

Creamfields Event 2009

APPENDIX A

CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY

REPORT TO HALTON LICENSING COMMITTEE REGARDING CREAMFIELDS 2009

Inspector 2826 Giles Pierce
(Police Planning Team Leader)

This report summarises the views of Cheshire Constabulary regarding the planning and operation of the Creamfields 2009 music festival. It is based on a comprehensive debrief process involving all staff who were involved in the event and a number of formal debrief meetings.

PLANNING

Having gained experience from the 2008 event, with regards to a weekend camping event, and maintaining continuity within the Police Planning Team the process of planning was less problematic. As a result the operational plan was reviewed in full bearing in mind the outcomes of formal debriefs that had taken place, that included the internal Police debrief, the Multi-Agency debrief and the Community debrief. As in previous years officers with specialist knowledge were appointed to create individual strategies within their areas of expertise. Further to this Inspector Gary McIntyre headed the Community Policing Strategy that involved consultation with representatives of Parish Councils.

The licensing hearing for the 2009 event was less problematic than in 2008 for the Police as the hearing was focussed towards the responsibilities of the organisers and not on Police tactics and how we would Police the event. The organisers throughout the process agreed to all conditions requested by the Police.

As stated previously the Police formed a consultation group with representatives of Local Parish Councils which allowed the communities concerns and suggestions to be proactively addressed. Representatives of these Councils were offered the opportunity to meet with the planning team and were able to have direct contact with myself and Inspector Gary McIntyre.

LICENSING OBJECTIVES

Prevention of Harm to Children

Challenge "21" was enforced by the Designated Premise Supervisor (DPS) and his staff during the event.

The following details are the results of those checks:

In total over the festival weekend 4,728 challenges were made, of these checks 12 persons failed.

	CHALLENGES MADE
2006	150
2007	1500
2008	2324
2009	4728

As can be seen in previous years there continues to be significant rises in the numbers of challenges made by the DPS and his staff.

Further to this the Police did not receive any complaints relating to concerns for young persons at the event site.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

The Police provided extra resilience than in previous years in Policing the Communities and in particular on the roads bordering the event site. Designated teams of Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers patrolled the roads attempting to minimise disruption to the local community. Particular attention was focussed on attendees entering the event site as quickly as possible and the removal of alcohol from persons drinking on the public highway (pedestrians).

Officers were supported in their role by the area being deemed an “alcohol free zone” and the introduction of Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. This allowed officers to remove persons from a specified area if they were acting in an anti-social manner and alcohol was involved.

The Community Policing Strategy for the event also introduced a hot line for residents which had patrols available to respond.

Although there was a significant improvement in the Policing for the Communities there is still feedback that extra attention needs to be focussed on the Road Traffic Management Plan, specifically relating to the stewarding of traffic points and signage.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The 2009 event continued to record crimes significantly lower than similar music festivals across the Country.

The Crime Strategy includes working in partnership with other agencies, the organisers, Security and other Forces who host similar events to collate intelligence and respond to emerging crime trends.

Crime Type	2009	2008	2007	2006
Drug Offences	28	128	111	6
Violent Crime	5	9	8	18
Theft	58	32	38	42
Vehicle Crime	4	10	2	8
Robbery	1	2	1	13
Other	4	1	4	2
Total	100	128	164	89

As can be seen from the above table crime rates continue to drop at the event site. A significant reduction in drug offences can be attributed to the robust message sent out in previous years and for those attending the event. The rise in theft equates largely to the increase in theft from tents on the event site. The 2009 event had a significantly higher proportion of campers in comparison to the 2008 event.

Public Safety

The promoters, Security and Police worked together to ensure the appropriate levels of security, stewards and Police were in attendance throughout the event to maintain the safety of the public attending, living in the local communities and working at the event. Close attention was given to key times during the event and the management/deployment of staff. Detailed strategies are in place as to how best deal with emerging threats which allows a fast and effective response.

During the event there was concern raised at the Cream tent on the Saturday night regarding “crushing”. Security and Police attended and managed the situation which involved evoking a “show Stop”. As a result of this incident no formal complaints have been made or injuries reported to the Police. Loudsound have attended a full debrief for this incident and procedures discussed to improve the response should a similar incident occur again.

Conclusion

The Police are satisfied that the Creamfields 2009 event was a success and the Operational Policing Plan was effective in meeting it's aims and objectives. The working relationships with the organisers, the Multi-Agency Planning Team and the Community continue to build on creating a safe event for the public to attend.

Halton Borough Council Environmental Health – Noise Control Environmental Health – Health & Safety

In the build up to the event, the event itself and the subsequent de-build the division had regulatory responsibility for building control, and health & safety and food safety the division also monitored a number of conditions attached to the Licence in regard to public safety and public nuisance specifically in the areas of noise pollution, health & safety and food safety.

As in previous year staff from the environment directorate took an active part in the detailed planning process leading up to the event and were available on and off site throughout the event to monitor conditions and liaise with the applicant's event management team.

Officers carried out checks on building & structures on site, health & safety and food safety and in relation to these area conditions set in the license were complied with. There were no significant building control or food safety issues that were the cause of concern.

With regard to health & safety and the division's regulatory role in general there were no significant health and safety concerns. However on the day before the event (Friday) officers did request event organisers to provide protection to bolts and clamps supporting flag poles to prevent injury to the audience should they accidentally fall on to them. Also on the first day of the event (Saturday) officers initially had difficulty ascertaining that a mobile tattoo and body piercing business was duly licensed under the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1982 to undertake cosmetic piercing and tattooing. This was eventually resolved by making out of hours contact with the home authority for the business. In future years should application be made the division would recommend that this years licence condition be amended to ensure adequate information is supplied in advance. In addition to the premises or vehicle, each individual person undertaking piercing or tattooing must be duly licensed with either Halton Borough Council or another UK local authority. Where necessary photographic ID will be required to verify identity.

Again as in previous years the division undertook noise monitoring off site independently of the applicants noise consultant with staff on site to respond to incidents working closely with the applicants consultants to address potential issues as they arose.

Vanguardia were the appointed noise control consultants. This year the noise management plan provided for a Vanguardia consultant stationed outside the site to monitor noise levels, be in direct radio consultants on site and liaise with both councils. As far as Halton was concerned this was a successful innovation.

Where it appeared that there could be a potential breach if not acted upon and Vanguardia were advised they were quick to act and noise conditions set in the license were complied with. Overall the noise management plan and its implementation were successful in managing potential noise issues at source.

Throughout the event monitoring was undertaken in Moore and Daresbury at the points where it was felt noise levels would be greatest , On Saturday staff used sound level meters (SLM) to ensure compliance, however this was more difficult on Sunday due to the rain (monitoring in moderate to heavy rain can distort readings).

All incoming calls to the Council were directed through the Council's 24-hour contact centre the contact centre was available for calls/complaints throughout the event. These were than relayed to staff monitoring the site.

On Saturday 2 complaints were received from Halton residents:

Hobb Lane (22:20)

Moss Lane (21:40)

On Sunday 3 complaints were received

Hobb Lane (15:00)

Moss Lane (20:40)

Moss Lane (21:50)

No complaints were received from HBC residents after 23:00 on either night.

Complainants were contacted.

At approx 21:20 on the Saturday during subjective assessments on Hobb Lane HBC staff had noted 'music clearly audible - bass and vocals also audience noise'.

This was relayed to both HBC and Vanguardia staff on site. At this point the sound engineer was advised by Vanguardia staff to lower the levels which he did. Subjective assessments on Hobb Lane after this time indicated the problem had been addressed as levels were perceptively lower than had been the case at 21:20. Following the event it has transpired that there was no breach of the 15 minute Leq.

It is a condition that the fairground which can cause issues off site closes at 11:00 pm on both nights. Sound systems on the fairground were closed down on time on the Saturday but were found to be operating after 23:00 hours on the Sunday night. However Vanguardia staff were prompt to approach individual operators and ensure the systems were turned off. Consequently the systems were switched off by 23:10 on Sunday.

The main stage was closed by 23:00 hours on both nights. On the Saturday there was some activity after 23:00 hours with technicians setting up instruments for the Sunday. Whilst this should not have happened it was closely monitored by the on site team, the sound was minimally amplified through on stage speakers and levels were low being barely audible in the arena and could not be heard off site. The applicant has been made aware of this.

Noise will continue to be an area of concern and should any further applications be received the division will be seeking the earliest dialog with the applicant's noise consultant on the noise assessment of the proposed site layout and the subsequent noise management plan.

Warrington Borough Council

To be reported at the hearing