

Film night investigation

Non-confidential

Report by: Elaine Atkin

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Report to: Parish Council 10/2025

At the informal Four Year Plan workshop held on 18/08/25 a councillor put forward a suggestion for an outdoor Halloween film night. Whilst all those present thought it was a great idea, consensus was that there would be insufficient time to arrange such an event this year. There were also some concerns expressed about holding an outside event so late in the year and that maybe a summertime outdoor event would be more suitable.

Those present also agreed that Council may want to consider arranging an indoor film event as a 'taster', to see whether this is viable, and then consider an outdoor event possibly next year.

The Full Council meeting on 08/09/25 considered whether it wanted to take forward a suggestion on film event(s) and if so, to agree ownership to progress this. Council agreed that *"Further investigation was required on the possibility of holding a Christmas film event at the Jubilee Hall and details would be fed back to the next Full Council meeting for consideration. An outdoor film event could be considered for next year."*

Office staff put out a request for information on the LALC Clerk's email group and also searched for local companies who will come to a venue and run film nights.

Option 1 - Organise and run the event yourself

- We do not have appropriate audio-visual equipment ourselves so would have to hire this in (and know how to set up and operate it). Cost currently unknown.
- We would have to sort out all the licencing and permissions:
 - Our Jubilee Hall premises licence covers 'an exhibition of a film'. For any outdoor event we would need appropriate licencing.
 - A Single Title Screening Licence covers a public **indoor** screening via organisations such as Motion Picture Licensing Company or Filmbank Media (see Appendix A for indicative costs from Film Bank Media). This permits you to charge for and advertise the event¹. They will arrange permission to screen from the film's distributor.

¹ An annual licence option is available, but this is designed for film clubs and the like, which is not showing to the general public. Under this licence, you are not permitted to make a profit and not permitted to advertise the film, so this option would not be suitable for us.

- An appropriate licence would be required for outdoor or drive-in film screenings. Additional licences (such as TEN, PRS for Music) may also be required for an outdoor event.
- Someone would have to take the lead on organising such an event.
- We would have to arrange ticketing.

Bracebridge Heath Parish Council confirmed they were planning a Christmas film event (indoors), which they are organising themselves. They installed a new audio-visual system in their village hall last year. They advised us on the licencing requirements. They are VAT registered and are charging for tickets. They also confirmed that if the event is successful, they do not have the resource capacity to organise it on a regular basis, so would be interested to know if we found a company able to run an event for us.

Option 2 – Get in a company to organise and run the event

- They provide and operate the audio-visual equipment.
- They sort out the licencing and permissions.
- We would still have to arrange ticketing.

We confirmed that FlixInTheStix (who the council had used years ago to put on a film event) are no longer operating in Lincolnshire.

We contacted Live & Local (liveandlocal.org.uk) but they confirmed they don't receive funding to support a film scheme in Lincolnshire.

The Village Screen pop-up cinema (Sheffield-based) have responded with costs/options. These are more suited to an outdoor event. They use projection rather than LED screens, but this means it is not suitable for daytime outdoor screenings. A LED screen option (for outdoor daytime) can be provided but is more expensive. Optional extras can be purchased from them i.e. deckchairs, seating, blankets & cushions, lighting, headphones etc.

See below for a high-level summary of The Village Screen options:

Option	Capacity	Details	Cost (plus VAT)
24ft inflatable cinema	700 people	24ft inflatable Airscreen. 12,000 lumen projection, Line Array PA system, technical operation.	£3250
24ft inflatable cinema and Drive In cinema	100 cars	24ft inflatable Airscreen. 12,000 lumen projection, Line Array PA system, wireless speakers for each car, technical operation.	£3750
16ft fast fold screen	300 people	16ft screen, projector, PA system, technical operation.	From £2250

Mini-screen garden party cinema	50 people	10ft screen, projector, PA system, technical operation.	From £1,250
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These costs **do not** include the licencing to show the film, but the company have confirmed they would be able to support us in getting the appropriate licence sorted. (The licence cost is based on percentage of box office or number of people).

Resource implications

Organising and putting on such an event will require additional resource which cannot be fulfilled within the current staffing levels.

Financial Implications

The cost of getting a third-party in (based on the quote from The Village Screen company) is not inconsiderable, even with their cheapest option.

With both options Council would need to consider whether to charge for the event or whether it would be free to attend. (Tickets/bookings would need to be made either way – this will need to be managed).

If we were to charge for tickets, this would be classed as a taxable business activity². This means that we would have to charge VAT.

The Council is not VAT registered and would need to consider the VAT implications of this.

If a Council makes any taxable supplies and if the VAT charged to customers would exceed £1,000 per annum, then the Council will need to become VAT registered (which has knock-on implications on other council activities). Non-VAT registered councils cannot reclaim VAT on their taxable business activities – unless they register for VAT³.

Recommendation

- Council considers whether a film night is an option it wants to pursue, taking into account the implications flagged.

² Classed as 'Supplying goods/services in return for payment'

³ Source: Parkinson Partnership

Appendix A – Filmbank Media licence costs

INDOOR TICKETED/NON-TICKETED SCREENINGS

Indoor pricing for ticketed screenings start from £87 or 35% of your box office (plus VAT), or whichever is greater

Commercial (MG) and Non-Commercial (FF)	Home Entertainment window	Early window
Capacity	Pricing	Pricing
0 - 50	£87	£96
51 - 100	£91	£100
101 - 200	£95	£105
201 - 300	£146	£168
300+ please contact Filmbankmedia		

OUTDOOR* TICKETED/NON-TICKETED SCREENINGS

Outdoor pricing for ticketed screenings start from £153 or 40% of your box office (plus VAT), or whichever is greater

Commercial (MG) and Non-Commercial (FF)	Home Entertainment window	Early window
Capacity	Pricing	Pricing
1-200	£153	£176
201- 300	£219	£252
300+ please contact Filmbankmedia		

*Includes Drive-In Screenings