

This year's Tenterden Folk Festival will start with a fundraising concert in the town hall on Thursday, October 1.

Headline acts are Jez Lowe, Hudson and Cutler, and Mark Gibson.

There follows three days of all things folk with a barn dance, concerts, sing-a-rounds, music sessions, folk clubs, special shows, a craft fair, street and music stalls, dance on the recreation ground marquee stages, meet-the-quest spots, workshops, and much more.

The highlight is the colourful procession of morris dancers up the High Street on Saturday, October 3, from 3pm.

Festival venues include the Tenterden Club, St Mildred's Church, the Town Hall, The Saddlery and the recreation ground. There are also events in The Woolpack, The White Lion, The Vine, the William Caxton, and Indulgence Cake and Coffee House.

For full details and a programme, go to tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk



Tenterden Folk Festival gets under way

Picture: Martin Apps



Cllr Sue Ferguson



Cllr Justin Nelson

Extra folk festival funds agreed despite concerns

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Increased funding for Tenterden Folk Festival has been agreed by town councillors.

They approved upping the annual grant by £500 to £2,500 next year – but only after a debate.

Some councillors were concerned about setting a precedent for other organisations to ask for more money, while oth-

ers stressed the benefits the festival brings to the town.

In a letter to the council, festival director Alan Castle said they wanted to develop it as a major nationally known arts event.

He added that the 2017 festival would be the 25th and special events with high-profile guests were already being planned.

Cllr Sue Ferguson backed the increased grant.

She said: "This is a very valuable tourist attraction. It brings a lot of people into the town and has been going for a large

number of years. I think this is an excellent thing for the town and we should support it with extra money."

Borough councillor Paul Clokie said the festival organisers were always short of money and always worried about their budget, adding: "There is a benefit to the town."

But finance and general purposes committee chairman Cllr Justin Nelson said: "My concern is whether this sets a precedent for the other public events we support." Agreeing with him, Cllr

Richard Lusty asked how much support went to other events and added: "I am concerned that it could create a landslide."

Cllr Nelson said the other large groups supported were Tentertainment and Tenterden Operatic & Dramatic Society.

Both may also ask for a £500 increase in grants which would be hard to refuse, he said.

He suggested going back to Mr Castle and asking why more money was needed.

But Cllr Ferguson said: "I do not think we should embarrass

them in that way. Last year the festival was down on takings because of the bad weather."

Cllr Nelson said that a specific reason could be given by the festival for needing more money, but Cllr Emma Hannett said: "Are we not being pedantic? It is to enable them to develop and they were down on donations."

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