

**EURO PRIDE
SAFETY PLANNING MEETING
10.00am MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2002 @ MARKETING MANCHESTER**

MINUTES:

Present: Sarah Rowland and Jon Drape (Event & Prod Mgt), Steve Dixon and Joe Larrigan (Operational Services MCC), Darren Haslam (GMP), Roger Barberis (City Centre Mgt Co), Terry Waller (MCC), Claire Turner and Andrew Stokes (Marketing Manchester), Paul Martin (LGF), Michelle Reid (GHT), Clive Seddon (MCC), Jenny Davenport (Environmental Health MCC), Andy Scragg (Licensing Unit MCC)

Apologies: Andy Haslam (GMAS), Ann Walker (GMP), Steve Greenacre (GMP)

1 Introduction:

It was explained aim of meeting had been convened by SR and JD to discuss Mardi Gras in the wider context of Euro Pride and strategic issues relating to next year's Mardi Gras

DS explained background to Manchester being awarded Euro Pride in 2003 and how at present the license is held by Marketing Manchester whilst the content and structure of the event is being developed. Chris Hodgson and Claire Turner have been contracted to undertake the consultation process and the final report is due in December.

CT outlined the proposed content of Euro Pride. A 10 day festival with 6 strands:

- Street - street based programme across the city centre focussing on the first weekend (15-17 August 2003) "Manchester Coming Out". Possibility for a launch event in Exchange Square with a family event on the Sunday.
- Stage - cultural organisations to programme events to coincide with Euro Pride ie Lowry, Library Theatre, Green Room. Whilst predominately venue based, possibility for non-venue based activity ie Imperial War Museum. Also proposal for a heritage trail ie pink plaques.
- Screen - a Euro Pride film 'festival' at the Filmworks tying in with the Cornerhouse and Kino Films. Possibility Big Screen in Exchange Square
- Changes - Second City Project. Ten days of debates and seminar on how the community has / is affected by growth and change. A range of issues to be discussed by a wide variety of agencies and organisations looking at what services available and what services are missing. Ideas for some kind of legacy.
- Sport - proposals to date are to have a swimming competition organised by Northern Wave, other sporting activities / demonstrations, plus debates ie homophobia in sport, racism in sport etc.
- Big Weekend - Mardi Gras

Still need to undertake further consultation with potential partners pull in additionality. Next stage is to look at avenues of funding ie Sports Council, NWAB, Regional Lottery plus funding for community groups.

2 Alcohol Tolerance Zone:

It was explained that the preferred location for the Mardi Gras is the Village however the size of the alcohol tolerance zone is integral as to whether the Village will be able to accommodate the expected number of visitors. (EPOA calculation of numbers should be based on 25% increase - this year estimated 30k at any one time attended).

JD presented a proposal, which had been subject of a preliminary meeting with GMP, that the area be extended to include the Petro's car park, Sackville and Chorlton Street down to Whitworth Street. Capacity per person was calculated on 5 sq metre and 4 sq metre - advice to be taken from CS.

DH advised that a decision upon this could not be made without Steve Greenacre being present however after much discussion among the group, the following comments were noted.

- TW advised that after experience in 1998 and 1999, the content of the activity on Petros car park was vital to the 'success' of the site. Need agreements in place.
- DH stated that GMP would object to ANY fun fairs.
- J.Davenport pointed out that there is a number of voids under the car park ie cellars therefore need to be careful of load which also impacts on content.
- It was noted that in 1998 51K wrist bands sold and in 1999 45k, therefore concern that this year not necessarily a base line to calculate potential numbers for next year. TW stressed need for satellite events if Village is to be able to accommodate larger numbers.
- DS stated that a funding bid is being made to promote Euro Pride in USA and Germany however EOPA suggested that whilst should expect a much larger turnout from the UK will not necessarily equate to a large number attending from abroad ie Germany.

ACTION: Need to have a meeting with Steve Greenacre before Christmas, DH to check availability and give dates to SR.

3 Donations to Charities - Operation Fundraiser:

It was explained that whilst 2002 had been successful in raising 65k for charities, there was concern about how money could be raised in 2003 ie ability to do door collections, gain access into venues etc. In 1999 the sale of pledgebands grossed some £450k and we want to look at the kind of mechanism that can raise that amount of money, for use in 2003. PM proposed that an option is for Operational Fundraiser to charge an 'entry fee' out of which security/stewarding/cleansing is deducted (est. cost of 200k based on 24hr security) therefore split responsibility for Mardi Gras between VBA and the Charities. (VBA to be responsible for programming, entertainment, etc). The following comments were noted:

- TW experiences of 1998/99, logistical and safety concerns ie potential crowd crush, pledge band cheating, increase violence etc. Also wary of charities getting involved in logistics and financial risk ie cash flow, leakages etc.
- DS noted positive aspect of such a mechanism would be keep out undesirables and to ability to monitor numbers.
- JD raised issue of right of way / access and issue of licensing. SD explained that the highway could be closed under the Town Police Clause Act. DH also mentioned that a road could be closed on one occasion per year for upto three days for an event. However, regardless of this a charge still cannot be made to enter an area closed off by either means.
- DH concerns from previous years is people trying to gain entry therefore issue of access however good idea for controlling numbers - tickets as opposed to wrist bands?
- AS raised the issue that could run the risk of having to apply for a PEL which would allow ability to be more prescriptive in controls but Jenny D warned would lead to a more pragmatic view being taken ie sanitary provisions, lighting (exits and entries). Also financial and capacity implications.

- Financial implications for charities? - VAT not necessarily an issue as in previous year also potential to utilise Gift Aid to maximise fund raising opportunity.
- RB requested that JD and SR attend City Centre Crime & Disorder Partnership meeting.

ACTION: It was agreed that in order to take forward, need LGF/GHT to produce a feasibility study to form the basis of discussion at the next meeting.

4 Parade:

It was explained that anticipate the parade next year to be a much larger and more glamorous with floats potentially coming from abroad ie Toronto, Cologne, Melbourne as well as other Pride Organisations in UK. Also NWAB (Carnival Arts Officer) has already been approached about community / artistic involvement. Consequently two issues were raised:

- Concern about where floats would / could park up after parade - not enough room in the Village therefore would need to consider other sites ie Albert Square
- Possibility of an evening parade ie 8-10pm. Problems - impact on village ie density in/egress; alcohol, both participants and audience.

5 Location -other options?

It was explained other options may need to be considered if cannot accommodate in Village ie Whitworth Park or Platt Fields.

ACTION: Agreed preference is for the Mardi Gras to be located in The Village but need to consider over spill / additional areas. The following were suggested: Vimto Park, National Coach Station, Minshull Street NCP, Shena Simon, Met Car park.

6 D.O.M To be confirmed depending upon Steve Greenacre's availability.

7 Date of next meeting