

AGENDA ITEM 10b

NOTES OF THE GOOSE FAIR OPERATIONAL MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **Thursday 22nd June 2023** at **2.00pm**

PRESENT

- Wayne Southall (Chairman), Tavistock Town Council, General Manager
- Rebecca Rowe, Tavistock Town Council, Works Manager
- Lesley Reeves, Community and Compliance Officer
- Laura Harley, Support Officer (General Manager)
- Cllr Pete Squire, Tavistock Town Council
- Mark Underwood, West Devon Borough Council
- Alan Wroath, Tavistock Lions Club
- Graham Bailey, Stagecoach
- William Bushell-Crane, Stagecoach
- Janna Sanders, Tavistock BID
- Jenny Mashford, Devon and Cornwall Police

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Barry Smith, Tavistock Town Council
- Cllr Julu Irvine, Tavistock Town Council
- Alan Jenkins, Showmen's Guild
- Robert Kefford, Showmen's Guild
- Brad Elliot, Devon County Council
- Richard Price, Devon County Council
- Ian Luscombe, West Devon Borough Council
- Stuart Gardner, AA Signs
- Roger Hann, Raynet Communications
- Richard Jones, Tavistock Lions
- James Cook, Devon & Somerset Fire Rescue Service
- Tim Beckett, South Western Ambulance Service

It was noted that Mr Jenkins and Mr Kefford were attending the funeral of Ms Devey who had been a long-term trader at the Tavistock Goose Fair. The Town Council expressed their deepest condolences.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

a) Minutes from 3rd November 2022
The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

b) Matters arising
There were no matters for consideration.

GENERAL: TRADER UPDATE/LAYOUT CHANGES/SUSTAINABILITY

It was noted that currently the layout and format of the event was planned to be as per 2022. A notable change for 2023, is the previously reported on public opening times which will be reduced by 1 hour; closing at 9pm as opposed to

10pm. The Works Manager has been in liaison with the Showmens Guild to ensure this does not adversely affect the funfair in Bedford Car Park.

Last year the food area in the Alexander Car Park area had been successful and so the Works Manager planned to run with this concept again, repeating the same model which includes having SIA on site to help manage the alcohol element.

Stagecoach have been contracted to provide the park and ride transport from Whitchurch Down and Yelverton with Tamar Coaches running the park and ride service from Gulworthy.

All the usual service providers have been arranged following a review of costs which the Works Manager has undertaken.

Refuge and the post event clean up is currently being reviewed.

It was noted Trader take up was slightly down on previous years, with fewer new applications being received. The Works Manager is working on targeting new exhibitors to the event as well as welcoming back existing traders. The Works Manager reported unfortunately in 2022 there were a number of Traders who had either sublet pitches or had attempted to leave the event early.

The Works Manager explained the majority of the service providers had increased their costs with the waste removal alone increasing in the region of £5,000. It was noted following the Fee Setting Meeting earlier on in the year pitch fees had increased by 5%. This is the largest TTC pitch fee increase for some years but was de minimus against charges applied to TTC.

3. EMERGENCY PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

It was noted there would be no material changes to the emergency planning documentation following the work that has been undertaken between stakeholders over recent years. Once an agreement has been reached between TTC & WDBC reference their involvement in the event this year, then there may be some amendments to be made.

4. PARK AND RIDE

The Park and Ride Coach Service would be managed by two contractors, Stagecoach providing the service from Whitchurch Down and Yelverton, and Tamar Coaches operating the service from Gulworthy. It was noted passengers from Yelverton and Whitchurch Down would be dropped off and picked up in Pixon Lane. Stagecoach advised clear signage would be installed so passengers knew where to queue / disembark. Tavistock Lions would manage all three services on behalf of the Town Council as per 2022.

Due to the event closing at 9pm to the public, the last bus in the evening would be at 9.15pm; the service to Whitchurch Down would run every 15 minutes.

5. WDBC

An Officer attended the meeting on behalf of WDBC to provide a verbal update and report back any questions / queries raised. The General Manager chased WDBC for their rubbish collection quotation as this was outstanding. WDBC confirmed there would be additional waste receptacles on Bedford Square and the Bus Station. Similar to last year, two members of staff would be available at Kilworthy Park plus the parking teams would be onsite in the Russell Street Car Park. The General Manager requested WDBC staff worked until 9.00pm when the event closed to the public and that an out of hours number be provided.

It was requested that the toilets be unlocked from 7.00am and that there was a back up plan if there were any issues (for instance the toilets becoming blocked).

6. ADVERTISING/PROMOTION

The Community Compliance Officer advised the event was regularly being promoted on social media. Although some flyers would be produced, social media would be used more extensively together with the local press.

It was noted that the cattle market had not engaged with Event Organisers this year. Tavistock BID advised they would not have a presence at this year's event however would do as much as they could to promote Goose Fair.

7. FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS

All trade outlets would be encouraged to use environmentally friendly packaging and to remove their own waste at the end of the event.

TTC would not be providing a free water service again this year due to the issues last year.

It was noted Councillors would again this year be asked to steward the event in order to help with the health and safety of crowd control and engagement.

Concerns were raised reference the ongoing remedial repairs to the façade of the Town Hall and the impact on Goose Fair. The General Manager explained the Town Hall project was due to complete by the end of September.

The Police advised they had no issues or concerns to report.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (OPERATIONAL)

The next meeting would be held at 2.00pm on Thursday 3rd August 2023 in the Council Chamber.

The General Manager thanked all members for attending and the meeting closed at 2:40pm.