



AGENDA ITEM:

AD HOC SCRUTINY

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CLEVELAND SHOW

Ian Parker, Director of Environment

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to give a brief overview of the Cleveland Show in advance of the Scrutiny into the show and the Council's input.

Background

The Cleveland Show is one of a number of "agricultural" shows that take place across the country over summer. Other local examples are the Great Yorkshire Show and more locally, Stokesley Show.

It has taken place in Middlesbrough at Stewart Park since 1963. Last year's show was called off due to fears of damage to the park due to wet weather over summer.

Cleveland Show is not run by the Council. It is completely independent and run by a Management Committee and serviced by a Show Secretary.

The Council do however support the show in a number of ways:-

- By providing Stewart Park as a venue. The show pay for all service costs associated with the show (e.g. fencing and stewarding) as well as repairs to any damage caused as a consequence of the show.
- By providing the finance officer role for the show committee.
- By underwriting an losses caused by exceptional circumstances (e.g. in 2007 when the show did not take place).
- By paying for and servicing a Middlesbrough Council Marquis as part of the show. In previous years the Council has paid a rent in accordance with that paid by trade exhibitors (Approx. £800) but this year the Executive agreed that it would not do so as the Park belongs to the Council).
- By providing office space for the show secretary at Stewart Park when needed throughout the year.

**Current
Position**

The show has seen a general decline in numbers of the years although attendance is heavily influenced by the weather leading up to and in particular on the show day.

This year there has also been a drop off in trade exhibitors, although this may change in the last week before the show, although that is unlikely. There is therefore financial uncertainty around the show and the Council have agreed to take an underwriting role.

The show provided opportunities for a number of community interest groups to hold exhibitions and competitions.

This year's show takes place on 26th July 2008 and I intend to attend for at least part of the day and I will be able to offer specific feedback about the event at the Scrutiny Panel meeting.

Ian Parker

Director of Environment