

AGENDA ITEM No. 8

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE
16th JANUARY 2024
BRIEFING NOTE**

GOOSE FAIR INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2023

Appended is a schedule reporting income and expenditure to date (see below re Park & Ride).

By way of comparison the figures for 2022 are also included. The Committee will note, in particular, the general stability in income after a longstanding period when Park & Ride, most especially, has moved from being cost-neutral/slightly profitable to being a material cost. However, that is not to say Park & Ride should be discontinued, not least because it represents a significant buffer for lack of capacity for in-town parking during the period that Bedford Car Park is closed. The figures for 2023 do not yet show any grant to the Lions Club.

Another feature is the continuing trend to an uplift in costs. This is most evident in areas like cleaning by WDBC which has changed from £5,272 in 2019 (the last Fair pre-Covid) to £10,398 in 2023 (itself including a goodwill reduction iro £500) with an expectation of further increases this year and beyond.

It is also the case that general staff costs indicated are likely underrepresented and, in any event, do not include the sunk or opportunity cost associated with the initiative. In practice, the event is moving from operation on a cost-neutral basis to one of net cost. The Council will no doubt wish to keep this under review, alongside other cost pressures, going forward.

Turning to outstanding matters it has been the past practice of this Council to recognise the support given by the local Lions Club (at Goose Fair 'Park & Ride' sites) through the award of a payment each year. Recently this has been in the sum of £2,000 to the Tavistock Lions Club which has supported this initiative over many years, and now administer the three Park & Ride sites on the day.

The Council is therefore invited to recognise the contribution made by the Tavistock Lions Club by way of grant as in previous years. In the circumstances Council may wish to consider an award of £2,000 to the Lions Club of Tavistock.

**CARL HEARN
TOWN CLERK
JANUARY 2024
TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL**