

AGENDA ITEM 9c

NOTES OF THE GOOSE FAIR OPERATIONAL MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **Thursday 18th September 2025** at **1.00pm**

1) INTRODUCTIONS FOR THOSE PRESENT

- Carl Hearn, Tavistock Town Council, Town Clerk
- Wayne Southall (Chairman), Tavistock Town Council, General Manager
- Rebecca Rowe, Tavistock Town Council, Works Manager
- Laura Harley, Tavistock Town Council, Community & Compliance Officer
- Cllr Steve Hipsey, Town Mayor, Tavistock Town Council
- Cllr Robert Poppe, Tavistock Town Council
- PS Tom Ottley, Devon and Cornwall Police
- Sarah Deacock, Devon and Cornwall Police
- PC Jenny Mashford, Devon and Cornwall Police
- Cllr Barry Smith, Tavistock Town Council
- Alan Jenkins, Showmen's Guild
- Graham Bailey, Stagecoach
- Mary Backholer, St John's Ambulance
- Richard Jones, Tavistock Lions
- James Coole, DSFRS
- Katherine Steer, Livestock Market

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Richard Pryce, Devon County Council
- Brad Elliott, Devon County Council
- Robert Kefford, The Showmen's Guild
- Tom Pearce, Tamar Coaches
- Chris Clapham, Stags
- Tony Mogford, TMA Inspections Ltd
- Cllr Ms Mandy Ewings, Tavistock Town Council

3) CONFIRMATION OF NOTES

a) Notes from 26th June 2025.

The Notes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

b) There were no matters arising.

4) EMERGENCY PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

It was noted that following the circulation of the draft Safety Plan there had been feedback from the police, the fire service and Cllr Poppe. The General Manager and Works Manager were meeting with both the Police and Fire Service week commencing 22nd September.

Several amendments had been made to the Emergency Planning documentation in 2024 and the document continued to be amended to include changes to the event as they unfolded, one of which the use of the bus station for event control, the inclusion of crowd dispersal zones at designated points and the change of use for Russell Street from event control to trading space.

Regarding feedback from the police from an event planning perspective it was suggested that areas needing further consideration for future events should include the role of SIAs, crowd dispersal designated areas and its management, further developing counter terrorism mitigations and repeating a table top scenario based exercise with stakeholders. It was agreed that the Emergency Planning sessions would start earlier in 2026 to review the Safety Plan and other documents in more detail.

Discussions were held around the expectations pertaining to the role of the police with this type of event, more specifically around designation of resource, with it being acknowledged that there had been a significant increase in police attendance over the last two years, but that this could not be guaranteed.

The perception regarding the increase in theft from shops etc around Goose Fair was raised but there was no supporting evidence that this was the case in recent years. It was noted that the log of incidents for the 2024 event from both the Police and Town Council were low level.

The gas works currently being carried out on Plymouth Road (by the Bedford Hotel) were due to finish on 23rd September.

5) 2025 CHANGES

As previously stated, it appeared that Castlebridge School (formally the Alexander Centre car park) was no longer available for use as a food and drink zone and dwell area and there was consideration that the bus station could be used for this purpose if agreement could be reached with West Devon Borough Council. The main area where there was varying interpretation at this stage was that the level of compliance and control that WDBC wished to administer for the use of the bus station far exceeded what TTC thought was reasonable considering the usage and type of activity, meaning that liability for the management of this space would be unclear between TTC/WDBC, whereas TTC were comfortable with regards to taking full accountability for the duration of the license.

SWAST was no longer available to provide a First Aid service for Goose Fair so St John Ambulance would now provide cover for the whole event. It was noted that they would have a trained paramedic on duty.

The timings of the event would be the same as the previous two years 9.00am – 9.00pm.

6) PARK & RIDE

Stagecoach confirmed that the bus timetable would be same as last year with the first bus leaving Yelverton at 8.30am and Whitchurch Down at 8.45am and the last bus leaving Tavistock between 9.00pm and 9.15pm. A banksman would be available at Whitchurch Down and Pixon Lane. The Stagecoach risk assessment was due to be sent to the Works Manager.

The revised prices for the Park & Ride could be found online at [Tavistock.gov.uk](https://tavistock.gov.uk).

7) ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

Advertising and promotion would mainly be by social media, articles in the local newspaper and posters on the Stagecoach buses.

8) WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

WDDB would be providing the Bedford Car Park for the use of the funfair if terms could be agreed with the Showmans Guild.

The waste contract had been put out to competitive tender and had been won by FCC. It was noted the Tavistock Town Council would clean the Guildhall toilets as they did in 2024.

9) FEEDBACK

The Lions stated that there was still an issue with signage at the Gulworthy Park & Ride.

The ground at the Yelverton Park & Ride would be inspected two days prior to the event and hired track matting would be delivered direct to site if required. The Town Council also had matting which could be used if necessary.

10) AOB

The meeting with the emergency services would be held before the start of Goose Fair at 8.00am on 8th October.

The Cattle Market would be open again this year but there would be no poultry due to the threat of avian flu. It was noted that there had been a decline in interest in attending the market now that there was no poultry sale.