



Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

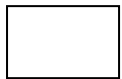
Report to the Licensing Committee

Date: 1 December 2009

Subject: LEEDS FESTIVAL 2009
 GROUNDS OF BRAMHAM PARK BRAMHAM LEEDS LS23 6ND

Electoral Wards Affected:

Wetherby



Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a de-brief for the Members of the Licensing Committee following the Leeds Festival 2009.

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report informs Members of the matters arising from the Leeds Festival 2009, following the multi-agency debrief meetings held on the 6th October last.

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 28th April 2006.

2.2 The Licence is held for Bramham Park and allows the Leeds Festival to take place every August Bank Holiday weekend.

2.2 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.

- 2.3 In addition, the Committee reserved the right to determine how the final 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.
- 2.4 In 2008 the licence was varied to include the following licensable activities (B) Films, (E) Live Music, (F) Recorded Music, (H) Anything of a similar Description to that Falling within (E) or (F), (I) Provision of Facilities for Making Music, (J) Provision of facilities for Dancing, (K) Provision of facilities for Entertainment of a Similar Description to that falling within (I) or (J), within designated camp site areas until 06:00hrs.
- 2.5 Members may recall that at the Licensing Committee meeting on the 4 December 2008 (Minute 3.1) a report of the outcome of the 2008 event was given which advised Members that the main issue was the traffic Management on the Thursday prior to the start of the event. Mr. Benn the festival organiser advised Members that an alternative traffic management plan would be considered for the 2009 event.
- 2.6 The applicant provided the draft Event Management Plan for the 2009 Festival to all responsible agencies on the 16th February 2009. As in previous years a copy of the Summary of Changes from the 2008 event was circulated to Members of the Licensing Committee and Ward members in the wards surrounding the event site.
- 2.7 To ensure the widest circulation of information the organisers held meetings with the Parish/Town Councils in the areas surrounding the event site and maintained regular contact with them.
- 2.8 The first multi agency meeting with the responsible agencies was held on the 10 February 2009 and these meetings were held on a regular basis up until the event.
- 2.9 Members considered the changes to the Event Management Plan for the 2009 event at their meeting on the 7 April (Item 49) at which they resolved to:
- 1) To note the content of the report
 - 2) To rescind the Committee decision of the 2nd December 2008 which requested that “ local ward councilors, the appropriate Executive member and relevant Parish Councils be consulted on the Traffic Management Plan” (minute 31c) refers, in order to allow the Licensing Committee to undertake a site visit and play a formal role in the process.
 - 3) To undertake a site visit to travel the proposed Traffic Management Plan route to Bramham Park for festival goers and request that arrangements be made to transport the Licensing Committee to Bramham Park.
 - 4) To note that multi Agency meetings will continue and the applicant intends to continue to liaise with Town and Parish councils culminating in the production of the final Event Management plan no later than 28 days prior to the start of the event.
 - 5) To note that the final Event Management Plan will be presented to the Licensing Committee in August 2009 when Members will determine how the final Event Management Plan will be agreed.
- 2.10 Members attended a presentation of the Traffic Management Plan given by Festival Republic at Bramham Park on the 23rd April 2009 and were given a guided tour of the new route arrangements.
- 2.11 At the Licensing Committee meeting on the 4 August 2009 Members resolved:
- 1) That the Event Management Plan as submitted be approved.

- 2) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) be authorised to approve any minor amendments to the Event Management Plan prior to the start of the event.
- 3) To note that the direct contact numbers for Ms Blake (Mr. Benn's representative at the meeting) for the duration of the Leeds festival will be made available to Committee Members.

3.0 FESTIVAL LIAISON

- 3.1 Throughout the duration of the festival multi-agency meetings were coordinated between all agencies and the licence holder or his representatives.
- 3.2 Throughout the course of the event with the exception of two crowd dynamic issues no major concerns were expressed by agencies.

4.0 MULTI AGENCY DEBRIEF

- 4.1 Multi agency debriefs were held on the 6 October 2009.
- 4.2 In general all agencies were satisfied with the running of the event.

4.3 West Yorkshire Police comments:

- 1) Traffic management on the Thursday was a vast improvement on previous years.
- 2) Crime figures up on last year to 267 from 204. An increase in theft from person – pickpocketing in the arena was highlighted.
- 3) Arrests 39 up from 17 last year. Not a sign of additional trouble but rather additional proactiveness by security.
- 4) Some issues with the CCTV transmission to Wetherby Police station but a contingency was put in place.
- 5) An excellent working relationship with the Festival Republic management

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

No requests to attend the site and good working relationship with Midland Fire the on site fire provider.

Environmental Protection

- 1) A total of 20 noise complaints received 10 to the Environmental Protections out of hour's services and 10 to Festival Republic staff.
- 2) All complaints received were from the Bramham area. This was due to the direction and speed of the wind over the weekend
- 3) Environmental protection happy with the noise management considering the wind conditions.

Environmental Health/Health and Safety

- 1) Generally the Campsites were very good this year and officers were impressed with the compostable toilets.
- 2) It was noted that there was a delay in the positioning of some of the rubbish bins at water points in the camp sites where this occurred rubbish was noticeably worse.
- 3) The new locations of the water points with the revised toilet block/fence line created some positions where access was hard both in terms of servicing and for the festival goers.
- 4) Some of the water point standpipes were not fixed leading to boggy conditions.
- 5) On the Sunday evening there was a noticeable drop off on the cleaning of the female urinals and toilet block stage left of the Radio 1 stage.

- 6) The post event clean up was monitored and there was a massive improvement compared to last year. It was recommended that the company consider providing waterproof trousers for their staff.
- 7) Noise at work issues need to be addressed for next year's event.
- 8) Good working relationship with the Festival Republic Health and Safety team.

Building Control

- 1) The disabled viewing platforms were not up to the standard of previous years.
- 2) Guy ropes on the Dance tent and Alternative Stage could be positioned better in the future.
- 3) The crowd dynamic issues were discussed and a solution was agreed for next year with major alterations to the site in 2011.

Yorkshire Ambulance Service

- 1) Transfer to offsite hospital down to 17 from 19 last year
- 2) Medical figures 1490 treated on site up from 1402 last year.

Traffic Management De Brief

- 1) All traffic related agencies considered the traffic management plan for the Thursday a huge success and are already looking at minor alterations to improve for 2010.
- 2) Also to look at some improvements to the traffic management plan for the Wednesday as the early bird tickets now total some 20,000.

Crowd Dynamics Issues De Brief

- 1) A de brief meeting to discuss the crowd dynamics issues was held between Festival Republic and representatives of Health & Safety, Building Control and Entertainment Licensing.
- 2) The two instances identified were as follows
 - 1) During the performance by the band Prodigy on the Friday the large screen situated behind the front of house tower failed resulting in the audience moving to stage right which caused pressure on the steel shield fence line between the arena and the VIP area.
 - 2) On the Sunday evening at the change over to the headline band (Kings of Leon) festival goers leaving the main area via the Foxtrot cut through (the main egress/access point between arena 1 and 2) were met by the crowd coming into the arena which was further exacerbated by festival goers exiting the Alternative Stage Marquee which had overrun.
- 3) Mr. Benn advised the meeting that to prevent the issues occurring in the future a modification to the site and the reduction in the number of catering units in both the stage right location and Foxtrot area will be made for 2010 and an escape route from stage right will be created to relieve any pressure that may build up. A more permanent solution will be considered for 2011 which may include a re alignment of the main stage location.

Festival Republic Mr. Benn

- 1) Festival Republic very happy with the festival and felt it went well.
- 2) The crime level increase was a disappointment as generally it had gone down at other events.

- 3) A significant number of people were evicted this year from the site 451 up from 206 last year. Security were very proactive this year which is evidenced by an increase in arrests.
- 4) The working relationship with both the Police and all agencies was very good.
- 5) The fire teams worked well and the number of fires they attended was down on previous years, the banning of gas canisters and the organised bonfires helped this.
- 6) The crowd dynamic issues will be addressed for next year with a permanent solution in place for 2011.
- 7) The issues raised by Health and Safety should not have occurred and will be addressed for next year.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Members are requested to note this report.