

AGENDA ITEM 11b

NOTES OF THE GOOSE FAIR OPERATIONAL MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **Thursday 3rd August 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)
- Graham Bailey, Stagecoach
- Dave Williams, DSFRS
- Richard Jones, Tavistock Lions
- Tony Mogford, TMA Inspections
- Cllr Pete Squire, Tavistock Town Council
- Alan Jenkins, Showmen's Guild
- Cllr Barry Smith, Tavistock Town Council
- 2 representatives, Devon and Cornwall Police

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Carl Hearn, Tavistock Town Council, Town Clerk
- Cllr Julu Irvine, Tavistock Town Council
- James Coole, DSFRS
- John George-Andrew, Tamar Coaches
- Robert Kefford, Showmen's Guild
- Tim Beckett, South Western Ambulance Service

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

a) Minutes from 22nd June 2023

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

The Works Manager reported that a few more pitches had been filled since the last meeting in June. At this time last year there was 655FT of pitches vacant with enough applications received to fill these. This year, there is 500FT vacant but only two unallocated applications. The Works Manager reported that she was sending out mail shots to potential traders and that this was an ongoing process.

The main change would be that Market Road would not be used to ensure that the main strip was as full as possible. This was disappointing but talking to other event organisers, this was a sign of the times. Once Goose Fair had taken place, a serious review was required and some changes might have to take place for 2024 to accommodate the current situation.

With regard to first aid provision, St John would cover the hour from 8.00am – 9.00am and SWAST from 9.00pm – 10.00pm with both being on duty from 9.00am – 9.00pm.

In 2023, the event would close at 9.00pm to ensure that traders did not pack down early which presented a Health and Safety risk. Stagecoach had agreed

that the last Stagecoach service to Whitchurch Down and Yelverton would run at 9.15pm and it was hoped that Tamar Coaches would do the same to Gulworthy.

The Traffic Regulation Order had been amended with Watts Road and Old Launceston Road being removed in response to residents' comments; this would not be detrimental to the event. The no parking zone would be extended up Down Road for safety purposes. The Works Manager was waiting to hear back from Devon County Council regarding street enforcement.

3. EMERGENCY PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

The draft Emergency Planning documents were ready to be circulated on 4th August with few changes.

Devon County Council was to run an Emergency Planning Workshop on 6th September. The aim of this workshop was to look at different event scenarios and to address what responsibilities sat with respective organisations specific to emergency arrangements and lines of communication/decision making, specific to TTC/WDBC/showmen due to the complications of an event within an event, e.g. licensed land by WDBC for fairground in Bedford car-park/bus station impacted by the Wednesday event run by TTC. This might result in changes to the final Emergency Planning documents.

4. PARK AND RIDE

Stagecoach had provided a bus timetable detailing a service every 15 minutes (apart from meal breaks) to Whitchurch Down throughout the day finishing at 9.15pm. 28-seater mini buses (wheelchair and pushchair accessible) would be used to Whitchurch Down and doubles decker buses to Yelverton. A banksman would be provided to turn the buses at Whitchurch Down. Both services would run to Pixon Lane and Stagecoach would provide temporary bus stop signs.

The Lions would organise the parking at the various car parks as long as signage, toilets and lighting were provided and would leave site at around 8.00pm.

5. WDBC (AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS)

It was noted that the refuse collection fees quoted for the 2023 Goose Fair had been increased to £14,109.00 from £10,370.00 in 2022 (and £5,272.00 in 2019). The Works Manager stressed that it was important to keep the event cost neutral and that there was a £4,000.00 - £10,000.00 margin available to ensure that the event broke even and that most service providers had given quotes comparable to previous years. It was noted that the payments to the Lions, for arranging the parking, and the owners of the parking sites had not increased for many years. A meeting had been scheduled to review the rationale around these cost increases with the aim to reduce the cleaning costs significantly for 2023, to a figure more comparable to 2022, which WDBC had advised to budget for, for 2023.

It was unclear as to whether Raynet would support the Goose Fair in 2023. They had previously provided an on-street hub for communications as well as a number of stewards. The Works Manager explained that a separate meeting would be arranged with Raynet as a matter of urgency to understand the current situation with resources.

The representative from TMA Inspections would attend on the day and the Tuesday set-up to inspect the construction of the funfair (areas specifically under the jurisdiction of TTC0 and ensure that stalls/kiosks were positioned to allow access for the emergency services and to check that stallholders had the correct fire extinguishers etc. In 2022, there had been some concern about the amount of smoke generated by the Twister ride and this needed to be addressed.

It was noted that two members of the Showman's Guild might be transferring their rights to attend the Goose Fair to other family members.

The Fire Service would be carrying out random inspections of stalls and would ensure that there was access for emergency vehicles by doing a drive through before the Goose Fair opened. It was hoped that the scaffolding would be removed from the Town Hall, but if not, the high reach pump might not be able to access the Pannier Market from Bedford Square and would have to use Market Road.

6. ADVERTISING/PROMOTION

A Goose Fair flyer and Park and Ride Flyer had been produced and circulated. The Community Compliance Officer would be regularly promoting the event on social media and the flyers would be sent to everyone attending the operational meetings to post on their own social media. The Works Manager had arranged for a small flyer to be included within Oke Links and Plymouth North Links and it was hoped to advertise in the local paper if the fees could be negotiated (the Plymouth Chronicle and Herald were also suggested). Advertising in Cornwall was also being investigated.

7. FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Nothing had been heard from the Cattle Market and so it was unsure whether they would be participating in the 2023 Goose Fair.

The representative from the Showmen's Guild stated that they were having difficulties communicating with WDBC regarding the use of the Bedford Square Car Park for the funfair. It was noted that the funfair was in the second year of a three-year lease. He stated that it was a challenging time for funfairs as money was tight for many people.

The TMA Inspections representative expressed his concern about stallholders cooking in gazebos. The person attending for the Fire Service stated that modern gazebos were safer and more fire retardant.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (OPERATIONAL)

The next meeting would be held at 2.00pm on Thursday 21st September 2023 in the Council Chamber.

The General Manager thanked all members for attending and the meeting closed at 3.00pm.