

Question raised by Borough Green Parish Council

COMMUNITY EVENT ROAD CLOSURES

'In recent times the system, which had been drastically simplified some years ago, has become increasingly onerous for Community Organisations. I would like the Safety Advisory Group and Town Police Clauses to have the opportunity to justify this escalation, and to draft methods to streamline the process for annually repeated events'

Chair
Borough Green Parish Council

Response from Licensing and Community Safety Manager (sent via mail)

Further to the request for the PPP Agenda item on Community Event Road Closure and reference to Safety Advisory Group and Road Closures I would like to clarify the following two points which may be of some help.

- **SAG**

SAG's were recommended as a result of the Hillsborough Stadium Disaster (1989) and their key aim is "Scrutiny, review and advice to ensure compliance with safety requirements of the event and share best practice"

The events reviewed at the SAG depend on the nature of the event, numbers of people attending and have been requested by SAG members who review all known forthcoming events being held within the Borough and set the Agenda for future meetings.

For reference the SAG makes reference to The Event Safety Guide (Purple Guide), Guide to safety at Sports Grounds "Green Guide", Premises Licences in place and where appropriate "Counter Terrorism Protective Security Advise".

Road Closure applications are not processed, validated or agreed by SAG. All road closure requests in Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council are dealt with through the Townpoliceclauses@tmbc.gov.uk email address.

- **Road Closures**

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC) uses the Town Police Clauses Act 1847. As a result TMBC process applications from some 35 local community run events and liaises with Kent Highways.

KCC then give their response. If they support the event TMBC will process the application. A typical response would be “Kent County Council has assessed your traffic management proposals in the light of your submitted event plan and accompanying risk assessment. Provided that your event plan and risk assessment are both accurate and comprehensive, Kent County Council has no objection to the deployment of temporary traffic management equipment as proposed in the traffic management plan.”

The main reasons that KCC want to see all the Road Closure proposals is to cross reference the event information against proposed road works, Road closures (the event may be planned on the diversion route) or large vehicle movement.

For annual events TMBC send out a reminder to all organisers of known local community events 12 weeks in advance which they have no legal obligation to do so. Where local authorities no longer use the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 local event organisers have to deal direct with the relevant Highway Authority. This costs a local event organiser between £300 and £500 (KCC website example). So currently by TMBC processing and liaising with KCC saves local event organisers some £300 - £500.

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Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council