

Event Safety Advisory Groups 2011

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The Shropshire Council Public Event Safety Advisory Group (SAG) was set up in April 2009 with a brief to uphold the standards of public safety at defined events within the Council area, and to promote the well-being of the public at these events.
- 1.2 This report gives an outline of the activities carried out by the SAG during 2011.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Strategic Licensing Committee members accept the position as laid out in the report.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 As this report is an informative summary of work already completed in 2011, rather than a proposal, it is not felt that either a risk assessment or opportunities appraisal is necessary.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no cost implications in this report – this is an informative summary providing information on the performance of a zero cost service provided to event organisers.

5. Background

5.1 The Shropshire Council Public Event Safety SAG considers proposals for a wide range of public events, including firework displays, carnivals, parades, fairgrounds, music festivals, agricultural shows and other events of a similar nature. The involvement of the SAG is dependent upon the number of attendees, location, profile, previous history and size.

5.2 The group is comprised of members of various partnership agencies who offer specialist safety advice to event organisers. There is a core membership comprising :-

- Chair (Public Health & Safety Manager, Public Protection and Enforcement)
- Lead service (Public Protection & Enforcement)
- West Mercia Police
- Shropshire Fire & Rescue

And other members are co-opted on as deemed necessary from the following services:-

- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- Primary Care Trust
- Police Licensing Authority
- Emergency Planning (Shropshire Council)
- Highways (Shropshire Council)
- Building Control

5.3 The main role of the group is to provide specialist advice to event organisers to help them discharge their responsibilities under the relevant legislation, and to create a consistent process that can be used to enhance public safety at events.

Other objectives are:

- a) To establish high standards of general public safety, including crowd, fire, and food safety.
- b) To provide a `one-stop-shop` of a wide range of enforcing authorities and agencies who can advise on the legislative requirements and best practice.
- c) To ensure plans are in place for emergency situations, including

contingency arrangements.

- d) To ensure that any detrimental effects on the environment and road network are minimized and to encourage the principles of sustainability when possible.
- e) To create true partnership and multi-agency working.
- f) To keep abreast of and to apply changes in legislation and guidance.
- g) To ensure the maximum benefit to the people of Shropshire from such events.
- h) To ensure a consistent approach to public event safety.

5.4 The Chair has a key role in ensuring that the SAG reflects the recommendations made in the final report on the Hillsborough stadium disaster; reporting back to the Group Manager for Public Protection & Enforcement; ensuring that the decisions and recommendations accord with the overall aims and objectives of the Council; and ensuring that account is taken of the views of all the members.

5.5 During the year the following nineteen Safety Advisory Group meetings were held with event organisers:

- Green Man Festival, Clun
- Ludlow Food Festival
- Ludlow Spring Fair
- Ludlow May Fair
- Osfest, Oswestry
- Shifnal Carnival
- Burwarton Show, nr Bridgnorth
- Elton John Concert, Shrewsbury Town F.C
- West Midlands Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury
- Hole in the Wall Festival, Hopton Wafers
- Status Quo Concert, The Quarry, Shrewsbury
- Hope House Music, The Quarry, Shrewsbury
- Young Farmers, Chirbury
- Olympian Festival, The Quarry, Shrewsbury
- Cosford Air Show (emergency planning event only)
- Shires Show, Market Drayton
- Shrewsbury Fields Forever, The Quarry, Shrewsbury

- Farmer Phil's Festival, Minsterley
- West Midlands County Showground Fireworks, Shrewsbury

6. Additional Information

- 6.1 A certain number of event and pre-event visits are carried out every year. Eight site visits were undertaken by officers from the Public Protection & Enforcement Health & Safety team in 2012, to provide additional, specific advice and assistance.
- 6.2 During the latter part of 2011 the Public Protection and Enforcement service introduced a feedback questionnaire for event organisers, aimed at capturing their views on our service and any suggestions they may have for improvements. From the six questionnaires returned, five were very positive and felt that the Safety Advisory Groups were helpful, the web pages were useful and the downloadable forms were easy to understand and use.
- 6.3 The one negative response has been followed up and investigated separately, and referred to improved timing, communications and the duplication of advice.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The provision of a pre-event safety planning service for our customers has proven to be effective and popular, and has grown in scope and scale since its' inception in 2009. It continues to be delivered at no extra cost to event organisers and the participating services are keen to stay fully committed and involved.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Terms of Reference for Shropshire Safety Advisory Group
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Councillor Steve Charmley
Local Member Covers all areas
Appendices None