

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 8

meeting date: TUESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2016
title: SUMMER DAYS FESTIVAL AT CLITHEROE CASTLE
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 The report requests approval for alterations to the minute previously agreed (Minute15, No 1, 2/06/15).

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To encourage economic development throughout the Borough, with specific focus on tourism.
- Other Considerations – To develop, with relevant partners, measures to support the visitor economy.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 This Committee approved “the staging of a music event on the Castle field for 2016, subject to the normal licence approvals and confirmation by the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group of the promoters’ arrangements”. At the time, the scale and scope of the event required clarification with the promoter and the Fire Officer in terms information and detail. That was provided in a number of reports during 2015. It was previously reported that the availability of artists would determine the schedule of the event.

2.2 The promoter has engaged Ground Control Ltd to manage the event. They are responsible for Manchester’s Park Life, Kendal Calling and Festival No 6 amongst other significant events.

3 PROPOSALS

3.1 The promoter is still planning a three day festival and is requesting the following amendments to his original proposal to ensure that the event offers the best experience for the audience attending: Three days over Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, not using Sunday. This has been changed to Wednesday, due to availability of the head line act. The promoter as Members will be aware has booked Simply Red and other artists for Wednesday, 6 July, 2016. The line-up for Friday, 8th is Jools Holland and Caro Emerald, with Saturday, 9th July yet to be announced. Gates will open at 1pm each day and although their premises licence application states a later time, they will be working to a 10pm curfew for music, with the crowd dispersing thereafter, either into town, their homes or accommodation locally. The rationale for the later time in the premises licence is to future proof the event should members agree in future years to allow the event to be staged later into the evening. It is expected that event area will be clear of spectators by 11pm. There may be some load out of equipment by bands playing on the day up to midnight, which could cause some disturbance.

- 3.2 The capacity for the event as agreed with the Fire Officer is 10,999 including staff working on the event. The Castle field was the original area to be used, the promoter having revisited their plans is seeking to utilise other parts of the Castle grounds including; the Bandstand and the grass area alongside of it for refreshments, the hard standing area by the side of the skate park, the bowling green itself, plus the cafe to enable people to have a wider area to enjoy real ales and locally sourced foods. The event would be all ticket and once in the secured area, no re-entry will be possible for anyone leaving it. The footpaths around the area would be kept open wherever possible, although there will be times during load in and load out when relevant access gates and paths will be unavailable for safety reasons. Also the wider event footprint will restrict access to certain areas of the grounds for non-ticket holders when the event is on.
- 3.3 The Castle play area will be closed for use at 6pm on the three event days.
- 3.3 Consultation with the Grand and the Lancaster Foundation have been undertaken and it is proposed that the skate park would be closed from 2pm on the 3 event days. As part of this consultation, the Grand are also planning events which will be complimentary to the Festival. Tickets for the Festival have also been available from the Grand, so people can buy their tickets from a local box office.
- 3.4 The load in of equipment for the event will commence on or about 29 June, 2016 and the load out will be completed by Thursday 14 July, 2016. The attached plan shows the proposal (appendix A). For comparison the original submission is provided (appendix D).
- 3.5 The footpath from the Eshton Terrace entrance which goes to the right of the main field will be closed for access once the perimeter barrier is installed. The footpath to the left leading to the Trinity Church exit would be available for non-ticket holders throughout the period of use by the event, unless vehicle access made it unsafe for certain periods. During the event itself this footpath would be available to the general public to traverse the Castle grounds, though it would need to be monitored by security staff to prevent any build-up of pedestrian numbers which could cause issues of control. Where necessary pedestrians would need to be asked by event security to move on. A similar situation would prevail with the high level footpath below the Castle keep, which would be open throughout the event. The hatched plan in Appendix B shows the extent of the site layout required by the promoter.
- 3.6 A full Resident & Community Impact Management Plan as part of the planning process will be put together. Measures used elsewhere have included: information about the event sent both direct; published in local papers and put up as notices prior to the event going ahead.
- 3.7 It is planned that an independent and mobile noise monitoring person will be provided, who can visit residents during the event to ensure noise levels are not going beyond license conditions. The exact noise level at residences is yet to be determined.
- 3.8 A lighting plan has been drawn up showing the likely areas where stage and additional lighting will impact. Appendix C.
- 3.9 As part of the festival there will be outlets selling a range of food and drink, where possible this will be locally sourced. The promoter is planning a high quality refreshment offer, Nigel Haworth is the Ambassador for Food for the event, this is seen by the promoter as a particular USP to help differentiate this event from others in the region. The area is shown on the plan alongside the bandstand.

Ribble Valley suppliers will be given first priority to supply and where possible local companies will be selected; some national brands will also be offered to compliment the local offer.

The promoter has discussed these proposals with the President of Clitheroe Chamber of Trade and Commerce, who is supportive of the Festival.

- 3.10 Applications are now being taken from suppliers for stalls at the event, the information on applying has been sent to Clitheroe Chamber of Commerce members as well as being advertised on the event website. It is likely that there will be up to 12 food suppliers per day.

Drink

In addition to the bars serving volume there will be a real ale area, champagne and cocktail bar. Again local Lancashire breweries will be given first priority to supply the beers.

Ice Cream / Afternoon Teas

There are plans to make a feature of this. Again local suppliers will be contacted.

Festival Stalls

It is anticipated that there will be an area for festival stalls, selling non food and drink items

- 3.11 The promoter has asked if they can secure the entire Castle grounds every evening overnight from dusk on Tuesday, 5 July until dawn on Monday, 11 July, 2016, using their own security. This is to protect the stock and equipment they have on site. If agreed this would prevent any public access through the night on those days.
- 3.12 The promoter asked that the Council provide him with a letter of approval for the event and not permit any similar large scale music event on the area during the same period, to avoid conflict with his event. This Committee approved that in June 2015 and it has been supplied.
- 3.13 A premises licence has been applied for and that will be determined separately by Licensing later in January 2016.
- 3.14 Arising from the decision of this Committee a land licence will be drawn up between the Council and the promoter which details, the days of use, times, footprint, public access and fee. This will be based on the Council's normal terms and conditions applicable to agreements entered into.
- 3.14 The promoter has held several meetings with bodies such as the emergency services and Lancashire County Council to try and address the many issues which an event like this has to consider.

4 ISSUES

- 4.1 Events by their very nature cause a degree of disturbance and interfere with the normal day to day activities of the people in the surrounding area. However they also are enjoyed by large numbers of people. They bring a positive economic impact to the area and the promoter is planning to discuss accommodation options with local camp sites and other providers. Although this is a three day event, unlike other music festivals there will be no onsite accommodation and though some people may chose to attend all three days, it is likely that people will determine which day to attend based on the line up of artists.

- 4.2 The proposals submitted by the promoter to-date have provided a sensible step towards minimising the impact the event in the Castle would have on local people. By the very nature of the event it is not possible to remove all impacts; however the promoter is working with a professional event company who have extensive experience of staging major music events. Parking will inevitably be a significant issue for visitors outside of the immediate area and arranging suitable parking is a priority for the promoter as part of their traffic management plan.
- 4.3 The fee agreed previously with the promoter for the hire of the space was £6,000 based on the use of the use of the Castle Field. In addition to this sum, a refundable bond of £1,000 was required for any reinstatement of damage to the area if any arose as a result of staging the event. Members may wish to consider a revised sum assuming that the larger area for the event is agreed by members. There is no comparable event to compare with, which is staged on Council owned land owned by RVBC.
- 4.4 The land agreement which the promoter needs to sign to contract with the Council for the permission to use the Castle grounds has been drawn up. If Committee agrees to the recommendations the document would be signed and form a legally binding agreement between the Council and promoter. Although separate to the Premises Licence which the promoter is also seeking from the Council, it is complementary to it.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report may have the following implications:
- Resources – The event discussed will not be underwritten by the Council, nor promoted as such. It will be on Council land for which the Council will charge for any services required. In addition the Council will receive a commercial fee for the use of the space to stage the event.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal – Events by their nature have an impact on the surrounding area, this event will be considered by RVSAG, where the statutory bodies can examine and comment on the proposals being submitted by the promoter. The hearing for the premises licence has yet to be held.
 - Reputation – Tourism is an integral part of the Borough's offer and events that are well run and of high quality will help to promote the Borough and the businesses based within it.

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Note the changes proposed by the promoter to arrangements for the event this year and agree to the proposals as set out.
- 6.2 Determine if the fee for the hire of the space required is sufficient.
- 6.3 Determine if the Castle grounds can be closed to any public access each evening from dusk until dawn for the period Tuesday 5 July until Monday 11 July.
- 6.4 Delegate the Director of Community Services to sign the land agreement for the event with the promoter on behalf of the Council.
- 6.5 Delegate the Director of Community Services to continue negotiations in relation to the event and to receive regular updates on progress to this Committee.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

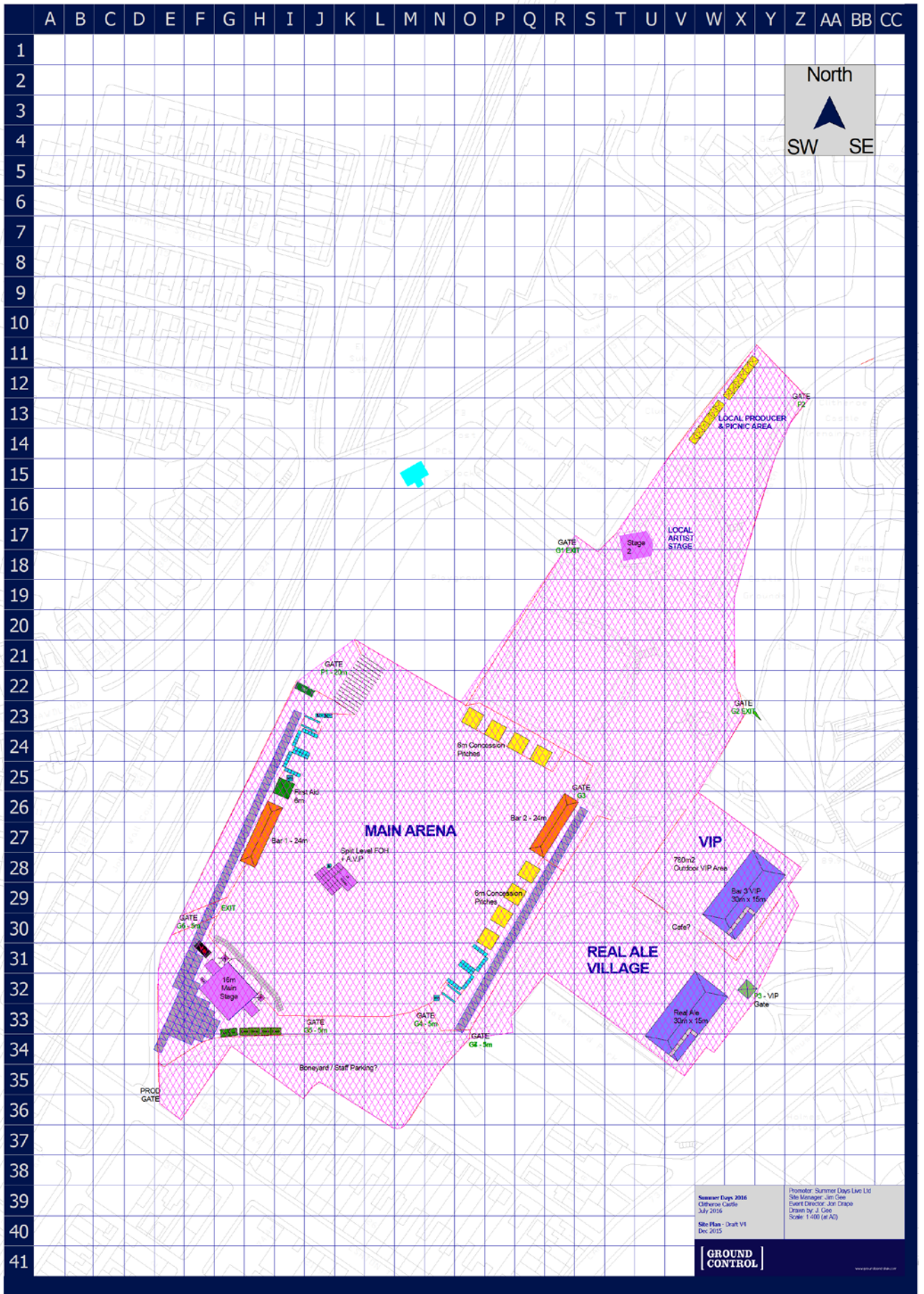
JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

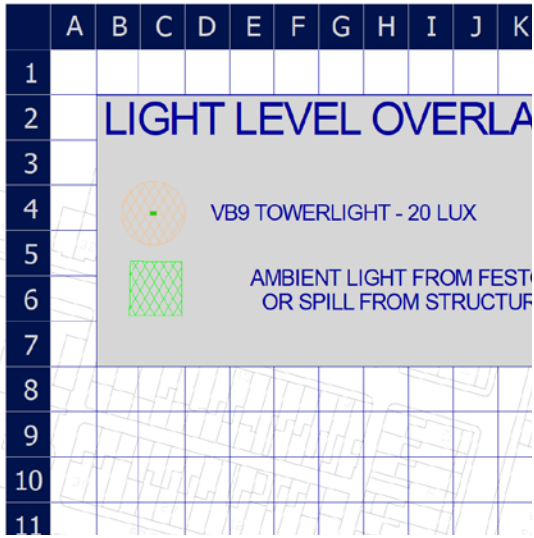
Agenda Item, Community Services Committee 10 March, 2014

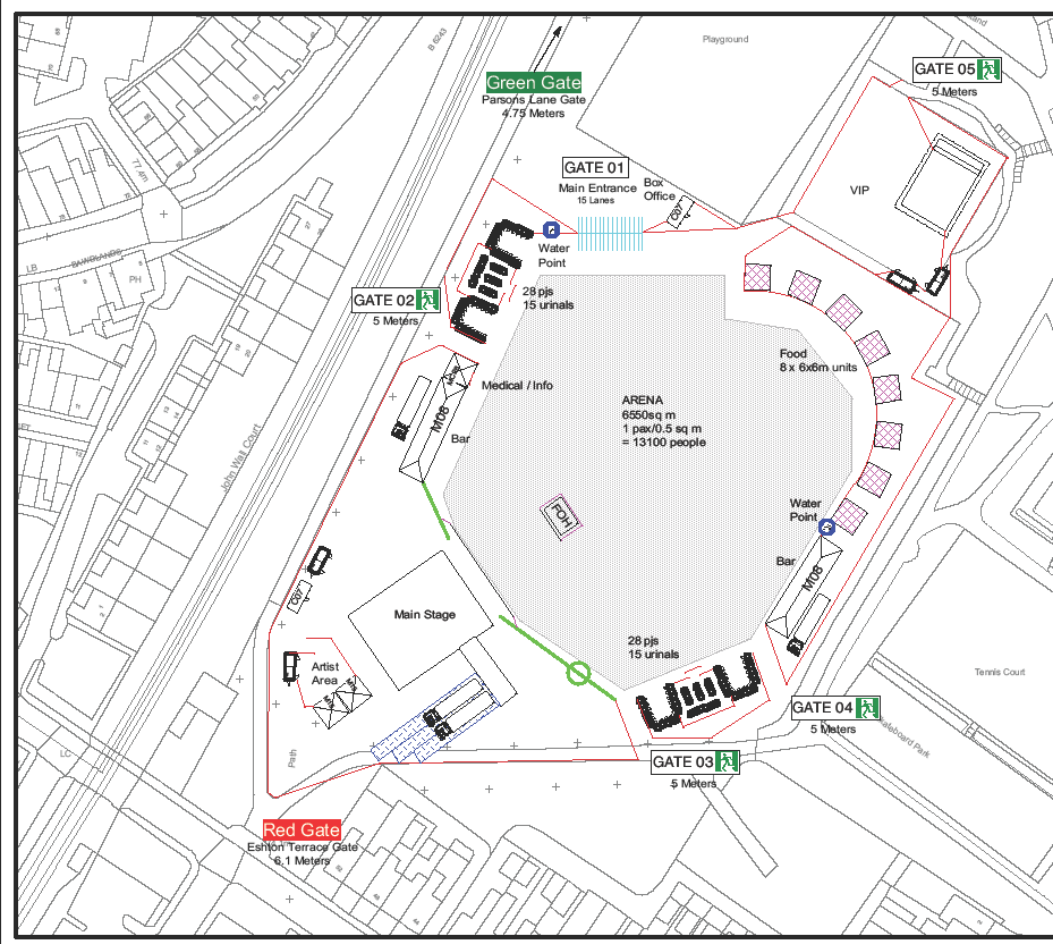
For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge, extension 4479.

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APPENDIX B





APPENDIX D