

## **Lets Rock Scotland event - feedback**

### **Report by Ricky Moffat, Head of Commercial Operations**

#### **1 Purpose of Report**

On the weekend of 23/24 June 2018 the Lets Rock Scotland brand held two music events in Dalkeith Country Park. With attendances of approximately 20,000 and 10,000 respectively this constitutes two of the biggest attended events in Midlothian. Up to 3,000 campers were being provided for on the night of Saturday 23 June 2018.

The purpose of this report is to give initial feedback received following the events.

#### **2 Background**

##### **2.1 Safety Advisory Group**

Midlothian Council, like all other Scottish Authorities has set up a Safety Advisory Group. This is made up of representatives from each of the emergency services and relevant officers from various services within Midlothian Council. The remit of the group is to consider events that are due to take place in Midlothian with a view to ensure that the event is held as safely as possible and that all necessary permissions and licenses are in place prior to the event taking place.

Having intimated their desire to hold a music event at Dalkeith Country Park, the organisers from Lets Rock Scotland attended their first Safety Advisory Group meeting on Friday 23 February 2018. A follow up meeting was held on Friday 27 April 2018.

Lets Rock Scotland have been invited to a de-brief meeting of the Safety Advisory Group on Friday 28 September 2018.

##### **2.2 Events**

On Saturday 23 June 2018 the event was designed around an "80's" theme with artists from that era. Generally it was considered that this would appeal to an older age group. Lets Rock Scotland are a brand who have held similar events across the UK and indeed have a three year contract to hold an event at Dalkeith Country Park.

Initially the intention was to only host the Saturday event but in due course the intention to host a Sunday event, which was designed to attract a younger audience was put forward.

Thereafter a request to have a short firework display after each event was requested and approved.

## 2.3 Initial Feedback from Safety Advisory Group Members

Each of the members of the Safety Advisory Group were contacted to ascertain their initial feedback following the events. The following table is a summary of the responses received;

Table 1 – Feedback from SAG members

ORGANISATION	COMMENTS
Police Scotland	<p>The weekend was a terrific success for Midlothian.</p> <p>From a police perspective there were real gaps in the traffic management plan of buses, shuttle buses and taxis. There was a significant planning meeting both nights to facilitate the safe egress of patrons. This will require to be better managed should the event return.</p>
Midlothian Council Building Standards	<p>From a Building Standards perspective things paperwork, wise didn't go quite as smoothly as we would have liked.</p> <p>Permission under Section 89 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 is required for both the erection and use of a temporary raised structures, namely stage, disabled viewing platform and front of house gantry.</p> <p>Although UK Live were spoken to at the SAG meeting, it was not until the Thursday afternoon after much prompting that they did eventually forward sufficient details that allowed a 'Certificate to Erect' to be issued.</p> <p>UK Live have learnt from this year and it is not expected that the same delays will occur in future.</p>
Midlothian Council Road Services	<p>The main issue pre the event was queries from locals asking about parking restrictions. Many residents in High Street effected by the event claimed not to have received notification letters from the organisers.</p>
Scottish Ambulance Service	<p>The event caused no problems and outside the event were no busier than a normal weekend in Dalkeith.</p>
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	<p>No issues from a SFRS point of view.</p>
Midlothian Council Environmental Health	<p>Environmental Health received only one noise complaint. This was from a resident in East Lothian and was received on the Monday following the event, and so no checks could be made on the night at the complaints house by the event organiser's noise consultant.</p> <p>We are awaiting a copy of the final report however from discussions with the noise consultant, they received no noise complaints and levels were kept within levels contained in Licensing conditions. This has been helped by the layout of the stage and speakers etc, which differed from Midstock (facing away from park entrance) and it will be a recommendation from Environmental Health that this stage / speaker orientation is used for future events.</p> <p>The event also finished before time and no other issues from Environmental Health, Public Health point of view.</p>
Midlothian Council Licensing	<p>No issues with regard to the processing of the application. The organiser should consider making application for a 3 year licence should he intend holding another similar event in the future.</p> <p>Feedback (i) the organiser should be more proactive in terms of issuing information in relation to the pick-up points for taxis and private hire cars and (ii) shuttle buses were operated from Edinburgh but not from within Midlothian. Consideration should be given to operating shuttle buses for residents of Midlothian to address congestion issues.</p>

## 2.4 Feedback from Other Sources

Additional information has been received from others who attended the events and are issues that will be taken up with the organisers.

One attendee who arrived in a wheelchair outlined a number of difficulties experienced including;

Having to be wheeled over the very bumpy cobbled stones to the entrance to Dalkeith Country Park. The organisers had given no thought to wheelchair access and at least for that part of the journey - they could have used a temporary surface like the one used in Princess St Gardens during the various summer and winter festivals.

Then had to be pushed over two fields. None of the officials offered any help.

On entering the concert area I was issued with a disabled pass which allowed me access to the disabled toilets and viewing platform but..... there was no actual disabled access to either. The officials had allowed other festival goers to set up camp on the grass obstructing the route. We fought our way through and eventually arrived at the ramp - which was so steep, an unaccompanied wheelchair user would not have been able to get up (or down) safely.

Accessing the toilets was virtually impossible in the wheelchair but I was able to borrow a crutch from another fellow disabled person and walked the short journey.

The homeward bound journey was mostly downhill so not as bad but we had to leave the concert early to avoid being caught up in the crush for the exit.

Information issued by the organisers indicated that once entry to the event had been gained the attendee would not be allowed to leave and return. However on the days attendees could get a wrist band to leave and return.

The security at the event appeared lax on occasions with attendees bags not being routinely searched as indicated prior to the event.

There were a number of parents/guardians with children, who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol.

There piles of bottles and cans all over the site during the event which indicated additional litter picking throughout the events was required.

The traffic congestion at the end of the event including cars, buses and taxis took time to clear. Whilst there were no waiting cones all along Musselburgh Road, there were cars taxis and buses parked all-round the roundabout .

### **3 Report Implications**

#### **3.1 Resource**

Lets Rock Scotland event organisers have in place a number of contractual arrangements covering all requirements to host the events.

The Council were required to provide a range of services including the promotion of traffic regulation orders and approval of the stage erection. All costs associated with these requirements were met by the organisers.

#### **3.2 Risk**

Prior to these events the organisers produced a series of risk assessments which covered the main risks associated with the events and these were scrutinised by members of the Safety Advisory Group.

Issues identified as part of the de-brief process will be considered as part of any future risk assessment considerations.

#### **3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report are:

- ☒ Community safety
- ☒ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

### **3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

Midlothian Council and its Community Planning Partners have made a commitment to treat the following area as key priorities under the Single Midlothian Plan:-

- Economic Growth and Business Support

A number of local facilities benefitted as a consequence of these events.

### **3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

Having Dalkeith Country Park as a venue hosting significant, well attended events, raises the profile of Dalkeith town centre, which will assist in future to attract people to the town as a destination to visit.

### **3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

The purpose of the Safety Advisory Group is to ensure that events are held as safely as possible. In this regard, the feedback, de-brief session and commentary received will ensure that for future events all pertinent points are discussed and addressed appropriately.

### **3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

Feedback will be considered from all sources and those affected e.g. nearby residents will be assured that the potential impact of the events is minimised.

### **3.8 Ensuring Equalities**

It is important that all attendees to the events are treated equally. In this respect the comments relating to disabled access will be considered carefully.

### **3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

It is important to Dalkeith Country Park that events are staged which ensure the future of the site. Midlothian Council will continue to support the events as necessary.

### **3.10 IT Issues**

None

## **4 Summary**

This report gives feedback following the Lets Rock Scotland events held at Dalkeith Country Park on the weekend of 23/24 June 2018.

The intention is that a de-brief will be held with the event organisers at the end of September 2018 to consider all of the issues raised prior to the planning for future events.

## **5 Recommendations**

The Board is recommended to:

- a) Note the feedback in relation to the Lets Rock Scotland events held on the weekend of 23/24 June 2018.

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