

Meeting: GFEL x Pilton Parish Council Meeting Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 18:00

Venue: Pilton Working Man's Club

# Present:

Gareth	Pike	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Melvin	Benn	GFEL
Steve	Russell-Yarde	GFEL
Mark	Cann	GFEL
Jen	Mackley	GFEL
Claire	Connock	PPC
Kelly	Sumner	PPC
Nick	Hall	PPC
Tom	Hollings	PPC
Roger	Noble	PPC
Richard	Woodhouse	PPC
Marietta	Gill	SC
Kevin	Bird	Stambridge Security

# MEETING NOTES

Item	Matters Arising	Action	
1	<u>Apologies</u>		
	Paul Hooper (GFEL) Owen Powell (PPC), Terry Moulder (PPC), Lynda Allen (PPC)		
2	Protocols for Meeting Management  MC  [Leads introductions and explains how the meeting will work.]		
3	GFEL update and overview – 2023. – MB.		
	<ul> <li>Overall the 2023 Festival went well. A lot to be pleased with, and as ever, a few things that need some rethinking,</li> <li>2 core priorities from SC that we worked on: 1) Noise - made good in roads and working continually to reduce impact offsite generally, using technological advancements and changes on site. SC in general agreed. Didn't breach any conditions.</li> <li>2) Overcrowding and perception from 2022 that overcrowded. Did still feel busy and hasn't completely gone away. From GFEL audit perspective - no excess ticket sales or pass allocations. Pedestrian gates very good, vehicle gates need some work and a focus for 2024, Any small numbers that may have got in without a ticket wouldn't make a difference to the sense of overcrowding. Still a very clear focus.</li> <li>Crowd behaviour around Elton John, which MB hasn't witnessed before. Walked a full circuit of the site and market areas, but areas almost completely empty which is unprecedented - particularly in scale of attendance.</li> <li>Work for 2024 will be around site layout, walkways, to help reduce the feeling of busyness for 2024 as this is where it's felt the most. Campsites weren't overflowing and facilities all good.</li> <li>KS – query re the sound testing of a new system in Germany discussed at a previous PPC meeting. MB – confirmed the test did go ahead, kit performed really well but not completely ready to be used in an outdoor environment. The system is currently being used in the new Las Vegas venue the Sphere but not ready for outdoor use. There is a different system that was used for Arcadia – with great results. – but a benchmark has been set by Holoplot and technology evolving quickly.</li> </ul>		



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- SRY Traffic worked extremely well. Tuesday proved more of a challenge than previously, due to a combination of build traffic and customer arrivals. Looking to manage flow with additional CSAS. Would like better traffic egress on the Monday.
- Lorries in the village noted as an early issue, more stewards were brought in earlier and will be working to improve this for 2024 particularly working with the offsite campsites.
- Village passes being sold online and need to work with the PC to consider how best combat this.
- Work continuing to improve on security and stewarding in the village.
- There was a lot of pressure on the traffic egress on Sunday night due to the Elton John set, and a large number of people all leaving at once. Don't anticipate this being a pattern that is repeated.
- Sensors have proved invaluable for the data needed to implement the 20mph and thanks to RN for pushing to have these.

### 4 Pilton Village Issues;

- KS -Have reached out to villagers for feedback and collated for the meeting.
   Overcrowding did get mentioned.
- NH overcrowding not necessarily a parish council matter, but concerns expressed that people going over the fence close to the village, so concerns around security of local villagers raised which shouldn't be dismissed.
- MB not in any way condoning people jumping the fence, but comments made in opening discussion around sense of overcrowding inside fully in agreement that issues of people entering the village to try and access the sites is an issue to be taken seriously.
- TH would like to congratulate GFEL on the changes to the Williams Green and Carhenge as made a significant improvement to the busyness of the site. Improvements to Glade crossroads also needed. MB on the agenda for 2024.

#### Speeding:

- KS pleased that a 20mph will be implemented, but would be good to understand how this will be monitored and checked.
- GP can feedback to local neighborhood policing team who may be able to support the local speed checking – joint venture to support with evidence to follow up with enforcement. ACTION GP

 KS – concerns raised around speeding near Mary's Gate, Pylle Road, area as well as the main road. RN – speed of traffic in Top Street during the festival unacceptable and a lot of vehicles using Top Street without passes this year, and concerned accidents may happen.

## Green carpark:

- MB very happy to continue with the sensors for this year, but the input of the dedicated village traffic group, is a real step forward as hopefully provides direction to the Festival.
- NH would like to make clear that the remit of the Village Traffic group is year round traffic and not the Festival and terms of reference specify this. Discussion around focus of village traffic group with action to check terms of reference around input into Festival matters and feedback to the next meeting. ACTION PPC
- RW would like to make a huge thank you to Steve for significantly improving conditions in West Compton been the best year in at least 35 years. Would just ask that control starts earlier on the Tuesday.
- MB has made a long term commitment to investing in the village by providing sensors, and options for residents entering the village to access the carpark effects this as well.

GP

**PPC** 



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Keen to facilitate the entry of local residents to the festival site to minimise both the use of green carpark and reduce local traffic .

### Villagers' entry to site.

- MB very much agree that we should facilitate access to the festival site for the local residents, and clear that green car passes being sold on the internet.
- KS Approx 490 residences in the village and approx. 2,000 spaces seems like a lot.
- MB would like to take more control of use, potentially sell green passes with the
  income coming back to village funds, but a possible way of stopping the sale of the village
  passes internally.
- NH positive step forward and multiple reasons for people to have green passes and good for discussion.
- KS will take this away and discuss internally. At the very least if we're going to have the traffic, village could benefit. Action PPC

**PPC** 

### **Mobile Connectivity:**

- KS personally had issues with no phone or internet provision during, and slightly before the Festival. Working from home challenging due to traffic preventing people getting to the office, but no connectivity.
- MB would like a full list of issues raised to go directly to the GFEL comms lead to review and go back case by case. Action PPC

**PPC** 

#### **Noise Levels:**

- NH Doesn't' agree with MB's assessment that they were better issues were still there
  but different. Fundamental problem that there is no condition overnight, and no
  monitoring being undertaken overnight. There used to be a midnight curfew but now
  there's a significant issue.
- MB there's never been a midnight curfew, we abide unequivocally and completely with the licence and the law, and we abode by the conditions of the licence.
- TH subjectively from his position in the centre of the village felt better than the previous year which was extremely loud.
- RN music went on till 4-6 am, noise loud in Top Street.

## **Security and Stewarding:**

- KS quality of security and stewarding poor, levels of communication and English speaking poor, attention to the role compromised by people using mobile phones, barriers unmanned during change overs. Police would be better at the key checkpoints.
- GP unfortunately availability of officers doesn't make this an option.
- NH this is now extremely serious and commitment to improving security not enough.
- KS they're not adequately briefed and numerous examples of inability to deliver services properly.
- MB does agree improvements to be made and working on a long a long term plan.
   Looking to recruit for a new full time, year round role, with a focus on security, ideally located in the village with a commitment to managing the security of the village during the event. Wants full commitment from this person to be looking at getting to know local residents, and committing to looking at all village issues.
- RN didn't identify any positive examples of security staff, mainly disengaged and letting traffic into the village. Carnival stewards work better than some of the security staff.



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- MB is looking to reduce some security and replace with competent carnival club stewards.
- SRY There is an intention to supply local stewards to compliment the offsite security who have good working knowledge of the local area. Looking to improve checking on this.
- NH need to have a better way of dealing with coordination of security. Crimes reported aren't being dealt with.
- GP reported crimes are difficult to respond to with no witnesses, but need a picture building up and rely on information coming in from the public to build a pattern. There is a facility within crime data to sort on beat codes, rurally – the areas these codes cover are a larger geographical area. Can consider better ways of interrogating data going forward.
- MC essentially GFEL and MB is offering a fresh approach to try and simplify and address the issues and will be keeping the PC updated.
- GP we do have a dedicated offsite policing operation to support people calling in to report issues. Would encourage parish council to communicate the need to report low level crimes to the police which helps them deploy resources to the right place at the right time.
- TH would like to see more active police patrols through the village. GP there are dedicated village patrols throughout the village 24 hours a day but covering a few other areas.

### Pollution in Whitelake River;

- NH have addressed this with the environment agency, and report back. Routine monitoring of the river continuing as per usual, and information on the drugs issues.
- MB will await any further input from the Parish Council as and when decide next steps.

#### **Offsite Campsites:**

- RN large number of cars in the village associated with offsite campsites. This includes taxis and generates unnecessary traffic. Some campsites have tickets to sell, and hospitality, and as people acquire more land, will increase the problem.
- KS it's not within the Festivals power to stop offsite campsites or prevent them happening so difficult to add to the agenda.
- NH there is a requirement for offsites campsites to have a TEN's licence and there is a need to deal with it through this route.
- KS only leverage can see if enforcing the alcohol sales and entertainment.
- NH- Glastonbury won't be proactive on this as it's not their responsibility. But if there's nuisance generated from it needs to be dealt with by the Parish Council. Joint letter written etc, but I think the parish council needs to look at options to deal with it.
- MG if there's a site that causing you a noise or general nuisance, let them know. SC don't generally have the power to object

## Pilton Village Residents Input

#### MOP-

- Offsite campsites are run by local residents and people are not always unhappy with these operations.
- Security staff had previously been asking people coming home to Pilton if they had village



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tickets, en route and this wasn't done this year – the extra check does need to be done. Did have an incident but called both the hotline and police and had a positive experience but essentially the problems were exacerbated by lack of ticket checking.	
Village seemed darker, - was there enough festoon?	
MOP	
<ul> <li>Noise significantly improved in Cockmill and would like to say thank you.</li> <li>Reconfiguration of barrier up at the top of the railway line problematic and would have been unable to access site without T&amp;C access.</li> <li>Traffic to and from winding lake causing issues on Cockmill Lane .</li> </ul>	
SRY – will review staff access gates and look at mechanisms. – <b>ACTION SRY</b>	SRY
<ul> <li>Incident near their property – would like to see the re-introduction of police dogs which proved really helpful before but was advised by ASC they didn't have dogs for 2023, but only drones.</li> </ul>	
- GP – will speak to the team about resources. MB will also follow up. ACTION GP / GFEL	GP / GFEL
<ul> <li>Few security issues starting from coronation week but no one to call from GFEL so need an earlier point of contact.</li> </ul>	GILL
<ul> <li>MOP – when do clean up crews access the site, and do they have accommodation on site? One was sleeping in their backgarden. MB – good point and will look in. ACTION – GFEL</li> </ul>	GFEL
<ul> <li>Call made to the hotline Tuesday after the event but no immediate response to the issues. Needs to be continued post event.</li> </ul>	
AOB	
RN – data from the traffic count hasn't been circulated? SRY – can resend.	
Was there litter pick during the event? - Confirmed yes	
Proposed 2024 Meetings – TBC	