

REPORT: Regulatory Committee
DATE: 17 November 2014
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
PORTFOLIO: Resources
SUBJECT: Creamfields Event 2014
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 2014

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

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Creamfields Event application was granted on 23 January 2014 for an indefinite period for the 4 days over the August Bank Holiday each year (Friday 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 Reports on the event have been received from Cheshire Police and Halton Borough Councils Environmental Health and Health & Safety and the reports are set out at Appendix A.
- 3.5 The above responsible authorities have been invited to attend the Committee to introduce their reports and to answer any questions raised by the Committee. Warrington Borough Council was also invited to attend.

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 2014

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 for the second year, with support from the force planning team.

In the planning process for 2014 the police have worked with the event organisers and security to enable a continued process of improvement and development.

The relationship with key stakeholders Livenation, Cream and Showsec, has continued to be positive and one of co-operation and active problem solving looking to achieve a safe festival for all concerned.

The policing operation this year was, as in 2013, based mostly on site and a key change this year was the inclusion of the police deployment centre on site, rather than at HQ Winsford.

Security this year worked with the police in the planning process to introduce a concessions/staff search process to prevent drugs being brought into the event through this route. The plan was to introduce a Showsec lead search operation supported by the Cheshire police and, though not perfect, was successful and will be a permanent feature as the event goes forward. Discussions are already taking place regards the structure of the search for 2015.

The rationale for the event continues to be that the Police do not enter the arena unless it is absolutely necessary and was unchanged in 2014.

2014 saw more rain than in 2013 and with that the anticipated logistical challenges with ground conditions worsening over the event. It is, however, fair to say that they were much improved from 2012 and this is most likely down to the ground improvements commissioned by Livenation last year.

The greatest concern during the planning process in 2014 was the lateness of some of the road work projects which lead to delays in the completion of the Traffic Management Plan. The road did not, in-fact, have any significant impact on the traffic, though that is not to say that there were not difficulties as the Traffic Management (TM) plan will be one of the key areas of focus for future events.

Public Safety

Lighting of the A56, though resolved in 2013 with lighting time adjustments for the duration of the event, again became an issue this year with the sad death of a young male who it would appear has come out from the darkness into the path of an oncoming vehicle. The incident is still subject of an on-going investigation.

2014 again saw no Pedestrian Prohibition along the A56. With the obvious exception of the above incident there was no significant impact, though in conjunction with Livenation and Blue Arrow, we will be looking to see improvements in this area with modifications made to the TM plan.

Police numbers were again deployed at the request of Livenation on the campsites which, at capacity, now contain 55,000 campers. In order to improve police capability to attend promptly to any incidents the police logistics provided two buggies which also doubled as serious incident vehicles with crime scene preservation kit. This year the regular officers were supported by the Special Constabulary.

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.

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. This year saw the launch of the Creamfields Cops Twitter site to support this activity it is in its infancy and this will be developed further for the 2015 Event.

Again, the promoters had clearly put some time and resource into the site with the raising of some ground levels in place of bridges and the constant monitoring of the ground conditions.

Fence improvements from 2013 proved successful and, with a joint working operation between the police and Showsec, the event in 2014 did not face the same issues with attempts at fence jumping.

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 Entrance again worked well this year and continued to follow the thoughtful and measured approach, taking into account any elements of vulnerability prior to ejection.

A total of 170 ejections took place through the event and are much reduced from the 406 of 2013. It is worthy of note that these ejections were only from within the venue and do not include those turned away at the gates.

The ejections 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 was still a need for police resources again this year at the taxi ranks at the key egress times and, though any issues were resolved, this is still a problem area and will require further work at future events.

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.

Numbered vests on all of the security staff was in place again, allowing for all staff members, regardless of level, to be easily identifiable.

The provision of metal tracking around the site was managed effectively with the weather obviously being much more of a challenge to the site management team.

The main issues alluded to earlier were in relation to the transport on and off site at peak times which it is fair to say was problematic. As a result of the problems the key stakeholders in this particular area of the event, including the police, will be working together to ensure clear improvements for 2015.

The only other on site Creamfields related incident of note was the sad death of two general purpose security dogs which were found deceased in the rear of the security officer's van. This incident is still subject of investigation by the RSPCA. Provision of acceptable kennels is something that will be considered by either promoters Livenation or Showsec security for 2015.

PREVENTION OF HARM TO CHILDREN

Challenge "21" was enforced by the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and his staff during the event. In total there were 16000 checks conducted through the whole of the event.

In addition to the Challenge 21 process a protocol was agreed pre event for the safeguarding process for young person's attempting to gain entry to the event. This was mediated by the police and the process agreed by all agencies concerned.

PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

Traffic plan in the main worked well, Friday opening being its usual challenge but with no significant traffic problems. This did not remain the case through the event and it is accepted that at peak egress times there was significant congestion and difficulties in getting, especially larger vehicles, away from site. It is clear that the traffic management plan did not cope well with the poor conditions and the added change in the vehicle types in which people now choose to attend the event. Many more are now choosing to come by coach and mini bus and therefore the infrastructure needs to be designed for this.

Livenation has already started to look at new options to deal with the changes in order to minimize any future traffic issues and the police will be involved at all stages in this process. The Blue Arrow plan was again greatly assisted by the provision of the Cheshire Police bike officers as a dynamic problem solving team.

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 repeated for the second time 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 regarding rubbish and anti social behaviour 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.

The force was not aware of any significant ticket tout activity as reports of such, if any, were limited.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

This year the campsites for Creamfields 2014, again, opened on the Friday 22nd 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. The decrease in day tickets was as a direct consequence of heightened demand for camping tickets.

Recorded crime for Creamfields 2014 was as follows, showing a comparison with the previous year's event.

Crime Type (Home Office Group)	Creamfields 2013	Creamfields 2014	difference
Drug Offences	99	99	Same

Theft	104	82	-22
Violence Against a Person	13	8	-5
Criminal Damage	2	2	Same
Robbery	1	1	Same
Public Order	1	8	+7
Sexual Offences	2	3	+1
Sneak in Theft/Burglary	0	2	+2
Other	4	0	-4
Total	225	205	-20

As expected, drug offences continue to be high and are at the same level as last year. Theft offences continue to be high; however they are 21% lower than in 2013.

Arrest Summary

Total Arrested Persons = 69

Total on site Cautions = 47 (all for drug possession)

BREAKDOWN OF Arrests/cautions	Total 2013	Total 2014	difference
Possession with Intent to Supply	57	45	-12
Possession of Controlled Drugs	55	54	-1
Sec 5 Public order / BOP/Breach of s69 notice/D&D	3	8	+5
Fraud/Deception/money laundering/counterfeit	4	3	-1
Assault	4	2	-2
Wanted / FTA Warrant	1	2	1
Driving Offences	1	1	Same
Crim Damage	2	1	-1
Theft from person	2	0	-2
Possess Offensive weapon	1	0	-1
Other	1	0	1
Total	131	116	-11.5% (15)

Drugs Summary:

Surrender bins were again in operation at the festival, as were passive drugs dogs. There were 99 recorded incidents of persons being found in possession of drugs: 54 for possession and 45 for Possession with Intent to Supply (PWIT). Throughout the event it was reported that drugs were harder to source than previous years due to the effectiveness of the various entrance searches, this included the new search in place at the concessions / staff entrance.

Of note, is the off-site death of one male who had been to Creamfields with friends having taken drugs beforehand. Cause of death has been attributed to fatal toxicity overdosing on his return to his hotel room.

Whilst there is a link to Creamfields provided by the offenders, the males clearly came to the county with their own drugs cocktail. The death itself took place in a hotel remote from the site and as such it is clear that Liveness and Showsec were not in a position to take any other mitigating action.

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 likelihood of a death. It is unlikely that stake holders, including the police, could have taken any more action to prevent this sad death.

Public Order / Violence:

There were 8 reports of assault throughout the event non serious, 6 of which were in various campsites. Two of the assaults resulted in arrests for s39 assault.

There were 8 incidents of public order including breach of peace, POA, breach of s69 notice and drunk and disorderly. The offences involved aggressive behaviour and being verbally abusive. Fixed penalty notices and cautions were issued and offenders ejected from the site.

There was no change in the number of drug offences for 2014 when compared with 2013 with the focus of the policing operation remaining towards those individuals that are attending the festival in possession of drugs with the intention of dealing.

Again, the approach for this year's event was similar to that of 2013 to place items in the Surrender bins situated at each of the entrances. Once again, this was a successful approach, targeting the right people and maintaining the levels from 2014.

Key to the success of the operation this year was, once again, 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.

The robust search operation presented to attendees continues to 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 2014 saw a 9% decrease in overall recorded crime when compared against 2013 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.

The inclusion and the success of the concessions/staff search operation has made it even more difficult to get illegal substances into the event and therefore make the event even safer. There is a clear case to maintain this process in 2015 and discussions will be held early to establish new parameters for times and dates.

Offences of Robbery were again only one reported instance. Violence against the person shows a decrease amounting to 38%. The overall trend of reported crime is a reducing one, which is a great positive and efforts will be maintained into 2015 to ensure that this continues.

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 introduction of police buggies to respond to incidents on the campsites improved the ability of the police to get across the difficult terrain.

This on-going positive relationship is something that we will continue to build on through any planning process in 2015 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 the organisers, Livenation.

In conclusion, the 2014 event had no major issues other than the exceptions raised above.

The key improvements working together into 2015 will need to be:-

- The refresh of the traffic management plan, taking into the account the increases in coach and minibus usage.
- Development of the concessions and staff search
- Further development of the joint working approach

Inspector Stewart Sheer
Cheshire Constabulary

Environmental Health Creamfields Debrief 2014

Noise

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. However live music within tented structures was introduced on Friday 22nd August which didn't occur in previous years.

Several officers were on duty over the weekend two officers on Saturday 23rd August and two officers on Sunday 24th August who undertook noise monitoring off site and responded to complaints. Two staff were also on call Friday 22nd August to respond to complaints should they occur. Several complaints were received by Halton Council, 8 in total all of which were received on Sunday 24th August and most were from Sandymoor. During the weekend no breaches of the licence conditions were observed.

Food and Health & Safety

In general the team have a good working relationship with staff and contractors of Live nation and any issues identified are quickly resolved. Prior to the festival the temporary water supply was tested for microbiological quality at 6 points across the site to determine safety for human consumption. The supply is used for both drinking and washing by festival goers and staff. The supply was passed as fit for human consumption.

There were approximately 80 mobile catering units at the festival in 2014 – these were prioritised for inspection based on an assessment of risk which included feedback from the local authority where the unit originated. One unit was found to require urgent improvements before being permitted to trade. The team noted that there had been a move to more sophisticated food preparation to increase consumer choice and a provide more of a “street food” concept – this type of catering in a field based environment requires good food safety management.

No problems were identified with health and safety this year. However a prosecution is due in Crown Court in January 2015 relating to an incident at the site in 2012 in which an employee of a waste contractor suffered a serious facial injury. It should be noted this incident occurred under the previous festival management and did not involve any contractor employed at the 2014 festival.