

CHADDERTON AREA COMMITTEE

CHADDERTON DAY REPORT

24TH JANUARY 2006

Purpose of the Report

To inform the Area Committee of the proposal to create an annual 'Chadderton Day' and ask for support and funding.

History of 'Wakes'

For a great many years 'Wakes' signified the time when rival carts from different parts of Chadderton were taken to the Parish Church in Oldham. The rushes were then scattered on the floor of the church, the floor being nothing more than compressed soil. In this way the rushes added warmth for the congregation during the coming year.

The Wakes was originally celebrated towards the end of August and evolved in to a public holiday when workers in the cotton mills were given time off from their labours and, if fortunate enough, they could go to the seaside for a weeks break. Funfairs became part of the tradition and Wakes became established as a time for fun and enjoyment. Chadderton had some 63 mills in the peak of the industrial revolution.

In Chadderton the local Wakes took on a new aspect when the landlord of the Dog Inn at Cowhill, Samuel Kay, established a fair in 1886 on nearby land as a means of promoting higher sales in his establishment. So successful was this venture that 'Cowhill Wakes' became an annual event each August until it was discontinued about 1960.

After the Second World War the Wakes week itself was transferred to June commencing on the penultimate Saturday and ultimately becoming a weeks holiday. It was officially abolished in 1991.

Summary

Chadderton is a town on its own whilst also a part of Oldham Metropolitan Borough and has a long history with many claims to fame. The residents of Chadderton, when asked, relate to Chadderton firstly and general have a pride in where they live. To celebrate the distinctiveness a proposal is being made to create a 'Chadderton Day'.

It would be a one day event of fun and enjoyment mirroring that created of the Wakes but also an opportunity for agencies to share information with residents about Chaddertons history and services.

It is also proposed to utilise the Wakes period for the mills as Chadderton had its share of mills and hold the Chadderton Day in June. For 2006 this would be Saturday 17th June.

The organisation of the Chadderton Day could be given to the Christmas Lights sub-group with the addition of other members.

The cost of running the event would be kept to a minimum as much as possible by encouraging agencies to provide activities and information for free. A plan for event has not yet been drawn up therefore costs cannot be provided.

Recommendation

- The Area Committee support the proposal for the creation of a Chadderton day
- The Area Committee decide on the sub-group membership
- The Area Committee allocate an amount from the delegated budget to help create and promote the event.

Christmas Lights Sub-group membership;

Councillors - J. Sutcliffe

Co-optees – Christine Dennis

Joanne Salway

Barbara Wilson

Residents - Enid Johnson

Michael Lawson

Agencies - Michelle Johnson, Youth Service