

Birmingham City Council

Trust and Charities Committee

13th June 2022



Subject: Cropwood Estate – Hosting the Blackwell Festival 2022

Report of: Assistant Director Property

Report author: Nigel Oliver

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 To consider the request by the Blackwell Festival Charity to hold the Blackwell Festival 2022 on land in the Cropwood Estate

2 Recommendations

That the Committee notes the request of the Blackwell Festival Charity to hold the Festival on Cropwood Trust land and the Charity request this land be used by them at a peppercorn rent (at less than best value)

- 2.1 approves the use of the land for the Blackwell Festival on terms to be agreed by the Assistant Director of Property
- 2.2 and if appropriate authorises the City Solicitor to negotiate, seal, execute and complete all legal documentation to give effect to the above recommendations.

3 Background

- 3.1 Members will be aware the Committee at its meeting on 22nd April 2021 supported the holding of the festival on the same site last year.
- 3.2 The Cropwood Estate Trust, registered Charity no. 1085296, is governed by a scheme dated 12th November 1997 which permits trustees to manage the land and make disposals. The specific objects of the Cropwood Estate trust are wide ranging and are: the furtherance of any charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of the City of Birmingham including all or any of the following purposes (a) the provision and support of educational facilities (b) the provision and support of facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation with the object of

improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants (c) the relief of the aged, impotent and poor (d) the relief of sickness.

- 3.3 The Blackwell Festival is a one day ticketed annual event open to all. The organisers will apply for all appropriate licences for the use of the land and as in previous years this will include a Premises Licence for the sale of alcohol. The event has been taking place for some years now without incident and the field when used for last years festival was returned in good condition.
- 3.4 The Objects of the Cropwood Estate trust are wide enough to also permit the use of the land for general purposes including the Festival. In managing the Cropwood Estate Trust land it is appropriate to work with the local community in Blackwell which directly adjoins the trust land. Blackwell Festival Charity will use the funds raised at the event to support this and other events in the village in line with the aims of the Charity.
- 3.5 It should be noted that any license granted by the Cropwood Trust for the Festival will include the requirement to ensure appropriate insurances and Risk Assessments are in place and will also require that no liability for any matters related to the Festival impact on the Cropwood Estate. The occupation licence will extend to five days in full to enable set up and dismantling and litter picking etc.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 Transactions on trust land are normally required to take place at market value although transactions between charities are excepted, if appropriate.
- 4.2 The trustees do not have to support the Festival but it would seem appropriate to consider doing so.

5 Appendices

- 1. Appendix 1 Plan of the Cropwood Estate holdings and site of Festival
- 2. Appendix 2 Blackwell Festival charity report on previous Festival.