

**REPORT:** Regulatory Committee  
**DATE:** 18 November 2013  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Chief Executive  
**PORTFOLIO:** Resources  
**SUBJECT:** Creamfields Event 2013  
**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 2013

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

## **3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Creamfields Event application was granted on 27 April 2011 for 3 years during the following periods of time and subject to conditions:
- first, for the period commencing on 26 August 2011 and ending on 29 August 2011;
  - secondly, for the period commencing on 24 August 2012 and ending on 27 August 2012; and
  - thirdly, for the period commencing on 23 August 2013 and ending on 26 August 2013.
- 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 seven events.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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**

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**

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



## REPORT TO HALTON LICENSING COMMITTEE CREAMFIELDS 2013

### Planning

Police planning for this year's event was undertaken within the Force Planning and Resilience Unit based at Cheshire Police Headquarters with Inspector Stewart Sheer conducting the lead planning role, with support from the force planning team.

In the planning process for 2013 the police have worked with the event organisers and security to enable them to take responsibility for some functions which do not have to be performed by the police. A new relationship with Live Nation this year proved to be one of co-operation and active problem solving looking to achieve a safe festival. Relationships were positive with both the promoters and security with a clear desire to resolve issues at the time identify best practice for the future and identify areas for review in the 2014 planning process.

Key change for the policing operation this year was the move of much of the policing infrastructure onto the site. We will be looking for a replication of this for 2014 with consideration being given to moving some of the police control room structure to site. This will be for discussion in the 2014 planning process should the licence be granted.

The introduction of a shared briefing room did have its logistical issues but were resolved through negotiation. It is recommended that a separate facility is utilised for Silver Meetings for 2014.

Security have taken greater responsibility for patrolling the car parks and for providing a visible security presence within the arena. The rationale continues to be that the Police do not enter the arena unless it's absolutely necessary unchanged in 2013.

This year the security has taken responsibility in its entirety for the South Arena Entrance, not to be confused with the South Entrance. This was in line with the policing strategy for the festival and allowed a re deployment of resources to the North and South entrances which historically have been the focus of the policing

operation and where they have often felt under strength. Provision for requirement of a Surrender bin at this location was identified through the 2013 Event and addressed and will be included in any future structure.

Improving partnership working between police, security and event organisers at the entrances and within the site was a key objective during the planning processes. The practice of Cheshire Police and the event organisers attending security briefings which were given by Showsec to their supervisors and key personnel continued and were useful and productive. The quality of the briefing given was of a high standard and provided a greater understanding of how we were able to work together.

2013 saw near perfect weather conditions from the deluge of the previous year, with the ground benefiting from a significant period of dry conditions. Clearly this prevented a recurrence of many of the 2012 infrastructure issues.

### **Public Safety**

The issue of lighting on the A56 were resolved with the local authority looking to have the lighting time adjusted for the event. Problems in previous year's events had been the absence of light along the highway as well as significant pedestrian movement and therefore it needs to be kept in place for following events.

In 2013 the Pedestrian Prohibition along the A56 which ran from the production entrance to the North carpark entrance was not implemented with no significant impact.

In 2012 a key concern for the public attending the festival and the Event Organisers was the fear of crime within the campsites. As a result a direct request was made from Live Nation for 2013 to have additional staffing within the campsites which was facilitated by the Police.

Police worked closely with the event organisers focusing on creating a safer environment within the campsites and festival footprint. Campsite hubs were again in place following on from previous year's successes.

There were still difficulties in responding to incidents on the campsites due to the vast area and the limitations on access. Consideration is being given to the introduction of a campsite response team that will have access to a 4x4 buggy to allow them to get across the campsites in a more appropriate time frame.

Communication with festival goers in the case of emergency messages was much improved this year with the provision of screens and the better utilisation of the social media networks. This was evidenced when dealing with High Risk missing persons whose images following agreement were posted. This was again a useful tool in preventing harm to festival goers when dangerous substances were identified by the on site lab. Pre-planning enabled safety messages to be put out via health care partners to try and minimise harm.

The promoters made further significant efforts this year to improve the quality of fencing used on the event and this provided a higher degree of security and integrity in most cases. This was very evident this year with the introduction of additional fencing around the area of Rose Wood. This had a significant impact on the attempts of individuals to gain entry without ticket. Further work needs to be carried out in relation to a more sustainable and appropriate plan for dealing with these fence jumpers in 2014.

Breaches were still experienced around the Cream and Indigo campsite, however with the introduction of the Security Village / campsite being at this location this again was dealt with swiftly.

Deployment of Police Officers to support this part of the operation was required including off road Police Motorbikes to deal with the numbers still intent on trying to gain entry to the venue.

Watch towers were again built at strategic points along the event, and proved a useful and highly visible means of stewarding/Policing the event. There were no incidents of note involving any of the towers at this event.

Showsec's Ejection process supported by police at the North campsite entrance again worked well this year and continued to follow the thoughtful and measured approach through the ejection process. A total of **406** ejections took place through the event with **11** of them being of a violent nature. It is worthy of note that these ejections are only from within the venue and do not include those turned away at the gates.

The process maintained the ability for Police/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.

There were some issues for the ejection process which related to the proximity of those ejected to the North gate entrance. Once ejected, clearly unhappy due to that fact, they started to collect in groups and create disorder. Their proximity to the incoming crowds tended to enflame the situation and intimidate some of the arrivals. This was quickly dealt with, with a joint response by Showsec and the police at the security request through Event Control. Design at this location will be reviewed during the 2014 planning process.

The taxi rank was much improved this year with some minor initial signage issues that were quickly remedied. There was still a need for police resources, supported by local authority taxi licensing officers, to become involved in the taxi rank process in maintaining order.

The relationship with Showsec management and police planning team has continued to be excellent with the approach being very much one of a joined up team effort. The relationship between Police officers and Security staff from Showsec during the event has again been very good with highlighted problems with subcontracted staff resolved. The introduction this year by the promoters of numbered vests on all of the security staff is a welcome addition and

recommended for the event as a permanent feature. The numbers allow both police and members of the public to identify security staff during an incident. Issues with any security staff this year were quickly identified and dealt with effectively both positive and negative.

The provision of metal tracking around the site was managed effectively with the weather obviously assisting the conditions this year.

## **PREVENTION OF HARM TO CHILDREN**

Challenge “21” was enforced by the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and his staff during the event.

The following details are the results of those checks:

NORTH – TOTAL = 6,342 checks including 14 rejections and 9 ticket confiscations

SOUTH – TOTAL = 8,247 checks – no rejections – most checks carried out on Friday when the campers were coming in.

CAMPSITE HUBS – TOTAL = 5,139 – LED’s were used in the campsites to inform customers that C21 was available from the info hubs.

BARS – TOTAL = 327 challenges – 142 recorded as refusals in the bars incidents books, 185 passes and bands issued.

Total Challenges – 20055

## **PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE**

Traffic plan worked well signage on A56 was as in the previous year with the Friday opening being its usual challenge but with no significant traffic problems. The Blue arrow plan was again greatly assisted by the provision of the Cheshire Police bike officers as a dynamic problem solving team. There were some issues in relation to a local public house and loss of trade due to road closures but to my knowledge this is being resolved by the promoters and will be looked at in the 2014 planning process by Blue Arrow.

Policing of the communities around the event was conducted using 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 Live Nation in co-operation with the community Inspectors was a first this year the local community welcoming the approach and the engagement of the promoters. On the whole views were very positive with the acceptance that the event was likely to be here to stay. There were some minor complaints regards rubbish and anti social behaviour but these were identified

and quickly dealt with. The introduction by the promoters of a community response team to deal with issues such as litter was welcomed by the community and as such would be recommended for the coming years.

I am not aware of any significant ticket tout activity as reports if any were limited.

## PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

This year the campsites for Creamfields 2013, again, opened on the Friday 23rd August at 12:00. This year's event capacity was for 45,000 camping with a day ticket capacity of 15,000 each day and an overall capacity of 59,999. The increase in day tickets was anticipated demand as a direct consequence of the very poor on site conditions following the previous year's weather.

Recorded crime for Creamfields 2013 was as follows showing a comparison with the two previous year's events.

Crime Type (Home Office Group)	Creamfields 2011	Creamfields 2012	Creamfields 2013
Criminal Damage	3	0	2
Drug Offences	281	95	99
Robbery	4	4	1
Theft	75	78	104
Violence Against a Person	10	9	13
Other	0	2	4
Sexual Offences	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>225</b>

This year it is very difficult to make a true comparison of recorded crime compared with Creamfields 2012 due to the event being cancelled on Sunday, and large numbers of attendees making their way home early. A more meaningful comparison would be against the figures from 2011.

There was a significant decrease in the number of drug offences for 2013 when compared with 2011. This difference is the refocus of the policing operation towards those individuals that are attending the festival in possession of drugs with the intention of dealing.

The approach for this year's event was similar to that of 2012 in that search staff were briefed to give attendees final chances to place items in the Surrender bins situated at each of the entrances. In previous years, attendees were not given this opportunity and this led to a high number of persons being cautioned for drug possession whereas the likelihood is that had they had the opportunity they would have disposed of it earlier. This change in approach has focused attention away from low level possession towards organised criminality intent on making money through the sale of drugs.

It is clear from the figures below that the joint search operation with Showsec appears to have been successful with the number of drug dealers arrested

increasing significantly from previous years. This did have its down side in that it put additional pressures on resources involved in the transportation of prisoners and also those officers tasked with dealing with the prisoners once in the cells. The staffing in this area will be subject for review in 2014 as in some ways the search operation becomes a victim of its own success.

<b>Breakdown of Offences</b>	<b>Total 2011</b>	<b>Total 2012</b>	<b>Total 2013</b>
Possession with Intent to Supply	19	31	57
Possession of Controlled Drugs	264	68	56
Theft of Motor Vehicle	0	0	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	0	0	0
Theft from Tent	2	0	0
Theft from Person	3	0	2
Assault	2	1	4
Robbery	0	0	0
Possession of Offensive Weapon	2	0	1
Fraud/Deception/money laundering/counterfeit	1	1	4
Public Order	3	4	1
Positive Breath Test	1	0	1
Wanted Persons	0	1	1
Drunk & Disorderly	0	3	2
Other	0	0	1
Criminal Damage	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>132</b>

As previously mentioned it is difficult to make a fair comparison against figures for previous year's events due to the cancellation of the 2012 event on the Sunday. The figures show a significant decrease in the number of arrests from 2011 to 2013 however showing a significant increase in the targeted area of possession with intent to supply drugs. The decrease in arrests is attributed to the more tolerant approach of the security and policing operation in giving attendees a number of chances to use the surrender bins provided and therefore avoid arrest and prosecution.

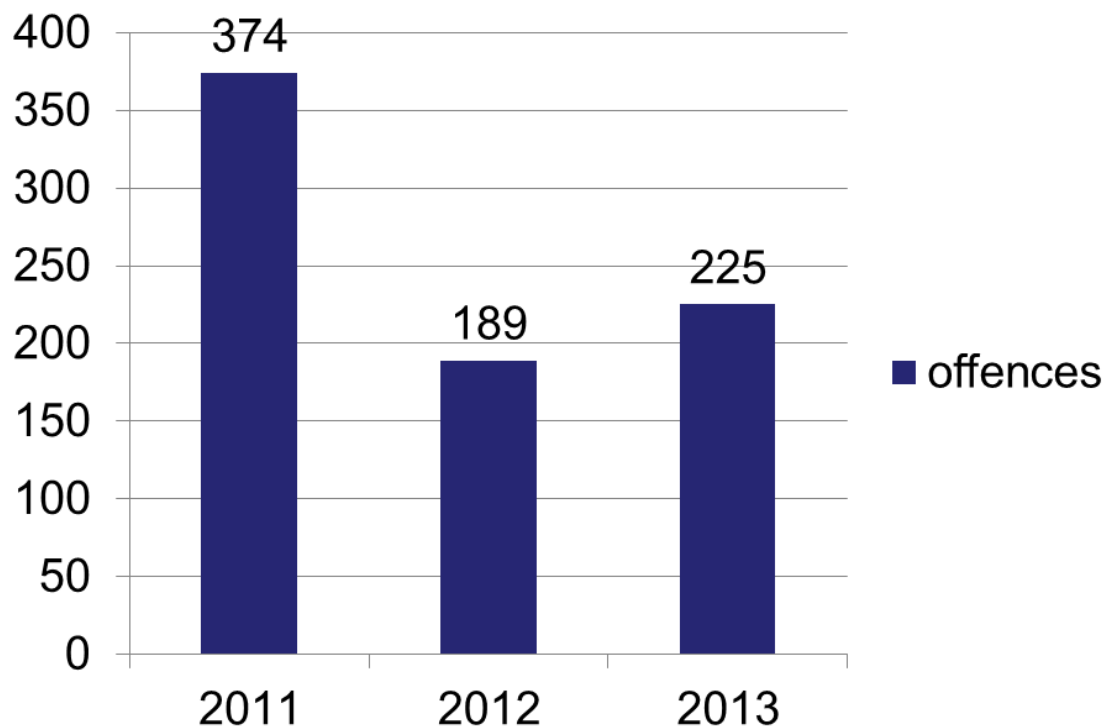
Key to the success of the operation this year was the excellent working relationship with the Showsec security management and staff and the sharing of vetted information assisting them in knowledge of potential methods of concealment when searching individuals.

It would be fair to say that the robust search operation presented to attendees will have a significant influence when deciding whether to make use of the surrender bins. The use of the surrender bins has reduced the need to caution people attending the event and thus freed time of security and police to focus on those individuals involved in organised criminality and attempting to get significant quantities of prohibited substances into the event.



## Conclusion

Creamfields 2013 saw a 40% decrease in overall recorded crime when compared against 2011 figures.



The improved searching at entrances and cooperation between police and security has led to a higher number of individuals who have been dealt with for serious drugs related offences.

Offences of Robbery fell to only one reported instance. Violence against the person shows a marginal increase however it is worthy of note that 10 of the 13 offences recorded occurred during arrest / detainment or in the process of ejection. There were only 3 recorded incidents of assault amongst attendees.

Of some concern is the increased number of theft offences on previous years increased by approximately 25%. In the main these were thefts of mobile phones from people's possession with a small number being from tents. The majority of the other theft offences were of wallets / purses' etc with a small number of necklaces being stolen from the owner's necks. The type of offences and the volume would tend to suggest that we had professional pick pocket teams working within the event. During the debrief process it was identified that a significant number of phones were found during and post event in the mud and therefore the police and promoters will need to look at a better process of communication to prevent recorded crimes for lost property.

The general atmosphere on the campsites was in the main perceived to be a safer environment than previous years benefiting from increased visibility of police and security.

The biggest difficulty from a policing perspective was getting police resources to incidents on the campsites and having resources in the right place at the right time. I have already identified that consideration will be given in the planning process for 2014 for the inclusion of mini campsite response teams.

Although violent crime has fallen there were still assaults and dangerous weapons recovered from the surrender bins showing that there is still a willingness within the minority to bring weapons to the event. The continued improvements in the search operation, the relationship between police and security is key to ensuring that this remains a downward trend.

This ongoing positive relationship is something that we will continue to build on through any planning process in 2014 to further reduce violent crime, the presence of weapons, illegal drugs, and impact on the increasing trend of thefts.

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 the new Organisers Live Nation

It is understood that the promoters Live Nation will seek to allow live music on the Friday rather than the continuation of the silent disco from 2013 as one of there requests. They will also look to have a long term licence granted.

Whilst there are no immediate objections to this due to the professional approach of the company this year this will clearly have implications on the policing of the event and the impact on the local community who will have their own view on any changes.

Importantly any increases in capacity of the event, changes in the dynamic of particular days is likely to require a review of policing numbers and this will need to be accepted by the promoters.

Inspector Stewart Sheer  
Cheshire Constabulary

## **Environmental Health Noise Report Creamfields 2013**

Environmental Health are responsible for ensuring the control of noise from the event and officers are involved in the planning for the event and meet regularly with the promoter's noise consultant to ensure that the requirements of the licence are met. With regards to noise, there were no major changes in the positioning of the stages or music tents from previous years. For this reason and after reviewing the numbers of noise complaints from previous years no officer worked on or off the site over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Seven complaints were received by Halton Council about the event with most indicating that Sunday night was louder than Saturday. This is a slight increase from previous years. No complaints were reported after 23:00 hrs.

Some complainants reported that this was the first year that they had been disturbed by the event. The warmer weather conditions and the change in wind direction this year resulted in areas of Halton being exposed to the noise that haven't in previous years which could have resulted in the increase in complaints.

Vanguardia were the appointed noise control consultants who as in previous years had consultants on and off site to monitor noise levels. Environmental Health are awaiting the noise monitoring report from Vanguardia for the event to establish if any licence conditions were exceeded and details of any complaints submitted via the residents hotline. Monitoring undertaken by Warrington Council indicated that no licence conditions were breached.