

AGENDA ITEM 10b

NOTES OF THE GOOSE FAIR OPERATIONAL MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **Thursday 21st September 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
- William Bushell-Crane, Stagecoach
- Dave Williams, DSFRS
- Thom Shiell, DSFRS
- Cllr Pete Squire, Tavistock Town Council
- Cllr Barry Smith, Tavistock Town Council
- Cllr Andy Hutton, Tavistock Town Council
- Cllr Julu Irvine, Tavistock Town Council
- PC Johnson Wenner, Devon and Cornwall Police
- PC Jenny Mashford, Devon and Cornwall Police
- Richard Jones, Tavistock Lions
- Alan Wroath, Tavistock Lions
- Ian Luscombe, West Devon Borough Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Alan Jenkins, Showmen's Guild
- Carl Hearn, Tavistock Town Council, Town Clerk
- Stuart Gardner, AA Signs
- Karen Proctor, West Devon Borough Council
- James Coole, DSFRS
- Kevan Gosling, Raynet

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

a) Minutes from 3rd August 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 since the last meeting, there was only 100FT of unlet pitches (down from over 500FT the month prior). At this stage it was noted it was unlikely that Market Road would be used in 2023. A couple of pitches had been removed from the Alexander Centre to allow for more seating. The Works Manager and General Manager had met with the Showmen to discuss the layout of the funfair on Bedford Square (which would have to be amended from previous years due to the scaffolding on the Town Hall). The fire service would review access to the Pannier Market as scaffolding would still be up on the entrance between the Town Hall and Museum (it was noted that Market Road could be used to gain access to the Guildhall/Museum).

Traders had been encouraged to be more environmentally aware and there had been good feedback to this in 2022.

It was reported the Guildhall and Visitor Information Centre would be closed on 11th October.

3. EMERGENCY PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

The Event Organisers thanked Ian Luscombe of West Devon Borough Council for facilitating the Emergency Planning workshop on 6th September which had been attended by the emergency services and Showmen's Guild and run by Officers from Devon County Council. During the day a number of scenarios were enacted - for instance how to deal with peddlers. The day left Officers feeling reassured that the Goose Fair event was well run but it also highlighted areas that needed work. The workshop also built teamwork between the various agencies and this was seen to be a positive outcome.

As a result of the workshop, the maps on the Tavistock Town Council website had been made less detailed and some information had been removed. The contact list also required amendment.

It was agreed that the Emergency Planning workshop was something that Stakeholders would like to see take place annually. The representative from the Lions Club stated that this was something that they would like to be involved with if it was run again in the future as they felt it would be beneficial for the events they organise. It was noted that as West Devon Borough Council was a member of the Devon Emergency Planning Partnership that this event had been run for free, consequently there might be a cost implication if future workshops were held.

The fire service noted that no mention was made of super dry conditions in the park and ride sites which might result in a fire. It was also noted that the preferred method for putting out a fat/oil fire was with wet chemicals and a fire blanket and not CO2 extinguishers and damp tea towels.

Ian Luscombe stated that West Devon Borough Council Officers would be at Goose Fair to support Tavistock Town Council during the event.

4. PARK AND RIDE

The Works Manager stated that Raynet would be supporting the event as in previous years.

The representative from the Lions stated that the phone signal could be patchy in Yelverton but that signage was good. Rain could be an issue as it would make the surfaces of the car parks slippery. The problems around queueing for the buses had been resolved.

Tamar Coaches would provide the Park & Ride service from Gulworthy with the drop off/collection point being DRB Car Sales.

Stagecoach would provide the Park & Ride services for Whitchurch Down and Yelverton with the drop off/collection point being Pixon Lane.

Stagecoach would provide a banksman/controller at Whitchurch Down, one member of staff at Yelverton and two members of staff at Pixon Lane.

Each site would have a toilet and lighting.

The event would close at 9.00pm with the last bus running at 9.15pm.

5. WDBC (AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS)

Following discussions with West Devon Borough Council (and negotiation with FCC) the cost of waste collection had been reduced from £14,109.00 to just over £10,000.00 for the 2023 Goose Fair. It was agreed that waste management should be reviewed in January 2024 in time for next year's event when it was hoped that a more blended approach could be taken.

The increasing costs of all services versus the need to keep the cost of both pitches and park and ride services at a reasonable level was becoming more challenging as the event had to be cost neutral. Consequently, Goose Fair as a whole would need to be reviewed for 2024.

6. FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Extra policing resources were being sought to ensure that the event was covered in the afternoon and evening.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Works Manager reported that the Cattle Market would be having a market on 11th October.

Tavistock Football Club would be providing parking for the Goose Fair.

The Emergency Services meeting would take place at 8.00am in the Council Chamber on the morning of Goose Fair.

The Works Manager asked that anyone who had not responded to the invitation to Goose Fair lunch on 12th October should inform the Assistant to the Town Clerk.

The General Manager thanked all members for attending and the meeting closed at 2.27pm.