

Weymouth Challenge Triathlon 2015 Minutes**Wash Up meeting for the Cycling Element**

Wednesday 4 November 2015

Attendees;

Kevin Cheleda	DCC Highways (Chair)
Alan Rose	Just Racing
Hayley Jelley	Just Racing
Marc Cutler	DCC Highways
Tom Faulkner	DCC Highways
Peter Wharf	Dorset County Council Member
Kaz Beare	Event-People
Pete Downing	Event-People
Steve Davies	Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
Cherry Brookes	Purbeck District Councillor

1) Welcome and Introductions

Kevin welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated everyone on the success of last year's event and then discussed how the meeting would run.

2) Apologies

Matt Ryan Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
 Barry Quinn Purbeck District Council Member
 John Wilson Dorset County Council Member - Chairman
 Jill Haynes Dorset County Council Member
 Mike Lovell Dorset County Council Member

3) Minutes from the 2014 wash up

Kevin went through and minutes were agreed as accurate.

4) Review of last 2015 event including feedback

There were a couple of issues raised with the 2015 event one of them being that there was a confusion the need to attend the meeting from Purbeck Members, as the event was titled Weymouth. Some Purbeck residents were similarly unaware that the event was happening because of the name. Another issue was that the communications deadlines were not met. It was noted that the reason for this may have been because the TTRO's were late coming out, it was agreed that in future Dorset County Council and Just Racing would work better together to get the TTRO's out on time and stick to agreed media deadlines.

A point was raised that not all churches were visited, Peter commented that Alfpuddle church had a service and there were a couple comments that people couldn't get in because of the closures. For next year's event personal visits to the churches affected by the route would be required.

There was a list of businesses that were contacted. Unfortunately Mr Gudgeon was missed from this list. All businesses were phoned and written to. The Tank Museum was very helpful and gave further contacts.

Kevin mentioned that Parish Council Meetings could have been contacted to get the message out more locally. It was noted that Parishes were contacted, however only Stinsford replied. Peter felt that the best idea to contact the Parishes would be to send to the relevant County and District Councillor who can make the parishes aware easier at local parish meetings.

5) Communications, Safety Advisory Groups and TTRO's

Communications - Why were some businesses unaware?

Some Businesses were missed off the contact Ledger, Alan Rose commented that next year's event the ledger will be even more thorough.

Mike Byatt felt that although a lot of effort went in to marketing and advertising, which was very good, there is a difference with Communications - which need to improve.

Alan Rose reflected that they were possibly expecting too much from the Parish Councils and that they possibly need to go direct in future because after sending out various forms of communications to them, as they had assumed they have received it. It was added that the communications were sent out to the Parishes with 100 days to go however they still didn't receive communication from many of the Parish Councils.

Councillors defended the Parish Council by stating that the people who work for the Parish Council's don't work many hours and only have a monthly meeting which is why they may have missed communications. The earlier the communication process starts with the Parishes the better. Felt that there should be meetings every so often so that all parties are involved and know what is happening. However it was mentioned that this was tried last year and only a handful of councillors turned up.

KC - Dorset County Council Officers can engage with the Just Racing team - Cllr's don't need to be saturated with information regarding the event, however officers will ensure that the councillors are up to date.

Challenge - Gave Credit to Fiona Kings help with communications

Alan Rose commented that the current ledger featured seven pages worth of businesses and residents that were contacted. Communication was sent even off the route to ensure that everyone was aware of the event, although some people claim they still knew nothing of the event.

Peter felt that “saturation” communication was needed, but there will still be people who would claim they don’t receive the info.

It was remarked that the successes of last year's event should be published and sent out to councillors so they can get out the good word about the Challenge event.

Dave Mannings raised a point that some of the Bus drivers were not aware that the event was taking place. However this was understood not to be our fault as a temporary traffic order was sent to them, as well as the Just Racing team informing all Bus companies. It was noted that the problem could be caused internally within the bus companies with the information not being distributed.

Mike Byatt - Important to get a good message out. The benefits for the county are huge - participation, financial impacts and puts Dorset on map. It is important that Purbeck understand what they are getting out of it also.

All agreed that this would be useful.

Customers dissatisfied with hotline

Kaz - The hotline works very well before the event helping people to gain information normally, however on the day it turns in to a complaints hotline. Improvements will be made. There will now be an answer machine on day with options giving various routes to answer problems. The police will also be informed of the correct information as this year they were forwarding people to the hotline rather than helping the customers themselves.

Tom will look in to how many calls Dorset Direct received regarding this issue

Peter Wharf –It would be an interesting statistic to share how many calls were received by the published number Kaz/Hayley

Cherry - Lane closed in East Stoke which caused disruption to a garage which had MOT'S on the day and cars couldn't get in – this would be investigated further

Traffic Management

David Manning –Says there was a problem at Chalbury Roundabout. Although the roundabout had improved from year, it was believed there was a problem with the readability of the approaching signs for people wishing to access the

Overcombe/Bowleaze area. David thought this could be solved by enforcing the roundabout with police, however Kevin mentioned that portable variable message signs from A338 works would be available next year, as it is accepted; people pay more attention to these. TTRO's in general to be sharpened.

Issue with Signs being Left out

There was some underhand tactics here as the signs were tampered with the night before the event. Many of the signs had disappeared altogether in the Tincton area. They did reappear after the event and there is still two left to collect one in Broadmayne and one left in Weymouth which were both due to be collected.

Bovington Tank sergeant - Said that some cones had suddenly appeared just recently.

Kaz - As signs were being brought back on the Monday a problem occurred where another road closure with a Diversion route which caused problems for signs being retrieved, there was however no record of a road closure or diversion route in the area – so it may have been the Trunk Roads signs.

Alan Rose mentioned that direction arrows were taken and that an Oil was seemingly deliberately put on the cycle route – this was however addressed before the race – but was very disappointing and alarming. Peter Wharf felt that introducing CCTV could prevent attacks on the event. Another suggestion was introducing the local clubs to monitor the areas.

Kevin said that for future events the road closure signs should be removed/set down as soon as the event finishes.

6) Cycle Route for 2015 Event

The route was refined from the 1st year's event. Feedback was that there should use main roads only and have no right turns. The Waddock Cross closure was very unpopular, signage removed here also.

Traffic Management company worked with the lakes and Moreton tea rooms. The Tea Rooms were fine with the traffic management once they understood the arrangements.

AR - Changes from year before worked a lot better, however an issue with a narrow lane road closure still exists. Vehicles were forcing their way on to roads which was very unsafe for cyclists. This could be solved by making sure that the narrow roads are not used or that the roads are managed better. On a whole was very happy with the changes made to the route. Peter Wharf had also received positive communications regarding the route.

AR - Comments received that there should be no disruption. It is of course impossible to not have any disruption with such an event, it is just how we moderate this. The route for next year looking to be progressed, it is critical that the course is safe. The area must be able to breathe and develop this will be factored in to for new route.

7) Traffic Management

There was an incident on Holme lane where two police motorbikes were involved. A non-permanent closure was in place here to prevent a build up at the crossing point. The traffic management will be improved next year by putting a marshal at the location and introducing speed limits.

8) Stewarding/Marshalls

A point was raised that Stewards were not from the area, some of them were from locations such as Liverpool and Derby and there was concerns as to how they would have any local knowledge.

Kaz Beare commented that the stewards were only in place to manage a location and that any vehicles should have been following the appropriate signage that were in place – but as discussed earlier, it had to be accepted that people were confused as it isn't possible to sign all the diversion routes. Alan Rose added that the companies in Dorset who provide stewarding services have staff from all over the country this is because to perform the role the stewards need to have the various accreditation and there are not that many stewards who have this locally. Alan and Kevin discussed introducing a buddying system whereby a qualified steward would pair up with someone from the area so that the steward could carry his role out whilst the person from the area could provide area specific knowledge. This would work better as the accredited steward cannot interact with every car answering location questions.

Councillor Mannings mentioned that the military based at the Bovington Camp might be able to help; Alan confirmed that the military had helped previously and that they were very effective and efficient.

Complaint re Road closure - Worgret Roundabout. Customer queried whether closure was in correct place – a bit random – difficult to investigate and it was a single complaint at this very busy R/B

KC - Issues at the A352, Broadmayne. Questions raised whether it was enforced properly - was the A352 closed or was it not closed? It should have been closed west bound, as it wasn't seemingly enforced. Parish positive though about safety emphasised.

B3309 Waddock Cross

Peter Wharf felt that it is a Dangerous Junction so should not be used. The closure to the north and south to facilitate the cyclist to cross the road was unpopular and disruptive.

Kevin felt that there was confusion at the road closure points this may have been due to the sabotage.

Allegedly there was no marshalling at Colliers Lane, Wool, which is a potentially dangerous junction. Appears to be a bit of confusion as event people thought there was no closure here which means the area wouldn't require a steward. However there should have been a road closure as it was a right turn.

Comments**Young and inexperienced**

Kez - Not a valid statement as you need to have Street Works card for traffic lights and be able to guard the locations and have to be over 18.

Cherry - Had reports of a 17 year old stewarding the event. The steward was asked how old he was and he told them he was 17.

The stewards were not properly briefed and had no notes

Packs were given out with all the relevant information to each steward as well as a Radio. There was one issue with a marshal having no radio or cell signal in Tincton. This issue could be improved by getting repeaters to increase signal or getting better radios.

Cherry - Is there audit to ensure compliance with requisite qualifications – Kaz stated very clearly “yes”. Everything done by the book. Event People have their own audit procedures in place to ensure high standards.

Just Racing and Events People contacted a local company called Bradsons as they are accredited for the area however they also use the same pool of Marshals from around the country.

Kevin raised a question about the Stewards welfare and whether they got a break, It was confirmed that welfare vehicles go round, providing refreshments whilst they have pack lunches and water provided.

9) Next year's event - Iron Man is Back!

Kevin - Encourages people to get involved and inspires event management. This is the premier triathlon event organiser. Some good lessons were learnt from 2 years of Challenge – so there is a good foundation to work from.

Steve - Creating Challenge Weymouth from scratch was hard to do. They have created a draft for future events. Iron man takes things to a different level as it is such a well-known event. There were restrictions with using the Olympic name to promote the area; however Iron man can be used to promote the area with relatively no restrictions. Iron Man does their own promoting and marketing which could be across Europe and attracting people to the area.

Kevin discussed providing Economic Benefit stats for Purbeck to show it was a good idea to run the event through the area. Peter felt that we should show the benefit to the whole county and also more locally B&B's, restaurants, attractions, etc. Figures should be published. Kevin to discuss commissioning a report from David Walsh/Anne Gray.

With Challenge, there were 1200 competitors who bring their families and are likely to spend £100's into the local economy. Iron man will attract probably 1800 competitors, many of whom will be international.

A limited eco-impact survey was carried out in 2014. It showed that competitors would usually stay for 3 days with most people coming with 2 people this shows that there would be a big impact to the local economy. It was widely considered that this was a very limited assessment though. David Walsh and Ann Gray's work would be much more robust.

Cherry - Advertising could be used to promote the weekend getaway market.

Kevin has worked with Iron man before when it went through the Sherborne area. Kevin will share these routes with Alan.

10) AOB

There was an issue raised that there was another cycling event taking place in the same area on the same day. Clashes with other events need to be managed, it is hard to manage these events as they don't have to register. Road space is not required to be booked, these events are able to slip under the radar which makes the road space hard to manage.

Dave Mannings the event is doing very well, keep the Council and Councillors informed as local knowledge is useful.

AR - Offered engagement with triclub (who competed in the event last year) in couple weeks, there is a forum set up; their feedback will create a hive of thinking to help move forward with the event.