

AGENDA ITEM No 6(b)

NOTES OF THE GOOSE FAIR OPERATIONAL MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **Thursday 26th June 2025** at **2.00pm**

1) INTRODUCTIONS FOR THOSE PRESENT

- Wayne Southall (Chairman), Tavistock Town Council, General Manager
- Rebecca Rowe, Tavistock Town Council, Works Manager
- Laura Harley, Tavistock Town Council, Community & Compliance Officer
- Carl Hearn, Tavistock Town Council, Town Clerk
- PC Jenny Mashford, Devon and Cornwall Police
- Cllr Barry Smith, Tavistock Town Council
- Richard Jones, Tavistock Lions
- Alan Wroath, Tavistock Lions
- Ian Luscombe, West Devon Borough Council
- Brad Elliott – Devon County Council
- James Coole – DSFRS

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- James Luke – Devon & Cornwall Police
- Richard Pryce, DCC
- Alan Jenkins, Showmen's Guild
- Robert Kefford, Showmen's Guild
- Police Sergeant Thomas Ottley, Devon and Cornwall Police
- Chris Wakefield, AA Signs
- John Dawson, Tavistock Lions
- Graham Bailey, Stagecoach
- Nichola Bartlett, St John Ambulance

3) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes from 4th November 2024.
The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

4) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The General Manager reported the waste contractor who undertook the waste management the previous year and who was new to the event had provided a good standard of service and that public perception regarding a change of provider was not apparent with the clean-up.

It was explained that there were concerns regarding the public parking, specifically during the evening of the event on Callington Road and it was agreed that this would be reviewed with Devon County Council. It was mentioned that The Brook Street car park had been locked at 8.00pm leaving some members of public unable to access their vehicle for retrieval and WDBC said they would review arrangements for this year. It was unlikely that the permit parking on Chapel Street (introduced in 2024) to assist residents would be repeated for 2025 due to challenges around applying a fair approach.

It was noted public comments had been made reference the lack of sufficient blue badge parking for the event. The Works Manager advised options were being reviewed for an additional locations.

5) UPDATE ON FEES AND CHARGES INCLUDING PARK & RIDE

In February 2025, following consultation with the Showmen's Guild it had been agreed to increase the price of trader pitches by 3.5%. The charge for Park & Ride was increased with the same approach being applied on all sites at £3.00 per adult and £1.00 per child and this approach had been agreed after consulting with the Lions.

The price for the trader's car park (Riverside) had been increased to £3.20 for all day parking.

6) UPDATE ON TRADER APPLICATIONS

An overview of ground let was provided, explaining out of the 3,579 foot of available space, 88% had been let including the Market Road pitches which totalled 195 foot. 40% of pitch fees had also been collected to date. This was extremely positive compared to the previous two years where there had been a significant decline in trader applications.

7) 2025 CHANGES WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS

It was mentioned that SWAST would no longer be able to provide First Aid cover for Goose Fair due to a change in the operating practise within the NHS. Appreciation was extended to Tim Beckett who had been involved with the event for many years and had provided invaluable support and advice. It was noted work was on going to source a second first aid provision.

Tony Mogford would continue as the 2025 Safety Consultant and Raynet would continue to provide the communications for the event.

The SIA provision would remain as per the 2025 event, with three SIAs providing security, two roaming and one located at Alexander Centre.

8) PARK & RIDE

As before, Tamar Coaches would provide the transport from the Gulworthy park and ride site, with Stagecoach operating the service from Whitchurch and Yelverton including the same bus timetables. The contract with AA Signs was still in negotiation. Representatives from the Lions commented the signage for the Gulworthy site had worked better in 2024. It was queried whether there was scope to relocate the site due to challenges with the access lane however it was noted previous work had identified there were no other available suitable land options.

9) WASTE MANAGEMENT

It was noted the waste management contract for 2025 was up for tender, with two contractors being invited to quote. A separate agreement would need to be made with West Devon Borough Council regarding the clean-up of the areas peripheral to the event as well as reviewing the public toilet provisions.

10) WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

It was noted that of the two areas usually used for fairground rides, only the Bedford Car Park would be available for this purpose in 2025. The licence for using the Bus Station would be granted to Tavistock Town Council as a trial and would be used for additional stalls.

11) EMERGENCY PLANNING

In 2024, the feedback from the police had been incorporated into the Emergency Plan and for 2025, the existing plan was being cross referenced with the Purple Guide and a draft would be ready by mid-August. It was noted that a reference to 'Martin's Law' should be included within the document.

There was ongoing concern regarding unsolicited vehicle movements during the event and measures had been taken including the use of water barriers, parked Town Council vehicles etc. It was noted there was to be a significant police presence at the 2025 event (as in 2024) as well as a CCTV camera.

It was requested that a repeat of the scenario based training session be arranged by West Devon Borough Council for 2026 if viable.

It was noted that traffic enforcements officers would attend the event to deal with any parking issues.

12) ADVERTISING/PROMOTION

Advertising the event would mainly be on Facebook and further promotion would be considered if funds are available. As in previous years, posters would be provided to display in Stagecoach buses.

13) FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS

It was noted that Devon County Council was mindful of any roadworks and scaffolding that might impact on the event (the road closure in Watts Road would finish on 22nd August).

Staff working the event were asked to be aware of modern slavery and it was noted that there was a Community Safety Event on this subject being broadcast at 3.30pm on 8th July and that free tickets were available through Eventbrite.

It was noted that the Purple Guide provided updated advice around fire breaks and alternative mitigating measures. It was explained that during the 2024 event, caravans parked on the path by the river in the Meadows were causing an obstruction if a fire engine required access and this should be addressed in 2025.

14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No matters for discussion.

15) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would take place on Thursday 18th September.