



Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

WRITTEN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET OR CHAIR UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 17.

ORDINARY CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 March 2023

QUESTION NO 3

FROM: COUNCILLOR ASGHAR SHAH

TO REPLY: CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES & CENTRAL
SERVICES
COUNCILLOR CHRIS ATTWELL

Can the cabinet member please inform me why, despite the success of the Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch on King George V Playing Fields, no such event is planned for King Charles' coronation in the north of the city? If it isn't possible to hold more than one council coronation event, could the Victoria Park event be moved to King George V Playing Fields instead, as access, public transport and parking are ample there.

Response

The budget available will ensure that one 'Big Lunch' event can be put on in the city and incorporate all the elements that would be expected at such a celebration including live music, entertainment, food and drinks vendors and children's activities as well as the relevant health, safety and security measures.

As only one event can be provided, the city centre was decided upon to be the location, as opposed to either the north or the south of the city. Victoria Park can be accessed easily via varied public transport links including bus, rail or scooters and the park and ride.

Holding the event in Victoria Park provides an excellent opportunity to promote and engage with the ongoing Victoria Park project which will create a more inclusive space where residents can access new opportunities. We have not held any open access events in the city centre since before the pandemic and

in addition, the location is near the Big Screen where residents will be able to view the Coronation coverage.

Whilst there will be space to hold the event at King George V Playing Fields, large parts of the grounds will be a building site at the time of the coronation.

There will be large amounts of soil on the site. With the right weather conditions, there is the potential for dust to be blown around the site. We would not want to risk local residents' enjoyment of the occasion by holding the event at this site during the construction phase of the project.

We will be hosting Circus Wonderland on King George V Playing Fields later in May/early June where their large Big Top provides an indoor venue, and we are working with the construction team to locate this in a suitable part of the site.