

## **Appendix A**

### **CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY**

#### **REPORT TO HALTON LICENSING COMMITTEE REGARDING CREAMFIELDS 2008**

**Insp. 2912 Deborah Dodd  
(Police Planning Team Leader)**

This report summarises the views of Cheshire Constabulary regarding the planning and operation of the Creamfields 2008 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**

This year the event was significantly different from the previous two years due to the introduction of camping and the increased length of the event from one day / one night to a two day / two night event. The planning process took account of this and produced an operational plan following liaison with a variety of police and external specialists. The community was also involved in the planning process in the form of a community consultation group which met regularly in the months prior to the event.

The organiser agreed to all licensing conditions however the licensing process was somewhat challenging from the perspective of the police. The focus of the licensing process shifted from the organisers responsibilities to provide a safe event to tactical policing issues. Despite being advised that staffing and police tactics were not a legal requirement of the licensing hearing the committee and the community representatives continued to scrutinise the policing operation, thus diverting the hearing away from the applicant and the main purpose of the licensing process.

The Police were instrumental in forming a community consultation group made up of parish council representatives. Prior to the event this group met on a regular basis and the community's concerns and suggestions were taken in to consideration during the planning.

#### **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:

Saturday - 1487 people were age checked, 11 failed, 9 of which had no identification and the remaining two had identification which was either fake or questionable.

Sunday – 837 people were age checked, 16 failed, 10 of which had no identification and the remaining six had identification which was either fake or questionable.

In the first year of Creamfields (2006) 150 people were age checked and in 2007 there were 1500. As can be seen above there has been a significant increase in 2008 and seems to be more proactivity in this particular area by the DPS and his staff.

### **Prevention of Public Nuisance**

The major issue as in previous years regarding public nuisance related to visitors urinating in public. Despite the best efforts of the Community Police Officers the Community debrief highlighted that this was still a problem and a concern of the Local Community.

Additional to this preventative measures were put in place regarding the drinking of alcohol on the public highway. The area around the event is deemed to be a 'no alcohol zone' and although Police Officers and PCSO's were taking positive action to prevent this from occurring the Local Community gave feedback in relation to the fact that they wanted more signage in the area.

### **Prevention of Crime & Disorder**

The total number of crimes that occurred at Creamfields was significantly lower than other festivals of a similar nature across the Country.

The Police Planning Team carried out a large amount of work and intelligence gathering with other Police Event Planners and as this was the first time that the event had experienced camping it was anticipated that theft (from tents) and overall crime would be considerably higher.

The Police Planning Team reacted to this intelligence pre event and introduced a crime prevention strategy. They also developed a robust tactical plan during the event to deal with anticipated crime levels which proved successful.

The statistics below show crime levels for 2008 and the previous two years. Despite the fact that this event was longer and had the facility to camp unlike 2006 / 2007 there was no increase with crime levels.

#### **Total Crime committed specific to Cremefields event during 23rd to 25th August 2008**

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Detected</b>	<b>Undetected</b>	<b>Detection Rate</b>
<b>Drug Offences</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>97.7%</b>
<b>Violence Against the Person</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>66.7%</b>
<b>Theft</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Vehicle Crime</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>72.5%</b>

### Crime Committed at Creamfields 2006

<b>TYPE OF CRIME</b>	<b>NUMBER REPORTED</b>
Robbery	13
Violence against the person	18
Theft	42
Drugs	6
Vehicle Crime	8
Other	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>

### Crime Committed at Creamfields 2007

<b>TYPE OF CRIME</b>	<b>NUMBER REPORTED</b>
Robbery	1
Violence against the person	8
Theft	38
Drugs	111
Vehicle Crime	2
Other	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>

#### **Public Safety**

The Security Company and the Police worked together to ensure that the right level of SIA security staff were provided at the event.

The Event Liaison Team worked well for the police, the only issue that occurred was the opening times of the ELT which have been recognized at the multi agency debrief.

The Police set up a Security Sub Group involving the organiser, security and HBC emergency planner. Security issues were discussed prior to the event which included the provision of CCTV to a satisfactory standard.

#### **CONCLUSION**

From a police perspective the event was a success and it is felt that this was as a result of a well structured tactical plan, effective working relationships with the organizer and other agencies and community consultation.

#### **HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

### **Environmental Health - Noise (Wendy Salisbury Principal Environmental Health Officer)**

Environmental Health Officers assessed the potential impact of this year's event and the control measures being proposed. Recommendations were made to ensure that noise impact was kept to the minimum in the context of such an event. Maximum music noise levels were set in the license and these were tested jointly by the noise consultant and environmental health staff by using of noise propagation tests prior to the event between 11:00 and 12:00 hours on the day of the event.

The Environmental Health Division mobilised 15 staff working in shifts throughout the event to monitor and control noise and respond to complaints.

A suitably qualified noise consultant was appointed who stationed representatives in each tent who were regularly undertaking tests of noise levels at the sound mixer positions to ensure compliance with the license conditions. All readings were made available to the Council's Environmental Health Officers. An environmental health officer was on site at key times of the event to shadow the noise consultant and respond to issues. Halton staff off site responded to complainants both in Halton and some complaints within Warrington due to communication difficulties between Warrington residents and Warrington Borough Council.

A number of complaints were received about elevated noise levels from the concert, the main complaint issue being the persistent low bass noise. On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2008 Halton received seven noise complaints six of these from the Warrington area. On 24<sup>th</sup> August Halton received ten complaints all of these from the Warrington area. A further two complaints were received on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> August and one on 30<sup>th</sup> August all within Warrington area. The complaints referred to loud music from the concert over the weekend. Officers from Halton were of the opinion that for short periods of time noise from the concert was louder than in previous years, particularly within Moore on Saturday, and on those occasions officers did monitor minor breaches of the licence conditions. Immediately officers became aware that noise levels were increasing they contacted both the noise consultant on site, Vanguardia, and the council's representative. The weather conditions on the night, SE wind, may have contributed to the increase in noise levels at this location.

### **Environmental Health: Health & Safety, Food Safety & Standards (Yee May Sung Principal Environmental Health Officer)**

The Health & Safety service welcomed early contact and timely responses to enquiries from Creamfields staff.

The only concern noted by officers was the number of unauthorised personnel wandering in areas not open to the public on Saturday morning. When challenged by officers, it was found that persons had genuinely wandered behind scenes by mistake, possibly due to poor signage or supervision.

Early notification of almost all businesses allowed the Service to carry out vital food safety checks on nearly all businesses attending. No problems were encountered with these food businesses prior or during the event. The official on site caterer in particular was found to be of an excellent standard.

However, for some reason, food stalls in the Continental market had not been notified to this Service and they were found to be of a poor standard. We must reiterate that all food concerns, caterers and food stalls, should be reported well before the event to allow officers to check registration with the original local authority.

**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (Philip Ramsden Principal Environmental Health Officer [Customer Services])**

The Creamfields 2008 Festival took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend and for the first time there was on site camping and the event was over two days. Extending to two days did have an adverse effect on the residents in terms of the extended period of disruption within the area. Additionally, and more directly, the higher perceived and measured noise levels in areas for periods of time on both Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Measured noise levels at the agreed monitoring points inside the tents and in front of the main stage were within the levels set by both Halton BC and Warrington BC. When individual acts or bands exceeded the maximum level in short term measurements, the levels were reduced within the 15 minute monitoring periods, to achieve compliance.

At no time did the measured levels, taken outside residents homes exceed the levels within the Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Pop Concerts, however, the perception was that the noise was much louder than in previous years and beyond that which residents and Officers found acceptable.

Discussion has taken place between the consultants for the event, Vanguardia, and Officers from both Halton and Warrington. This discussion included the consideration of all the monitored noise data, both inside and outside the event. The metrological conditions throughout the event were considered and an explanation for the higher off site noise levels was sought.

Despite the orientation of the site being broadly the same as 2006 and 2007 the off site noise levels were very different in different areas. In 2008 both the measures and perceived noise levels in Hatton and Daresbury were much lower than in previous years. The noise levels on the A57 and to the North of the site were subjectively much louder, but with measured levels within the curtilage of the residents homes were below the levels in the code of practice.

I am satisfied that these elevated levels were due to meteorological effects, the effects of temperature and wind speed and vector correlate well with the increase in perceived and measured noise levels off site. [This phenomena is discussed at length and in detail by P H Parkin and W E Scholes in their 1965 paper published in the Journal of Sound and vibration] This view was confirmed with Vanguardia who had experienced similar effects at other venues during the inclement summer of 2008.

Metrological effects can not be controlled by conditions on a license and can not be anticipated more than a few hours in advance. Working with Halton and Vanguardia we would hope to increase the off site monitoring in 2009 [should a license be granted] and establish a better system of communication OFF / ON site to avoid any confusions as to the relationship between the measured dance floor levels and the off site levels. In addition we would like to see access to the metrological data from Police Silver Command rather than relying on data from off site monitors some distance away.

The on site camping appears to have had little effect on local residents and once again the traffic management plans were reactive in addressing local hot spots of congestion. Work is already underway to improve the arrangements with both Halton

and Loudsound who produce the event. The first meeting of the All Agencies Working Group is scheduled for the end of February.