



**Report of the Head of Licensing and Registration**

**Report to the Licensing Committee**

**Date: 15 October 2013**

**Subject: Leeds Festival 2013 - Members Interim Debrief**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Wetherby and Harewood		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. The Leeds Festival is an annual event held over the August Bank Holiday weekend within the grounds of Bramham Park. The Festival is held under the authorisation of a premises licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003.

**Recommendations**

2. The Licensing Committee is required to note the contents of this interim report pending the full debrief report that will be brought to the Licensing Committee in November 2013.

## **1.0 Purpose of this Report**

1.1 This report is to give an interim report to Members of the outcome of the Leeds Festival held between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

## **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 The premises licence for the Leeds Festival was considered and approved by the Members of the Licensing Committee on the 28 April 2006.

2.2 The licence granted to Mr. Benn is held for Bramham Park and allows the festival to take place every August Bank Holiday weekend.

2.3 Members resolved to grant the application as requested and accepted the applicants offer to include the following additional three conditions:

- 1) There shall be an Event Management Plan which incorporates the operating schedule submitted to the Licensing Authority at least 6 months prior to the Festival each year.
- 2) The Event Management Plan and any revisions to the Event Management Plan must be approved by the Licensing Authority prior to the Festival.
- 3) The Premises Licence Holder shall comply with the terms and requirements of the Event Management Plan each year.

2.4 In addition the Committee reserved the right to determine how the final amended Event Management Plan for the festival should be agreed with the facility for the final plan to be agreed by the Committee or officers under delegated authority.

2.5 Members were presented with a report on the 2013 Festival arrangements at a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

2.6 Members resolved to give delegated authority to Mr Mulcahy, the Head of Licensing and Registration, to approve the final Event Management Plan. This was duly approved on the 21 August 2013 following a visit to the festival site.

2.7 Full details of the licensable activities and hours of operation are detailed on the copy of the premises licence attached at Appendix A for Members information.

2.8 Members will note from the attached licence that whilst the entertainment on the main stage does not commence until Friday, limited entertainment is available on the Thursday evening for those camping.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

- 3.1 The car parks opened to the festival ticket holders on the Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 08:37hrs and camp sites released at 09:47hrs.
- 3.2 Multi agency meetings were held on the following occasions:
- Thursday            22 August            17:00hrs
  - Friday                23 August            17:00hrs
  - Saturday            24 August            00:15hrs
  - Saturday            25 August            17:00hrs
  - Sunday               26 August            17:00hrs
- 3.3 At these meetings all parties would provide updates on progress and any issues arising on and off site, share information and statistics, and any matters requiring attention would be noted and actioned.
- 3.4 At the multi-agency meeting held on the Thursday it was reported that there was a possibility of heavy rain and thunderstorms on the Saturday. Unfortunately this weather front arrived on Thursday evening in the form of an electrical storm. This resulted in damage to two of the music marquees. Action was taken to safely evacuate persons present and close the areas to allow repair works.
- 3.5 Contingency plans were put in place for those people whose tents were destroyed due to the heavy downpour, with additional welfare tents set up.
- 3.6 Remedial work continued throughout the festival to make walk ways and public areas accessible using straw and wood chip. However, due to the continual heavy downpours the site had no time to recover and the muddy conditions worsened throughout the weekend.
- 3.7 Recovery vehicles were deployed to car parks to assist in towing vehicles that had become stuck in the mud and where available, additional fields were sourced and opened up for car parking.
- 3.8 Upon vehicles leaving the site mud was taken on to the highway, and whilst road sweepers were continually operating the conditions were such that there were reports of mud on the highway some distance from the Festival site.
- 3.9 The main exodus from the Festival site was on the Monday when reports were received of cleansing issues in the City Centre. People had alighted the shuttle buses in the area of City Square and discarded their muddy footwear. Mud had consequently been trodden around the footpaths.
- 3.10 A similar situation was reported within the Leeds Central Railway Station.
- 3.11 To discuss the consequences of the extreme weather and the problems that this brought for the local area and the City, a meeting was held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, involving the Chair of the Licensing Committee, Elected Members of

the Wards affected, officers from Street Cleansing/Enforcement and Traffic Management, and Mr Benn the licence holder and Festival organiser.

- 3.12 Discussions included the conditions of the City Centre, particularly in the area of City Square and the railway station on the Bank Holiday Monday, and also the road conditions that were muddy and slippery until some time after the event with some clean up operations still ongoing, and the impact this had brought on Leeds City Council resources.
- 3.13 Comments also included traffic congestion which was notable on this occasion, although the Transport Officer advised that there was no serious congestion in comparison to the events held prior to the revised traffic management plan, but accepted that due to the mud on the roads traffic was slower than normal, caused partly by the road sweeper clearing the roads.
- 3.14 Mr Benn responded to the matters raised and commented that the weather conditions had been the worst experienced in the history of the festival, or any other festival that he had promoted, with reports of a month's rain falling in a few hours. Throughout the festival works were undertaken to ensure the event could continue as to have cancelled the event would have brought serious issues.
- 3.15 Mr Benn confirmed the existing contingencies in place which included the clearing of gutters before the event, road sweepers on standby and wood chip and straw supplies to hand. On hearing of the issues in the City Centre he dispatched a team to assist with the removal of the discarded foot ware.
- 3.16 Mr Benn confirmed that the Event Management Plan would be reviewed to provide for improved contingencies for wet weather conditions and clean up operations. For this liaison would be held with Highways, Cleansing Services and the West Yorkshire Police.
- 3.17 The final Event Management Plan would be subject to agency approval and final approval before the Licensing Committee, and should any agency be unhappy with any aspects of the Event Management Plan this would be brought to the attention of the Licensing Committee.
- 3.18 The multi- agency debrief is scheduled to be held on the 7 October 2013.
- 3.19 A full debrief will be given to the Licensing Committee at their meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 when Mr. Benn will be in attendance. At that meeting Members will be supplied with the full statistics from the 2013 event, and details of any solutions/contingency plans for future events may be available for Members further discussion
- 3.20 Notwithstanding the issues mentioned above, the initial reports from all of the agencies and the licence holder are that apart from the severe weather conditions, which were well managed on site, the event went well with a good working relationship between the Festival Republic staff and the responsible authorities.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 The application for a premises licence considered in 2006 underwent the full consultation process including a newspaper advertisement and public notices displayed around the site for the required 28 day notice period and full liaison with the Ward Members and responsible authorities. Mr. Benn continues to consult with community representatives through the Parish Councils and local residents on all aspects of the impact of the event.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 At the time of writing this report there were no implications for equality and diversity. Any decision taken by the Licensing Committee will be in accordance with the four licensing objectives as prescribed by the Licensing Act 2003.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 When determining applications under the Licensing Act 2003 the Licensing Authority must have regard to the relevant legislation, guidance issued by the Home Office, the council's own statement of licensing policy and any associated local area guidance.

4.3.2 Applicants are expected to have had consideration to the relevant policy and any local area guidance when completing their applications and the licensing authority will refer to the policy/local area guidance when making its decision.

4.3.3 The licensing regimes contribute to the following outcomes as set out in the Best Council Plan 2013-17:

- Improve the quality of life for our residents, particular those who are vulnerable or in poverty;
- Make it easier for people to do business with us; and
- Achieve the savings and efficiencies required to continue to deliver frontline services.

4.3.4 The application was granted in 2006 with regard to the Council's Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy, and the event will operate in accordance with the licensing objectives as set out in the current Statement of Licensing Policy 2011-2013.

### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

4.4.1 There are no resource implications to the licensing authority. The premises licence is subject to an annual maintenance fee as prescribed under the Licensing Act 2003.

### **4.5 Legal Implications**

4.5.1 There are no legal implications known to the Council in terms of its responsibilities held under the Licensing Act 2003.

## **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 The event is subject to a number of multi-agency meetings.

4.6.2 Any matters arising during the event having an implication on the premises licence and objectives of the Licensing Act will be brought back before the Licensing Committee.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

5.1 This report advises Members that throughout the event and despite the weather conditions the event went well and it is reported that there was a good working relationship between the festival organisers and the responsible agencies. Issues arising during the egress from the site are to be discussed and it is anticipated that changes to the event management plan can be put in place for future events.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 The Licensing Committee is required to note the contents of this interim report pending the full de-brief report that will be brought to the Licensing Committee in November 2013.

## **7.0 Background Papers**

None