



V O N A N D S O M E R S E T C O N S T A B U L A R Y

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Operations Department

Police Headquarters, PO Box 37, Valley Road
Portishead, Bristol, BS20 8QJ

Tel: 01275 816841

Email: caroline.peters@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Dear Mendip District Council

SCRUTINY BOARD

Police Report on the Glastonbury Festival 2010

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Glastonbury Festival 2010. The Avon and Somerset Constabulary believe that once again this was a well planned and professionally managed Festival by Glastonbury Festivals Limited (GFL). Given the size, nature and location of the Festival there will always be areas where improvements can be made. We are certain that within the spirit of partnership co-operation any issues that need to be addressed can be further developed for the benefit of the Festival crowd and the local community.

The Constabulary would like to offer the following observations and comments regarding the Festival held in June this year in a constructive manner in anticipation that they will contribute towards further promoting the main Licensing Objectives.

Crime and Disorder

There were 509 crimes reported at this year's Festival, a reduction of 31 and a 6% decrease on the levels of 2009. This is similar to the crime levels reported in 2005.

123 offences were detected, giving an overall detection rate so far of 24%. This is 6% decrease in the detection rate compared to last year. 109 of the 123 offences detected were for drug offences.

There were 113 drug related offences in 2010 compared to 158 in 2009. This reduction is accounted for primarily by substantially fewer calls for police to pedestrian entry gates during the Wednesday of the festival. It is believed that this was due to the very hot weather and a large number of festival goers waiting to gain entry at 0800 hours. This led to an expedited entry procedure and a less intensive search regime for public safety reasons.

There was one death which was related to the taking of controlled drugs. However this appears to have been an adverse reaction related to that individual rather than an overdose in the conventional sense or 'rogue' batch.

There were 168 people arrested and dealt with for 226 offences that took place at Glastonbury Festival, an increase of 11 arrests on the previous year.

300 calls for service were received over the duration of Glastonbury Festival; this is a 20% decrease on last year. This is accounted for by the improvement in traffic conditions which led to a significant increase in calls on 2009 when compared to previous years.

The joint crime operation between the Constabulary and GFL was a great success this year following the development of some initiatives, such as:-

1. Safer Stronger Neighbourhood Team

The dedicated on site Safer Stronger Neighbourhood Team (SSNT) was increased in size this year as per the recommendation from 2009. For the first time specialist staff were used in this key role. The team consisted of 2 Neighbourhood Policing Sergeants, 4 Beat Managers and up to 24 Special Constables working between 0700 and 2300 hours daily. They were deployed in accordance with the jointly agreed pre prepared SSNT patrol plan, engaging early with the festival crowd at the entry gates and campsites, emphasising the importance of looking after valuables and storing property safely. It was noted that the free crime reduction material given to the public was particularly popular this year, with police officers regularly approached. It is widely thought that the engagement between police and public was the best experienced at any Glastonbury Festival and the SSNTs made the most significant contribution towards this.

Beat surgeries were held at the information points and were very well received by both public and staff.

Recommendation: Build upon this successful community policing ethos by maintaining the size of the uniform SSNT using specialised supervisors and staff. Consider having a permanent 'police station' in an area of the site with a high footfall.

2. Festival Liaison Officer

This was a dedicated Police Officer from the planning department working 0700-2300 hours dedicated to providing a link between the Constabulary and the event organisers. Those individuals who had already formed a strong link with key personnel in GFL and other agencies during the planning phase were specifically selected to ensure a close working relationship and a level of trust.

Recommendation: Integrate the FLO role into all future Festivals and ensure that staff resourced to this role are heavily involved in the planning process.

3. Joint Patrols

The introduction of joint patrols of Constabulary staff with GFL Security and Stewarding staff was carried out in 2009 and developed further this year. A strong trend has emerged at this festival and others around the country over the last 3 years regarding the timings of the thefts from tents. The majority of offences occur between the hours of 0200 and 0600 on the first 2 or 3 nights of the festival.

Recommendation: Further develop the joint patrol plans between the Constabulary and GFL Security and Stewarding staff for 2011 specifically with a view to addressing this offence type. This should include the use of plain clothes surveillance staff and technical equipment to allow those acting under the cover of darkness to be identified.

4. Car Park Opening

Concerns were raised that the earlier car park opening may lead to a pseudo festival starting in the car parks during the nights. A small police capability was put in place to address this but the car parks appeared well stewarded and the concerns were unfounded. Little crime was reported during this period and one minor disorder issue was quickly and effectively resolved. It is important that, if this idea is repeated, the same policy regarding entertainment, camping and welfare facilities is maintained. It is likely that those who successfully used this system in 2010 will publicise its availability and it should not be assumed that there will be the same level of compliance from the public in 2011.

It was noted however that a very large number of individuals were waiting to access the licensed site the following morning. The hot weather impacted on this significantly, but at one time public health concerns were raised and the search regime appeared to have been diluted, with good cause. This led to a reduction in seizures and arrests at the entrance gates and a consequential fall in detection rate.

Recommendation: The Constabulary to work with the organiser to ensure that mechanisms are in place to manage this increase in numbers and the ability to carry out an effective searching policy is maintained.

5. Fraud

It is clear that GFL came under attack from Organised Crime Groups on a more concerted basis than in previous years. Crimes related to the forgery of tickets and wristbands are rare at Glastonbury but a number of wristbands were forged in 2010. Although a large batch was seized and a significant arrest made, it is unknown how many people were on site without the genuine passes. Significant disruption was caused to this OCG through partnership working and certainly prevented further crime at the festival.

It was also noted that a number of those ejected found their way back onsite again. A breach in the fence was located using covert officers and GFL acted promptly to resolve this issue. A number of individuals are believed to have been ejected without any wristband.

Recommendation: Police and GFL to work together in the build up to 2011 to share intelligence on possible tactics employed by those wishing to facilitate others gaining access to the site by illegitimate means. A combined police and GFL plan to be developed to address those on site without wristbands.

A full breakdown of the reported crime statistics are produced at the end of this report. It is worthy of note that for year's 2002 to 2005 inclusive the Festival was licensed for 150,000 people and for the year's 2007 to 2010 for 177,500 people. It should also be noted that the trend has moved markedly towards earlier arrival on the site of the public with the majority now arriving within the first 24 hours thus providing a greater opportunity for criminals.

Public Nuisance

The GFL Traffic Management Plan was comprehensive and has historically coped with the demand placed on the road system. Last year roads became congested on the Wednesday, the day the Festival opened, caused by a number of combining factors. To counteract this, GFL decided to open the car parks to the public during the Tuesday night, only allowing entry to the licensed site at 0800 hours on the Wednesday morning.

The result of the car parks opening early was that a very significant number of vehicles were able to access the site during hours in which the demand on the road network would otherwise be very low. The congestion seen was notably reduced from 2009 and, anecdotally, from the years prior to that also. The Constabulary see this change in policy as a success.

Recommendation: The Police support the continued opening of the car parks on the Tuesday evening subject to the same stringent conditions about the activities available to the public and careful marketing.

Public Safety

Aside from the hot weather, the World Cup football screening had the biggest impact upon the potential safety of the public at this year's event. A number of issues conspired to present us with the biggest possible challenge for policing the screening of this event, notably the date, time, opposition and weather. It is thought that up to 100,000 members of the public may have watched some or all of the England vs Germany match on the Sunday.

The excellent working relationship with GFL and the security teams proved hugely beneficial in resolving this potential threat. GFL fully accepted their public safety responsibilities and devoted finance and personnel to ensuring that the event was as safe as possible in the circumstances.

Recommendation: The learning from this event should be captured in an isolated form to be developed and used as best practice in the event of a similarly high profile match occurring during the festival.

Preventing Harm to Children

No issues relating to the prevention of harm to children presented themselves during the event this year.

Summary

The Constabulary once again provided dedicated patrols in the village of Pilton and the surrounding area / villages. This year more officers were deployed on foot with the local District taking clear ownership. Feedback at the Pilton Parish Council meeting was exceptional with a request that the scale and style of policing should remain unchanged in 2011.

The Constabulary was grateful for the opportunity to once again work with Glastonbury Festivals Limited, Mendip District Council and all the other agencies pre, during and post the event. Throughout the year, any issues that were identified were amicably resolved.

The planning process and Festival operation is a fine example of partnership working, which can once again demonstrate learning and continuous improvement year on year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Peters', written in a cursive style.

CAROLINE PETERS

Superintendent - Operations
Avon and Somerset Constabulary Planning Lead
1st September 2010

CRIMES RECORDED - GLASTONBURY 2010

Crime Type	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
Threats to Kill	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wounding	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Other Wounding	27	21	15	9	0	0	0	0	0
Possession of Weapons	8	10	18	0	1	0	3	1	1
Harassment	2	1	3	2	2	5	3	3	4
Indecent Assault on a Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sexual Assault on Female Over the Age of 12	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
Rape of Female Over the Age of 15	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Burglary in a Dwelling	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary - Non-dwelling	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	1
Robbery - Business	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery - Personal	157	84	18	3	3	2	2	1	0
Kidnapping	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Theft from the Person	290	175	107	89	53	61	110	77	32
Theft from Motor Vehicle	150	120	11	33	33	3	0	5	8
Attempt Theft from Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle	43	34	3	10	4	0	3	3	5
Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Attempt Theft of Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Theft of Pedal Cycles	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2
Other Theft	1519	439	338	187	164	148	412	269	325
Other Fraud	1	7	1	4	0	0	1	1	2
Handling Stolen Goods	3	1	2	0	2	0	6	0	0
Arson	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Criminal Damage to Dwelling	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Damage - Motor Vehicle	30	14	7	4	4	3	5	0	1
Other Criminal Damage	19	4	3	0	6	1	1	4	0
Other Forgery	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Public Order	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Assault on a Constable	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	2
Assault ABH	0	0	0	0	4	0	9	7	6
Common Assault	17	1	1	6	3	1	6	5	1
Fear of Violence	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1
Vehicle Interference	0	13	1	16	8	0	1	0	1
Dangerous Driving	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle/Driver Document Fraud	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Voyeurism	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Committing or conspiring to Commit an Act Outraging Public Decency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL EXCLUDING DRUGS OFFENCES	2272	940	534	370	304	228	574	382	396
Drugs - Cannabis						45	67	63	51
Drugs - Other						133	95	73	46
Drugs - Trafficking						16	15	22	16
Total Drugs Offences	91	107	184	102	205	194	177	158	113
TOTAL INCLUDING DRUGS OFFENCES	2363	1047	718	472	509	422	751	540	509

SOURCE: Guardian Crime