

REPORT:	Regulatory Committee
DATE:	18 January 2017
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Resources
SUBJECT:	Creamfields Event 2016
WARDS:	Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider a report from responsible authorities on issue's arising from the carrying out of the Creamfields Event 2016

2. RECOMMENDED: That the Committee considers the reports from responsible authorities.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Creamfields Event application was granted on 27 January 2016 for an indefinite period for the 5 days over the August Bank Holiday each year (Thursday to Monday) and subject to conditions.
- 3.2 The Creamfields events have taken place in Daresbury each year in August since 2006 and feedback on the events was presented to members at the meetings of the Regulatory Committee following the events.
- 3.3 The purpose of this report is to present the facts from the viewpoint of the responsible authorities who have now had the opportunity of dealing with several events.
- 3.4 A report on the event has been received from Cheshire Police and the report is set out at Appendix A.
- 3.5 The Police have been invited to attend the Committee to introduce their report and to answer any questions raised by the Committee however the Officer who produced the report Inspector Stewart Sheer has now left Cheshire Constabulary. Halton Borough Council's Environmental Health has also been invited to attend the meeting and present a report to the Committee.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

See note below

5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

See note below

6 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

9.1 Children and Young People in Halton

9.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton

9.3 A Healthy Halton

9.4 A Safer Halton

9.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

See note below

7 RISK ANALYSIS

See note below

8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

See note below

NOTE; - The Councils Policies and Priorities are of course very important considerations in decision making and must always be taken into account as far as possible. However, in the case of Regulatory Committee matters, they can only be considered so far as is consistent with one or more of the Licensing Objectives under the Licensing Act 2003

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Report Documents	Legal Services	John Tully/ Kay Cleary



Report to Halton Licensing Committee Creamfields 2016

Planning

Police planning for the 2016 event was undertaken within the Force Planning and Resilience Unit based at Cheshire Police Headquarters again with Inspector Stewart Sheer conducting the lead planning role for the fourth year, with support from the resource planning team and specialist leads.

The relationship with key stakeholders Festival Republic, Cream and Security, continues to be positive and one of co-operation and active problem solving looking to achieve a safe festival for all concerned.

The core policing operation for the 2016 event was again based mostly on site with the continued development of the police operation alongside the promoters.

The security operation this year was structured slightly differently and headed up by a company called Integras as the overall security coordinators responsible for the management and deployment of all the various security companies involved including Showsec.

Improvements were agreed early in the planning process to the Staff search process to prevent drugs being brought into the event through this route. The main changes being that of the facilities provided for the search. A much larger tent process area, and appropriate tracking, in order that the search would be efficient regardless of the weather and volume. Showsec would again lead the search operation here supported by the Cheshire police.

Key changes to the event for 2016 were to be the redesign of the VIP ticket holders entrance at the south of the event and the intention to trial a security lead search operation with a view to reducing police officer numbers in the future without compromising safety. Of course the main change to the event this year was the introduction of the additional day and the ramping up of the Friday into a fuller event day.

Improved use of social media continued in the form of the now well followed “**Creamfieldscops**” officer and was also a key intention for the 2016 event.

The rationale as with the previous years for the event continues to be that the Police do not enter the arena unless it is absolutely necessary and was again unchanged for 2016.

The event for 2016 would again see good weather conditions though there were some testing wetter periods in the early days of the planning and event.

APL was again responsible for the construction and site management issues through the event and was again well prepared for foreseeable eventualities.

As with all years the road infrastructure again caused some real concerns leading up to the event with the re lining of the M56 roundabout at Daresbury being required, only days from the gates opening again. There were again concerns around the impact of the Mersey Gateway construction project, along with others and this was to be monitored closely through the event.

Public Safety

The addition of the extra day saw a tangible change to the feeling of the individual days with much of the past years traffic issues resolved. With the exception of some short lived peak periods, especially on egress, the traffic attending the event felt much lighter and better spread across all the days.

This clearly improved the ability for both the police and the traffic management staff to deal with any issues quickly and reduce risk.

The cycle path continues to benefit foot traffic and the continued improvements in the traffic management plan retaining the bridge over the A56 issues with pedestrian foot fall continued to feel much improved. Festival Republic returned to Blue Arrow to oversee the traffic management plan placing SEP back under their control.

Police officers were again deployed at the request of Festival Republic on the campsites which, at full capacity, contain 55,000 campers. The use of buggies to ensure prompt response to incidents on what is a vast site were again utilized, also doubling as serious incident vehicles with crime scene preservation kit. This year the regular officers were again supported by the Special Constabulary and this was very much a positive with over 140 specials working during the days of the event.

Police worked closely with the event organisers focusing on creating a safer environment within the campsites and festival footprint. Campsite hubs were in place again following on from previous years’ successes and they were enlarged this year to enhance their use. The Campsite village again featured with a slightly amended location again containing the main police station for the event. Use of

the police station facilities has vastly improved since the introduction of the village with most crimes now being reported on site rather than off site in previous years. The second police station was again sighted alongside the medical and Chill Welfare facilities near to the north entrance. Also sited at this location was the site ejection process moved up from the North search based on feedback from the previous year.

Communication with festival goers in the case of emergency messages again had the provision of screens and the better utilisation of the social media networks. The social media police post to manage the Creamfieldscoops Twitter & Facebook site live-time was again in place and was enhanced and supported by the promoters with the inclusion of the site within the lanyard booklet provided to all attendees. This officer was the single point for police social messaging on site.

There was some evidence of fence jumpers due to the ejection process but numbers were manageable and dealt with appropriately. This issue no longer presents the problems of previous years due to the continued fence management.

Watch towers were again built at strategic points along the event, and proved a useful and highly visible means of stewarding/Policing the event. They were useful during a spate of tent fires nothing significant and fairly common to festival camping.

Festival republic owned the management of the sites ejection process supported by police at the new location next to welfare. This worked well this year and continued to follow the thoughtful and measured approach, taking into account any elements of vulnerability prior to ejection. Worthy of note that the ejections are from within the venue and do not include those turned away at the gates.

The ejections process maintained the ability for the organisers to allow the opportunity for festival goers deemed unsuitable for arena entry, to use the exterior welfare facilities but be excluded from the rest of the event until they were deemed to be fit to re-enter. This approach is very much supported by the police as if completely ejected from the site they would present a heightened risk and would become a police issue.

There was still a need for police resources again this year at the taxi ranks at the key egress times and, was much improved on the previous year. There were some minor ques at peak egress times but acceptable.

The relationship with Integras security management and the police planning team was excellent with the approach being very much one of a joined up team effort.

Numbered vests on all of the security staff was in place again, allowing for all staff members, regardless of level, to be easily identifiable. This was increased to include the cleaning firms due to issues from 2015 and provided a clear identification for both officers and public alike.

The event sadly this year saw its first death on site on the 26th of August when a 26 year old male from Cornwall was found unconscious by security and despite

best efforts of security, police and medical staff sadly the male died. Cause of death at this time is unconfirmed as police still await toxicology reports and I am therefore unable to comment further.

Prevention of Harm to Children

Challenge “21” was again enforced by the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and his staff during the event. In total there were in excess of 19000 checks conducted through the whole of the event those accepted issued with the appropriate wrist band.

In addition to the Challenge 21 the previously agreed protocol for the safeguarding process for young person’s attempting to gain entry to the event was again in place. There were no instances where the protocol was required to be invoked.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Traffic plan was much improved this year and with the additional day saw a completely different dynamic in the flow of traffic. Teams reported in that traffic flow was good and never really seemed to get the levels of previous years. Attendance at the event was more widely spread and this clearly had a knock on effect on the number of vehicles using the road.

Egress on the Sunday and Monday in the early hours was of course busy but short lived and due to the time minimal impact on passing traffic and the local community. Closedown on the bank holiday Monday continued the theme with traffic flowing better and clearing much quicker than previous years.

Festival Republics continued use of a bridge over the A56 remained positive and will continue to be a feature of future events. Segregation of the specific traffic types entering and leaving the event from old and new car park areas again had a positive impact preventing extended nuisance to the local community and the public passing through the area.

Police motorcycle support was again in place and essential to support the Blue Arrow traffic management plan problem solving throughout the key periods.

Policing of the communities around the event was again conducted using where possible locally based Neighbourhood Policing Unit officers to provide high profile reassurance to local residents and members of the public attending the event.

A Community Debrief set up by Festival Republic in co-operation with the community policing operation was repeated for a fourth year and now embedded as part of the process. The local community very much welcome the approach and the engagement of the promoters. On the whole, views were very positive, there were some minor issues but these were identified and dealt with quickly. The community response team was again welcomed by the community dealing with issues such as litter and continues to be recommended for the coming years. Some issues getting through on the event line were reported and resolved.

Prevention of Crime & Disorder

This year the campsites for Creamfields 2016 opened on the Thursday 25th August at 12:00. This year's event capacity was for 55,000 camping with a day ticket capacity of 13,000 each day and an overall capacity of 69,999.

Recorded crime for Creamfields 2016 was as follows, showing a comparison with the previous year's event.

Crime Type (Home Office Group)	Creamfields 2015	Creamfields 2016	% difference
Drug Offences	118	163	+38% (+45)
Theft	126	67	-47% (-59)
Violence Against a Person	16	16	Same
Criminal Damage	1	1	Same
Arson	0	1	+1
Robbery	1	1	Same
Public Order	6	7	+1
Sexual Offences	4	2	-50% (-2)
Possession Weapons	3	3	Same
Burglary	0	2	+2
Traffic Offence	1	1	Same
Other	1	1	Same
Total	277	265	-4% (-12)

As anticipated, drug offences continue to be the most significant crime issue at the event and this year saw a marked increase in the numbers of persons arrested for possession with intent to supply drugs. This is an excellent result as the focus of the search operation is to increase public safety by removing those that would attend the event with the intention of making money through the sale of drugs.

The increased numbers are believed to be as a result of the additional day which spread the festival goer's attendance and allowed a more focused search operation. In actuality less people were searched this year than last year with better results. The introduction of the new process for search at the enhanced VIP entrance proved reasonably successful with the G4S security firm taking the lead supported by the police. Whilst I am satisfied that the process was a success there is still work to be done to ensure that it is a suitable replacement for part of the police search. The increase in possession with intent to supply drugs, arrest numbers, is continued evidence of the cooperation and the robust joint search operation essential for this event.

Also noted is the decrease in recorded thefts at the site which is a real positive as the majority of crimes are now reported on site at either one of the two police stations. Better control measures at the entrances, management of the fences and resolution of some staff issues is likely to be the main reasons for the marked improvement.

Arrest Summary

Total Arrested Persons = 142

Total on site Cautions = 50

BREAKDOWN OF Arrests/cautions	Total 2015	Total 2016	% difference
Possession with Intent to Supply	59	112	+90% (+53)
Possession of Controlled Drugs	59	50	-15% (-9)
Assault	4	6	+50% (+2)
Wanted / FTA Warrant	1	6	+600% (+5)
Sec 5 Public order / BOP/Breach of s69 notice/D&D	6	5	-33% (-2)
Theft	0	2	+2
Burg from Tent	0	3	+3
Possess Offensive weapon/ammo	3	3	Same
Immigration Offences	0	2	+2
Crim Damage	0	1	+1
Driving Offences	1	1	Same
Sexual Offences	1	0	-1
Fraud/Deception/money laundering/counterfeit	1	1	Same
Total	135	192	+44% (+59)

Drugs Summary:

As in previous years surrender bins were again in operation at the festival giving festival goers the opportunity to surrender any drugs and saw an increased use by the festival goer's all of which reduces the amount of drugs getting in and the risk.

Their bags are then briefly checked by Security before they then have to walk past passive drugs dogs and Police spotters to identify individuals that may be in possession of drugs.

It is Festival Republics condition of entry to the event that festival goers may be searched along with their possessions. Positive drug dog indications or those suspected by Officers would go for a hand swab to test for drugs. Positive tests would result in a search. Before any further search took place individuals were given a further opportunity to surrender any drugs.

There were 162 recorded incidents of persons being found in possession of drugs: 50 for possession and 112 for Possession with Intent to Supply (PWIT).

This is a 90% increase and whilst those levels of increase would normally be a concern this is actually a positive and it is evidence of the continued improvements in the search operation by both police and security. It should also be noted that some of the arrests were for Nitrous oxide which was illegal for the first time this year in supply amounts though not possession only.

Once again there was a search process with passive search dog on the production entrance where members of staff and concession vehicles entered the site and resulted in 14 arrests 13 for possession with intent to supply. The arrests sadly confirm the importance of continuing to search at the Staff Entrance. It should be noted that this is fully supported by the promoters Festival Republic which was evidenced by the huge improvements in the working environment this year.

The focus of the operation at the entrances is to prevent drugs from getting into the event and ultimately make the event safer. The effectiveness of the various entrance Police / Security searches is further evidenced by the amount of drugs surrendered and also the quantities discarded in the entrance lanes leading to the searches themselves.

The Event itself has probably one of the most robust search regimes in the country for such an event, to restrict volumes of drugs getting onto site and minimize the drugs risk.

Public Order / Violence

There were no significant public disorder or violence issues at the event this year evidencing that we have sufficient control measures in place to prevent problem groups getting in but also the appropriate capability to respond with either security or police.

There was however 16 reports of assault during this year's event which mirrors 2015 and leaves work to try and reduce this figure. The 16 assaults broke down as follows, 6 assaults on staff (security, medical); 4 assaults on Police; 2 domestic related assaults; 2 assaults committed by people known to AP, 1 assault by security staff and 1 s47 assault where a female was glassed by unknown offender, not serious injuries.

Of these 16 reported assaults there were 6 arrests: 3 for assault on staff, 2 for assault on Police and 1 for the domestic assault.

Clearly these types of offences are always a concern going forward to the 2017 event however they must be taken in context when you are effectively policing a small size town.

The most serious offence this year was the report of a female stating that she had been pulled into a tent by an unknown male and raped. Enquiries are ongoing. Sexual offences were down this year with only two occurrences but still an ongoing concern.

Conclusion

Creamfields 2016 saw a 4% decrease in overall recorded crime at the time of writing when compared against 2015 figures. The headlines are very much the increase in drugs offences of 38% and the 47% decrease in theft offences very much the direction that we would have hoped for at the start of the years planning. Both numbers are positives as less people have suffered loss of property and the 38% being a reflection of the number of arrests for drugs possession and the 90% increase in PWIT arrests.

The death on site this year of the 26 year old male was clearly a low point for all persons concerned in the planning and implementation of those plans in the event. The joint working when dealing with the sad death was professional and slick ensuring the preservation of evidence whilst also, in the initial stages, doing all that could be done to try to preserve the males life. There are some minor changes that will be added into the plans for next year around post management of scene evidence. The focus of much of the operation is one of public safety and I am content that the vigorous measures that are in place to reduce drugs use within the event, the media from all concerned sending the messages advising against use are as much as can be done, and much more than is done elsewhere in the country. Messages this year even went as far as directing to web addresses which give safety advice to those who “choose to use” and whilst it will always be the position of the police that drugs are not lawful this kind of approach is appropriate if your strategy is one of safety.

The general atmosphere on the campsites was, in the main, again perceived to be a safer environment, benefiting from increased visibility of police and security. The retention of the campsite village was a positive for this giving central location to the campsite environment. The only real issues on the campsites this year were the trend for setting tents on fire which is not peculiar to Creamfields and one victim stating that she was actually in the tent at the time.

Whilst the event has an excellent response management to these fires, which are anticipated, any lessons learned should form part of the plans for 2017.

This on-going positive relationship is something that we will continue to maintain through any planning process in 2017 to further reduce the potential for violent crime, the presence of weapons, illegal drugs, and impact on any national trends that may come to Creamfields.

The relationship between the police planning team, event organisers and multi-agency group has continued to be good and we will continue to work together towards making Creamfields an even safer event, with Cream and Festival Republic.

In conclusion, the 2016 event, with the exception of the death had no major issues and on the whole ran very well with many of the planning objectives achieved.

The key improvements working together into 2017 will need to be:-

- The continued review of the traffic management plan monitoring of the Mersey Gateway project and its potential impacts.
- Further development of the VIP search process and security lead operating processes.
- Progress and implementation of VIP search Process at South Entrance
- Review of police staffing structures and deployment

Inspector Stewart Sheer
Cheshire Constabulary