

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Safety at Sports Grounds Sub Committee.
Date: 22nd January 2024
Report for: Information.
Report of: Corporate Director, Place

Report Title

Report on the Safety Advisory Group Meeting for Lancashire Cricket Club held since June 2020-June 2023

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 for the seasons 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Whilst there have been no sub committee meetings since January 2020 due to the covid pandemic, work to review the general safety certificate has remained on going through out this period. Due to Coronavirus Regulations which were introduced in 2020, following the return of sport, international behind closed door fixtures were held. Through out this time the safety advisory group continued to meet and review the General Safety Certificate to ensure that the activities which were taking place at the stadium were meeting the required regulations and were safe for players and necessary personnel to attend. It was necessary during this period to reduce the capacity of the stadium to permit no spectators present at the ground.

In May 2021, the relaxation of the Coronavirus Regulations saw the return of spectators to sports stadia in England. Fixtures held at Emirates Old Trafford throughout the summer season, saw the capacity slowly increased from 40 % to 75% and finally back to 100% with the first fixture with at full capacity taking place on the 19th June 2021.

3.0 Safety Advisory Group Meeting 30th June 2020

- 3.1 A safety advisory group meeting was held on the 30th June 2020 in order to discuss the hosting of international behind closed doors fixtures at Lancashire County Cricket Club. In attendance at this meeting were Trafford Council (TMBC) including Sports Grounds and Regulatory Services, Public Health, Highways and Legal and Democratic Services, Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Greater Manchester Police

Counter Terrorism Advisor, North West Ambulance Service (NWAS), Amey Structures, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA).

- 3.2 Lancashire County Cricket Club provided an overview of the 2019 season which included the successful hosting of fixtures as part of the Cricket World Cup. The group was provided with an overview of the international behind closed doors fixtures that were to take place and the arrangements that were in place to ensure the site remained COVID secure.
- 3.3 The SGSA confirmed that they had been appointed by the ECB to undertake audits during these fixtures and confirmed that a copy of the report would be provided to the Council. If there were any serious issues the council would be notified immediately.
- 3.4 Greater Manchester Police did not report any concerns.
- 3.5 The Greater Manchester Police Counter Terrorism Advisor reported on the current threat level and advised of the need to ensure that security plans are not impacted by any other plans.
- 3.6 Trafford Council provided a Local Authority review which informed the group the guidance documents produced by the ECB have been reviewed and advised of the importance of ensuring that they are reflected in the club's operations manual.
- 3.7 North West Ambulance Service reported that discussions had taken place on the wider impacts around the ground of the matches.
- 3.8 At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed to re-issue the General Safety Certificate to permit behind closed doors fixtures to take place with additional conditions added in relation to covid requirements.

4.0 Safety Advisory Group Meeting 13th May 2021

- 4.1 A Safety Advisory group meeting was held on the 13th May 2021 to review the safety certificate ahead of the return of fans to the stadium.
- 4.2 In attendance at the meeting were representatives from Trafford Council (TMBC) including Sports Grounds and Regulatory Services, Public Health, Highways and Legal and Democratic Services, Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Greater Manchester Police Counter Terrorism Advisor, Amey Structures, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS), Northwest Ambulance Service (NWAS), Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and Showmed.
- 4.3 Greater Manchester Police Counter Terrorism advised that the current threat level remained as substantial and that there was an on-going campaign in relation to vigilance.
- 4.4 Lancashire County Cricket Club provided an overview of the behind closed doors fixtures that occurred in 2020 and informed the group of the covid safe measures that were be in place which included health questionnaires 24h hours

prior to the event, the use of QR codes around the stadium and the use of communications to encourage the use of lateral flow test prior to arrival.

- 4.5 Greater Manchester Police did not have any concerns to report.
- 4.6 Trafford Council provided a Local Authority review which informed the group that the P & S factor audits had been completed.
- 4.7 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service did not have any concerns to report.
- 4.8 Transport for Greater Manchester advised the group of planned works on the Metrolink and advised of the impacts this may have.

5.0 Safety Advisory Group Meeting 29th June 2021

- 5.1 On the 29th June 2021 a safety advisory group meeting was held to discuss concerns that had been identified by Trafford Council in relation to the stewarding provision at Lancashire County Cricket Club.
- 5.2 In attendance at the meeting were representatives of Trafford Council (TMBC) including Sports Grounds and Regulatory Services and Legal and Democratic Services, Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS), Northwest Ambulance Service (NWAS) and the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA).
- 5.3 Trafford Council provided a local authority update which provided an overview of the concerns that had been identified. As part of communications with the club it had become apparent that, due to a change in stewarding provider at the start of the season, the club did not have a suitable number of trained and qualified stewards available for the number of spectators that were permitted at the time and that the club had not undertaken an audit of the stewarding provision. Consideration therefore was being given to a reduction in capacity.
- 5.4 Lancashire County Cricket Club provided an overview of the actions that were being taken to address the issue which included resourcing stewarding from other companies to ensure that there were sufficient numbers available. Discussions took place in relation to the upcoming matches and the numbers of suitably trained and qualified stewards for these fixtures.
- 5.5 Greater Manchester Police reported that they did not have any concerns to report.
- 5.6 North West Ambulance Service did not have any concerns to report if the medical provision was not impacted.
- 5.7 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service did not have any concerns to report.
- 5.8 At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that further documentation would be supplied to Trafford Council by Lancashire County Cricket Club and further discussions would take place.

6.0 Safety Advisory Group Meeting 20th April 2022

- 6.1 A safety advisory group meeting was held on the 20th April 2022 in order to review the safety certificate for the upcoming season. In attendance at the meeting were representatives of Trafford Council (TMBC) including Sports Grounds and Regulatory Services, Highways and Legal and Democratic Services, Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Amey Structures, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS), Northwest Ambulance Service (NWAS) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM).
- 6.2 Lancashire County Cricket Club provided an overview of the fixtures held at the club during 2021 and provided an overview of the season to come. One significant change to the ground since the last season was the Red Rose Suite being demolished and building works were due to commence.
- 6.3 Trafford Council provided a local authority update which confirmed that the P & S Factor audits had been completed and that the revised operations manual had been received.
- 6.4 During the meeting no concerns were raised by partner agencies.
- 6.5 At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed to re-issue the General Safety Certificate.

7.0 Safety Advisory Groups relating to the planning of the concerts in 2022

- 7.1 Trafford Council were notified that in 2022 Lancashire County Cricket Club were to hold 5 nights of concerts with The Killers on the 11th June 2022, Harry Styles on the 15th and 16th June 2022. Red Hot Chili Peppers on the 22nd June 2022 and The Foo Fighters on the 25th June 2022 which was later cancelled.
- 7.2 Due to the 5 nights of concerts being planned, permission was required from the Licensing Sub-Committee, which was given on the 9th December 2021.
- 7.3 The first multi-agency meeting for the concerts took place on the 13th January 2022 where an overview of the events was provided by relevant parties.
- 7.4 At the conclusion of the meeting the groups were informed of the sub-groups that were to be established.
- 7.5 The second multi-agency meeting took place on the 10th May 2022 where an overview of the events and plans produced following the sub-group meetings was provided by relevant parties.
- 7.6 At the conclusion it was determined that Trafford Council was not in a position to issue an agreement in principle for the Special Safety Certificates for each concert, as further information was required.
- 7.7 The third multi-agency meeting took place on the 25th May 2022 where an overview of the events and plans produced following the sub-group meetings was provided by relevant parties.

- 7.8 At the conclusion of the meeting it was determined that an agreement in principle could be given for the Special Safety Certificates to be issued following receipt of the required sign-off documentation.
- 7.9 On the 27th May 2022 Lancashire County Cricket Club informed Trafford Council of an incident that had occurred earlier in the day where the medical provider did not send sufficient resources to cover the fixture and the actions taken by the club to address this before gates opened. The medical provider in question was the same one contracted by SJM and Live Nation for the upcoming concerts.
- 7.10 On the 1st June 2022 a letter was sent by Trafford Council on behalf of the safety advisory group to Lancashire County Cricket Club to request contingency plans to be established should the medical provider not provide sufficient cover. The plans received following this letter provided the assurances required that there would be sufficient medical provision at the concerts.
- 7.11 Special Safety Certificates were issued for the Killers, Harry Styles and the Red Hot Chili Peppers following the receipt of the required sign off documentation on the day of each concert.
- 7.12 A multi-agency de-brief was held on the 19th July 2022 to review that concerts that had taken place and to identify relevant learnings for future events.
- 7.13 Due to issues that arose during the planning for the concerts and the events themselves a review of the premises licence was initiated by the Environmental Health team. On the 10th November 2022 the review was heard by the Licensing Sub-Committee where it was agreed to modify the existing licence by attaching new conditions.

8.0 Safety Advisory Group Meeting 28th March 2023

- 8.1 A safety advisory group meeting was held on the 28th March 2023 in order to review the safety certificate ahead of the upcoming season.
- 8.2 In attendance at the meeting were representatives from Trafford Council (TMBC) including Sports Grounds and Regulatory Services, Highways and Legal and Democratic Services, Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Amey Structures, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS), Northwest Ambulance Service (NWAS), Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA).
- 8.3 Lancashire County Cricket Club presented to the group the club's post season report for 2022. The report concluded overall the club had a positive season and have taken learnings from it. The group was also provided with an overview for the 2023 season which also included 2 concerts, the Ashes and the new stand becoming available for use by spectators.
- 8.4 Greater Manchester Police did not have any concerns to report.
- 8.5 North West Ambulance service did not have any issues to report.

- 8.6 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service confirmed that the fire safety plans for the club had been reviewed and did not have any other matters to report.
- 8.7 Trafford Council provided the group with a Local Authority update. This noted that the P&S Factor audits had been completed and the revised operations manual had been made available for review. Additionally, the club were also requested to provide red line drawings for the licensable areas within the stadium and reminded that the requirements for the premises licence run alongside the general safety certificate.
- 8.8 The Sports Grounds Safety Authority provided information in relation to exemptions when SIA licensable activities are undertaken and advised that guidance would be provided on Martyn's Law.
- 8.9 Transport for Greater Manchester advised that Metrolink had an issue with an egress gate opening in close proximity to the station which resulted in queue jumping.
- 8.10 At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed to re-issue the General Safety Certificate.

9.0 Safety Advisory Group Meeting 28th June 2023

- 9.1 A Safety Advisory group meeting was held on the 28th June 2023 to discuss the test events to take place at to permit the use of the newly built 'A Stand'.
- 9.2 In attendance at the meeting were representatives from Trafford Council (TMBC) including Sports Grounds, Regulatory Services and Building Control, Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Amey Structures and the Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA).
- 9.3 Lancashire County Cricket Club provided a presentation to the group showing the areas to be used as part of the upcoming events to test the new stand and provided an overview on the licensable activities that would be taking place. The intention of the club was to test 493 seats of the general admission seats in the new stand which has a capacity for 616 spectators.
- 9.4 Trafford Council provided a local authority update on the characteristics of the test events required and the need for officers to be present to observe the events. Copies of sign off documentation was requested to enable amendments to be made to the General Safety Certificate.
- 9.5 Discussions were had amongst the group about the upcoming fixtures at the ground to enable two test events to take place prior to full capacity being permitted in the stand. Due to the fixtures available for this to occur, the potential impact on the first day of the Ashes test match was also discussed.
- 9.6 At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that the fixture on the 2nd July would be used as the first test event and the General Safety Certificate would be amended to permit this.

10.0 Emergency Safety Advisory Group Meeting 18th July 2023

- 10.1 On the 2nd and 7th July 2023 Lancashire County Cricket Club held test events for the use of the newly built A Stand. During performance inspections were undertaken by Trafford Council for both events. As part of the during performance inspection on the 7th July, stewards working on vomitories throughout different stands in the ground were questioned on their training and qualifications. As part of the questioning stewards were identified who did not have the required qualification to be undertaking their role at the time. This was brought to the attention of the club during the visit and followed up in writing.
- 10.2 On the 18th July 2023 an emergency safety advisory group was held to review the actions taken by Lancashire County Cricket Club to ensure that there was a sufficient number of suitably qualified stewards to work in safety critical roles during the Ashes. This meeting was attended by representatives of Trafford Council (TMBC), Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and North West Ambulance Service (NWAS).
- 10.3 At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that the local authority would oversee the sign in process with the stewards to satisfy themselves that the measures the club had taken were satisfactory.
- 10.4 During performance inspections were undertaken by Trafford Council on the 19th and 20th July 2023 with feedback provided to Lancashire County Cricket Club and partner agencies as required.

11.0 Safety Advisory Group Meetings relating to the planning for concerts in 2023

- 11.1 Trafford Council was notified that Lancashire County Cricket Club intended to hold two concerts on the 2nd and 3rd June 2023 for the Arctic Monkeys.
- 11.2 The first multi-agency meeting for the concerts took place on the 8th March 2023 and was attended by representatives of Trafford Council (TMBC), Lancashire County Cricket Club (LCCC), SJM, Kodiak Medical, North West Ambulance Service (NWAS), Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS).
- 11.3 The meeting provided an overview of the concerts including the actions being taken to prevent a re-occurrence of issues that arose during the concerts in 2022. At the conclusion of the meeting the actions required following discussions were agreed and the timelines for the submission of documentation was discussed.
- 11.4 The second multi-agency meeting took place on the 15th May 2023 where an overview of the plans for the event were presented to the group following the sub-group meetings. At the conclusion of the meeting an agreement in principle was given to issuing the Special Safety Certificates subject to the required sign off documentation being provided.
- 11.5 Special Safety Certificates were issued following receipt of the sign off documentation on each day of the concerts.

11.6 A multi-agency de-brief for the concerts took place on the 28th June 2023. During the meeting the club thanked everyone for their involvement and provided an overview of the post-concert report that had been provided. Overall feedback from the group on the event was positive.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION.

12.1 That the report be noted.