

Event Community Consultation Meeting

Minutes

29th February 2012

Attendance

Kirsten Warren (KW)	Heaton Park General Manager
Philippa Reece (PR)	Assistant Manager Heaton Park
Ria Page (RP)	Heaton Park Engagement Officer
	Heaton Park Trust
	Councillor Bury MBC
	Resident - Deanswood Drive
	Resident – St Margaret’s Road
	Councillor Bury MBC
	Resident – Blackley New Road
	Resident – Old Hall Lane

1. Welcome and Introductions

KW welcomed all to the meeting and outlined the summary for the meeting. Feedback regarding the Stone Roses will be given after each of the planning meetings has taken place.

Traffic management issues remain a high priority to be discussed and are a big part of the plans for the event. It is intended to investigate the possibility of bringing the shuttle bus service into the park.

Action – KW to invite representatives to the next meeting to feedback on the Stone Roses planning progress.

KW noted for this meeting since there is no feedback as of yet that we will focus on the debrief for Bonfire Night 2011.

2. Apologies

Resident Sheepfoot Lane
Rochdale Council
Councillor Rochdale
Councillor Manchester
Heaton Park Trust
Bury MBC

3. Minutes of Pervious Meeting

KW apologised for the delay in sending out the minutes from the previous meeting and agreed that in future the minutes will be received at least a week before the meeting takes place.

Minutes reviewed and agreed.

KW noted that all actions for Bonfire Night are listed on the agenda and will be dealt with during the course of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Cllr requested a timescale for the Stone Roses update.

KW replied that currently there are no definitive deadlines for feeding back information relating to the Stone Roses, however, staff are mindful of releasing generic information that is being requested by public and with this in mind there will be a Q&A sheet produced and in place as part of the community consultation.

Action – Heaton Park management will work with organisers to produce a generic Q&A sheet.

asked if due to inconveniences that will be cause to residents if free tickets would be an initiative that could be considered.

PR responded that there are too many residents that could potentially be affected by numerous issues related to the event and that there is no way of controlling who gets tickets and who do not.

Action - KW will send this request through to Mike Parrot and request an official response in time for the next meeting.

reported that in the past residents have received free tickets and asked if any jobs relating to the event could be publicised locally to allow local businesses to gain from the event. KW replied that she would make a request to SJM (Concert Promoters)

asked if the use of local businesses was something that was or could be written into the license. PR responded that SJM are a Manchester based company and because of this have and are likely to invest in local contractors and suppliers.

was concerned about the impact of the Stone Roses event on the local Jewish community and hoped that the event would not conflict with their culture in any way. KW requested that confirm a representative from the Jewish Community to come to the meetings in future.

asked if the police had given apologies for the meeting. explained that the police had said they would attend if they were able to do so, but this would be dependant on the day's operational requirements. KW reported that GMP were invited to the meeting.

added that with the late notice of the meeting and minutes that there was some confusion about if the meeting was going to go ahead as planned.

asked if parking permits will be in place for residents. KW replied that SJM are in the process of producing a traffic management plan which will outline what restrictions will be put into place for the event KW asked if a residents parking permit was in place for the Oasis concert last year? replied that there was. added that the permits were arranged for the whole estate.

KW asked if the no parking signage was helpful, as this was something that was touched on at the last meeting. replied she had asked to report back

KW commented that the City Stadium parking permits are in operation. added that these are supported by local byelaws and private estates may require a more detailed request. KW responded that all of this should be covered in the Traffic management plan and will be supported by the traffic regulation order ensuring the parking operations are enforceable.

reported that during the Oasis weekend it was noticeable how some parking restrictions were not followed and possibly permits would work better. KW informed the group that road closures for logistical reasons will still take place. requested redirection for local residents to avoid congested areas. recommended the information be specific to residential areas to avoid general public trying to gain access past stewards

KW suggested that the issues related to the Stones Roses are best left until after the planning meeting when feedback will be more in depth. added that car parking permits are a great way of preventing none residents from parking as they look like parking tickets. requested feedback information specifically regarding the toilet provision for the outer perimeter of the park to avoid visitors urinating in resident's gardens and in back alleys etc. KW agreed this would be raised at the next planning meeting

PR added if KW could also report on the feedback received through the website, highlighting issues around toilet provision and what the proposed location of additional toilet facilities would be. Reports were also largely about litter in and around surroundings streets

KW reported that in the management plan for the Stones Roses concert, the public transport provision and the queuing systems that will being place are being brought inside the grounds of the park to reduce the impact on local residents. Any additional provision required will then be located at the transport locations or wherever required.

requested that directional signage for after the event also be raised as a priority to ensure exits are clearly visible and service notices for public transport and available for people to view

5. Terms of Reference

KW asked for an agreement between all partners and attendee's of the meeting to sign the terms of reference document, however whilst representatives from the local community were still being invited to attend, completion of any signing will be delayed.

6. Process for Feeding Back Into Communities

KW explained that as part of the terms of reference feedback into the communities was to be an integral part of the meetings. There were existing links with the Heaton Park Trust and for the township forums in Bury Council.

added that she typed up the minutes of the last meeting to take back to her neighbourhood; the information was also feed back to the local housing association to be advertised in monthly newsletters.

reported he was happy to feed back to the residents in his locality

KW added Heaton Park would be looking for other forums to circulate the community information noted that as raised earlier there is a gap for a representative from the local Jewish community as well as the housing around Bagley Crescent, which sits half in the Bury area and half in Rochdale. KW noted that currently there is no residential representative from the Rochdale area.

reported that Bowlee Residents Association should be invited and they too had residents half in the Bury area and half in Rochdale.

Action - KW to consider

PR noted that through information about where to find existing groups the consultation meeting would be a greater success

Action – KW to speak to about existing groups around the Heaton Park area

suggested a link with all community reps to establish a point of contact.

KW suggested that a summary of the minutes could possibly be produced and sent to representatives around the local community, bearing in mind the Terms of Reference and confidentiality. KW asked if this was agreeable by all members. All members agreed.

KW asked if the group could look at as many contacts as possible where they felt this information would be beneficial and we can look to circulate something in the future.

said she would look into this for her neighbourhood and report back, specifically with ideas around the links with community buildings. offered to help with contacts for the local community centre as he already had a contact there.

asked for an little more explanation about what the handout will consist of in relation to Stone Roses. KW reported that MCC in conjunction with the organisers will produce a generic information/ Question and Answer sheet with summary information and contacts for the park if issues were to arise. This would be something that would also be added onto the Heaton Park website and when contacts for distribution are sent to KW a list will be compiled and kept on a database for updates and reports. Members all agreed they were happy to circulate the information once it had been agreed at the next meeting.

Action – KW to notify group once Q and A sheet is produced

7. Bonfire Night Feedback

KW reported that the management style from last year had changed and for the most part the feedback the park received was good.

Cllr had reported an issue with parked cars being vandalised. added that there were issues with general public blocking residents drive ways on Blackley New Road.

KW responded that most of the feedback was related to the traffic management.

reported the temporary lights that were in place were a great success and the support given by the police was also well received specifically around control measures for alcohol and personal fireworks. KW added there were also issues with the lighting and this is also something that will be address in the management plan and on the night. In addition this year the fireworks were delayed due to the number of visitors arriving on site at the time originally scheduled for the display.

PR added that the delay could have easily been longer looking at the queues waiting at the entrance points but the crowd that had been already been waiting were getting restless and so the display had to begin.

KW noted that the new traffic management system had a lot to do with the delays because the pedestrian routes overlapped in areas with vehicle traffic and left vehicles stuck until the roads were clear enough to move. The plan was to rely on the traffic management company to ensure the flow of both pedestrian and vehicle traffic was equally distributed but this was not the case on the night and is something that will be discussed as part of the improvements for next years event.

suggested the possibility of some road closures to aid the event, specifically Bury Old Road (area closest to the park) and Sheepfoot Lane PR added that the plans for the visitors arrival and egress is also high on the agenda for next years event.

KW added that this was the third option as we have tried in the past to control the traffic management and still it was not as affective as initially hoped. This will be discussed in detail at the planning meetings for next year's event. Next year we would also look to have more enforcement around the traffic order as some general public still chose to park in restricted areas and approx 25 parking tickets were issued.

asked about the current capacity for parking KW replied that the estimated visitor number last year was around 40,000 people and the car parking capacity for the site sits at approx 1000 spaces. The only option after this would be park and ride, which is not felt would work.

reported that only a small proportion of the visitors donated in the charity buckets. requested better locations for collection when visitors arrive at entrance points, last year it was felt that for the most part visitors hadn't noticed the buckets until after they had moved into the main event site if at all. PR added that unfortunately due to the amount of people arriving at the same time volunteers with buckets got lost in the crowd. Our volunteers were just not able to make themselves more visible due to the number of visitors.

enquired if the event was ticketed would that control the numbers better. KW stated that this wouldn't help with the car parking problems and brings its own set of additional issues to manage.

reported that due to the weather and day of the event last year it was a great encouragement for families to attend, in order to possibly stagger the entrance and egress of the visitors if there could be some form of entertainment supplied. PR replied that the event schedule needs to be better coordinated and locations of market stalls needs to be assessed for next year to draw in crowds as an alternative attraction.

KW reported the event did have positives and reports were fed back about the event being a lot more family friendly and safe. reported the entrance control methods were a great help and a lot of personal fireworks were confiscated as expected.

KW agreed the search and removal worked well. added checks for alcohol also helped and were very effective on the night. agreed it was the first event for a while which had been better controlled. added the event definitely had a family feel.

KW reported there was a small issue with personal fireworks at the station gate but due to the security presence it was dealt with quickly and effectively. The alcohol licence worked well and the caterers selling mulled wine and speciality coffees sold out. PR added the new location of some of the catering units worked so much better and most caterers had sold out most of their stock by the end of the night. reported that this was also due to the wider selection of caterers on offer

requested advance notice for the marketing of the event for this year if possible, specifically around traffic management issues like road closures and increased public transport links where applicable, he said that more people would be likely to use public transport if they were aware of additional services being provided. asked if there was additional public transport provision to be provided next year especially trams. KW replied that last year our event clashed with a major football match and therefore the transport companies had used their resources elsewhere. said this should be better this year

Action – KW and PR discuss in detail the traffic management issues related to Bury Old Road and Old Hall Lane. requested a more in depth look at the open grass verges as these too were over run with car parking. KW reported these areas are included in the traffic management plan and will be included in the traffic order and will therefore be including in any enforcement that will happen added that even the central reservation on Middleton Road from the junction 19 roundabout was use for car parking, which was dangerous

noted that this also occurs if the park unlocking is late at the Smithy Lodge entrance because of early morning tee times at the golf. KW agreed that this will be taken into consideration when a review of the traffic management plan is done.

agreed that the traffic management plan should be reviewed but that consideration must be taken into account for each different event and its crowd profile. What would happen at a concert event is not necessarily what would happen at Bonfire Night since the crowd dynamic is more family orientated.

KW reiterated that the Bonfire Night Event is widely accepted as a family event in the local community and is a free event provided by Manchester City Council. The budget for the event is not given to each park, the costs for the event at Heaton Park come directly from the Heaton Park budget for general operations.

requested better signage and publicity for the event highlighting the lack of or limited parking facilities on site. agreed the wording and forewarning communication would be key enquired if there was scope to expand the event, touching on what had been mentioned previously, the possibility of a mini speciality market.

PR explained there is always a review of each event and the possibility of improving the services and provisions we have on offer. This is something that could be discussed at future planning meetings.

mentioned that to increase the capacity of the event some discussion around the improvements to the Showfield (papal field), specifically around drainage should take place to see if it can physically accommodate expansion.

PR added that although this is something that would need to be considered, the park has not got the capacity to hold an event anywhere else on the site.

asked if the fireworks could be relocated to another area of the park to make use of the whole Showfield. KW replied that the capacity would dictate the guidelines for the fireworks and their location. added that Bonfire Night was a fantastic community event that was well loved and was not related to any political or religious causes but was a British tradition and brings different communities together. KW replied that expanding the event would be something that can be looked at in future planning meetings.

8. Up and Coming Events

PR reported that the only large event that will have a impact on the surrounding communities will be the annual Race For Life Event being held on 21st / 22nd July 2012.

The event coincides this year with a smaller event running at the tram museum; however both organisers have been in initial planning meetings and have agreed their events will not conflict. Both organisers will be working to provide additional stewarding and traffic management plans and these will be made available for the group when they have been received.

asked if there are any proposed works on the metro link and if this will affect the event. PR replied that the reports from the organiser's show that 95% of their participants arrive by car and any congestion issues related to this will be covered by the traffic management plan and traffic order that will be discussed, decided and obtained in advance. asked if the St Margaret's entrance is included in the traffic management plan.

KW reported the car parking aspect of St Margaret's is limited as access is limited to aid the course for the runners. responded that whilst the car parking on the inside was limited, this pushed the general public onto the surrounding streets.

PR asked to check with the local residents about how many cars were parking around the St Margaret's entrance, since the reports that came through from staff on the day were that the numbers of cars parked outside was very little.

asked if the organisers have contingencies for parking on the papal field. KW explained this was already used by the organisers as their main car parking access point for the Sunday Race. reported the drainage on the overflow field was poor and required some works reported the directional signage last year was poor last year and needed improvement. KW / PR Explained that this issue had been raised at the event planning meeting and more attention is to be paid to this area in the planning for this year.

Action – to investigate part issues with Race for Life last year with the residents of St Margaret's road and report back.

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Date of Next Meeting

KW -This is to be confirmed for the end of April 2012, any agenda items are welcome please notify in advance so they can be included.