



Media Release

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RUSSIAN CIRCUS CONTRAVENES STRAY ACT

If the Russian Circus had a ‘Nellie the Elephant’, she would be packing her trunks and saying goodbye to Harrogate for good. Following a breach of their contract with Harrogate Borough Council, the organisers of the Russian Circus have been told they will not be allowed to return to Harrogate’s world famous Stray in the future.

The council received complaints at the weekend that a landing helicopter had caused problems for local residents.

Mr Patrick Kilburn, Head of Parks and Open Spaces, explained: “I am absolutely staggered that the Circus landed a helicopter when they had been told last week in no uncertain terms that this would not be allowed.

“The landing of helicopters on The Stray is in contravention of The Stray Act, which protects this land. There are very few circumstances when aircraft would be able to land on The Stray and this mainly refers to medical emergencies when the Air Ambulance would be allowed to land. The only other time permission would be granted would on the occasion of a Royal visit. All other requests for helicopter landings are directed to the Great Yorkshire Show Ground.”

As well as the problem with the helicopter, the Circus organisers were also directing traffic to park on the Tewit Well Stray. This was not included in the contract for the Circus. They were advised to desist from directing cars to this land by the council’s staff but they simply ignored this instruction and carried on.

“We do hold a Bond from the Circus and if there is any damage to the Tewit Well land, we will be retaining some of that money to reinstate the grass, added Patrick Kilburn. “They will also be formally advised that they will not be allowed to bring the circus to Harrogate again. There are plenty of other event organisers lining up to use The Stray and we will choose one of them for the future. “

ENDS

FURTHER INFORMATION is available from Mr Patrick Kilburn, Head of Parks and Open Spaces on 01423 556704.