

Bonfire and Fireworks Display Report

Business Meeting

Monday 6th September 2021

1. Cheshire East Council

Cheshire East have informed us that we can only operate our event if we sell tickets on line to assist with track and trace. Their document is at stage 3, whereas the current government advice is at stage 4, therefore they are out of date, but could prevent us from holding the Bonfire and Fireworks Display this year as at this stage it would be difficult to set up such a system, publicise that e-ticketing is available and determine how to deal with the 50% plus of the public who decide on the night to come along wanting to pay cash on the gate.

The president and I have engaged with Town Councillors and the Cheshire East Ward councillors to get Cheshire East to change this view.

As a result of this and thanks to Cllr George Hayes in particular, who has managed to persuade CEC to take a more sympathetic view on how events operate on CEC assets. Consequently, we can go ahead taking cash on the gates, but, we are expected to make every effort to record those entering the Park for Track and Trace. In the long term there is an expectation that we move payments on line and cashless.

2. On line Ticketing and Cashless Payments

Inevitably the UK is fast becoming a cashless society and we will have to have systems in place on the gates in the coming years to cater for this phenomenon.

David Worth has spoken to Ticket Source a provider of on-line ticketing, who were very helpful. If we went with them then the best way on the night is for an app to be installed on members I phones. This would read the customers code and confirm that they have paid as well as checking that the e ticket had not already been used.

It does not need wi fi as it runs on the mobile phone system and is quite quick. Also, if anyone turns up without paying they can stand on one side and pay online then check in. That would take a couple of minutes and is almost instantly available to be confirmed on the I phone app. I suspect the biggest problem with this would be getting sufficient members to download the app and to use their I phones on the night.

It is also possible to ask for the customers to tick a gift aid box. As we are a charity the commission cost is 6.5% plus VAT. If the TIC used it they would be classed as "back office" and Ticket Source would not charge a commission, however we would pay the TIC the usual commission.

Ticket Source looks interesting, but the challenges are fourfold.

- a. How do we generate enough publicity to alert those who would normally turn up on the night who pay cash on the gate to book on line before simply turning up?
- b. What system do we use to validate bookings, in particular late bookings?
- c. Does such a system stop the last-minute punters from going to our event because it is too much hassle
- d. Who pays the 6.5%+VAT fee from Ticket Source
- e. Does E-ticketing and cashless payments slow down entry into the event and cause long queues??

This probably needs a lot of consideration and discussion, but, it is clear that we probably can't remain as we are as the world has moved on in terms of how people expect to pay for goods and services.

3. Booking of Suppliers and the Park

- a. Printing of wrist bands and posters accompanied by a leaflet to explain our approach to Covid is complete. Wristbands, some posters and leaflets passed to TIC for sale
- b. Stalls and food stalls will need to have supplies of anti-bacterial hand wash available. **Action BH/ER**
- c. Ordering of merchandise has been completed, need the manning of the stalls to be organised. **Action SP**
- d. Large posters need putting up on the usual 4 sites. **Action ER**
- e. Skip Hire to be organised. **Action ER**
- f. Sponsors to be approached for support, also suggested that they be asked to supply a publicity banner for their organisation to erect in the Park. **Action DW**
- g. Rushey Farm cannot provide catering this year, because they are having problems securing staff, but, Las Palmeras the Paella Store will replace them and supply burgers and hot dogs etc.

4. Bungalow and Vehicles

The Town council have agreed to make available the bungalow for money collection and their two pick up trucks for setting out and collecting in the barriers

5. Fireworks Display and Music

- a. Supply of DJ and equipment, lighting and the music programme to be supplied by Chris Booth. **Action BH**
- b. Location and size of Bonfire to be a further 5m away from the tree line
- c. Distance the barriers are erected from the firework firing site will be increased from 70m to 85m

- d. Chris Booth is supplying portable lighting, 2 powered to be located by the Pavilion for Park Road entrance, one by the Community store, the portable units will be used on the other two gates

6. Covid Requirements

- a. All Rotarians and gate keepers to take lateral flow test prior to attending.
- b. Face masks and gloves to be worn by all
- c. Gate stewards to persuade public to scan the QR code or provide contact details on a form that will be provided

7. Gate Keepers

- a. Organising gate keepers/Lions. **Action ER**
- b. Buglawton gate to be checked to ascertain whether or not it can remain open during the display. **Action BH**
- c. If there is a manpower shortage, the Young Farmers will be approached for support. **Action IR**

8. Bonfire and Fireworks Display

- a. Pace Farm to be contacted to supply, deliver and erect the bonfire. **Action IR**
- b. Signs to be put up in the woods informing people that the area is part of the fireworks firing range and entry is prohibited from 4pm to 9pm on Saturday 6th November. **Action BH**
- c. There will be two Guy Fawkes competitions, the usual competition for the schools and a continuation of the new event started last year. **Action SP. JG/EW**
- d. An organiser for the procession needs to be sorted out. **Action SP**
- e. Rob Lomas to be asked to supply the water bowser and a tractor. **Action IR**

9. Rotas

Detailed below are the activities requiring member assistance: -

- a. Ticket sales in Congleton (need a gazebo and table), this will take place for 3 Saturday's beginning on 23rd October. Require members to man the stall from 9pm to 3pm on each Saturday. **Action SP**
- b. Town Council have been informed of this activity and agreed to our presence in the Town.
- c. Assistance is required with the erection of gazebos and barriers etc on Friday and Saturday in the Park, but, more manpower is needed. Suggested that Friends of Rotary are asked and also possibly include the ATC. **Action SP**
- d. Dismantling Saturday evening is one of the more challenging tasks which all capable Rotarians need to be involved in. Additional manpower for this task needs to be secured. When clearing up after the event all members and

helpers need to be located tasks so that we have maximum involvement.

Action BH/SP

- e. Clearing up Sunday requires a team of 7 to 10 Rotarians and mainly consists of litter picking. **Action BH**

10. Coordinator

BH will act as Coordinator on the event evening

11. VIP'S

The VIP'S to be invited will be determined by the Club President, invites to go out via the secretary. **Action SP/RG**

DG

Mayor of Congleton

Fiona Bruce MP

Brian Hogan

2.09.21