



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

REVIEW OF HIRE CHARGES

BACKGROUND

Members asked the clerk to make enquires with other Councils to review their commercial rates as more information was required before coming to a decision about the charging rate for Lion Green. At that meeting the suggestion of different rates for daytime and evening was also raised.

Cranleigh, Witley and Godalming do not own the land where commercial events take place.

Rustington & Alton were approached for information as the same funfair visits those parishes.

As a rule of thumb, the funfair usually arrives on a Monday and is operational Thursday through to Sunday. The circus does not keep to a set schedule when they visit.

Parish District Borough	Flat rate £ per day	Flat rate £ per visit	Operational day rate	Non-operational day rate	Arrive & departure days
Haslemere	£150.00				
Rustington			£300.00	£100.00	£0.00
Alton		FFair £900 (8 days) Circus £600 (5 days)			

It has historically been the intention of the Town Council to cover the costs of the annual grounds' maintenance at Lion Green, rather than generate income over and above those costs.

If the committee wish to change the charging structure for Lion Green, they will need to consider the impact on staffing hours as an officer may need to attend the Green on a daily basis to ensure compliance with the contract.

In order to minimise what is already an administration heavy job, it is suggested that commercial hirers of Lion Green continue to be charged a single daily rate regardless of whether they are operational or not and regardless of whether their event goes into the evening.

The rates for St Christopher's Green, the Council Chamber and Lion's Den remain as they are and attached to this document is the original appendix from the April meeting, which outlines those charges.

The rate for Lion Green to be paid from the date they arrive on the Green to the day they leave.

RECOMMENDATION: The commercial daily charge for Lion Green be increased to £175, which represents a 16.67% increase. This takes immediate effect. All other charges remain the same.

RECOMMENDATION: The commercial charges for Lion Green, St Christopher's Green and the Council Chamber be increased by 5% per year from 2025 until 2027. At which time, hire charges are reviewed by the Amenities Committee again.

REVIEW OF HIRE CHARGES (APRIL 2024 MEETING)

BACKGROUND

The Finance & Governance committee has asked the Amenities Committee to review the hire charges for Lion Green, St Christopher's Green and the Chamber.

This was last done in 2021 and the committee agreed (post Covid 19) to retain them as they were.

The licence to the Lion's Den is outside the scope of this review and will be looked at towards the end of this year to commence 2025. However, for the sake of completeness the hire charges are include in the table below.

St Christopher's Green The Chamber of Commerce hired the Green and held quarterly Vintage and Craft fairs in 2021. To begin with they were successful, but post Covid 19 and shops opening normally meant there was a decrease in footfall which in turn reduced the number of independent traders wanting a pitch. The Fairs have not continued and no-one else has shown an interest in holding events there.

The Council Chamber A GDPR review of the Town Hall offices resulted in hirers no longer being given access to the kitchen facilities as confidential information was accessible in the main office. As a result, there has been a small drop off in private hire but there were no regular or substantial hires in any event.

Deposits All hirers pay a refundable damage deposit regardless of whether they are commercial events or not. Multi day commercial hirers of Lion Green pay £1,500 and commercial/non-commercial day hirers pay £150. Hirers of the Council Chamber pay £50.

Commencement Some, but not all, of the multi day commercial hirers have booked this year. Should the Committee decide to increase the charges, they could either come into effect from 2025 or with immediate effect where bookings have not yet been received.

Current charges

Location	Commercial	Non-commercial
Lion Green	£150 per day	No charge
St Christopher's Green	£75 per day	No charge
Council Chamber	£10 per hour	No charge
Lion's Den licence	£50 per month	n/a