

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

3rd March 2020

AGENDA ITEM 8.2 CHESHIRE SHOWGROUND - UPDATE

1. Report

- 1.1 Two aspects in respect of this topic are brought to members' attention.

2. Planning regime

- 2.1 First, an enquiry has been made of CEC as to the planning status of the Showground (SG) and the events it holds. CEC have confirmed that the SG's events are held under the planning Permitted Development provisions which allow (in general terms) for the use of any land for any purpose for not more than 28 days in total in any calendar year.
- 2.2 CEC further confirmed that they do not monitor the number of days in the year the SG does hold events – they rely on the SG's honesty in adhering to this limit. CEC did not respond to the question (based on local rumours) that the SG was given a 'dispensation' by Macclesfield Borough Council some years ago that days when events were being set up and broken down would not count in the 28 days referred to above. In any case, it is not clear what validity such a 'dispensation' might have in legal terms.
- 2.3 Ostensibly therefore, it appears to your clerk that days when events are being set up and broken down should be counted within the 28. Any events or parts of events beyond this 28 day allowance should be the subject of explicit planning applications/planning permission.

3. Discussions with representatives of the Showground

- 3.1 Second, members are reminded that contact is still awaited from the SG in respect of your council's request for a meeting with the appropriate representative body to discuss the process of planning events and consultation with the local community.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That members note the reports and decide how to proceed.

Jack Steel
Clerk to Parish Council