

## **Agenda item 4: Public Question Time**

PQT No 1: Submitted by Cllr Nick Hall, Pilton Parish Council

### ***Glastonbury Festival Traffic Management***

*Some members of our community here in Pilton, including myself, have raised a number of issues with the management of traffic associated with the Glastonbury Festival.*

*The 'advice' from Mendip District Council had been to direct issues to the Festival operating company, Glastonbury Festival Events Limited (GFEL). Unfortunately, most of the issues have not been addressed by GFEL.*

*Moreover there hasn't been any direct contact between Somerset Highways and our community, and so we don't know if these issues have in fact been discussed with Somerset Council?*

*Somerset Council did produce a 2023 Glastonbury Festival de-brief report for the Scrutiny Committee (Communities) but it specifically excluded the work activities undertaken by several Council departments including Highways. Highways (and traffic management) appear to be under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committee (Climate and Places). Please can you confirm that highways and traffic issues related to Glastonbury Festival are within this committees' remit?*

*Is there a separate Somerset Council de-brief report on Traffic Management at the 2023 Glastonbury Festival? If so, does it include the issues that we have raised and a suitable action plan?*

*Presently this is no mechanism for Somerset Highways to interact directly with our community. If we feel GFEL are not addressing our concerns, how do we best raise our concerns without bothering the Scrutiny committee?*

*Substantive issues we would like to be addressed include:*

#### ***Temporary Traffic Restrictions Order***

*There is insufficient consultation about closure of public roads and footpaths. I note that Somerset Council Terms and Conditions state that it*

*is the applicant's responsibility to consult with all those "potentially affected" by a road closure. "This includes Somerset Council members, Parish Councillors and businesses and residents". "A record of all those contacted should be kept.."*

*Cockmill Lane is closed despite residents lodging an interest in being consulted on its closure. Footpaths and bridleways are closed too far in advance of the Festival. We also note that the TTRO for 2023 came into force on 5 May 2023 but continued in force until Sunday 5 Nov 2023! How can a 3-day Festival require a six-month period of TTRO?*

### ***Potholes and large-scale road degradation***

*Many of the local roads around the Festival site are suffering from potholes and large scale degradation. This must be in some part due to the Festival traffic. I understand that public roads are for everyone's use but surely those making profits from overloading these roads need to contribute more? I understand that the quarries in Mendip have such a scheme?*

### ***Impact of external (or offsite) campsites:***

*The de-brief report concludes that additional Council resources are required to prevent nuisance from external (or offsite) campsites. The Committee should be aware that in many cases these are no longer just campsites but large-scale events with entertainment and bars. In recent years traffic from these activities, which apparently aren't part of the Festival, have grown. GFEL have failed to address the issue – what is Somerset highways going to do to address the matter?*

### ***Reducing the Traffic through Pilton village***

*The volume of traffic entering the village has increased. This is both a nuisance to the residents and increases concerns about security. The two main causes appear to be the inability of stewards to challenge vehicles and the expansion of the Green (or 'Village') car park. Pilton Parish Council has recently put forward some suggestions to GFEL but without the support of any highway experts. Surely this should be part of Somerset Highways Traffic Management Plan?*

### ***Strategic Traffic Management Plan***

*A condition of Planning Approval (2022/2458/FUL) was that a Strategic Traffic Management Plan shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (in consultation [with] National Highways). Please can the Council advise the status of this Plan and if complete provide a copy?*

### ***Costs of Somerset Highways***

*Please can the Council confirm that GFEL pays Somerset Highways for their work associated with the Festival? How much was it in 2023? Does it cover the full cost of the department's work?*

*Finally I reiterate our simple request that we jointly seek efficient solutions to our community's concerns through proper dialogue.*

### **PQT No. 1: Somerset Council response**

We can confirm that highways and traffic issues related to Glastonbury festival are within this committees' remit, however no publicly available de-brief report is available as this has not been requested as it did not form part of the previous Mendip District Council de-brief report.

Somerset Council Traffic Management team are in regular dialogue throughout the year with the Glastonbury festival off-site traffic management team to discuss and agree the festivals traffic management plan. Following every festival, an off-site traffic de-brief meeting is held to ensure that any learning is captured and improvements incorporated for future years events. The community are free to contact the Council's traffic management events team at [eventstm@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:eventstm@somerset.gov.uk) if they have any concerns regarding the festivals traffic management plan.

In response to the substantive issues raised within the document we can respond as follows: -

- Strategic Traffic Management plan- We can confirm that as yet this document has not been submitted to the Planning Authority to discharge this condition. Once the plan is submitted for consideration it will be placed on the planning portal which can be accessed by the public. When the document has been agreed then arrangements can be made for a copy to be provided to you.
- Costs of Somerset Highways – We can confirm that costs for the Traffic management plan, including the signing/lining/TRO's/VMS signs/temp signals etc, are funded and managed by the event organisers; the festival also pays for Somerset Council officer time in event control. There are therefore no Somerset Council costs associated with the traffic management/highways for this event, we would however, continue to provide a statutory service that ensure the safety of the travelling public; i.e fill potholes etc.
- The other issues raised will be forwarded to the traffic management events team for consideration and direct response.