

Heaton Park Event Community Consultation Group

Parklife De-brief



Wednesday 20 October 2021, 5.15pm, MS Teams Online Meeting

Attendees:

Paul Toner
Carragh Godolphin Teague
Andrew McCleary
Steve Garnett
Councillor Alan Quinn
Pauline Powell
Jon Drape
Kirsten Flanagan
Mohamed Mir
Councillor Shelley Lanchbury
Anthony Ofili
Steven Taylor
Naomi Davies
Councillor Richard Gold
Councillor Deborah Quinn
Kenneth Freer

Welcome and introductions

Parklife presentation

- Jon Drape from Parklife talked through the presentation, which is to be shared after the meeting, and he acknowledged that:
- The Wilton Arms had become a significant footfall area for people to meet/drop off/have a drink
- The operation designating Bowker Vale as the tram stop for those leaving the event failed, as people walked to Prestwich for the tram and by the time it got to Bowker Vale it was then full
- Councillor Alan Quinn and Richard Gold have suggested using minibuses and double decker buses to pick up any stragglers at the end of the event in future and ferry them to the city centre
- Noise was atmospheric and down to which way the wind was blowing. More can be done about that next year
- He would like to see the Community Fund exceed £100k next year
- Dates for the next Parklife event are 11 and 12 June 2022.

Feedback

Councillor Deborah Quinn suggested closing the road and having a designated pedestrian walkway that would make it easier and safer for those walking to Prestwich, with the addition of some more security. It could be advertised, ensuring people use it

- Jon Drape acknowledged there were narrow footways on Whittaker Lane and said he had no issues with Parklife implementing the idea of a designated pedestrian walkway but would need Bury Highways to support it

Paul Toner thought it went well overall but thought there should have been a road closure sign at the junction of St Margaret's and Heywood Old Road on Sunday, when security hadn't turned up. Stewards did a good job of turning people around when they were actually there. There was no entrance address on the Parklife Website, just Heaton Park. The correct entrance was put on Facebook later, which helped.

Ken Freer said that police shut the slip road to the roundabout, which wasn't in the plans, and residents should have received notice. Ken's evening out was ruined, as he had to get home early. Closing the slip road just transferred the problem elsewhere. Police hadn't attended local meetings with residents. An alternative pick-up point that clears traffic earlier is needed, if there's too much. The road was closed to traffic at Old Hall Lane, which was better this time. There were issues with unlicensed taxis and people urinating and there were no barriers at the end of Old Hall Lane.

- Jon said that the police make decisions based on safety (slip road closure) but can provide feedback to GMP re the impact on local residents
- More barriers can be added to resources next year (Old Hall Lane), with pedestrian walkway
- Jon saw first-hand the issues with taxis

Naomi Davies found the Debrief Meeting frustrating, listening to lots of individuals stories, which she felt was not a good use of anyone's time. She had typed into the Microsoft Teams 'Chat' a suggested format for future meetings (see below)

- Simple survey that goes out just prior to this meeting (like idea: that we might have more informal 1-1 chats pre meeting (top 3 issues etc.)
- 10 min limit on presentations
- Survey can lead to some intentions/actions already started or planned
- Survey also does show up what needs to be an agenda item
- Items can be clarified at the session
- Actions and mop up

Naomi felt that it was crucial to get more people involved in the consultation as there wasn't a broad enough perspective. Attitudes from the Critical Incident Team at times was 'your problem isn't as big as this problem' etc. Naomi's neighbour managed to get her garden cleaned up, but everything was swept into Naomi's garden. There was street trading which was dealt with but took ages to do so. There is an incremental growth of what happens, to make better so how do we get on top of this, like the bus problem for instance? If the buses picking up stragglers are 'free' then people are going to wait around for those

- Carragh and Jon could split any questions prior to the meeting in future and welcome more people to become involved in the consultation
- The pick-up buses would be 'free'. We wouldn't want lots of people waiting around but it's an option worth exploring
- Carragh will provide feedback to staff re Naomi's comments about the CIT Call Centre

Councillor Alan Quinn said that some businesses felt let down; he had received 6 complaints via email. Councillors Alan and Deborah Quinn along with Councillor Richard Gold went to the control room and all seemed ok. They were out until 12.30am on Saturday and there were just a few stragglers left, who were ok. The kids were great; the best they'd ever seen. The Councillors were out until 11pm on Sunday, and again all was ok. Councillor Quinn's overall perception was that Parklife was getting better.

The double decker buses idea and the money raised for the Community Grant are great!

Councillor Richard Gold said that a negative of the event was the quality of security which he hopes will improve next year. There were issues with security staff leaving their posts. Minibuses to pick up at the end of the night is a great idea. Noise level was better this year; there have been quite a few comments on that. Parking permits at the beginning was a disaster. There were genuine mistakes which were out of Parklife's control but everything else seemed to be tightened up on.

How do we get people on the Metro? There were some issues with people trying to get on a tram, but they had stopped running.

- Jon said the trams don't stop running until the area is clear of people, and there is now improved signage for transport hubs
- Councillor Deborah Quinn said that Whittaker Lane was lift-dependent and she is currently lobbying TFGM re people with buggies and people with disabilities etc. There might be money for a safe line out of Prestwich

Anthony Ofili had to leave the meeting but put the following feedback into Microsoft Teams 'Chat'.

Thanks for the debrief info Jon.

Just wanted to say that the security staff marshalling Upper Wilton Street / Wiseman Terrace did an excellent job. If that level of security could be maintained going forward that would be great. Thanks.

At times they did almost too good a job, meaning we had to go out of our way to get back on the road as the security staff wouldn't let us through haha! Small price to pay for the relative peace of mind we got though and this got better as we got to know the staff on day 2 and day 3.

Could we perhaps explore a way of facilitating ACTUAL residents access when the road is blocked off e.g. show utility bill etc?

Lightopia 2021 presentation

- Lightopia is a regular event across larger visitor destinations, which is now in its 3rd year at Heaton Park and will run from 18 November 2021 until 03 January 2022. The 17th November is a pre-launch event for residents, who are eligible for discounted tickets, and press. The route hasn't changed from last year but there will be some new installations. The cafes are working with Lightopia in preparing food for some new illuminated dining domes and Tramway will have trams running during the event. We are excited for them to be part of this activity.

Events programme 2022

- At the next planning meeting (January) we'll look at with Naomi how to drill down re what works best – how many runs, how many charity events, food festivals, free events etc. and broaden the range.

- FriendsFest went well according to feedback and was really popular. The Events Team work closely with Luna Cinema which put on FriendsFest and also the Food and Drink Festival
- Colleagues at Wythenshawe have recently hosted The Peter Rabbit Theatre Experience. Staff at Heaton Park are in ongoing discussions with the Feelgood Theatre; this is in addition to 3 or 4 theatre offerings and the Events Team is putting a timetable of events together.
- Pauline Powell made a request for the meeting to be in person somewhere like the Golf Club, as she feels it would foster better relations between people - Carragh will look into this. Pauline also wanted to know if Parklife was on a fixed term contract for 10 years or so, or if it was going to be at Heaton Park indefinitely. Naomi said that there should be a review, which Carragh also said she would like to see and that it could be part of the planning process – not just for Parklife but for Lightopia too.

Any other business

- There will be an announcement imminently re Bonfire Night, which is still officially under review. There are some serious challenges in pulling it together. There would have to be the same protocols as Parklife re Covid rules and there are also issues re security and staffing and obtaining materials such as fencing etc.
- Mohamed Mir wanted to pass on his thanks to Andrew McCleary at Heaton Park and Councillor Quinn for their assistance in getting the parking tickets cancelled re the Memory Walk