



Surrey & Sussex
Policing Together

Minutes

Name:	Lewes Bonfire Planning Consultation
Location:	Southover House, Southover Rd, Lewes BN7 1AB
Date / Time:	Friday 08 th June 2018, 13.00-15.00
Chair:	Superintendent Howard Hodges



Attendees:

Ed Hele	LDC / EBC
Tim Whelan	LDC / EBC
Anna Heaton	St Johns Ambulance
Dave Croucher	SECAMB
Tim Bradley	BTP
Adrian Strange	B&H Busses
Catherine Kuislir	Lewes DC
Annemarie Chebib	Select Security
Phil Bourton	Select Security
Philip Daniel	County Councillor
Johnny Dennis	LDC
Stephen C	LDC / LTC
Sarah Osborne	LDC
Stephen Gauntlet	LDC
Sgt Ian Stone	Sussex Police
Janet Bach	LTC
Huw Jones	LTC
Susan Murray	LTC / LDC
Nick Skelton	ESFRS
Inspector James Biggs	Sussex Police
Andy Gardner	GTR
Grant Virgo	NSL
Graham Grey	ESFRS
Sasha Philips	ESFRS
Andrew	Brighton and Hove Buses
Rob	
Phil Porter	
Natasha Stammers	Note Taker (Sussex Police)

Not Protectively Marked



Item	Agenda Topic	Owner
1	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>Welcome and introductions were had around the room by all attendees.</p> <p>HH began the presentation as attached.</p> <div data-bbox="389 701 453 763" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Lewes Bonfire Celebrations - 8th Ju</p> <p>Slide 2: Communication was raised as an issue in the past, HH confirmed work is being done to ensure this is improved however decisions do need to be made.</p> <p>Slide 3: Partnership issues were discussed. The injury statistics are based on estimates of many people attended, there are two figures for 2017 based on 30,000 and 60,000 attending. You can see the injury figures have reduced when compared to a number of years ago but there is no room for complacency.</p> <p>Slide 4: Independent assessment for context.</p> <p>Slide 5: Due to the train strikes and road closures this spread entry and exit numbers and reduced the risk of crushing.</p> <p>Slide 6: Feedback from the societies was that the crowd was less, were able to give more generously and it felt like more of a local event.</p> <p>Comment made: The layout of the town is similar to others where events are held and they don't close the train stations, why is it considered for planning of Lewes Bonfire?</p> <p>BTP: Although others would be serviced by the same provider, every station and circumstance is different. As this is a Monday it is unlikely that more services could be provided due to the rush hour.</p> <p>Slide 7: This is an event that is not planned on the basis of intelligence per se, instead partnership plans that are built on lessons learnt.</p> <p>No one of us in this room has sole responsibility however it falls to the Police and the local authority to take a lead in coordinating activity and making collective decisions. The event plans will be provided at the next meeting however there have been no significant changes suggested by the partners or</p>	



<p>societies.</p> <p>Slide 8: Read, no comments made.</p> <p>Slide 9: The risk being posed is that Lewes town centre is not designed well for the volume of the crowds.</p> <p>Slide 10:</p> <p>Slide 11: This is not an intelligence led event, looking at previous years de-briefs we will plan for the following year.</p> <p>Slide 12:</p> <p>Slide 13:</p> <p>Slide 14:</p> <p>Slide 15:</p> <p>Slide 16:</p> <p>Slide 17: This is the complex context of the planning process.</p> <p>Question raised: How does this minimise disruption to local residents as this is a working day. As a Monday there will be less attendance as stated on your previous slide, however more disruption to locals.</p> <p>Answer: Critical decisions will be made, car parking passes have already been approved.</p> <p>Slide 18: The road closures provide safety, vehicles that are already in Lewes prior to the road closures we have limited control of. The 2017 plan was discussed in detail.</p> <p>Slide 19: map discussed.</p> <p>Slide 20: Plans for this year has options; no road closures, less restrictive, more restrictive or replicate the plans for last year.</p> <p>Overall it is our professional judgement that the favoured option would be to replicate the 2017 plan. This achieved what we wanted however they will be amended slightly to accommodate people entering Lewes on a work day.</p> <p>Slide 21: Road closures this year; 4.30 was too early for 2017 however 05.00 is too late as processions begin so it has been agreed that this will be done at 4.45.</p> <p>Question: Agree with replication in general however can the bus service begin again that night rather than the following morning? This will help get people home and stop a number of people walking on an unlit roads. The public</p>	
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	<p>service to resume 10.30-10.45?</p> <p>Answer: Yes egress is important, we work to get people away as safely as possible. It was noted that there are young people who take part in the procession that need to get away and this will be considered by the Travel and Transport Group.</p> <p>It was raised: The Snow Drop had more issues than ever last year due to drink. We need to avoid crowds of people getting wind of a special train and rushing across the town.</p> <p>Answer: We do not want to transfer the risk.</p> <p>It was raised: The A275 should allow people to get picked up, it's a long walk and it's dark. Plumpton consider Lewes to be their local event.</p> <p>Answer: It is about getting a balance to keep people safe if we are trying to control this.</p> <p>It was raised: The A275 used to close further up lasting from 5.00-7.00.</p> <p>Answer: The posted times are there as a guide, if the roads can be opened before this they will be.</p> <p>Question: This makes people not want to / difficult to attend.</p> <p>Answer: The roads are closed at places where a suitable diversion / turn around point has been identified that is effective and safe.</p> <p>It was noted that last year there were extra bus services going on until 02.00am. There are talks going on and we are looking to use bendy busses to help more people get out however some diversions are not suitable for vehicles of this size.</p> <p>It was confirmed that this will be noted.</p> <p>Question: Can we see what is proposed before it is implemented?</p> <p>Answer: This can be complicated, Parish Councillors do help run the town and all other towns are also important and need to be considered.</p> <p>It was noted that busses do not advertise these extra busses, we also have to give 70 days' notice to be approved by the various places required. These only get put on due to the known numbers.</p> <p>Slide 22: Rail Options / Partnership plans.</p> <p>Question: Going to and from work is not the same at all as a weekend.</p> <p>Answer: As this is not a ticketed event that you can be guided on safety and</p>	
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<p>know what you can accommodate with access for emergency vehicles it is difficult as the town could not accommodate the numbers.</p> <p>Question: You are talking about closing a train station, if a train station is closed if you commute there are no other options.</p> <p>Answer: If there are rail options more people will come.</p> <p>Question: The stations that are being shut impact those not being able to get home.</p> <p>Answer: Decisions have to be made and will inevitably not be agreed by everyone.</p> <p>Slide 23: Proposal.</p> <p>Slide 24: Next steps.</p> <p>Question: To get home before 17.00 is ludicrous, you would have to leave at lunch time.</p> <p>Question: I support what you are trying to do, I agree with the councillors and the use of the slogan is a worry 'an event for local people', as there are local people that are prevented from going about everyday life. This would cause a loss of earnings and real issues.</p> <p>Answer: Bonfire Society agree to this, this is only 1 day a year.</p> <p>Question: Why force this upon Glynde?</p> <p>Answer: Can I guarantee they will be local people getting home? We will lose control of the event if people decide to get the train to Glynde, we are proposing to strike a balance. We are open to listening to suggestions but we have to consider safety.</p> <p>Question: Is this the only opportunity we have to give feedback?</p> <p>Answer: We have to give a professional opinion therefore a degree of control is required. If we increase numbers there will be an increase in injuries.</p> <p>Question: Local event for local people, we are elevated to represent the views of the people.</p> <p>Question: Lewes college closes at 1800 and there should not be no service until the next day.</p> <p>Answer: If people have an option to travel they will come.</p> <p>Question: Can the 2100 service be available for people to get home? Can this be considered?</p>	
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<p>Answer: BTP This will require more resources, this would also require Police Officers. Earlier services could be re-opened allowing commuters.</p> <p>It was noted that there has been extreme drunkenness due to the trains with a cut off of 1700 for Lewes is fine but the surrounding villages should be able to have trains. If you appease the villages the locals are happier. There is not a massive risk of another 2000 visitors.</p> <p>Question: Compromising and balance if people want to come to an event, Cooksbridge have a few stopping trains at 1700 and if you extend these it would allow people to get home and the impact of attendance would be negotiable.</p> <p>Question: Talking about deferring people from coming to the event, there must be technical people who would have the numbers that would not affect the villages commuting.</p> <p>Answer: There needs to be trust for the people in the room and partners that things have been considered. This is only 1 day of the year and communication needs to be pro-active so those who want to travel can make arrangements. Not everyone will be happy.</p> <p>Question: Progress is being made with regards to communication and views of from the community will be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Question: On the railway matter it doesn't feel there is consultation. Limiting the trains is logical however they should be resumed the same day.</p> <p>SECAMB: The train strikes were out of the hands of everyone. There needs to be safety implications in place before it's too late.</p> <p>Question: The Midnight 00.02 should / could be running.</p> <p>ESFRS: The priority is public safety. There are 2 reports that have been done, the event is unsafe with the risk of fatality, and this level of harm with an event unusually would not run. We need to continue to develop.</p> <p>Question: Will there be another meeting? Can we come back with options? There were some people who couldn't make it or didn't get invited.</p> <p>Answer: No, we have consulted and need to swiftly begin making decisions.</p> <p>Question: It was noted that rail closures happen the more time we can give the better for local people / residents.</p> <p>It was noted that the roads could not be open after 1700 as they are a working environment for staff and the processions will have begun.</p> <p>Video was played to show the near miss from 2017.</p>	
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	<p>Some critical decisions were made to be communicated as soon as possible. The amount of resource Sussex Police deploy is almost 450-500 staff on top of business as usual resources. There are 120 medical volunteers and this is the only event with dedicated resources.</p> <p>Resources for this is a huge undertaking with responsibility to keep people safe.</p> <p>BTP confirmed that no decisions have been made at this point but trains are not like busses and although we don't mind trying to facilitate where possible there is a knock-on effect that needs to be considered. There is a potential for every train into Lewes to bring 1000+ people. Therefore it is an unknown risk.</p> <p>Question: In future can we come to a de-brief?</p> <p>Answer: There are a number of de-briefs that happen and there is a process we need to have to capture this. If it's getting together or virtually communicating we will do something. Also to include you in the earlier planning stages of 2019.</p> <p>Notes of these meeting will be circulated.</p> <p>Thanks were given to attendees.</p>	
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