

Licensing Committee

Thursday, 23rd April, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor D Wilson in the Chair

Councillors T Grayshon, G Hyde,
V Morgan, B Selby, A Castle,
D Hollingsworth and G Wilkinson

53 Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Castle – The Leeds Festival - declared a personal interest as a resident of Thorner which lies close to the Festival site (minute 56 refers)

54 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Armitage, Dowson, Dunn, R D Feldman and Townsley

55 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held 7 April 2009 be agreed as a correct record

56 The Leeds Festival 2009 - Traffic Management Plan Site Visit and Presentation

Further to minute 49 of the meeting held 7 April 2009 the Committee convened to consider a short report submitted by the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) outlining the Committee decision to undertake a site visit in order to view the proposed traffic routes for the Leeds Festival 2009.

The Committee then adjourned to undertake the site visit. Members were joined by Ms H Blake (representative of Festival Republic Ltd) and Mr G Sharp (LCC Highways) for the site visit which included a tour of the proposed Festival traffic routes and particularly concentrated on the routes to be used on the Thursday of the event.

Members then received an informal presentation on the draft TMP made by Mr M Benn, Festival Republic Ltd which covered:

- Red Route (A64) to be employed on the Thursday of the event only. That part of the A64 between the Fox & Grapes public house and the Bramham Interchange (A1M) proposed to be closed eastbound to utilise both westward lanes for incoming Festival goers
- Improvements to be made to the Red Gate access points along the A64, provision of internal routes for drop-off points and provision of additional car parking on Red Route
- Brown Route (A1M A659) to be employed at all times and assessment of the capacity of Brown Route to cope with congestion/stacking of vehicles queuing
- Consultation undertaken with relevant agencies and residents of the key routes

- Positioning and timing of signage to be employed on various routes to the event.
- An outline of contingency plans should congestion or incidents occur on the routes
- Festival Republic Ltd to provide staff at various points along the routes to ensure traffic flow and restrict access to the site as appropriate with support from relevant agencies such as West Yorkshire Police and/or the AA
- Details of the specified routes to be included in every ticket pack; to be available to download to input into SATNAV systems; to be displayed on the Leeds Festival website and included for discussion on various web forums. Additionally LCC's own website to include details plus up to date information daily during the event

The Committee viewed a computer generated model of traffic flows along the designated "Red Route" and "Brown Route" produced by Faber Maunsell, the traffic consultants employed by Festival Leeds Ltd. This took into account the number/type of vehicle attending the Festival in previous years and those making use of the surrounding highways network at all other times and produced what was described as a robust assessment of likely traffic movements to the site at key points such as Hook Moor (A1M/A64)

Mr Benn assured Members the draft TMP as presented had received the support of the relevant traffic and highways authorities. The Committee commented that more emphasis and early notification was required on the proposed partial closure of the A64; the non-availability of local routes and routes previously used by Festival goers and that entry would only be by the Red or Brown routes as designated by Festival Republic Ltd.

Members expressed their thanks to Mr Benn, Ms Blake and Mr Clelland for their presentation and for the information conveyed during the site visit. The Committee welcomed those measures proposed to address the traffic congestion and subsequent problems experienced during the 2008 Festival.

(Councillors Castle and Wilkinson withdrew from the meeting at this point)

The Committee then re-convened the formal meeting and

RESOLVED –

- a) That the representatives of Festival Republic Ltd be thanked for their presentation
- b) That the comments of the Committee having regard to the findings of the site visit and the contents of the presentation be noted
- c) To note the contents of the draft TMP at this stage
- d) To note that the final TMP will form part of the final overall Event Management Plan for the 2009 Leeds Festival which will be presented to the Committee in due course

57 Proposed Date of the Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note the next Committee meeting will be held at the start of the new Municipal Year and is proposed to be Tuesday 2nd June 2009 at 10.00 am

