

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Safety at Sport s Grounds Sub Committee.
Date: 3rd February 2025
Report for: Information.
Report of: Corporate Director, Place

Report Title

Report on the Safety Advisory Group Meetings for Lancashire Cricket Club held in 2024

Summary

Report summarising the discussions and outcomes of the Safety Advisory Group Meetings.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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Background Papers: None

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS ADVISORY GROUP

Report on the Safety at Sports Grounds Advisory Group Meetings for Lancashire County Cricket Club.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The purpose of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) is to advise the local authority in respect of safety management to ensure and promote high standards of safety and security at a sports stadium. Meetings of the SAG are held annually and as and when necessary; and to review annually a stadium's General Safety Certificate. This is done using a consistent and co-ordinated multi-agency partnership approach. The SAG also advises the local authority in respect of relevant legislation and guidance whereby reports and debriefs relevant to site visits and / or inspections are presented to the SAG in relation to the issue of a General Safety Certificate.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report will summarise the safety advisory group meetings which have been held in relation to the cricket matches and concerts held in 2024.
- 2.2 Throughout the season the capacity figures within the General Safety Certificate were amended to reflect changes in capacity for the temporary stands in use.

3.0 Safety Advisory Group Meeting 27th March 2024

- 3.1 A safety advisory group meeting was held on the 27th March 2024 to review the General Safety Certificate ahead of the 2024 cricket season. In attendance at this meeting were Trafford Council (TMBC) including Sports Grounds and Regulatory Services and Highways, Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Amey Structures and the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA).
- 3.2 Lancashire County Cricket Club provided an overview of the 2023 season which included hosting one of the Ashes test matches as well as an overview of the upcoming season. Notable fixtures included England vs Sri Lanka and England vs Australia. Updates on the stewarding provision for the upcoming season, the review of health and safety procedures and Medical Advisory Group were provided.
- 3.3 Greater Manchester Police did not report any concerns.
- 3.4 Trafford Council Regulatory Services provided a Local Authority update which informed the group discussions had taken place with the club in relation to

amendments within safety documentation which the club were working on. The P Factor visit had been undertaken the week prior to the SAG and works were on-going to address matters identified in the clubs annual structural survey.

- 3.5 Trafford Council Highways advised that the traffic management plan is being worked through with the club to identify when road closures would be required.
- 3.6 Amey Structures advised of the need for wooden planks within the temporary stands to be checked to ensure there is no sign of degradation. The club confirmed that discussions were taking place with their supplier in relation to this.
- 3.7 The Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) provided an overview of a match day inspection undertaken on behalf of the ECB during the England vs New Zealand T20 fixture on the 1st September 2023. Updates on guidance documentation available on the SGSA website, new SGSA Chief Executive and annual conference were provided. As part of 'Any Other Business' the SGSA requested clarification on where the club were in relation to the 6-10 year major structural inspection cycle.
- 3.8 At the conclusion of the meeting it was determined that the Local Authority was not in a position to re-issue the General Safety Certificate for 2024 and instead will amend the one issued 30th March 2023 would be amended to remove the capacity of the temporary stands, which had not yet been built for 2024, to provide an accurate capacity figure.

4.0 Safety Advisory Group Meetings in relation to the planning for concerts

- 4.1 Trafford Council were notified that Lancashire County Cricket Club were to hold 3 nights of concerts with Foo Fighters on the 13th and 15th June and Green Day on the 21st June.
- 4.2 Planning for the concerts began on the 14th February 2024 with sub-group meetings taking place prior to the first multi-agency meeting taking place on the 7th March 2024.
- 4.3 At the conclusion of the meeting the dates for the next sub-group meetings and next multi-agency meeting were established.
- 4.4 Further sub-group meetings were held on the 17th April 2024 with the final multi-agency meeting taking place on the 9th May 2024. Throughout the planning process a key issue that arose was the location of the bar, known as 'V Bar', and its proximity to Gate 5 which is one of the main ingress gates. At the end of the meeting an agreement in principle was reached in relation to the issuing of the Special Safety Certificate subject to concerns regarding 'V Bar' being resolved and the required structural sign offs for temporary structures being received by the council.
- 4.5 A further meeting took place on the 16th May 2024 between the club and Trafford Council Regulatory Services where plans were presented by the club regarding the rationale as to the location of the 'V Bar'. Further correspondence took place and a site visit on the 11th June 2024 which addressed the concerns.

- 4.6 Separate Special Safety Certificates were issued for the Foo Fighters concerts on the 13th and 15th June 2024.
- 4.7 Officers from Trafford Council were present during both events and after the concert on the 15th June 2024 concerns were identified in relation to vehicle and pedestrian segregation. A review of CCTV footage was undertaken and similar concerns in relation to vehicle and pedestrian segregation were identified following the concert on the 13th June 2024.
- 4.8 On the 19th June 2024 a Prohibition Notice under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 was served on the club prohibiting any vehicle movement in the first hour following the Green Day concert on the 21st June 2024. Outside of this period vehicle movements were prohibited without a safe system of work in place to ensure vehicle and pedestrian segregation.
- 4.9 On the 21st June 2024, following receipt of procedures setting out how the club intended to comply with the Prohibition Notice and the required structural sign off documentation being received, the Special Safety Certificate was issued for the Green Day concert.
- 4.10 Officers from Trafford Council were present during the Green Day concert and vehicle movement was identified during the hour following the end of the concert.

4.0 Safety Advisory Group Meeting 13th August 2024

- 4.1 A Safety Advisory group meeting was held on the 13th August 2024 to review the plans ahead of the England vs Sri Lanka test match starting on the 21st August 2024.
- 4.2 In attendance at the meeting were representatives from Trafford Council (TMBC) including Sports Grounds and Regulatory Services, Highways, Parking Services and Emergency Planning, Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Northwest Ambulance Service (NWAS), Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and Sports Ground Safety Authority.
- 4.3 Lancashire County Cricket Club provided an overview of the event to the group which included timings of the fixture, current ticket sales, stewarding provisions and management of on-site vehicle movements. An overview of the build schedule for the temporary 'A1' stand was provided.
- 4.4 Trafford Council Regulatory Services and Lancashire County Cricket Club discussed the management of onsite vehicle movements to ensure compliance with the Prohibition Notice and the contingency plans in place for redeployment of stewards when required or if there was an increase in ticket sales. As part of the discussions Lancashire County Cricket Club confirmed that a review of the stewarding provision has taken place.
- 4.5 Discussions took place between Greater Manchester Police and Lancashire County Cricket Club in relation to the arrival times of the team coaches and the locations where the teams were staying. Greater Manchester Police confirmed that national community tensions was reducing and so did not anticipate any impact on the fixture.

- 4.6 North West Ambulance asked about the location of the PACT kits and defibrillator machines. Lancashire County Cricket Club confirmed that the PACT kits will be publicly accessible locations and will provide details on the defibrillators.
- 4.7 Transport for Greater Manchester advised that it was going to be busy on the Metrolink network due to other events taking place across Manchester but that on days 1-4 there will be a 6 minute service at the ground and 7 ½ minute service on day 5.
- 4.8 During the meeting it was confirmed that once the required structural sign off had been received for the temporary 'A1' stand that the capacity on the General Safety Certificate will be updated.

5.0 Safety Advisory Group Meeting 11th December 2024

- 5.1 On the 11th December 2024 a safety advisory group meeting was held to undertake an end of season review.
- 5.2 In attendance at the meeting were representatives of Trafford Council (TMBC) including Sports Grounds and Regulatory Services, Highways and Emergency Planning, Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS), Amey Structures, Transport for Greater Manchester the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA).
- 5.3 Lancashire County Cricket Club provided a presentation to the group giving an over view of the 2024 season, including changes within the safety team, the number of spectators admitted to the ground for each event, the total number of medical incidents and incidents of significance, for example high winds prior to day three of the Sri Lanka test match and the Prohibition Notice. As part of the presentation the club set out its objectives for the 2025 season.
- 5.4 Greater Manchester Police did not report any concerns.
- 5.5 Apologies were received from North West Ambulance Service, however, questions had been submitted to raise on their behalf which included had there been any issues with staffing and resourcing from the clubs medical provider, if all contingency medical equipment was in place, for example public trauma first aid kits, defibrillators and stretchers and if there were any trends in casualty numbers. The club confirmed that a review of medical provision is underway and have someone in place to assist with this.
- 5.6 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue confirmed that they will have provision on event days going forward.
- 5.7 Transport for Greater Manchester advised that the main issue this season has been weather related. The concerts did not cause significant issues on the transport network, however, following some T20 fixtures there were reports of drunkenness on the Metrolink.
- 5.8 The Sports Ground Safety Authority provided an overview of the fixture attended with positive feedback from speaking with stewards and observations of incident management. Learning points from the visit have been passed to the

club to feed into the Operations Manual. Issues identified on the day included water ingress underneath E Stands and some missing equipment from the medical room. An overview of updates from the Sports Ground Safety Authority was also provided.

- 5.9 Trafford Council Sports Ground Safety advised that officers visited to undertake a match day inspection, however, rain prevented play. At the start of the season a letter was sent to the club detailing works required before an updated General Safety Certificate was to be issued. There was no formal de-brief following the concerts, however, a letter was sent to the club following the issues identified. A Prohibition Notice was served under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Other issues identified at the concerts included crowd management issues outside the venue with a lack of stewards present to manage and an improvement in signage required.
- 5.10 Amey Structures advised that the 6-10 year major structural inspection is due.
- 5.11 Trafford Council Highways reported that during ingress for the concerts that there was not enough resource allocated to Great Stone Road which resulted in Greater Manchester Police and Trafford Council Staff having to manage crowds. In relation to cricket fixtures arrangements for traffic management need to be set out based on spectators at the event.
- 5.12 Trafford Council Licensing reported issues which occurred during cricket fixtures and concerts. During cricket fixtures some pumps were found to be providing short measures and had to be taken out of use, concerns around the temporary 'D Stand' being advertised as a party stand due to people becoming intoxicated and communications to bars not to serve intoxicated people requiring review. During the concerts there was a breach of noise limits during one of the Foo Fighters concerts, issues in relation to crowd management were noted and event management plans were not submitted in a timely manner.
- 5.13 Correspondence will take place prior to the commencement of the season setting out the Council's expectations for the upcoming season and asking the club to provide an action plan to significantly improve event management going forward.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION.

- 6.1 That the report be noted.