



Notes of evidence

Name of meeting

POLICY COMMISSION FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

Date and time

THURSDAY, 30 AUGUST 2007 AT 6.00 PM

Venue

COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT

Commission

Cllrs David Williams (Chair), Vanessa Churchman and Heather Humby

Cabinet

Cllrs David Pugh and Ian Ward

Cabinet Secretary

Other Councillors

Cllr Diana Tuson
Cllr Jilly Wood

Officers Present

Stuart Love – Director Environment and Neighbourhoods, IWC
Rob Owen – Head of Consumer Protection, IWC
Louise Biggs – Overview and Scrutiny Team, IWC

Stakeholders

Terry Clawson, IoW Operations Inspector, Hampshire Constabulary

Apologies

Cllr Henry Adams and Cllr Susan Scoccia

1. **Notes of Evidence**

1.1 The Notes of evidence arising at the meeting held on [26 July 2007](#) were agreed. (Paper A)

2. **Declarations of Interest**

2.1 None received

3. **(a) To take evidence from:**

3.1 The Police were involved with around 150 events on the Island, mostly during the summer.

3.2 The security companies working with events on the island have said how impressed they were with the Island's police

3.3 The Police valued the four months notice of events that must be given under the Isle of Wight Act as it allowed for safer events.

3.4 The reputation of the Island's events could be damaged if there was an incident. The IW Act helped to protect this reputation and

protected against badly-run events being held; our current organisers were very good at organising island events.

- 3.5 There have been examples of events that involved large scale public disorder with lots of police needing to be drafted in at short notice on the mainland, which could have been mitigated through legislation such as the IW Act. In this example two event organisers applied for separate licences for each tent, rather than a licence for the event in its entirety. This meant that conditions of the licence could not be enforced for the whole site, which contributed to problems such as a lack of security and poor lighting.
- 3.6 The charge made by the police for events held on-Island was reasonable and less expensive than other areas of the UK. For example: Reading Festival costs are around £250,000 for 90,000 people, Glastonbury Festival costs are around £1.2 million for 170,000 people, Creamfields Festival costs around £250,000 for 60,000 people and the Isle of Wight Festival costs are around £120,000 for 60,000 people.
- 3.7 The Police charges would be made with or without the IW Act, as chagrining can be made using the Police Act 1996.
- 3.8 The costs associated with policing events may increase if there was no IW Act, as a result of reduced time for planning. Although the Licensing Act 2003 also allowed for conditions to be set.
- 3.9 If there was no IW Act then there would no obligation on event organisers to co-operate with the police in the planning stages. This cooperation is useful to be able to plan events safely. Whilst the event organisers of both the Festival and Bestival were both good organisers, the police would be concerned if they lost the power to ask the event organisers to co-operate with them at an early stage.
- 3.10 The IW Act was discretionary, for example it was not invoked during Cowes Week and the number of weeks notice can also be altered.
- 3.11 The police were going to start planning the 2008 Isle of Festival with Solo in September, ready for next year. The police were only present on the perimeter of the event, as they had been able to agree a level of security inside the event with the organisers themselves.

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm