

Events Community Consultation Group  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Councillor	Bury
Councillor	Manchester
Councillor	Manchester
	Heaton Park Trust
Kirsten Warren	General Manager, Heaton Park, MCC
Philippa Reece	Assistant Manager, Heaton Park, MCC
Kylie Ward	North Area Manager, MCC
	Manchester Local Resident
	Bury Local Resident
	Bury Local Resident
	Bury Local Resident

**2. Apologies**

	Sheepfoot Lane
	Heaton Park Trust
Councillor	Bury Council
	Manchester Local Resident
	Manchester Local Resident
	Rochdale Council
Councillor	Rochdale Council
	Township Co-ordinator, Bury Council
	Parks and Countryside Manager, Bury Council

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Sent out last minutes electronically for everyone to read.

**4. Matters Arising**

No matters arising as last meeting was focussed on the Stone Roses concert.

**5. Stone Roses Feedback**

Copy of the presentation handed out for the group to look at whilst Kirsten Warren went through the presentation. This is the same presentation that was used at the recent Prestwich Township Forum.

Questions, suggestions and feedback:

- Allow taxis use the car park by the bowls for a pick up and drop off point – as were doing this on St Margaret's Road.
- Residents parking needs to be looked at in the Bury area – could look at the model used around The Etihad Stadium.

- Electric substation on Scholes Lane was used as a litter bin. Cllr was walking around all weekend and did report to Bury about the litter which was cleared and will ask the electricity company if they can fence off the electric box.
- Like the idea of a road closure for Scholes Lane, need to look at more park and ride options as people parking everywhere. KW - Park and ride didn't sell out, may be need to look at smaller local sites as an option to use.
- Local school down Scholes Lane was being used as a private car park. Police were dealing with this as well.
- Volume of people for 2 hours after the concert was still immense.
- Support for the residents parking scheme.
- How many toilets are at Manchester United's ground as this is the same capacity? Cllr stated this is very different infrastructure so can't really compare. When Oasis were at The Etihad Stadium there were more problems there than there was when at Heaton Park. This is partly because there are always lessons learned from events. KW – Need to review the mix of toilets that are available, more toilets were supplied than HSE guidance states. Need to remember as well that things have improved since last time.
- Parking was better this time on St Margaret's road, however problems with taxis. Kyw stated that different crowds will bring different problems and we also keep learning from events across the city.
- Cllr stated that MCC are going to a variety of meetings with everyone so trying to work as best as possible with everyone.
- Cllr states that if it had been dry, the smell would have been horrendous.
- DPPO's didn't work. Cllr
- Lots of ticket touts. Cllr
- Poppers being sold everywhere. Cllr
- - With the financial constraints on the park and needing to have concerts like the stone roses, how much do we earn from other fees such as car parking? How many concerts do we have booked in for next year and as so many Bury residents use the park, why do they not put funding towards the park so that we wouldn't need to have so many concerts? Cllr responded that Bury Council have lost £17m this year out of its budget and will lose £23m out of next years budget, so couldn't afford to. Manchester will be in a similar position - Cllr responded that it will be worse. Cllr and present government are stopping us from raising funds in other ways as well.  
KW – SJM have not come to us at this moment in time with any concerts. Licence says we can have 3 such events each year but as you can see from this year, the site wouldn't be able to accommodate.  
KyW – There are also resourcing issues that need to be considered but also for us to look at the cultural offer that concerts like this bring to Manchester. – More people coming to concerts, means less parking for residents in an area that traditionally a quite area. Are there other options to generate money? KW – There is a business plan

report that is available for everyone to see which explains in detail. KW will email this over to everyone.

- Cllr stated that on Friday night at 10.45 till 12.15, there were still people walking about with no idea where to go. PR said that there were considerable amounts of signage across the venue, including matrix signs and stewards with loud hailers. People just didn't read them and followed the crowds and then didn't know how to get back.

## **6. Bonfire Night**

Bonfire Night event will be held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Same lay out as last year. Main change is to implement temporary road closure on Bury Old Road from Newtown Street to Sheepfoot lane. This is to help with the volume of people crossing the road.

Cllr – station gate was very busy last year. This was probably because it was a Saturday and the weather was good. KW – There will be an additional entrance lane into the main arena from station gate that will also help to increase flow rates into the park.

Cllr – Concerns that rush hour is around the road closure time.  
KW – from Bury Council's Highways is working with us together with a Traffic Management Company and we will be putting out advanced signage. This is about the safety in crossing the road for all those people.

KyW asked if there is a way of Bury Council assisting in telling their residents about this? KW to enquire. Cllr asked if we could leaflet the whole area? KW not feasible to do whole area and we are pushing that people come on public transport on all the marketing.

Cllr – Each local authority should have a way of communicating with their residents. This should be looked into as an option of getting the information out. KW stated that as the event organisers (MCC), it is our duty to look at the local area and ensure it is as safe as possible. KyW – Need to look at partnership approach to better facilitate communication with our residents. – Depending on where you live, leaflets can be a problem as a way of communicating. In area this would be a problem as there are flats in that area.

## **7. Input/Output – Local Community**

KW – Need to look at how local residents benefit from this meeting. Know that local residents who attend this group pass on the information to people in the area, but in addition need to look at posting minutes on the web site.

KW – Will send terms of reference to new representative that have joined the group.

Councillors can also bring back questions to the group if any of their constituents raise issues with them.

Also discussed how could make use of Park Notice Boards and Local Newspapers.

Cllr asked that if there are no events in the diary, do we need to meet as a group? KW stated that we meet as part of the conditions of the licence. However, if no major events are booked in, then we do not need to meet for the sake of it. KW will feed back after bonfire night electronically. All agreed that no point in meeting unless there is something to discuss.

## **8. Any Other Business**

asked if the park can support these numbers of people attending an event but the surrounding area can't, can we not reduce the numbers that attend the event say by 10,000 people? KW said that 65,000 people still a very large number. Promoters obviously have to consider attendance vs cost of event and generally speaking with the costs and infrastructure needed for such an event it only becomes viable as a 3 day event.

PR added that there are not many artists that can attract the 75,000 attendance and not all touring artists wish to play in a Greenfield site. These major concerts are the exception and not the norm.

KyW stated that it is a joint decision between local authorities and other agencies to consider whether an event can be facilitated and run in a safe manner. Manchester City Council and the Safety Advisory Group have said no to many events in the past as it was not felt they could be managed competently.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

This will be planned as needed.