

TO: EXECUTIVE – 6TH FEBRUARY 2005

SUBJECT: THE FUTURE OF THE WARWICK MOP.

FROM: THE WARWICK MOP WORKING PARTY

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1) The Mop should remain located in Warwick Town Centre and will operate on the following basis.

a) The Mop should operate over two weekends.

b) The set up times on the preceding Thursdays would remain the same as at present with roads closed from 4pm. The full set up is to be no earlier than 6pm but larger rides can be brought on site between 3 and 4pm if agreed by the Police.

c) Increased levels of promotional activity should take place including the use of posters, banners, and signage in and around the immediate Mop area.

d) the Mop will operate in accordance with all the details set out in Appendix 1 (attached for information) of the report to the Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Future of the Mop dates 14th December 2004.

1.2) A new Licence agreement should be drawn up on the following basis.

a) The licence should operate for a period of 10 years with a break clause after 5 years. However, due to ongoing discussions regarding the Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management Scheme and continuing changes in health and safety legislation the Licence will be reviewed every year, prior to the Mop Fair taking place.

d) The new Licence shall include the need for a risk assessment to be completed to the satisfaction of the Council before each Mop takes place.

1.3) The Council reserves the right to close rides or stalls if they do not comply with the rules and regulations of the Licence or meet the regulations set down by the Council.

1.4) The Council will negotiate on issues with a single chosen nominee of the organising Committee rather than the Committee.

1.5) The licence holder will be required to provide the designated officer with a written undertaking to action changes to the layout before any licence is agreed.

1.6) The Council will seek, in partnership with the Police, to ban the consumption of alcohol within the Fair Area during the Mop. The selling of alcohol by Guild members will not be permitted.

1.7) The Citizen's Panel Survey will be used to gauge feedback on the Mop Fair each year in order to monitor public perception.

1.8) The licence fee paid by the operator of the Mop be set at a level which covers all costs incurred by the Council as shown in Appendix 1 under the heading "General Operating Costs". This covers the cost of managing the Mop and the provision of accommodation for the operator during the period of the Mop.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS.

2.1 The Member Working Party was set up to undertake a review of the Mop and report back to the Executive with recommendations for the future operation and management of the Mop Fair.

2.2 The Working Party considered evidence gathered from their consultation. This evidence is detailed in the background papers. In addition they undertook on-site visits to the Mop Fair during October 2004 to assess the impact of the Mop on the Town Centre. Having undertaken the consultation and made visits they have now made a number of recommendations regarding the future operation, management and financing and licensing of the Mop Fair.

2.3 These detailed recommendations were discussed by the Economic and Overview Committee at their meeting in December. The recommendations set out received the unanimous support from all the members present at that meeting.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED.

3.1 Not to renew the Licence for the Mop. The Working Party felt it was important to continue to operate the Mop which it was concluded provided a cultural activity which was generally well supported by residents and of benefit to the town.

3.2 To operate the Mop Fair for just one weekend. This was discounted due to the legal issues of reducing the period of the Mop, the commitment from current operators of the Mop who attend other fairs in the area at that same time and the tradition of the first Mop weekend being followed by the and Runaway Mop the following week.

3.3 To operate the Mop at a different location outside the current Town Centre location. This was rejected due to the support from the majority of respondents to the town centre location and there being no suitable alternative location which could be used. The new licence agreement with Warwick Racecourse now prevents the option of the racecourse being used as an alternative site. In the case of St. Nicholas Car Park, the "operating costs" incurred of the Mop moving to that location would have significantly increased the cost of the licence. In addition no suitable alternative parking is available in that area which is not well served by local bus services. It

would also impact on a new set of residents in that area not as accustomed to the Mop.

4. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

4.1) The financial implications to Warwick District Council of managing and operating the Mop in accordance with the recommendations set out in this report will be covered by the licence fee paid by the Showmen's Guild. Details are included in Appendix 1.

4.2) As a result of the licence fee having to be set at a level which will cover all of these costs there will be no additional financial implications to the Council of this new licence agreement.

4.3) The Council has a corporate policy of seeking to support cultural activities and the operation of the Mop is considered to be for the benefit of the public.

Ian Coker Amenities Manager
On behalf of the Warwick Mop Working Party

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Evidence put before the Working Party.

Economic Overview and Scrutiny report December 2004. The Future of the Mop.

Areas in District affected:	Warwick
Executive Portfolio Area and Holder:	Councillor Tamlin
Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Economic
Key Decision:	No
Included in Forward Plan:	Yes

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5. Background.

5.1 A Working Party comprising Councillors Davis, Mrs Hodgetts, Holland and Guest was set up in January 2004 to consider the future of the Warwick Mop.

5.2 Among those who took part in the consultation were: The Warwick Chamber of Trade, Warwickshire County Council, Showman's Guild (Midland Section), Warwickshire Fire and Rescue, Warwickshire Police, Warwick Town Council, Warwick District Council Environmental Health Officers, The Warwick Society,

Warwick Racecourse, Lloyds No. 1, plus a number of other businesses in the town and a number of local residents.

5.3 The consultation was by means of one to one meetings, letters, emails and telephone calls. This was supported by the local press who promoted the work being undertaken by the Working Party in a number of articles identifying where and how people could make sure their views known. The Working Party were satisfied with the level of consultation undertaken given the variety and quality of the responses received.

5.4 The work undertaken by the Working Party covered six main headings. The first four of these headings and the findings are detailed in the report from the Working Party to the Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee. See Background papers.

5.5) Issues considered by the Working Party which relate to the licensing and financial aspects of the Mop are set out below.

5.6.) Licensing arrangements for the Mop.

5.6.1) The Working Party recommended that the licence be awarded for a period of 10 years with a 5 year a break clause.

5.6.2) However the licence agreement will allow for a review to take place each year. This will allow any necessary changes to the layout of the Mop Fair to be made as a result of the implementation of the Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management Scheme or the need to reflect changes in Environmental Health legislation to be made.

5.6.3) The Licence agreement will require, prior to the Mop Fair taking place, the designated officer meeting with the licensee to confirm the detailed layout arrangements for that particular year's Mop Fair and confirm the licence fee paid to be paid which will cover all the "general operating costs" identified with the Mop.

5.6.4) As the Licensor of the Mop Fairs, WDC is duty bound to ensure the safety and security of the public it serves in an appropriate manner and by adhering to the associated laws and legislation in force at that time.

5.6.5) Detailed noise restrictions have now been set to reduce the environmental impact of the Mop on the area.

5.6.6) It is recommended by the Working Party that the new license should include a clause that Warwick District Council retains the right to close stalls and rides if they do not comply with the rules and regulations contained within the License. These will only be allowed to reopen after such time as the relevant officer of the Council is satisfied that full compliance has been achieved.

5.6.7) The new license shall include the need for a Risk Assessment to be completed to the satisfaction of the Warwick District Council Health and Safety Officer in

advance of each event. It will also allow for the license to be updated annually in view of any new national and EU rules and regulations being introduced.

5.6.8) Warwick District Council will negotiate with a nominee of the licensee not the full organising committee. This encourages quicker decisions to be made and acted upon.

5.6.9) Warwick District Council seek will seek to ban the consumption and selling of alcohol in the 'Fair Area' during Mop periods of operation. This should result in more manageable policing of the event and less anti social behaviour.

5.7 The financing arrangements for the Mop.

5.7.1) The decisions taken by the Working Party as part of the review process will increase the cost of operating and managing the Mop. The items included as "general operating costs" will need to be paid for or provided by the licensee.

5.7.2) The salary cost of the officer time required to manage the Mop are included in the work currently undertaken by the Warwick Town Centre Development Manager. The additional cost associated with the Warwick TCBDM undertaking this work is estimated to be in the region of £1850. i.e. the additional hours worked over the period of the Mop Fair.

5.7.3) The salary cost of other officer time required to monitor the Mop Fair is not included against the general operating costs of the event. This is estimated to be in the region of £800.

5.7.4) The current bond deposited by the licence holder is £5,000 and is used to cover the cost of having to rectify any damage to the area within the Mop area or the accommodation area caused as a direct or indirect result of the actions or fault of the Guild or its agents. Over the last few years the bond has been used to cover minor damage caused by the Mop both in the town centre and at the accommodation area.

5.7.5) With the Members Car Park being used to provide accommodation for the Mop Fair, the Licensee holder will be held financially responsible for the cost of any cancellation of a race meeting caused as a direct or indirect result of the actions or fault of the License holder or their agents. The cost of such an occurrence is £20,000.

5.7.6) The bond deposited by the licence holder will need to be increased to £25,000 to cover both of these two liabilities.

5.7.7) The Working Party recommend that the licence fee paid by the operator of the Mop be set at a level which covers all the "general operating" costs incurred by the Council in the managing of the Mop and the costs of providing accommodation for the operator during the period of the Mop. See figures shown in Appendix 1.

5.7.8) The licence fee will be paid by the license holder to Warwick District Council by 1st October prior to Mop taking place. The bond will be deposited at the same time.

5.8 Other issues.

5.8.1) The Licence fee includes a figure to compensate for the loss of car park income from the closure of any car park required to accommodate the Mop. This principle will continue and as a result the fee paid is likely to increase when the Members Enclosure car park is fully operational in 2006.

5.8.2).The Farmers' Market and Saturday Charter Market be allowed to relocate into New Street if deemed feasible and desirable for the weekend of the Runaway Mop. The option of introducing charity stalls at the Runaway Mop will also be explored.

5.8.3). A detailed plan outlining the names and specific location of the rides is to be produced by the Showman's Guild each year 6 months in advance of the Mop Fair for consideration and approval by Warwick District Council officers.

5.8.4) The license shall be subject to any changes which are necessary in view of the proposed Traffic Management Scheme and any new Health and Safety legislation.

5.9 Accommodation for the Mop

5.9.1)The Members' Enclosure Car Park on Hampton Road will be used as the site for accommodating those operating the Mop during the period of the Mop.

5.9.2. The provision of water and sewerage servicing on the Members Enclosure Car Park should be made and must adhere to Health and Safety requirements. Electrical generators are to be provided or funded by the licence holder.

Appendix 1

The figures listed below are based on current quotes and are liable to change. All the items listed under "General Operating Costs" will be paid for or provided by the licensee either directly or included in the actual licence fee paid to Warwick District Council.

Appendix 1 outlines the breakdown of costs for 2004 and the anticipated cost for 2005 based on the current format. The option agreed by the working party will result in total operating costs of approximately £10,578 excluding vat. This cost excludes the costs of the servicing of water at the accommodation site. The License Fee for 2004 was £8761.

GENERAL OPERATING COSTS	Licensee	WDC	TOTAL 2004	TOTAL 2005
Removal of street furniture	0	4400	4400	4515
Road Closure signage	0	600	600	500
Stewarding Costs	782	782	1564	1600
Car Park Lost Income	0	1500	1500	1500
Electrical Disconnection of Street Signage	0	300	300	310

Accommodation Clearance	0	200	200	0
Additional Cleansing	200	0	200	210
Temporary Servicing for Accommodation	0	0	0	To be negotiated
Promotion / Publicity	0	0	0	500
Additional Signage	0	50	50	420
Skip Hire	0	180	180	200
Stalls for Charity for Runaway Mop	0	0	0	0
Provision of Banner	n/a	n/a	n/a	500
Policing costs.	0	0	0	323
GENERAL OPERATING COSTS	982	8012	8994	10578