

Sherborne Castle Country Fair

Bank Holiday Monday 31st May 2021

3rd March 2021

Discussions amongst the volunteer Sherborne Castle Country Fair Committee regarding plans for this year's Fair have continued over recent weeks and months and I am writing to you with an update.

We have held off from making a decision until as late as we reasonably can but now that the Government has issued its intended timetable for lifting COVID-19 restrictions, regrettably it is clear that we have to cancel the Fair which was due to be held on Monday 31st May 2021.

Fundamentally, as we are restricted to a capacity of no more than 4,000 people, we are unable to find a way to hold a financially viable and attractive event. We have tried over the past few months to devise a basic form of the Fair but we would still need more than 4,000 attendees to be confident of the financial outcome. Whilst we also recognise that it is possible that Covid-19 restrictions may be eased earlier than the Government's timetable, we cannot see that this is likely to happen in time to be of benefit for us.

Naturally we are very disappointed not to be able to stage what we hoped would be one of the first events on the path to returning to normalcy. We would have liked to have brought both trading activity and fun to the community, as well as raising funds for local charities. However, we must keep the Fair in a healthy financial state so that it can continue in future years. We are saddened to have to be making this decision again, almost one year on, but we hope that you will understand our reasons for doing so.

We have considered holding the Fair later in the year but Sherborne Castle availability and potential clashes with other local events means that this will not be possible.

So, we now turn our focus to 2022 and a Fair which we aim to be up to our usual high standard, to be held in late-May as normal. However, because of the altered Bank Holidays for the nation to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we have decided to hold the Fair on **Sunday 29th May**.

In the meantime, we thank you for your understanding and anticipated continuing support which we very much appreciate.



Nick Robinson
Chairman