

**LEEDS FESTIVAL 2007**

**Multi-Agency De-Brief Meeting**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

**PRESENT -**

- Melvin Benn, (MB) Leeds Festival
- Harmony Blake,(HB) Leeds Festival
- Stephen Holder, (SH)Leeds City Council Licensing
- Seamus Kennedy,(SK) Leeds City Council Licensing
- Nicola Raper,(NR)Leeds City Council Licensing
- Paul Barnwell, (PB) Leeds City Council Health and Safety / Environmental Health
- Ruth Lees, (RL)Leeds City Council Environmental Health / Protection
- Gurdip Mudhar,(GM) Leeds City Council Environmental Health / Protection
- Insp Marcus Griffiths,(MG) West Yorkshire Police
- Barry Taylor,(BT) West Yorkshire Police
- Chf Supt Gerry Broadbent, (GB) West Yorkshire Police
- Adrian Cornellisen, (AC) West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Ronnie Cator, (RC) West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Nick Lane Fox, (NLF) Bramham Park
- Rachel Lane Fox, (RLF) Bramham Park
- Debora Homewood, (DH) Bramham Park

**APOLOGIES -**

- Roger Oldfield, Leeds City Council Building Control
- Ian Clegg, West Yorkshire Fire Service
- Geoff Farnworth, Yorkshire Ambulance Service

**LCC Health & Safety**

PB - Generally speaking Festival even better than previous years. Minor Issue with water chlorine levels which were sorted out.

Female urinals overflowed and not effective – need to decide whether these will be used in future.

On site vehicular traffic tended to observe speed limits; all under control.

Pedestrian walkways improved. Some pinch points on public thoroughfares due to traders encroaching into pedestrian routes.

Food vendors – cardboard storage, LPG storage and trip hazards regulated.

Received RIDDOR following accident from the stage some time after the event.

Received 18.9.07. Needs reporting asap as officers need to be able to assess the location of the incident.

H&S Inspector access issues. Officers had problems in access to the stage/pit area. Under H&S legislation must have access at all times.  
Overall the event was generally very well run and organised.

Speaking on behalf of Building Consultancy everything is reported as being efficient and effective. Barrier monitored and ok.

### **LCC Environmental Health Services**

RL –On this occasion EHS had officers on site between 1900 and 0300hrs. Some concerns and consequently has written direct to the PLH and DPS.

RL referred to a list of noise complaints that had been received. MB raised concern as whilst he was aware of some complaints, which were passed to his noise consultant at the time, the amount did not extend to that as produced by RL today.

RL confirmed that there were several cases of audibility offsite post 2300 throughout the weekend.

RL advised that unusually this year complaints were received from Barwick. Suggests that this could have been down to the wind direction. Suggests that for future this area is included in any noise monitoring arrangements.

Has received contact from the Clerk to Scholes & Barwick Parish Council representing residents who complain that music was audible until 4am. It was however said that any noise at 4am on the Friday or Saturday was not due to the festival as nothing was running at that time.

RL - Would have concerns if premises licence variation application made to extend by one hour to 04.00hrs.

Number of factors which could reduce nuisance, as examples the Duracell tent and fairground rides.

Will provide a summary of the complaints and supply to HB.

HB queried the position with the designated monitoring points. Has received disclaimers from the cottages within the Grounds, yet these are designated as a monitoring point. MB – suggests reviewing the monitoring points for next year to make better use of resources.

### **WYP**

General video aerial footage from the Force's helicopter of the Festival site was shown to persons present.

GB – Internal police debrief taken place this week. Planning phase / relationship very good. Table-top exercise very good. Was able to put key points across. CCTV installation worked well. Some technical issues with the link to the Force's Area Control Room (ACR) but CCTV was a real bonus. On site event security far more proactive this year due to the appointment of two new senior security personnel.

Increase in the number of detainees passed to the police for processing. First night (Wednesday) – organised criminal teams operating within the site.

MG – 286 recorded crimes. This is an increase on last year's figures and there is no pattern to dictate why the figures are up, but it was clear that organised gangs were operating throughout the country targeting festivals and vulnerable persons.

31 arrests, again a substantial increase on previous years' figures but down to proactive security.

Traffic – WYP prepared for the traffic Wednesday pm. Traffic issues started earlier than anticipated and next year will be looking to be ready for the Wednesday morning.

Private Hire/Hackney Carriage issues – police to liaise with the council's Taxi & Private Hire Section for next year's festival.

Lost property – always causes problems for the police. People need a crime reference number for insurance claims. HB - started a system on site which alleviated pressure on the police.

To establish a process for next year.

MG - WYP Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) did foot patrols in neighbouring villages which were well received.

Found that some of the technical difficulties with the CCTV was due to the HGV's pulling cables down.

On the Thursday there were issues with stationary traffic on the A58 and people were urinating on roadsides resulting in complaints by villagers.

Self took complaints from residents of Thorner to do with Private Hire & Hackney Carriage traffic.

Traffic plan was the smoothest to-date. To review for next year and identify further improvements.

Amend the traffic management plan for next year. GB – smoothest running traffic plan to date.

## **WYF&RS**

RC – This year saw a change to fire service procedures in that WYFRS were not on site for the duration of the event. Site and risk assessments checked and all ok. Only minor issues reported.

AC - Congratulated the organisers on a successful Festival – no disorder.

Midland Fire on site who supplied WYFRS with incident reports, though nothing major. Midland Fire provided an adequate service with additional vehicles. Security liaison with Midland Fire worked well and very pleased.

The retention of festival goers in Piccadilly with the disco worked well in that it kept them from creating disorder.

## **Festival Republic (Organiser)**

MB – A lot of positives from the Festival. Two new senior security coordinators appointed. 'Very significant' in the success of the event. Good, strong zone management. Continuity of management from 2006 Festival which was significant factor for the success.

CCTV - footage generally better though prone to failure in some aspects.

Sanitation - Introduced toilet monitoring team. Urinal overflow & aware of female trough overflow. (PB – LCC Health & Safety; numbers of urinals not an issue rather their design).

Litter - Arena significantly cleaner. Very big push on the collection of litter.

RIDDOR – to tighten up on reporting of incidents; can improve on it.

Noise issues – MB to investigate further following the receipt of today's information from Ruth Lees. Concerned that there are allegations of noise complaints which were not reported through at the time of the event.

GM (EHS) sought confirmation of what time the music did end on the Monday morning? (which was post the 3am licence curfew). MB – unable to confirm.

Sought to maintain mood of the people and not change the mood. Will obtain and confirm end time music details for RL. RL asks MB for previous nights' end times also.

Fire safety - Very significant that no attendance on site required by WYFRS.

Acknowledged pinch points / siting of ice cream van vendors (in particular ice cream vendors situated between Radio 1 tent and fairground attractions).

## **LCC Entertainment Licensing**

SK made comment that from an enforcement perspective, Licensing do have concerns regarding the overrun on the Monday (27.08.07) in breach of the premises licence granted to the venue.

SK asked MB to elaborate on the atmosphere in the campsites that led him to make the decision to keep the music going on the Monday morning.

MB answered that it was not that the atmosphere was causing us any concern, but quite the opposite. It was that the atmosphere was good and it was the calmest Sunday night for 6/7 years and MB wanted to keep that atmosphere going. MB noted that both West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and West Yorkshire Police had picked up on this during this debrief and could understand his decision. In 2007 for the first time a party was introduced at the Piccadilly Circus area. Piccadilly has in the past been a focus for people hanging around causing trouble. In 2006 there was some level of growth regarding late night entertainment for example from Duracell and the Carling Cold Beer Amnesty and this was further extended this year. The funfair area was next to Piccadilly and this was turned off. Piccadilly was not providing focused sound but did provide an outlet for a great number of people. It was all working well with little or no disturbance. It was the best Sunday night ever and MB made the decision at 3am (Monday, 27.08.07) that to turn everything off when the big crowds were happy, might change that. Mark Thompson and Steve Sage fed into that decision and it was very clear to all that we should keep going. Our understanding at the time was that we were not causing any audibility issues

offsite. David Liversedge was part of this decision and had confirmed that the levels offsite were compliant. SK expressed surprise at MB's response, in particular his decision to overrun with the entertainment until 3am on the Monday morning (27.08.07) was not made on the grounds of a specific issue regarding public order or at the request of the police. SK commented that, in the circumstances, it was not discretionary for him (MB) to continue beyond the current licensable hours and activities of his premises licence.

RL asked why they had not been involved in the decision made by MB? HB pointed out that she had discussed it with GM by telephone post 03.00. It was not the case that a decision was made well in advance, as it was coming up to 03.00 that the new security co-ordinators, who were incredibly proactive, got in touch and asked whether we (organisers) could keep it going. We apologise for not having involved GM prior to 03.00. The communication between us could be stronger.

MB confirmed that he would face the consequences for the decision he made but that it was a decision that worked for other agencies around the table. MB commented that he would like to apply for a variation to have longer hours in the future on the Sunday night.

SH – Asked that future resident planning meetings are opened up to ward councillors. MB – agreed to write to the local Parish Councils regarding inviting ward councillors to any meetings (as these meetings are co-ordinated by the Parish Councils).

SK – Raised concern of pedestrian movement and egress from the arena at the end of main show on the Friday, 24.08.07. The inappropriate location of an ice cream van and wheelie bin hindered the foot flow. There were no major issues for concern but wishes to highlight for next year. HB confirmed that the wheelie-bin was removed once the matter had been brought to their attention.

## **RESPONSE FROM MELVIN BENN TO THE REPORTS BY AGENCIES**

(NB : The following is an extract taken from the organisers notes)

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- Harmony noted that the trader that moved and caused a pinch point regarding Radio 1 was an ice cream van. This was not sited by us where it ended up and unfortunately had moved a few metres forward which we were grateful that Leeds City Council spotted. It did not cause any issue after the Friday night.
- Melvin confirmed that the daily meetings worked well and that dealt with any issues raised at the time.
- Melvin noted that the new toilet service attendants paid dividends and bringing in a more comprehensive toilet inspection system worked well.
- We will keep looking at the female urinals.
- We briefed staff to ask festival goers not to urinate outside of toilets and concentrated on the areas by food traders with this briefing half way through the festival and will do this from the word go next year.
- There was a big push on litter which paid off and the pint cup refund was a big success. The most one person collected in refunds was £28. Next year we will do it for half pint cups as well. There was a 96% return on them.

- There were less fires in the arena than previous years.
- The chlorine level in the water will be addressed.
- RIDDOR reports will be submitted as soon as possible and this can be built into the Multi Agency meeting forum for an update each date.
- Melvin apologised regarding Paul's access into the pit and this can be straightforward from the word go next year.
- The noise report from Ruth Lees has been a complete surprise to us as our figures showed a reduction in complaints compared to 2006. We still don't know what these additional complaints are. Melvin is not entirely convinced yet that noise control was not good. There may have been a few compliance issues but we did pretty well. Any non compliance issues did not result in massive complaints, or indeed any complaints that we are aware of and yet we managed to keep the festival goers happy and entertained onsite. If Melvin had turned the music off at 03.00 on the Sunday night, he felt it would have changed the mood and he wanted to maintain the mood. The mood may have become disruptive had he turned it off. Harmony will confirm to Ruth at what time the music did finish. It was turned off once they had started to thin out and were going to bed, when they had burnt out and dissipated.
- Harmony will forward David's monitoring notes to Ruth.
- Melvin committed to greater communication with the noise team from Leeds City Council next year.
- If we do apply for a variation for longer hours for 2008 onwards on the Sunday night, we can guarantee that David Leversedge's team will be on duty throughout.
- Melvin cannot thank West Yorkshire Police enough for their tight operation that became even tighter during the weekend and their ongoing help. Melvin wants to put on record his thanks to Alan Lodge who has been terrific over the years and who is now leaving.
- Melvin noted that we could look at putting temporary toilets along the A58 if that helped, perhaps in the laybys. We could use Bramham Park fields along the road perhaps. They could be put out on the Wednesday and collected on the Thursday pm.
- The layout change worked with the new position of the Carling Stage. This affected how people moved towards the Main Stage and helped with the distribution of the Main Stage crowd. The Radio 1 tent was significantly bigger and wider.
- We will alert both the Arena Manager and the Trader Manager to keep an eye on the ice cream vans. We do this every year but we will keep reinforcing this briefing.
- Despite the horrendous weather during and prior to the load in, thanks to the work of Bramham Park, the site had been prepared very well.
- The Zone Management structure which was introduced in 2006 worked well this year and there were some really good new additions to the team via Adrian Cornellisen for which we were very grateful.
- The CCTV footage was better although it is prone to technical failure at times and arrests were up.
- Harmony ran through the figures:
  - 52% decrease in fires
  - 19% decrease in evictions

- 1% increase in numbers seen by Medical but 33% decrease in numbers transported to hospital
- 25% decrease in traffic complaints
- Less than 1% increase in crime
- 288% increase in arrests
- 100% increase in early bird traffic
- 26% increase in the use of shuttle bus
- 38% decrease in accidents offsite
- 71% decrease in post festival complaint letters from festival goers
- 1351% increase in amount of tents collected for tent recycling scheme
- Melvin summed up that the figures speak for themselves Melvin was delighted with the work of the 2 new security co-ordinators and felt that their influence grew with every discussion. Overall Melvin was very pleased with the event, it had good attendance and good acts and it was a huge success story and without question the best Leeds Festival for 7 years, and the best at Bramham Park.

SH Thanked agencies for attending and confirmed that a de brief report will be presented to the Licensing Committee on Tuesday 4 December 2007.