

High Tide Festival - Fri 1st - Sat 2nd July 2022 - Bournemouth Beach

Response from the Safety Advisory Group

The consensus of those members who have responded reflects my initial opinion that the information currently supplied by the event organisers is disjointed, generic and contains insufficient detail to allow for any assessment to be made.

Of equal concern to SAG members alongside the disjointed nature of the supplied documents is a lack of clarity in the command structure that makes it difficult to find confidence in the organisers holding the necessary proficiency or experience to deliver this event.

I do not anticipate that the outstanding comments from members will change the assessment of the event specific safety advisory group to issue, to both the Council and event organiser, notice that without clear, concise event specific management documents having been submitted, it is unable to assess whether the proposed event could be considered safe and compliant with both the spirit and purpose of relevant legislation and guidance.

I have not attached copies of the correspondence received from individual members and would need to seek their express consent before disseminating them.

Further Detail

The SAG has difficulty in understanding the role that the contracted specialist advisor Method Events plays within the management structure and what input if any they have in the delivery of the event.

The SAG have examined the submitted paperwork in detail and raises concern at the great deal of inconsistencies both in the standard of the paperwork and, more importantly, the content of the paperwork that have been identified. This list of concerns identified extends far beyond what the SAG would consider to be acceptable at this relatively late stage in the planning phase.

The SAG is concerned that the organiser has not identified these risks/issues in advance and that this indicates that they may lack the necessary proficiency and experience credentials to address these concerns and may then not hold the appropriate ability to identify and address any concerns that may currently be unknown but might be reasonably foreseeable.

The SAG is concerned with the nature of the Community Liaison conducted by the event organisers as the requested copies of communication made to residents and/or details of meetings have not been supplied.

The SAG is concerned that the organisers have not yet demonstrated that the closure of the zig zag is necessary or obtained the relevant consent for closure.

The SAG holds the opinion that the organiser needs to accept and demonstrate a greater responsibility for the egress of their customers into the wider conurbation.

Advice & Guidance

The SAG is an advisory body whose role also includes signposting organisers towards guidance and actions that will promote best practice and so in addition to the assessment above (albeit negative) members have sought to assist the organisers in highlighting some areas of concern that the organiser is directed to consider alongside the action points from the meeting.

The following is by no means an exhaustive list of items and I must stress that even if the organisers were to address these points directly, significant concerns would still remain in respect of the event proposals and competence of the organisers.

- The organisers should clearly demonstrate that the distance available between their fencing and the high tide line allowed sufficient space to be allowed for emergency exit.
- If the emergency exits detailed below are the final exits and no further obstruction would compromise a site emergency evacuation the evacuation of 9,00 people could take 12 minutes. This figure is above the 5 -10 minutes required by recognised guidance.
final exits taken from the event management documents as;
 - o Stage left = 4 metres
 - o Security & Ticket West = 7 metres
 - o Security & Ticket East = 4 metres
 - o East Bar = 4 metres
 - o Seaward exit = 4 metres (This exit has been discounted by BCP due to knowledge from previous events)
 - o The highlighted exits both could be compromised by a fire within the stage and are discounted leaving 12 metres of available emergency exits
 - o $12 \text{ metres} \times 62 \text{ people per minute} = 744 \text{ people per minute}$
- To ensure that the figure of 12 minutes would not need to be increase the organiser must;
 - o Confirm and validate that a high tide will not compromise site foot print or emergency exits
 - o Confirm that the occupancy of the public beach outside the event footprint will not compromise an emergency evacuation
 - o Confirm that the sterile blue light access route would be available at all material times
 - o Confirm that a robust evacuation strategy has been planned and that this will be communicated to sufficient trained staff to implement
 - o Confirm the seaward emergency exit is available for use and not discounted by any of the partner agencies

- The event management plan should detail information in respect of the following;
 - o Separation distances for concessions and stalls
 - o Surplus LPG storage
 - o Fire risk assessment or control measures for special effects, flares and pyrotechnics as mentioned in EMP at page 18 counted leaving 12 metres of available emergency exits
 - o Fire risk assessment or control measures for concessions using LPG or higher risk concessions mentioned in EMP at page 9
 - o Egress
 - o Dispersal
 - o Crowd Management
 - o Access for emergency services
 - o Public safety outside of the event footprint
 - o SIA numbers and locations
 - o Traffic Management
 - o Welfare
- The organiser should liaise with BCP's Traffic Dept ref. TTROs for parking bans and temporary taxi ranks. Bus Stops need to be maintained / accommodated.

Additional comment outside of the formal response from the SAG relating to the licence application

The licence application effectively relies on the satisfactory completion of the EMP and associated documentation as a basis for the operating schedule for the licence. At this time it is very much the view of Dorset Police that the paperwork falls significantly short of the standards expected for an event of this size and location. The organiser should be advised please that Dorset Police will be submitting to the Licensing Sub-Committee that the application for a premises should be refused until such time that we can be reassured that the provision of alcohol can be offered in a safe and compliant environment.

The Conditions offered rely heavily on the EMP being approved by the SAG. At the present time there remains dissatisfaction which makes a nonsense of the licence, if granted. This is something which will have to be brought to the attention of Members at the hearing.