

MAY FAYRE SURVEY – Summary of Findings and Recommendations

A survey canvassing the views of the villagers about the May fayre was carried out during December and early January. The purpose of the survey was to establish if there was a desire from the village for the Fayre to continue or not. The survey also gathered ideas about improvements or changes villagers would like to see and their willingness to help. In addition to villagers the thoughts of the school and the PTA were also gathered. Detailed below is a summary of the views collected by all four people involved in the survey and the recommendations made we believe reflect the feelings expressed within the surveys. In addition a summary of actual data collected is attached in appendix a,b and c.

A note was delivered to each house advising them of the house to house survey. Email and phone numbers were given to enable those not in when visited to express their views. Views were collected during December and early January most of these were done face to face and few were email responses. Of the 120+ houses in the village the views of over a hundred houses were collected.

Three questions were asked: What are your thoughts of the May fayre? What would you like to see in the Fayre? Can you / in what way would you be willing to help with the Fayre?

Each canvasser was careful not to influence the responses and although additional questions were asked these were to solicit additional information and ideas or understand comments made.

FINDINGS

There was overwhelming support for the May Fayre continuing. A few suggested a year off, a smaller fete or another date but these were a very small number of the views expressed

However, there were concerns about the fayre's feasibility in its current form and suggestions about how it can improve were made. These are discussed below along with recommendations.

Volunteers.

The fayre was recognised as an important community event however the lack of volunteers was a big problem. However most people surveyed were keen to get involved but the following appear to have hampered their involvement in the past or willingness to be involved in the future.

Communication

There appeared to have been some lack of communication last year, some said they'd not been asked to help and assumed they were not needed. Others were frustrated because *they 'didn't' get to see the fayre' or, 'no one turned up to relieve me'*

Length of time expected to help

Only want to do a few hours, not all day.

I'm getting old I can't do all day

Was made to feel bad when I left after id finished my slot

Lack of Fun / Pressure

Wasn't made to feel welcome when I did turn up,

Are pressured into helping -Made to feel bad if they don't help or talked about if they don't do anything on the day even though helped on the Sunday and the clean up.

It's not social , not fun anymore.

Not interested in working on a stall selling

Recommendations:

Have a team (3 or 4) people responsible for getting volunteers (it's a hard job on your own!)

Take phone number and emails of all volunteers to help with communication

Give people responsibility for key aspects of the fayre (sub committees)

Make May Fayre meetings or updates a social event (in the pub in Arnesby or Shearsby)

Stop making helping at the Fayre feel like an obligation.

Foster a sense of community through volunteering – needs to be seen as fun, social, good for the village and volunteers need to feel valued whatever contribution they make.

What we want to see at the Fayre

Views were expressed that the fayre was stale, tired, had its day. However many also highlighted that the visitors liked the sameness, predictability and that it was still an unusual event. Suggestions included bringing back traditional fete attractions and newer ones.

Ideas to update or improve the fayre included:

Foodie fayre- local food producers selling to eat at the fayre or take home.

Craft village or exhibition.

New games – china smashing, well wanging, tug of war

Increase the range of music offered

Vintage car display

Pet or dog show.

More exhibitions or involvement of the school and children. i.e fancy dress, art etc

Pony rides

Climbing wall/ bungee jump

Local Archery club, explore if any other clubs would like to have a 'try it' stall/area.

Timing

The timing of the May Fayre was discussed and suggestions include: later in the year - better for the weather, or a bank holiday that did not coincide with school half term holidays or a Saturday or Sunday . However many people felt that the alternatives would also be problematic and that the

spring bank holiday was as good as any and our visitors know that's the date. It was also clear that the date of the May Fayre was not the main barrier to people volunteering. If the recommendations on volunteers are carried and some of those on 'what we want to see' then there will be a visible change to the May Fayre which should revitalise the Fayre. This is more important than changing the date. It was clear that if people could feel committed to the Fayre then the date was not an issue.

Recommendation: No change to May fayre date

Fund Raising

It was recognised that the funds raised were useful for village projects but lack of any particular focus was an issue.

A couple mentioned the lack of community social events and the reliance on the fayre for funds and there was a need for more social and fund raising events throughout the year.

A number of people mentioned their annoyance that some of the proceeds went outside the village, a few thought it was a good idea, others felt it was up to the committee to decide, most were unaware of how the money was spent. It was clearly a contentious point for some and would need addressing again if the fayre continues next year.

Recommendation: Identify and communicate the fund raising objectives for the fayre

After Fayre Party / Supper

There was a desire to have a village party that was better attended than the recent events. Some recalled the evening events on the green with band and BBQ or at the village hall with music etc.

It was recognised that many are tired after a long may fayre day and that an evening event also takes a lot of work. Suggestions included

A party the following week or later. Maybe organised by others than the May Fayre committee as have already done so much

Band on the Green

Barn dance

Something in Little India

Street party

Recommendation: A celebratory village event is definitely wanted and an alternative or additional event is desired.

Involvement of the School/Parents

We spoke to parents at the school via the PTA and also (separately) the Head teacher. The two joint chairs of the PTA felt strongly that the May fayre was on the wrong date and that the PTA could not commit to being involved as many parents would be away on holiday. Over two thirds of children at the school are from outside Arnesby. The PTA ran a Fun Mudder last year and this was a good fund

raiser so it was not felt that the PTA needed funds from the May Fayre however it was recognised that the school use the village hall and it was important to support its upkeep. Anything the PTA agreed to would also have to have the agreement of Mrs Dorian-Hurst. Whilst discussions with Mrs. DH originally looked like they might like to extend the May Pole into a more arts based contribution to the Fayre, she later came back to us to say the school would like the Fayre to continue in its current format. Therefore changing the date would we believe have no bearing on the involvement of the school, parents or children.

It should be noted that not all families choose to go away during the May school holiday and we believe that parents and children may become more involved in the event (i.e. Competing in the run or a Fancy dress competition) or contributing to the Fayre (i.e. baking a cake, raffle tickets sales, helping with something specific on the day or beforehand) if communication was better and school parents/children were included when looking at volunteers.

Appendix A

ARNESBY MAY FAYRE- summary of comments

Questions	themes	comments	Suggestions
Thoughts of the fayre	Important community event	Great fun! hard work! Worthwhile. Needs to be fun again. Too much reliance on fayre to raise money need more community events throughout the year for social and funds reasons Don't get to see anyone as stuck on a stall all day	Better coordination of helpers, Need more younger helpers getting involved.
	Fund raising	Need a project Need to know how money is spent Objection to funds going outside the village Need to make sure stalls etc are financially worth it –	
	Timing	Fine	Not everyone goes away
		Problem with Monday as back at work on Tuesday	
		School half term problematic	Do on another bank holiday or a Saturday or Sunday
Should it happen or not	Yes 1 no 2 ambivalent 3 have a year off	24 2 4 2	
What would you like to see at the fayre		More entertainment day and night Less tat Reflect Local trades	Music Food festival Tug of war welly wanging Pet / dogshow Traditional events

Can you help /in what ways would you like to help	Yes (if they are here)	Some happy to do all day others not 2 hour slot only	Phil lees music Liz middleton crafts Jenny/tony-Food 3 Lutterworth road wants to get involved
	Less keen	Irritated if expected to help or do MORE Lack of communication Organisation. Need people to be willing not pressed or concern their talked about if not helping	
Village party		Too tired	Why not have get together in little India
		Yes but on another day	
		Yes but more fun	

Meeting with Mrs DH

School always gets involved use of school for cakes and may pole dancing

Very little other activity, not sure if they could do other things e.g could the school use the space occupied by the cake ladies

Thought a fayre not at either bank holiday would be better.

46 sets of parents

Could they or the PTA do their own fund raiser?

Wondered about an art event as need to do for some accreditation

Indicated that maybe they feel obliged rather than want to get involved!