



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

**Report to the Licensing Committee**

**Date: 12 November 2013**

**Subject: Leeds Festival 2013 - Members 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**

- 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**

- The Licensing Committee is required to note the contents of this report. .

**1.0 Purpose of this Report**

- This report provides Members with details of any matters arising from the Leeds Festival held between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

**2.0 Background Information**

- The premises licence for the Leeds Festival was considered and approved by the Members of the Licensing Committee on the 28 April 2006.
- The licence granted to Mr. Benn is held for Bramham Park and allows the festival to take place every August Bank Holiday weekend.
- 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 main stage does not operate until Friday, limited entertainment is available on the Thursday evening for those camping.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

3.1 The car parks and camp sites were opened to ticket holders on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013 following confirmation from the relevant agencies that the areas to be opened were fit for purpose.

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 agencies would share information and statistics, and provide the licence holder with any matters requiring attention.

3.4 At the multi-agency meeting held on the Thursday it was forecasted for heavy rain and thunderstorms on the Saturday. Unfortunately an electrical storm arrived that Thursday evening which damaged two of the music marquees and caused serious ponding and muddy conditions throughout the site. Persons were safely evacuated from the marquees and repair works carried out.

- 3.5 Contingency plans were put in place for those people whose tents were destroyed, 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 and additional fields were sourced 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 Following the event a meeting was held specifically to discuss the conditions arising due to the adverse weather conditions. This meeting was attended by the Chair of the Licensing Committee, Elected Members of the wards affected, officers from Street Cleansing/Enforcement and Traffic Management, and Mr. Benn the Festival organiser.
- 3.12 Mr Benn confirmed that contingencies were in place for wet conditions including road sweepers on standby, wood chip and straw supplies to hand and on hearing of the issues in the City Centre he dispatched a team to assist with the removal of the discarded foot ware.
- 3.13 Mr. Benn confirmed that he would look at revising the wet weather contingency plans in the Event Management Plan for future events to enable additional resources to be called in should similar weather conditions occur. These will be in liaison with the relevant Highways, Cleansing and Police officers.
- 3.14 A multi- agency debrief was held on the 7 October 2013 and a summary of the outcome of the meeting is attached at Appendix B.
- 3.15 Mr. Benn will be in attendance at this meeting to give Members a full report on the outcome of the event and details of any possible solutions/contingency plans for future events which may be put in place.

#### **4.0 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 regime contribute to the following outcome:

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 were discussed at the multi-agency de brief 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 report in respect of the de brief following the Leeds Festival 2013 held at Bramham Park.

## **7.0 Background Papers**

None