to the event.

### 2.3 KNUTSFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL

The music festival is planned to take place from 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August. The Events Officer also discussed this event with Andrew Latham who has advised that plans proceed for now while the local situation is monitored and the Prime Ministers' next announcement is made.

It was suggested the main area for concern would be the Saturday afternoon event on the Moor as this is public land it is harder to barrier off an area to control numbers although this might be possible. It was suggested that the event could be ticketed by offering free tickets through pre-registering and that these are checked upon entry to a closed area to enable tack and trace and greater number control.

The Events Officer is exploring options for both sectioning off part of the Moor to achieve this, as well as an alternative venue where this can be achieved should it prove impractical or undesirable on the Moor.

The folk nights scheduled to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August in St John's Church are largely unaffected as tickets for these events are pre-sold which allows easily track and trace and number control.

Should advice from Public Health England be that it would be inadvisable to hold any gatherings, it would be possible to postpone the event on the Moor to a later date but the folk nights would most likely be cancelled due to limited availability of artists.