

MATTERS FOR REPORT

21/08 - **EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND PARADES ON THE HIGHWAY:** (Councillor Newby declared a personal interest in the item on the basis that he was a member of the Liaison Committee of the Harrogate International Festival of the Performing Arts. He remained in the meeting room and took part in the debate). (Councillor Willoughby declared a personal interest in the item on the basis that she served on the governing body of King James School which organised the Knaresborough Fun Run. She remained in the meeting room and took part in the debate)

The Head of Highways and Transport submitted a written report which provided a progress update on the issue of managing events and activities, including parades on the highway. He referred to the meeting of the Commission held on 7 April 2008 and reiterated the Council's view that there was no legal reason to prevent the Police from managing traffic at events and that the change in their position was simply due to a change in their policy, not in law. He added that, although the Police had stated they would not manage traffic, the policy was not being applied consistently as at the recent St George's Day parades in Harrogate and Knaresborough the police took full control of the events and undertook traffic control at key locations. He also referred to the differences between the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (TPCA) and, in particular, the different requirements to advertise orders in the local press and traffic management measures. He stated that authorities and police forces across the country interpreted the use of these acts differently with no coordinated approach nationally. It was confirmed that the LGA had not been approached and the Commission requested the Head of Transport to take this up as an issue with the LGA to obtain an agreed interpretation.

He referred Members to section 6.0 of the report which set out the Council's proposals to assist and support the continuation of the activities of the community, which included:

- the production of an annual Temporary Road Closure Order to advertise all road closures required for community and charitable events in a calendar year;
- assisting event organisers with the basic requirements of the Traffic Management Plan to ensure their event is planned safely;
- offering a number of basic traffic signs that would be available for organisations to use free of charge (a deposit would be required);
- an arrangement with a local contractor to undertake the installation, maintenance and removal of traffic signs;
- the waiving of all council officer fees associated with the assessment of event applications and the production of temporary road closure orders for community led, charitable and non-profit making events; and
- the production of an Event Application Pack and Associated Guidance Notes that assisted organisers through the process of gaining approval for their activities.

The Head and Highways and Transport advised that the above arrangements were to be implemented in the agency area and that he was trying to encourage NYCC to introduce similar arrangements in the rest of the District.

It was confirmed that temporary traffic cones would still be available for loan from HBC but they were intended as advisory measures and not for enforcement purposes and could also be used at community village events.

In response to a question it was confirmed that even for small village parades the responsible highways authority should be consulted so that they had the opportunity to comment and advise the parade organisers. This would establish if road closure orders would be required. The Head of Highways and Transport confirmed that Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) were in operation in Yorkshire and that the SAG had met for the Harrogate District since the Commission's meeting with North Yorkshire Police but, in his opinion, they did not work.

One Member emphasised the importance of the timely application for licences to sell alcohol at events and requested the Head of Highways and Transport to remind organisers of this when the Council was consulted regarding the organisation of events/parades.

Members discussed the issue of policing and the stance made by the Police and it was **agreed** that a letter be sent to North Yorkshire Police Authority, on behalf of the Commission, in relation to their policy on the policing of events and also in relation to the effectiveness of the Safety Advisory Groups (SAG).

Members noted the report.

(5.32 pm - 5.46 pm)