

# WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

**TO: LEISURE COMMITTEE - 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 1999**

**SUBJECT: WARWICK MOP**

**FROM: HEAD OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES**

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 Members are asked if they wish to reconsider their decision over the siting of the 1999 Warwick Mop.

## **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 Members will be aware that due to the major refurbishment of the Market Square in Warwick, it was recommended by this Committee that the Mop should not be allowed to operate in the Square this year, but to relocate to St. Mary's Lands. This remains a resolution of the Council.

## **3. PROPOSALS FROM THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD**

3.1 The Showmen's Guild feel this is not a feasible proposition, mainly for health and safety reasons, and have met with the Chief Executive of this Council and other officers with a view to being able to operate in the town centre on sites that are available, notably Swan Street and the Norwich Union car park. Members will be aware that the market is currently operating from the Norwich Union car park without any apparent effect on the contract, but the operation of the Mop is likely to be more disruptive than the weekly market. Despite this, the Showmen's Guild is adamant that its members are not prepared to go to St. Mary's Lands, and have asked again if we could consider the Mop being held on Swan Street and the Norwich Union car park.

3.2 From the point of view of the officers of Leisure and Amenities, this does not create a major problem, but the Head of Engineering feels that allowing two Mops to operate at a crucial part of the Market Square refurbishment project is not advisable and could quite possibly delay the end of the contract. The contract is currently due to end the week before the Victorian Market event when it was due to re-open the Market Square, and the Head of Engineering feels that the completion date could be compromised if the Mop was to operate, although clearly the risk is lessened if the Mop is held on only one weekend. There is likely to be a claim from the contractor if the contract is extended, although equally the Mop administration feel that they may also have a legal claim against the Council if this year's Mop does not proceed although they have said that they are unlikely to pursue this in the interests of good relations

3.3 A number of meetings have taken place between your officers and the Mop administration, culminating in the letter from the Showmen's Guild dated 27<sup>th</sup> August, which is enclosed as an appendix. It is recommended that Members read this particular piece of correspondence, as it sets out in full the case from the Showmen's Guild for continuing to hold the Mop in the town centre.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

4.1 This report does not impinge on any of the Council's current key issues.

**5. ACTION REQUIRED**

5.1 Members are asked if they wish to stand by their original decision to offer only St. Mary's Lands as a site for the Mop in 1999 as a result of the Market Square refurbishment, or if they feel it is possible to operate the Mop on either one or two occasions in Swan Street and the Norwich Union car park.

**Dale G. Best**  
**Head of Leisure and Amenities**

Background Papers: See Appendices

Contact Officer: Dale G. Best  
01926 317850

Jim Harte - Engineering  
01926 450000 Ext. 3015