

TOWN EVENTS FUND – analysis 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19

The Town Events Event was agreed in the Budget set in January 2016, this was the first budget set by the newly elected budget at the election in May 2015. The budget set aside was £10,000 and this has remained the same in each of the three years.

The expenditure in each year is as follows: -

2016/17	£1,054.79
2017/18	£4,635.60
2018/19	£9,721.14 (projected, including Xmas Lights shortfall and the cost of flags)

If you took a three-year average spend, then these would be the Budget recommendations:

Total spend £15,011.52 = £5,003.84 average	Budget next year £5,000.00
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Remove Xmas Lights: Reduces to £10,211.52 = £3,403.84 average	Budget next year £3,500.00
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Remove Flags: Reduces to £8,546.14 = £2,848.71 average	Budget next year £3,000.00
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It was suggested that previously the Council did not have an events budget, and just used to take money from their reserves if they felt it was a good event to support. This was several years ago when the Market made a healthy surplus of funds each year. So, each year if the Market did well the surplus added to the reserve fund, thus the Council were able to deal with requests in this way. Moving forward it could certainly be an option to link this particular budget to the income received from the Market. If the Market does well, we add to the fund year on year, but if times are hard, then we don't add to the fund at all.

The above concept would need to ride off the back of the case made above to reduce the budget from £10,000 to something in the region of £3,000 to £5,000. If it is the lower figure, then the Council need to consider whether to have a 'Flags Maintenance or Repairs and Renewals budget' too!

7(a) Town Events Fund 2019-20

Cllr Les Scott would offer the following budget **proposal**:

- The event budget be reduced to a level in line with the take up of it over the last two years (excluding emergency funding for Christmas light shortfall from STA) This should be viewed in the light of our decision to employ a person to facilitate events.

Cllr Rob Bartram proposes:

- At the meeting that we keep the budget at the same limit £10,000 and as in the past few years all events are decided on their individual merits.

Cllr Colin Houghton puts forward a **resolution**:

- EVENTS BUDGET. Proposal that the events budget for 19/20 remain at the level of £10,000 and that requests for funding of events be submitted and decided on an individual basis. Further that requests may also be considered for funding from the Market entertainment budget

Cllr Terry Jennison comments:

- I believe this budget has been used with good effect in the town, assisting local businesses and volunteers in their efforts and bringing joy into our town. I would support maintaining this budget.

Cllr Paul Darby comments:

- I am happy to support the events that we already support sheep fair Xmas market car rally. I do not think that we should keep adding more to this list. If a group want to stage an event they should raise the funds themselves first, we could then help with the organisation of the even, not be the main organiser.