

## **Report from Watton Carnival**

**To**

**Watton Ton Council**

Watton Carnival took place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This year the Carnival Committee decided to change venue. We moved the Carnival to the Watton Sports Centre. The main reasons for this was that the Carnival Committee wished to try and expand the Carnival by this we mean include inflatables which we cannot do on the High Street do to our insurance and also that of the company providing them. Secondly, in 2022 when we returned from Covid we found that we encountered a lot of complaints from businesses on the High Street. As you will all appreciate the Carnival Committee is run by volunteers and putting on such a large event is time consuming enough without dealing with complaints and social media. We also felt that a road closure for an hour would be easier to obtain than a road closure for 10 hours. Thirdly, to comply with safeguarding concerns there are many routes on foot on and off the High Street, whereas we felt that families may feel more comfortable in an enclosed environment. The Carnival Parade was from the Car Park behind Queens Hall down Dereham Road to the Watton Sports Centre.

The Grant of £500 received from the Watton Town Council was used to facilitate Pony Rides for children. Such rides were free on the day and were available from 2.00pm to 4.00pm although they overran as they were in such popular demand. To see the children's faces and the giggling laughing with delight was wonderful. The comments from parents were very positive so we have invited the Pony Rides back again this year and we do hope that the Watton Town Council will consider a grant again and support the 2024 Watton Carnival which is being held again at the Watton Sports Centre on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The support was very good sadly the weather wasn't very kind for the Parade.

Once again a huge thank you on behalf of the Watton Carnival Committee.

Jayne Eastwood  
Watton Carnival Committee