

Decision Referral

To:

The Head of Policy and Communications

Decision making body

Heritage, Culture & Leisure Committee

Decision made

"That it be agreed that the Council facilitate the River Festival Committee, including links to the Safety Advisory Group & clean up after the event."

Reason for referring the decision

Please see the attached letter.

Desired outcome (please give full details)

Please see attached also.

Members referring the decision

Signed:

1. Matt Burton	see attached.
2. Gill Fort	
3. Mike Revell	
4.	
5.	

(3 signatories are required to refer a decision of a Service Committee to the Policy and Resources Committee. However, a decision of the Policy and Resources Committee for referral to Council requires 5 signatories in accordance with the Constitution's rules of procedure). Any of the signatories making such a referral shall attend the meeting.

Please note that should new and relevant information come to light, or a more acceptable course of action be proposed which may resolve the matter to the satisfaction of the Committee, then a Committee Chairman, at the request of any three Councillors in writing, may choose whether to call another meeting of the original Committee to re-consider the decision within five working days of receipt of a referral. The referral to Policy and Resources or the Council would then fall away and the matter would be treated as having been dealt with by the original Service Committee. No further referral of the matter would be permitted.

Committee (or Council) responsible for examining this decision

Cllr Matt Burton
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Wednesday, 1st February 2017

Request for referral to Policy & Resources Committee

To whom it may concern,

We, the undersigned, request that the motion carried under agenda item 13 at the meeting of MBC's Heritage, Culture & Leisure Committee (31st January 2017) be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee for review.

The intention behind the oral report presented to us under this agenda item, as the Chairman clearly stated, was to inform Members so that we may decide whether to *receive a report* into the *possibility* of the return of the River Festival.

Instead, HCL Committee resolved, by a margin of a single vote, "[t]hat it be agreed that the Council facilitate the River Festival Committee, including links to the Safety Advisory Group and clean-up after the event."


It is flatly irresponsible that this Committee, or indeed any other, should commit both the support of the Council, or more explicitly, the resources owed to its taxpayers, to any project without proper prior assessment. We believe that the lack of due diligence applied in this instance has resulted in a foolhardy decision, which will place great strain on the Council and its partners. This will be the case not least because the River Festival will be due to fall on scheduled dates for the Ramblin' Man Festival later this year – an event that *has* been given proper consideration by the Committee and forms a part of the Festival and Events Policy.

Not one of us is opposed to the River Festival *per se*, but we feel that it is inappropriate to make such an unthinking commitment to support the reinstatement of the event. Instead, we ask that Policy & Resources Committee review this decision in hope that Heritage, Culture & Leisure Committee may receive a report on the River Festival, outlining to resource costs to MBC, in due course. We believe that this will allow a considered, evidence-based conclusion to be reached as to how Maidstone Borough Council could support the River Festival in the future.

Signed,



Matt Burton



Gill Fort



Mike Revell