

NOTES OF THE GOOSE FAIR OPERATIONAL MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **Monday 6th July 2026** 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
- Councillor Anne Johnson, Mayor, Tavistock Town Council
- PCSO James Luke, Devon and Cornwall Police
- Councillor Barry Smith, Tavistock Town Council
- Alan Wroath, Tavistock Lions
- Robert Kefford, The Showmen's Guild
- Monty Howell, The Showmen's Guild
- Brad Elliott, Devon County Council
- Josh Scillitoe, Devon County Council
- James Coole, DSFRS

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Sector Inspector Daniel Jones, Devon & Cornwall Police
- Councillors A Hutton, S Wood, Tavistock Town Council
- Richard Pryce, Devon County Council
- Tony Mogford, Mogford Safety Consultant
- Alan Jenkins, The Showmen's Guild
- Richard Jones, Tavistock Lions

3) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

a) Minutes from 11th December 2025.

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

4) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

5) UPDATE ON PLANS FOR THE 2026 GOOSE FAIR

A number of invoices had been sent out to traders and several payments had been received. A number of new traders had applied and many of the existing traders were returning. Due to the potential loss of ground at Castlebridge School, there were some questions over the available space for the event. The Works Manager advised the situation would be clarified late July.

The footprint for the event in the round would remain the same as 2025. However the following changes were noted;

- It was understood, but yet to be confirmed, WDBC were intending to let the bus station once again to the Showmens Guild and so the area would not be available this year in the capacity of the Control Centre. The Control Centre would be relocated back to its previous position on Russell Street.
- Whilst the Meadows and Market Road would remain as crowd dispersal areas. It was noted that some of the spaces in Market Road were being used as a compound by contractors working on the Abbey Remains Project.

It was noted a number of stakeholders who provide the essential services for Goose Fair had not yet returned their respective quotations or confirmed their availability.

As there had been an incident at the end of the 2025 event leading to gridlock for traders leaving via Drake's Statue, the idea of setting up a one-way system was being considered using either Chapel Street or Russell Street as an exit.

4x4 Response had been contacted to see if they could provide the communications for 2026.

6) EMERGENCY PLANNING

The draft Emergency Plan would be circulated with the minutes of this meeting with a view to receiving comments and circulating a final draft prior to the next meeting scheduled to be held Monday 7th September.

The Fire Service had asked to review the set up of stalls and rides in the Guildhall/Pannier Market complex to ensure that access for the emergency services was not compromised.

It was noted the skills workshop organised by West Devon Borough Council had not taken place and was unlikely to do so in 2026.

7) PARK & RIDE

The Lions had fed back their comments on the 2025 event and it was agreed that the Park & Ride would run in the same way as last year with no increase in prices for attendees.

8) ADVERTISING & PROMOTION

The event organisers were engaging with the Cattle Market to find out if they wished to take part in the 2026 event. It had been suggested that a tractor and trailer might be made available to take people from the roundabout by Abbey Bridge to the Cattle Market, it was noted this was a decision that sat with the Cattle Market. It was noted that Avian Flu restrictions had now been lifted.

The organisers would also be engaging with Tavistock BID although it was noted that the wrong date for Goose Fair had yet again been circulated in their publicity.

The Town Council who were responsible for the bus shelters, would explore options to use the advertising space to promote Goose Fair.

As usual the Showmen would promote the event and posters would be printed to go up in the buses prior to the event.

9) WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

A representative from West Devon Borough Council was due to attend this meeting but had withdrawn on the day. There was no feedback on letting the bus station but it was believed that the Bedford Car Park had been let to Alan

Jenkins (subject to the correct paperwork being submitted) so that the funfair could take place.

In addition the clean-up for the 2025 Goose Fair had been carried out by FFC and this was facilitated through West Devon Borough Council, a response was awaited. Street cleaning was due to be taken back in house in April 2027.

10) FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS

It was noted that Devon County Council would refer any residents wishing to park in disabled person parking bays during Goose Fair to the Town Council. Parking Enforcement officers would be required for the event.

The Fire Service was disappointed that the skills workshop offered by WDBC was not taking place. There was some concern about the spacing of stalls at the Drake Statue's end of Plymouth Road. More fire breaks and better spacing of stalls particularly with regard to catering should be considered. The Fire Service would like to have communication with event control in case there was an emergency.

The Police reiterated that they would attend the event from a Community Engagement perspective and would have to give priority to any outside emergency that might take place on the day.

The Showmen thanked the Town Council for all that it did. There was some concern regarding HGV lorries leaving the event via Chapel Street.

11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No matters for discussion.

12) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would take place on Monday 7th September 2026.