

REPORT: Regulatory Committee
DATE: 22 November 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: Creamfields Event 2010
WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider a report from responsible authorities on issues arising from the carrying out of the Creamfields Event 2010

2. RECOMMENDED

That the Committee considers the reports from the responsible authorities.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Creamfields Event application was granted on 2 March 2010 for 3 years during the following periods of time and subject to conditions:
- first, for the period commencing on 28 August 2010 and ending on 30 August 2010;
 - secondly, for the period commencing on 27 August 2011 and ending on 29 August 2011; and
 - thirdly, for the period commencing on 25 August 2012 and ending on 27 August 2012.
- 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 four events.
- 3.4 It is also recognised that at the hearing on 2 March 2010 the Committee considered representations from a number of interested parties as well as responsible authorities. It is not appropriate for this report to seek to represent the views of interested parties.
- 3.5 Reports on the event have been received from Cheshire Police and Halton Borough Council Environmental Health – Noise Control and Health & Safety and these reports are set out at Appendix A.
The responsible authorities have been invited to attend the Committee to introduce their reports and to answer any questions raised by the Committee

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

9.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

9.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton

N/A

9.3 A healthy Halton

N/A

9.4 A Safer Halton

None

9.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

7 RISK ANALYSIS

N/A

8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

N/A

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

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

APPENDIX A

CHESHIRE POLICE

REPORT TO HALTON LICENSING COMMITTEE REGARDING CREAMFIELDS 2010

This report summarises the views of Cheshire Constabulary regarding the planning and operation of the Creamfields 2010 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

Each year the planning of Creamfields becomes easier due to continuity within the police planning team, a greater understanding of the event and clearer defined roles and responsibilities of the organisers, security and other agencies. This we are already building on for 2011. Scheduled meetings are in place with Loudsound and Security along with both Local Authorities to discuss the plans for 2011 and the role of the Police and security for future events.

The Police operation was reviewed in full and took into consideration the outcomes of the community, Police and multi agency debriefs. As in previous years, officers with specialist knowledge were appointed to create individual strategies within their area of expertise. Further to this, Insp McIntyre (Warrington South NPU Inspector) and Nicola Linder (Lead Planner) met with members of the Parish Councils on a regular basis to discuss and try to resolve the Communities' concerns.

The key dates agreed in the licence were useful and the same should be done for 2011. The final sign-off was too late and we would require the entrances to be completed earlier for 2011 to ensure they meet both security and Police requirements.

During the planning phase the organisers requested a number of changes, some of which were refused and some of which were agreed to. Two such requests (opening the arena and car parks earlier and an extra entrance to the arena) involved an increase in Police resources and therefore an increase of cost: this was agreed to by the organisers.

The security sub group worked well and resulted in excellent results in dealing with the behaviour of the unauthorised ticket sellers on the North car park.

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:

	CHALLENGES MADE
2006	150
2007	1500
2008	2324
2009	4728
2010	7653

In total over the festival weekend 7653 challenges were made, of these checks 2 persons were refused entry, however they later returned with valid ID and were allowed into the event.

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

As in previous years, sub groups were set up and the Traffic Management group ensured that the Traffic Management of this event was an improvement on previous years. Blue Arrow were appointed as the Traffic Management company as opposed to the company indicated in the licence hearing: however they provided improved signage and being a local firm were able to deal with any last minute signs that were requested. Overall we were happy with the company. Feedback from the communities and de-brief has been good and no major issues raised. There was a hold up in car park staff being ready at 0700 hours which caused standing traffic for a short period.

However, this was resolved and the contingency plans for both the car parks and the motorway worked efficiently.

The Community Strategy has evolved significantly over the years and we now have a small group of Parish Councillors that attend monthly meeting with the Police planning team. During these meetings, issues and concerns were raised and we were able to incorporate the feedback into our strategy. With regards to the Traffic Management Plan, a representative from Halton Local Authority attends to present that plan. During the event, each Parish had a designated Beat Manager and we had roaming patrols to deal with any reports of crime, disorder or anti social behaviour.

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. In total we issued 12 Section 27 notices.

The Community Policing Strategy for the event operated a hotline for residents which had patrols available to respond. We had 22 calls (48 in 2009) to the hotline, the majority of which were for information only.

During the debriefs we have discussed how we will deal with unauthorised tickets sellers in 2011 as they will undoubtedly return again and use the surrounding roads to sell the tickets. Work is being done to invoke a Section 30 and a Hawkers Licence for the effected areas.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

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 (Home Office Group)	Creamfields Figures 2009	Creamfields Figures 2010	Difference (Number)	Difference (Percentage)
Criminal Damage	-	2	2	200%
Drug Offences	25	129	104	416%
Robbery	1	12	11	1100%
Theft	74	66	-8	-11%
Violence Against a Person	8	14	6	75%
Vehicle Crime	11	12	1	9%
Other	1	-	-1	-100%
Total	120	235	115	129%

Due to the increase in attendees and with the festival selling out before the weekend began, it was anticipated crime figures would increase slightly from last year.

Recorded crimes for Creamfields 2010 have more than doubled compared to last year's event with a 129% (115) increase in recorded crimes. The greatest increases were for drug offences (104) and robbery (11). The increase in robbery offences are believed to be accounted for by one group of offenders and may relate to one offence with a number of victims, hence a greater number of reported crimes. This group of offenders were identified late on Saturday evening and were removed from the site. No more offences of robbery were reported during the weekend after the removal of these individuals. The increase in drug offences was due to the policing policy and position of the amnesty bins.

The overall detection rate for recorded crimes at this year's event is 57% which is an improvement against the detection rate last year (22.5%). Detection rate for violent offences has also improved from last year's rate with an increase of 30.5%.

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 we best deal with emerging threats which allows a fast and effective response.

During the event the Police and stewards worked closely to ensure that the egress of festival attendees to the campsites was less problematic and that we did not have a repeat of the potential 'crushing' incident in 2009.

As noted above, the reported increase in robberies did cause some concern. All of these incidents occurred in the campsites and the majority in one particular campsite. Investigations are still on going and all victims have been contacted and provided statements. Early indications show that these offences can be linked to the same group of males, some of which were evicted by security late on Saturday and some by Police in the early hours of Sunday morning. Although we had no evidence to make arrests we had no further reports of such incidents. Security of the campsite needs to be improved for 2011 and discussions have already taken place between the Police, promoters and security to deal with this issue for 2011.

Conclusion

The Police are satisfied that the Creamfields 2010 event was a success and the Operational Policing Plan was effective in meeting its 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.

Nicola Linder
Cheshire Constabulary

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Creamfields 2010: Report of Regulatory Services, Halton BC

Officers from the Division's Building Control and Occupational Health & Safety services visited the Creamfields site in the week prior to the event and the site was found to be satisfactory.

A list of businesses who had applied to attend at the event was received by the Food & Health & safety team within the period requested and pre-checks with the registering authorities were carried out. Prior to the start of the event these businesses were inspected by the service teams and there were no outstanding problems.

Officers from the Environmental Protection service carried out noise monitoring both on and off-site, throughout the event. The purpose of this was, as in previous years, to ascertain compliance with license conditions and respond to complaints from local residents. Officers from Warrington BC were also present on the site and responded to complaints from Warrington residents.

No complaints were received regarding noise on Saturday 28th August.

License conditions specify levels, averaged across 15 minutes that should not be breached prior to 23:00 hours. During Saturday 28th August and the early hours of Sunday 29th August, monitoring was undertaken around the area in sensitive locations. No breaches of the license conditions were observed. Warrington BC officers have also confirmed that they did not observe any breaches of the license conditions.

On Sunday 29th August Halton BC received 5 complaints from residents in the Norton, Daresbury and Sandymoor areas of the Borough. The complaints were received between 21:50 and 22:40 when the headline act was performing. Prior to receipt of the complaints, officers monitoring off site had observed noise levels approaching the limits set out in the license and with the experience of headline groups in past years, they were able to contact the on-site consultants immediately and levels were reduced.

Warrington BC received 3 complaints prior to midnight on 29th August and 4 after midnight. 3 further complaints were forwarded to Warrington BC following the event. They did not observe any breach of the license conditions.

On both 28th and 29th August, the main stage and sound systems at the fairground finished by 23:00, as specified within the license.

It is evident, therefore, that the Noise Management Plan, together with close working between Halton BC and the organiser's noise consultants, ensured compliance with all noise conditions set.

Yeemay Sung
October 2010