

MINUTES OF THE RIBBLE VALLEY EVENT SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

MONDAY 30 OCTOBER 2023 AT 2:00PM

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Winston Robinson (Chair)	RVBC
	Katharine Collinge	RVBC
	Andrew Dent	RVBC
	Gary Makin	Lancashire Police
	Gary Brook	Lancashire Fire & Rescue
	Glen Dinsdale	Lancashire Fire & Rescue
	Organisers of the Beatherder Festival	

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received Stephen Cheetham (Lancs Fire & Rescue), Sam Edwards (Lancs Fire & Rescue), Duncan Hall (Lancashire Police), Gary Singleton (LCC), and RVBC Licensing.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting of the 11 May 2023 were reviewed.

BEATHERDER FESTIVAL

The festival took place on 14, 15, 16 and 17 July 2023.

The organisers provided a summary of the 2023 festival. There had been heavy rain throughout the weekend which did result in a high number of festival goers leaving early. This did present some challenges in respect of the unanticipated large amount of people leaving on the Saturday, however, in spite of the weather the event went well.

The event was being planned for 18 to 21 July 2024. It was noted that this clashed with the Royal Lancashire Show, however, this was not a concern as the location was at the other end of the A59. It was planned to begin the event on the Thursday for the third time. This had been initially suggested to ease the pressure of getting festival goers in, however, organisers were considering arranging more plans for the Thursday.

The Council's Head of Environmental Health Services noted that there had been only one noise complaint which was from a resident in close proximity to the festival, and that complaint seemed to be justified. On discussion, the complainant had suggested that his complaint may be alleviated should he be offered alternative accommodation during the period of the festival. The organisers had met with the complainant many times and felt they had offered this previously and it had been declined due to security concerns by the complainant, however, they would offer this again. Security on site had been improved and in particular this year a steward had been placed at the top of the complainant's drive. The Head of Environmental Health Services also suggested that the current Premises Licence was reviewed ahead of the next festival as the current one was quite loose.

The Police had already had a post event de-brief with the Beatherder organisers. They reported no major issues, but recommended some minor tweaks to operations for 2024 which they had discussed directly with the organisers.

The Fire and Rescue Watch Manager for Clitheroe had visited the event on the Thursday and noted that any suggestions made had been implemented within the hour. He advised he was happy to provide any advice going forward.

It was also noted that canned water was provided free of charge as per the recommendation at the last meeting.

The Beatherder organisers left the meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

There was a recap past events:

Chipping Steam Fair – It was noted that following issues in 2022 the event had run smoothly in 2023 following the use of a traffic management company.

Ribchester Field Day – No issues reported.

Royal Lancashire County Show – No issues reported.

Clitheroe Food Festival – No issues reported

Longridge Soapbox Derby – No issue reported.

Ribble Valley Scooter Rally – Issues were raised by both the Police and RVBC. If the event is to go ahead next year Winston would invite the organisers for a meeting in advance. A traffic management company was used, however, it was thought that they had only managed the areas within which the roads were closed. It was suggested that a further section of road be closed, similar to the food festival, which would require the re-route of a bus stop. It was noted that there was a delay in the parade this year which may have been due to confusion over the route, and perhaps this had attributed to the issues. Fire & Rescue noted that their concern would be over crews at the other side of the event and road closures getting to the station, and they would take this into consideration nearer to the event.

Funfair at Clitheroe Castle Field – The group discussed a complaint from a nearby resident about noise levels at the event, which were felt to be higher than usual. The Head of Environmental Health Services would discuss with the Head of Cultural & Leisure Services implementing a conditional noise level for the event going forward.

BONFIRES

The group then discussed the following future events:

Clitheroe Cricket Club Bonfire & Fireworks – No concerns. It was noted that the number of attendees was unconfirmed on the list however it was confirmed at the meeting to be approximately 5000.

Clitheroe Castle Bonfire & Fireworks – No concerns as such however it was noted that the Council's Health & Safety Officer who normally oversaw the Marshalling of the event was not available this year. Council Officers had stepped in to make arrangements in his absence.

Gisburne Park Estate Bonfire Night – Concerns had been raised directly with the organisers over their anticipated 4000 attendees, however, on discussion this was revised to be no more than 2000. The organisers had supplied the traffic management plan and the group were satisfied that the traffic management company would handle with no issues.

St Leonard's Langho Scout Group Bonfire – The only concern with this event was that the wind direction can lead to smoke over the A59.

Grindleton Village Bonfire – Gary from Fire & Rescue had visited and felt the event was well organized and had no concerns.

It was noted that the Police had arranged 'Operation Bright Sparks' whereby over bonfire night there would be a dedicated team assigned to issues and complaints.

REMEMBRANCE

All necessary road closures had been applied for. It was noted at the meeting that the police no longer automatically assist with Remembrance events, and that organisers are expected to arrange a traffic managements company and road closures as required.

AOB

A representative of a coalition of UK animal protection organisations had contacted the Council in regards to the use of live animals and reindeer in events. Going forward, should the ESAG be notified of any further Christmas events, organisers must be informed of the Councils regulations and terms and conditions on the use of reindeer or any animal at festive events, including whether it be at a council-run event, or an event not organised by the council, but which takes place on council owned land.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A further meeting will be arranged for May 2024.