

Agenda

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Dorset County Council



Meeting: Audit and Governance Committee
Time: 10.30 am
Date: 7 December 2016
Venue: Committee Room 1, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ

Trevor Jones (Chairman)	Kate Wheller (Vice-Chairman)	Pauline Batstone
Andrew Cattaway	Hilary Cox	Lesley Dedman
Matt Hall	David Harris	Peter Richardson
Peter Wharf		

Notes:

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- **Public Participation**

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Public Speaking

Members of the public can ask questions and make statements at the meeting. The closing date for us to receive questions is 10.00am on 2 December 2016, and statements by midday the day before the meeting.

Debbie Ward
Chief Executive

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Date of Publication:
Tuesday, 29 November 2016

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **Code of Conduct**

Councillors are required to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 regarding disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Check if there is an item of business on this agenda in which the member or other relevant person has a disclosable pecuniary interest.
- Check that the interest has been notified to the Monitoring Officer (in writing) and entered in the Register (if not this must be done on the form available from the clerk within 28 days).
- Disclose the interest at the meeting (in accordance with the County Council's Code of Conduct) and in the absence of a dispensation to speak and/or vote, withdraw from any consideration of the item.

The Register of Interests is available on Dorsetforyou.com and the list of disclosable pecuniary interests is set out on the reverse of the form.

3. **Minutes**

3 - 8

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2016.

4. **Public Participation**

(a) Public Speaking

(b) Petitions

5. **Call to Account - Ironman Weymouth 2016**

9 - 120

To consider a report by the Service Director – Highways and Emergency Planning.

6. **Call to Account Ironman 2016 - Feedback from members of the public**

121 - 146

To consider feedback received in response to the local press article concerning the Call to Account.

NB: Public feedback that is received following publication of this report will also be circulated to the Audit and Governance Committee.

7. **Questions from County Councillors**

To answer any questions received in writing by the Chief Executive by not later than 10.00am on Friday 2 December 2016.



Audit and Governance Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester,
Dorset, DT1 1XJ on Tuesday, 20 September 2016

Present:

Trevor Jones (Chairman)

Kate Wheller, Pauline Batstone, Andrew Cattaway, Matt Hall and Peter Wharf.

Members Attending: Robert Gould attended the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 54(1).

Officers Attending: Sarah Baker (Group Finance Manager), Rupert Bamberger (Audit Manager - South West Audit Partnership), Richard Bates (Chief Financial Officer), Denise Hunt (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Richard Ironside (Finance Manager), Jim McManus (Chief Accountant), Harry Mears (Associate Partner - KPMG), Patrick Myers (Head of Corporate Development), John Oldroyd (Senior Manager - KPMG), Richard Pascoe (Head of ICT and Customer Services), Julie Taylor (Senior Assurance Manager - Complaints), Mark Taylor (Group Manager - Governance and Assurance) and David Wilkes (Finance Manager).

(Notes: These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on **Thursday, 26 January 2017.**)

Apologies for Absence

14 Apologies for absence were received from David Harris and Peter Richardson.

Code of Conduct

15 There were no declarations by members of disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

Minutes

16 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016 were confirmed and signed.

Progress on Matters Raised at Previous Meetings

17 The Committee noted the progress on matters raised at previous meetings.

Public Participation

18 Public Speaking

There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(1).

There were no public statements received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

Petitions

There were no petitions received in accordance with the County Council's petition scheme at this meeting.

Statement of Accounts

19 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the Statement of Accounts which was the subject of a short powerpoint presentation.

A member highlighted that the accounts did not reflect upon local government reorganisation in terms of devolved budgets and that a graph demonstrating the impact of the reduction in the revenue support grant on the ability to provide services would also be helpful. Officers advised that the layout of the Statement of Accounts was prescribed by statute and that although reference to savings was made in the narrative, the reasons why were not clearly set out. Officers would also investigate incorporating local government reorganisation into the document in future.

Members noted how the Authority's negative cash balance had been offset by the cash balance of the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in order to arrive at an overall net cash surplus and questioned the impact if there were changes in the way in which LEPs operated.

The Chief Financial Officer advised members that the LEP received its money in a lump sum in advance to pay for all schemes, all of which was committed. The opportunity existed for the Authority to use its cash balances to pay for the capital programme and thereby avoid additional borrowing. If the situation were to change then the Authority would borrow in order to support the capital programme.

The Leader stated that a combined authority with a growth unit sitting beneath it would provide an opportunity for transparent governance arrangements and better accountability, particularly since Dorset did not have the geographical complexities experienced in other parts of the country.

The Chairman asked about the level of central reserves and at what point these would become exhausted and was advised that if spending continued at the same level as now then central reserves would be reduced to zero in two years' time.

Children's Services would be overspent in 2016/17, however, this was expected to reduce following a restructure and changes in the service implemented from 5 September 2016. The Director for Children's Services had discussed the changes with the Budget Strategy Task & Finish Group the previous day and the results of the changes were expected in the next quarter. This posed a serious risk to the Authority and if a reduction in spending was not achieved then other actions would need to be taken in order to drive down costs.

Resolved

That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 be approved.

Reason for Decision

Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement must be approved by the Council, or a Committee to which the Council had delegated authority by 30 September.

External Audit Report 2015/16

20 The Committee considered a report by KPMG, the Authority's external auditors that included the key findings arising from an audit of the 2015-16 financial statements and work to support the Value for Money (VFM) conclusion.

The Associate Partner, KPMG confirmed his intention to sign off the Statement of Accounts the following week.

In response to questions in relation to follow-up of prior year recommendations with regard to supporting evidence for starters and leavers to the pension fund, the Chief Financial Officer would follow this up with the Pensions Manager and ensure that information was available at the Pensions Board meeting.

Noted

Internal Audit Quarterly Report

- 21 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive that included a summary of work by the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP), the Council's internal audit service.

The Assistant Director (SWAP) confirmed that all key risks had been mitigated with regard to the audit of country parks which was highlighted at the June 2016 meeting.

Members raised concerns regarding significant risks identified at the Dorchester Learning Centre and also enquired about the content of a review of Safer Recruitment, which was at draft report stage. It was agreed that the reports would be shared with the Chairman of the Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee to discuss and agree a way forward, and potential consideration at its next meeting on 5 October 2016.

Resolved

That a summary of progress in relation to significant risks identified at the Dorchester Learning Centre be circulated to the Committee and shared with the Chairman of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Joint Working - Opportunities, Risks and Considerations

- 22 The Committee considered a report by South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) which outlined the opportunities and risks of working collaboratively with others. It also acknowledged specific work that had been progressed through the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet last year and also cited some useful checklists.

It was acknowledged that the request for information by the previous Audit and Scrutiny Committee had been superceded by local government reorganisation. However, the report emphasised a due diligence approach to joint working and a move towards strong governance arrangements.

Noted

Budget Monitoring - August 2016

- 23 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer which provided information on the forecast of outturn against the budget for the 2016/17 financial year.

The Chief Accountant introduced the report and highlighted the area of highest budgetary risk being within Children's Services and the measures being taken to reduce spending described earlier in the meeting.

The Chairman suggested that savings should not necessarily be found by the overspending directorate at the expense of vulnerable children. However, other members considered this was outside of the Committee's remit and did not support this view.

Members were advised that part of the overspend in Children's Services could be addressed through better financial management and ensuring managers took responsibility for service budgets. Those managers could be asked to attend Audit and Governance Committee to provide context, information and respond to questions as appropriate.

The Leader invited Councillors Trevor Jones, Peter Wharf and Kate Wheller to the next meeting of the Budget Strategy Task & Finish Group to hear the update from Children's Services.

Noted

Treasury Management and Prudential Code Review 2015/16

- 24 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer which provided an annual review of performance that described activity compared to the Treasury Strategy.

Noted

Review of Council Tax Single Person's Discount

- 25 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer which included an update on work to review the Council Tax Single Person's Discount.

The Chief Accountant confirmed that a contract had been signed with Capita to commence work in April 2017 alongside two revenues and benefits partnerships, however, this did not include Bournemouth Borough Council. A planning meeting would take place with Capita in September 2016.

Members asked about the financial benefit to the Council as a result of the previous investigation into the Council Tax Single Person's Discount. It was confirmed that there had been a financial benefit of £700k, representing 0.35% of the Council Tax base.

It was also confirmed that local government reorganisation would not unduly impact on this work due to joint working arrangements already in place.

Noted

DES Business Continuity Update

- 26 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive which had been requested by the former Audit and Scrutiny Committee in November 2015, following issues identified by KPMG, the external auditors.

Following a question regarding the weakness identified in relation to the gradual loss of the telephone service following the disaster recovery process, it was confirmed that migration to a new network to resolve this issue would cost £26k and an ongoing cost of £3k per year.

The Committee noted that this had been identified in the external auditors report as a follow-up of the prior year recommendations and were assured that the matter had now concluded.

A request was made to include councillors in ICT security related training and awareness for staff.

Noted

Learning from Service Failures in other Authorities and Implication for Governance

- 27 The Committee considered a report by the Head of Corporate Development highlighting the causes and impact of service and governance failures across organisations through illustrations.

Following introduction of the report, the Chairman highlighted the need for any new unitaries to be better equipped to identify failings through embedded governance arrangements and asked about member involvement in this work following the business case to central government.

The Head of Corporate Development advised that oversight by members had not yet

been addressed within this process. However, other unitary authorities such as Cornwall County Council had put in place implementation boards that had worked very well, keeping an eye on business as usual whilst overseeing development of the new structures that were required.

The Group Manager – Governance and Assurance advised that the Audit and Governance Committee should be the main oversight committee for those types of arrangements to provide independent challenge. Members agreed that this represented an enhanced role for this Committee and that it would need to be robust in its “critical friend” approach. It was further noted that the Annual Governance Statement, a key element of the Statement of Accounts, would provide a recognised, clear and structured framework for the Committee to assess any new arrangements coming forward.

It was confirmed that reports to the Audit and Governance Committee could be included in the reporting timeline. A report to formalise arrangements would be considered by County Council in November 2016, following which a work programme on this matter could be established.

Noted

Corporate Compliments and Complaints Annual Report 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

28 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive which was introduced by the Senior Assurance Manager (Complaints) who had responsibility for the Corporate Complaints Team. She explained that overall the complaints were going down, but that complaints in respect of Children’s Services were increasing in line with national and regional trends.

In response to questions the following points were confirmed:-

- The team worked closely with the Directorate management teams and the Chief Executive’s PA in order to capture all complaints across the organisation quickly.
- Part of the resolution focus of the team ensured that contact was made with complainants to confirm the outcomes they were seeking if this was unclear.
- Where appropriate opinions were sought from Legal Services or the Local Government Ombudsman link officer in order to make the correct judgement on a complaint.
- Ensuring appropriate investigation of the issues in relation to frequent complaints and a tailored approach to dealing with complainants, particularly with regard to some service users.
- Monitoring of vexatious or unreasonable complaints through a single point of contact. However, it was not preferable to deny a person contact altogether as they may need to contact other service areas provided by the Council.
- Always seeking to maintain an open and objective consideration of the complainants made.
- Actively pursuing a ‘learning organisation’ approach to ensure that recurrent issues and themes are identified, escalated and improvements implemented.

Resolved

- 1 That publication of the annual report 2015-16 be approved; and
- 2 That member training and awareness sessions be investigated.

Reason for Decision

To provide information and assurance on the council’s proactive approach to the management of complaints.

Forward Plan

29 The Committee noted its work programme.

Questions from County Councillors

30 No questions were asked by members under Standing Order 20 (2).

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 12.10 pm

Audit and Governance Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	7 December 2016
Officer	Andrew Martin – Service Director Highways & Emergency Planning
Subject of Report	Call to Account – Ironman Weymouth 2016
Executive Summary	<p>The inaugural Ironman Weymouth event was held in September 2016 following on from two similar events held in 2014 and 2015.</p> <p>As an internationally recognised athletic event organiser, with an associated reputational influence, Ironman`s involvement resulted in a significant increase in participation from previous years to over 2,700 in 2016.</p> <p>Following the event, significant levels of negative press and feedback on the traffic management arrangements on race day were received by the County Council.</p> <p>In particular the marshalling and communication with local communities fell short of expectations for an event of this scale.</p> <p>This report seeks to explore the process in place prior to the Ironman Weymouth race, examine the role of the County Council in the organisation of the event and identify any recommendations for improvement that will facilitate a more positive outcome for Dorset communities in future.</p>
Recommendation	<p>The Committee are asked to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Consider the contents of the report (ii) Offer any additions to the recommendations contained within the report.

Call to Account – Ironman Weymouth 2016

Reason for Recommendation	To ensure that a successful process for future large scale events can be implemented that offers a positive experience to participants and local communities alike.
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Timeline of meetings including attendance list Appendix 2 – 2a. Minutes of Challenge Weymouth 2015 Wash up 2b Minutes of Ironman Weymouth 2016 Wash up 2c Minutes from Members Engagement Meeting Appendix 3 – Economic Impact Assessment
Background Papers	N/A
Officer Contact	Name: Andrew Martin, Service Director Highways and Emergency Planning Tel: 01305 228182 Email: a.j.martin@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In September 2014 and 2015, events known as “Challenge Weymouth” were held within the Borough, Purbeck and West Dorset, hosted by an organisation called “Just Racing”. Both events consisted of a full and a half distance triathlon with approximately one thousand entrants taking part, and proved to be a popular addition to Weymouth’s calendar.
- 1.2 Following the success of the “Challenge Weymouth” events, the Ironman organisation purchased the hosting rights and arranged to hold their version of the annual triathlon in 2016 to be known as “Ironman Weymouth”.
- 1.3 On 11 September 2016, this inaugural event took place, which consisted of both half and full distance races taking place simultaneously, and attracting nearly three thousand competitors.
- 1.4 Ironman is an internationally recognised brand in triathlon events and has a major international following which results in significant levels of entrants being attracted to their races. This certainly was evidenced in Weymouth with the 2016 Weymouth event seeing nearly three times the number of competitors taking part, compared to previous “Challenge Weymouth” meetings held in 2014 and 2015.
- 1.5 For “Ironman Weymouth” the swim and run stages of the event took place exclusively within the Borough, with the 114 mile bike course extending into Purbeck and West Dorset.
- 1.6 As is the case with events of such magnitude, to ensure the safety of the athletes involved whilst on the public highway, a number of full or one way road closures were implemented on the day of the race, commencing at phased times between 5.00am and 6.00pm.
- 1.7 The event was regarded by the competitors as an overall success, however a large number of public complaints were received on race day and following the event, from inconvenienced residents and businesses. These complaints were due to difficulties

Call to Account – Ironman Weymouth 2016

being experienced by drivers in navigating around the road closure arrangements, resulting in significant congestion and confusion; in some instances queues of up to two hours duration were experienced.

- 1.8 In addition to these delays, specific complaints were received regarding the effectiveness of the Traffic Marshalls deployed to reinforce the traffic management plan, with suggestions that the Marshalls had little or no knowledge of the locality, had limited if any access to the agreed traffic management proposals with some displaying a limited command of the English language.
- 1.9 It is important to examine the full scope of the organisational plan that was put in place leading up to and during the event to identify areas for improvement for future events, and the context within which it was prepared.
- 1.10 Section 2 of this report offers commentary against a range of Key Lines of Enquiry which is intended to provide an account of the County Council's role in the organisation of the 2016 Ironman Weymouth, together with observations as to the reasons behind the difficulties experienced on the day by many road users across the network.
- 1.11 Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 enables a traffic authority to make a temporary traffic order to facilitate the holding of a sporting event, enable members of the public to watch an event or reduce disruption to traffic caused by an event. An event organiser can apply to the County Council asking that such an order be made. The process currently followed for events such as Ironman is;
 - Preliminary discussions with event promoter
 - Application received
 - In the case of a significant event, such as Ironman, we consult with the Portfolio Holder
 - Request for an event management plan
 - Consultation with the promoter to finalise proposals
 - Formal application for TTRO received
 - Formal consultation with key stakeholders
 - TTRO approved and issued

2.0 Key Lines of Enquiry

2.1 What specific duties/responsibilities rest with the County Council in respect of events such as Ironman Weymouth?

As the highway and traffic authority the County Council has statutory duties to maintain publicly maintainable highway; to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway; to manage the road network with a view to securing the expeditious movement of traffic and to exercise traffic regulation functions so as to secure the expeditious convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic.

Officers from Dorset Highways are key members of the relevant Safety Advisory Group (SAG), chaired by Dorset Councils Partnership, which consists of representatives from all key stakeholder agencies across Dorset, including Police, Borough Councils/District Councils.

The purpose of the SAG is to collectively ensure the safety of the public, minimise disruption on the highway network as a result of any proposed event and to work in

Call to Account – Ironman Weymouth 2016

conjunction with event promoters to establish an effective approach to the specific traffic management issues.

The Event Proposer's Traffic Management Plan may require a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) the application for which is processed by the County Council's highways team. As part of the process highways officers will comment on the signing schedule within the Traffic Management Plan and, in conjunction with the event proposer, offer advice on the production of a clear and relevant communication strategy.

2.2 What Powers, if any, does the County Council have to stop such events - Who holds these Powers and on what grounds can they be exercised?

Through its role on the SAG, the County Council can advise on proposals. The County Council can make reasonable requirements if the Traffic Management Plan requires a TTRO. When a TTRO is applied for, the County Council can withhold issuing such an Order until they are satisfied that key conditions have been met, and the route identified is safe. As with any of its discretionary powers, the County Council must act reasonably when deciding whether or not to act.

If no TTRO is required, or the event promoter do not wish to engage with the SAG, the County Council has limited influence over the event. If the public highway is used unreasonably, the County Council has limited powers to take immediate action and it is likely that the police would need to be involved if such a situation arose.

If a TTRO is granted to facilitate the event, it is only the Police who can enforce that Order.

2.3 How can procedural failings be avoided?

After the event, it came to light that a requirement to obtain Secretary of State consent had not been followed. This is required when a specific road is closed on more than one occasion in a particular calendar year for an event (classed as not works) under Section 16 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

This oversight occurred, as the scale of this event covered a significant number of streets in Weymouth, West Dorset and Purbeck and officers overlooked that within the list of streets, two had been closed previously for a Section 16 application.

This procedural failing resulted in two of the streets within the order in Weymouth, The Esplanade and Custom House Quay falling outside the scope of the legal order. As soon as the oversight was discovered we immediately notified the Secretary of State who confirmed that no retrospective action would be taken against the County Council.

To ensure such an occurrence is not repeated in future, a more robust check list mechanism has been introduced into the TTRO process.

2.4 How do we seek necessary assurances the event organisers have planned appropriately?

The Home Office Guidance, 'The Good Practice Safety Guide, August 2006' sets out the principles of planning an event on the highway. This guidance was issued as a result of the Hillsborough report.

Call to Account – Ironman Weymouth 2016

The County Council has also produced an extensive guidance schedule for event organisers which can be accessed within the Dorset For You website. All applicants are directed to the guidance as part of the application process.

All SAG's are run on the principles laid out in the Home Office Guidance. These include timelines for producing key documents and actions which include the Traffic Management Plan, as part of the overall Event Management Plan, risk assessments, public forums, consultation and communication strategy.

In relation to the Ironman Weymouth, two SAG meetings were held, the first on the 11th February 2016, and the second on the 5th July 2016, details of attendees at each are within Appendix 1. These meetings discussed all aspects for the proposals submitted by the Ironman organisation and offered all Stakeholders the opportunity to comment in relation to their particular priorities.

On the Wednesday prior to the event, a pre-race meeting was held and attended by all key Stakeholders to discuss any last minute issues. A full list of the attendees is included within Appendix 1.

In addition to these meetings, on Race Day, the County Council opened the Traffic Control Centre at County Hall and in addition deployed two experienced Traffic Officers within the Ironman race control room based in Weymouth with the intention of facilitating an integrated approach to managing any operational issues as they arose.

Unfortunately, there appeared to be a reluctance for Ironman representatives to liaise with County Council staff on the day which significantly reduced the ability of these Officers to utilise the resources at their disposal or opportunity to feed into incidents, which could have assisted in resolving issues that were occurring on the network.

2.5 How do we ensure that wider communications in advance of the event are sufficient?

Although there is no prescribed notice or consultation procedures for making TTROs for special events, Department for Transport guidance recommends that traffic authorities should take account of the scale and the nature of the event. In particular any measure that could affect access to premises or property should be subject to appropriate consultation and notification with the intention of minimising the impact on local business and residents.

When considering an application for a traffic order for an event, the County Council requires the event promoter to undertake a communication exercise. The County Council will advise the proposer on how to undertake this in an effective manner.

Discussions with consultees and promoter will be facilitated by County Council Officers to address any concerns and to ensure that any mitigation measures can be implemented.

For the purposes of "Ironman Weymouth" the communication strategy contained several key activities:

- A Members Engagement Meeting was held on 25 May 2016. Please see Appendix 1, for list of attendees.
- 70,000 letters containing the event timetable and a route map were distributed through the Royal Mail.
- Parish Council liaison meetings were arranged

Call to Account – Ironman Weymouth 2016

- Ironman displayed route and access information on their website from May 2016.
- Dorset County Council hosted an Ironman webpage on Travel Dorset, with links directly to the Ironman Weymouth Website, this went live on the 25 August 2016.

It is questionable how successful the Parish engagement proved to be, there is evidence where invitations to meetings were distributed by the Ironman organisers but it would appear that attendance at these meetings was very limited.

2.6 When did the organisers present their final plans for approval?

The initial plans were presented at the SAG meetings on the 11 February 2016 and 5 July 2016. Amendments and refinements were being made in consultation with the County Council and other Stakeholders up until Race Day.

Appendix 1 gives details of when these meetings took place and who attended.

2.7 What level of specific engagement took place with Districts & Boroughs / Town & Parish Councils prior to the event?

Dorset Highways Officers arranged a Member Engagement Meeting which was held on the 25 May 2016 to which all members with wards/divisions on the race route were invited to attend. Some district members also attended this meeting, but it was specifically aimed at the County Council Elected Members.

Appendix 1 gives details of Members who attended together with apologies received, and Appendix 2c contains the minutes of the meeting.

The County Council also provided Ironman with the contact details for Town and Parish Councils and advised that they convene meetings to discuss the route and race proposals in further detail.

As outlined in 2.4 above, it would appear that engagement achieved with Town and Parish Councils was limited.

2.8 Who are the other key partners we worked with?

- Ironman
- Events People (Ironman Traffic Management Company)
- Dorset Police
- Dorset Councils Partnership – (Licencing, Event Management, Beach Control, Facilities, Emergency Planning, Building Control)
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service
- South West Ambulance
- HM Coastguard
- Port Authority
- DCC Emergency Planning Officers
- DCC Elected Members

2.9 Were there any last minutes changes which resulted in difficulties? How was it decided that these were to be mitigated?

Ironman`s proposals were presented to the afore mentioned SAG meetings, with any subsequent minor amendments being agreed on an ongoing basis.

Call to Account – Ironman Weymouth 2016

Prior to Race Day, no significant amendments to these proposals were received, however on the afternoon of the race it was brought to the attention of County Council Officers in attendance within the Race Control Centre that a significant issue relating to resourcing of the Race Marshalls had occurred.

Ironman representatives confirmed that two weeks before the Race Day, the company appointed to specifically resource the Race Marshall's had pulled out and alternative arrangements had to be made through Ironman's Traffic Management contractor.

This was frustrating for County Council Officers, as had they been informed by Ironman immediately they became aware of this change, it is likely that Officers could have assisted Ironman in seeking volunteers to Marshall the event who would have possessed the necessary key attributes.

However by the time this issue was brought to the attention of County Council Officers on the afternoon of Race Day, there was insufficient opportunity or time to implement any mitigating actions.

2.10 What were the estimated costs & benefits associated with the event?

The event organiser pays an application fee for a TTRO but there is a cost to the County Council in terms of staff time however, the County Council's various duties require it to consider and manage the impact of such events as Ironman Weymouth.

Following an Economic Impact Assessment, see appendix 3, the overall net benefit to the county as a whole was assessed to be £1.1 million with the net benefit to the rural economy totalling £186,200.

This assessment takes into account the positive and negative financial impact in Dorset for the Ironman Event.

Whilst economic well-being is an element of the County Council's Corporate Plan, the economic impact of an event does not override the statutory duties imposed on the County Council.

2.11 What lessons learned were identified from the previous event - why were repeat issues identified?

Whilst this is technically the first Ironman Weymouth event there was a "Lessons Learned" meeting held following the "Challenge Weymouth" event in 2015 which had direct relevance to the 2016 Ironman Weymouth.

The minutes of this meeting are attached in Appendix 2a, and highlight the principle lessons as being:

- The need to deploy local Marshalls
- The requirement to put in place a multi-faceted approach to publicising the event
- That any proposed race course was designed following consultation and feedback received from Dorset Police, Residents and Businesses.

The County Council Officers were of the opinion that the process that had been adopted for the 2016 event had ensured that these issues identified from the 2015 event had been addressed within the Management Plan presented at the SAG Meetings.

Call to Account – Ironman Weymouth 2016

Unfortunately, as outlined above, Ironman omitted to inform us of their change in approach in relation to local Marshalls due to the change in contractor. The communication strategy was largely delivered, but again as outlined above, there is concern as to the effectiveness of the consultation and engagement achieved with Town and Parish Councils affected.

2.12 How can we be confident the necessary assurances will be in place before future events?

We are working with Ironman to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which all SAG members will sign up to by the end of February 2017. Whilst this is not a legally binding document, it will record the expectations for each stakeholder.

The MoU will spell out the responsibilities of each Agency and highlight key dates that need to be adhered to leading up to September 2017, including:

- A timeline for all key activities.
- Clear outline of responsibilities of all stakeholders.
- Milestones for all key activities.
- Requirement for Ironman to provide a definitive plan for resourcing the traffic control stations along the race route with suitably experienced, and knowledgeable Marshalls, six weeks prior to Race Day.

Specific responsibilities will be placed on Ironman to provide full details of their Traffic Management and Control Plan with detailed contingency plans to ensure the required level of resilience has been identified.

Ironman will also be encouraged to liaise with Town and Parish Councils well in advance of the event date to encourage improved co-operation and ensuring that every opportunity is given to the local communities to contribute to the event.

At the time of writing, contact is being made with other authorities that have hosted previous Ironman events, to learn from their experiences and ensure we are adopting best practice wherever possible.

2.13 When can the council apply charges for such events to monitor compliance?

The County Council has limited power to apply charges, however as part of our engagement with other Authorities we are exploring whether additional charges can be made, to cover the increasing staff time that is being invested in events of this scale.

At present, charges are made to cover the costs associated with the administration of Temporary Traffic Regulation Order and the operational staff manning the Traffic Control Centre.

In addition, charges would be made for any reactive operational input by Dorset Highway's workforce to provide such resources as additional signage, staff or specialist plant.

It is likely that in future charges will be made for Officers attending the Race Control Centre.

Call to Account – Ironman Weymouth 2016

3.0 Post Event “Wash Up” 2016/Lessons Learned Event

- 3.1 Over eighty email complaints from residents and businesses, relating to the Ironman Weymouth event were received by the County Council.
- 3.2 As in previous years, a post event “wash up”/lessons learned meeting was held on 27 September 2016 to identify the main issues of concern and identify any areas for improvement for future years.
- 3.3 The 2016 meeting identified the following schedule of concerns
- Elements of implementing the agreed Traffic Management Plan
 - Engagement of Marshalls with local knowledge
 - Implementation of consultation strategy with Town and Parish Councils
 - Consider amendments to course layout to reduce risk of disruption

The minutes of this meeting are attached in Appendix 2

- 3.4 Although the County Council has not yet received an application, a 2017 event is proposed to consist of a 70 mile total distance event only which will reduce the duration of the road closures by half compared to 2016, which will significantly reduce any disruption and inconvenience if a TTRO is approved.

4.0 Suggested Areas for Improvement

It is clear that a number of issues relating to the 2016 Ironman Weymouth event contributed to the travelling public and local communities along the race route experiencing significant levels of disruption and inconvenience.

The review meetings have assisted us in identifying areas where additional attention is required in future to ensure that all communities enjoy the benefits of such an internationally recognised event.

The following suggestions are made as improvements to the process.

Suggestion 1

- Produce a Memorandum of Understanding between all key SAG members in accordance with Home Office guidance, by the end of February 2017.

Suggestion 2

- A post event meeting and evaluation is undertaken within a month of the event taking place and consider Legal Services involvement when legal issues are involved.

Suggestion 3

- Event organisers are asked to produce a detailed communication plan in support of their application which seeks to consult and where possible, engage the District, Town, Borough and Parish councils.

Call to Account – Ironman Weymouth 2016

Suggestion 4

- Ensure that the Ironman hotline, Dorset County Council Traffic Control Centre and Event Control Centre work in a fully integrated manner.

Suggestion 5

- Review and refresh practices, systems and training needs relating to legal and practical processes and requirements.

Mike Harries

Director for Environment and Economy

November 2016

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
04.11.2015	Challenge Weymouth Wash Up Meeting	Kevin Cheleda	Dorset County Council	Matt Ryan	Dorset Councils Partnership
		Alan Rose	Just Racing	Barry Quinn	Purbeck Member
		Hayley Jelley	Just Racing	John Wilson	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Marc Cutler	Dorset County Council	Jill Haynes	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Tom Faulkner	Dorset County Council	Mike Lovell	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Peter Wharf	Dorset County Council Elected Member		
		Kaz Beare	Events People		
		Pete Downing	Events People		
		Steve Davis	Dorset Councils Partnership		
		Cherry Brooks	Purbeck Member		

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
18.12.2015	Ironman Introductory Meeting	Kevin Cheleda	Dorset County Council		
		Samantha Paulley	Dorset County Council		
		Marc Cutler	Dorset County Council		
		Heidi Moxom	Dorset Police		
		Steve Marsh	Dorset Police		
		Kevin Stewart	Ironman		
		Alan Rose	Ironman		
		Rebecca Sutherland	Ironman		

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
09.02.2016	Puddletown Area parish council	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
10.02.2016	Charminster Area parish council	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
11.02.2016	Ironman Weymouth, Safety Advisory Group	Kevin Cheleda	Dorset County Council	Unavailable	Unavailable
		Alan Rose	Ironman		
		Kevin Stewart	Ironman		
		Samantha Paulley	Dorset County Council		
		Nigel Osborne	Dorset County Council		
		Steve Davis	Dorset Councils Partnership		
		Steve Marsh	Dorset Police		
		Pam Williams	Dorset Police		
		Matt Parsons	Events People		
		Sue Frost	Dorset Councils Partnership		

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
27.04.2016	Ironman Access Information	Samantha Paulley	Dorset County Council	Unavailable	Unavailable
		Marc Cutler	Dorset County Council		
		Kevin Stewart	Ironman		
		Alan Rose	Ironman		
		Rebecca Sutherland	Ironman		

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
25.05.2016	Members Engagement Meeting	Kevin Cheleda	Dorset County Council	Richard Biggs	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Alan Rose	Ironman	Jill Haynes	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Kevin Stewart	Ironman	Peter Wharf	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Samantha Paulley	Dorset County Council	Trevor Jones	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Marc Cutler	Dorset County Council	Mark Tewkesbury	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Steve Davis	Dorset Councils Partnership	David Harris	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Andrew Cattaway	Dorset County Council Elected Member	Mike Byatt	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		David Mannings	Dorset County Council Elected Member	Kate Wheller	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Tom Faulkner	Dorset County Council	Clare Sutton	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Simon King	Dorset Councils Partnership	Michael Carhart-Harris	Dorset County Council
		Andy Canning	Dorset County Council Elected Member		
		Paul Kimber	Dorset County Council Elected Member		
		Patrick Cooke	Parish Council		
		Fred Horsington	Parish Council		
Tim Yarker	Parish Council				
Jacqui Selwell	Parish Council				

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
20.06.2016	Ironman TM Plans	Simon Legg	Events People	N/A	N/A
		Matt Parsons	Events People		
		Kevin Cheleda	Dorset County Council		
		Samantha Paulley	Dorset County Council		
		Marc Cutler	Dorset County Council		

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
30.06.2016	Ironman meeting with Warmwell, Crossways & Moreton Parish, in Warmwell	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
05.07.2016	Ironman Safety Advisory Group	Kevin Stewart	Ironman	Unavailable	Unavailable
		Alan Rose	Ironman		
		Liam Patton	Dorset County Council		
		Samantha Paulley	Dorset County Council		
		Marc Cutler	Dorset County Council		
		Nigel Osborne	Dorset County Council		
		Sue Frost	Dorset Councils Partnership		
		Heidi Moxom	Dorset Police		
		Andrew Simmonds	Wessex Water		
		Kevin Goode	Dorset Councils Partnership		
		Charlotte Sheppard	Dorset Councils Partnership		
		Steve Davis	Dorset Councils Partnership		

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
26.07.2016	Ironman meeting with Preston & Bowleaze Area Parish	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
26.07.2016	Ironman meeting with Piddle Valley Area Parish	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
01.09.2016	Ironman meeting with Waterside Holiday Park & Riviera Hotel	Alan Rose	Ironman	Unavailable	Unavailable
		Kevin Cheleda	Dorset County Council		

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
07.09.2016	Ironman Pre Commencement Meeting	Kevin Stewart	Ironman	Unavailable	Unavailable
		Alan Rose	Ironman		
		Charlotte Sheppard	Dorset Councils Partnership		
		Samantha Paulley	Dorset County Council		
		Marc Cutler	Dorset County Council		
		Heidi Moxom	Dorset Police		
		Simon Legg	Events People		
		Matt Parsons	Events People		
		Unknown	Events People		
		James Egan	Ironman		
		Steve Davis	Dorset Councils Partnership		
		Rebecca Sutherland	Ironman		
		Kevin Cheleda	Dorset County Council		

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
27.09.2016	Ironman 'Wash Up' Meeting	Kevin Cheleda	Dorset County Council	Andrew Cattaway	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Samantha Paulley	Dorset County Council	Peter Wharf	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Marc Cutler	Dorset County Council	Trevor Jones	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Simon Bendell	Dorset County Council	David Harris	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Kevin Stewart	Ironman	Mike Byatt	Dorset County Council Elected Member
		Alan Rose	Ironman		
		Lucy Rose	Ironman		
		Jill Haynes	Dorset County Council Elected Member		
		Heidi Moxom	Dorset Police		
		Sue Frost	Dorset Councils Partnership		
		Jessica Rice	Dorset Councils Partnership		
		Peter Finney	Dorset County Council Elected Member		
		Simon Gledhill	Dorset County Council		

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.

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Ironman Wash-up Meeting
27th September 2016 @ Dorford Centre

Present:

Attendees	
Kevin Stewart (KS)	Iron Man Director
Pete Downing (PD)	Events People –TM for Ironman
Matt Parsons	Events People –TM for Ironman
Alan Rose Race Director (AR)	Race Director Ironman Weymouth
Lucy Rose (LR)	Ironman (PR for future events)
Peter Finney (PF)	County Councillor (portfolio holder)
Jill Haynes (JH)	County Councillor
Cllr Andy Canning (AC)	County Councillor
Cllr Dave Mannings (DM)	County Councillor
Cllr Mike Lovell (ML)	County Councillor
Kevin Cheleda (KJC)	Traffic Team Manager (Chairperson for the meeting)
Marc Cutler (MC)	Traffic Team Coordinator
Simon Bendell (SB)	Traffic Team –(Minute taker)
Sam Paulley (SMP)	Traffic Team Coordinator
Simon Gledhill (SG)	Network Traffic Manager
Sue Frost DCP (SF)	Dorset Councils Partnership
Jessica Rice DCP (JR)	Dorset Councils Partnership
PC Heidi Moxam (HM)	Dorset Police

1. Welcome

KJC Welcomed attendees, KS loaded a video which documented the Ironman Weymouth event.

Cllr AC questioned why District Councillors weren't involved in the meeting. KJC put it to the meeting that district councillors do not hold the highway portfolio and that the County Councillors represented their division for all matters "highway" and not the District Councillors. This seemed to be accepted but Cllr ML suggested that District councillors be included in next year's planning/wash up, but it was agreed that this could make the meetings unwieldy, and in any case most Cllrs present were two or even three hatted.

Apologies

County Councillors:

- Trevor Jones
- Peter Wharf
- Andrew Cattaway (Chairman)
- Dave Harries
- Mike Byatt

2. Minutes of 2015 Challenge Weymouth

KJC said that there were no action points actioned from the 2015 minutes and to be mindful that DCC need reassurance for next year before it can be approved as lessons do not seem to have been learnt and it was "chilling" reading knowing that some issues have reoccurred.

3. Do the organisers want to hold a 2017 event?

KJC asked if Ironman wanted to return next year, as if not, the meeting could be very short! KS confirmed that Ironman wished to continue to stage the event in Weymouth for years to come but maybe under the smaller 70.3 title, which would involve less course time for bikes etc.

4. Summary of complaints

KC stated that there were unprecedented number of complaints with the event. In excess of 80 email complaints. Some positive comments were received on social media but also a lot of negative comments about the day. The feedback has been collated/acknowledged and gone to Ironman for their information also. The complaints have been categorised and there are four distinct issues namely marshals, signage, communications and the course which are covered in the following agenda points

5. Event

AR – September 11th was the first time that a full ironman and a 70.3 have been staged on the same day. Biggest number of participants in any UK event. From athletes perspective the day was great, a number of athletes commented on the course and how they had enjoyed the day.

Build up

A number of parish meetings were arranged. Two of the councillors present (DM & JH) both said that the meetings arranged in their constituency were hugely under attended. The Charlton Down meeting wasn't attended by anyone. KC said there was an obvious communications failure. JH agreed and added that the prep should have begun earlier and been more extensive.

AR - Emails were sent to local businesses/bus companies/ 70k leaflet delivered via Royal Mail on affected routes. Marshalling companies were contacted well in advance but two of them pulled out with less than 10 days to go, resulting in shortfall of 140 Marshals

Race day

Good event, ran successfully from race point of view, obvious shortfall in marshalling had huge knock on effect with travelling public navigating road closures.

Post event

A great number of complaints received by DCC

AC asked AR if Farms had been contacted, KS had visited a number of farms in Piddle Valley personally. SG asked if Dorset Countryside rangers had been contacted – No. Cllr ML said that next year the parishes should be well informed as they have an effective hierarchy for cascading info down.

KS thought that a number of the leaflets were potentially ignored, KJC confirmed that his leaflet turned up folded inside a Mole Valley Farmers Leaflet on "junk mail day" and therefore likely to be ignored by many.

6. Marshals**Briefing –**

KS went to local companies to source marshals Weymouth City Recruitment & 1 other

PD admitted that marshals weren't briefed as effectively as the Council had thought they would have been.

PD They were briefed via a cascade system- KJC said this way had the potential of "chinese whispers" effect.

PD Marshals were instructed to enforce the closure not direct traffic.

Local knowledge-

KC very obvious from the feedback that marshals had no local knowledge and were unable to direct traffic when asked and even sent them further in to "trouble".

Information Pack-

PD stated that all marshals were issued with an information pack, but feedback would indicate that not all marshals had their pack on race day.

Radio Comms -

PD Not all Marshalls had radios but stated that some did not need them.
MC advised that CSAS marshals might be of use next year – have the ability to direct traffic

7. Signing

A lot of signage on the day was left face down in the verges

PD stated that marshals were not responsible to stand signs up. Would it have made their life and travelling public's life a lot easier if they did?

JH – Directional diversions with approximate locations (Yeovil, Sherborne etc.) would have been useful

PF suggested that DHO do signage next year – local knowledge more readily available to respond to incidents.

Ironman TM

Ironman TM

Ironman (AR and KS)

8. Communications

Residents

70k leaflets – distributed on junk mail day, tucked inside other junk mail. Parish magazines? Good at reaching the masses. Parish clerks will help push the message in future.

It was agreed that the leaflets weren't visually appealing. AR to improve this next year.

Businesses

Not all were visited. No ledger kept of who was visited and who wasn't. Ironman had roughly 100 pre event emails and 60 calls.

KC recommended that a ledger be kept next year and businesses sign once informed to eliminate any doubt on who was and wasn't consulted. Cllr AC said business complaints this year would be a good starting point for next years event.

Ironman

Telephone Hotline

Feedback is hard to keep record of via hotline. Hotline seemed to work well pre event.

Control room where hotline was based seemed very fraught on race day. Hotline was suspended for an hour and command structure seemed a fractured (was there a command structure?)

No Wi-Fi in control room meant all communications were hampered and contacting control room at DCC was hard.

Media Partners

2 sides to Dorset Echo – Advert & Editorial.

DCC's Media Team not as proactive as could have been

Ironman Website hard to navigate/ search for info on race day

Lessons to be learnt from both sides re media communications

9. Policing

From Police perspective the event was a success, no injuries or incidents

More officers would be beneficial but with some local knowledge.
 More officers patrolling route next year would be good.
 Dorchester was a hotspot for conflict and angry residents – Charlton Down completely cut off.
 Tow-away was confusing. No one was sure who was towing vehicles. DCC and Police received calls re getting vehicles back
 Car parking used to compound towed vehicles hadn't been fully consulted - Jack Creeber W&PBC not happy.
 KS said that they may pay for Police time next year.

10.Course

KJC Course needs refining – Bowleaze & Littlemoor, A35 @Puddletown, Max Gate and Kingston Mauward were all problematic, as was Littlemoor/Weymouth Relief Road.
 KS Likely to be 70.3 next year double the participants but half the route – course likely to be reopened by 02:30 KJC agreed that this would be good.
 Athletes enjoyed the challenging course.

11.Economic Impact Assessment

Dave Walsh's team can carry out an economic impact assessment, useful to prove to parishes that the event was of benefit to the county AR to contact David.

AR

12.Claims for losses from businesses.

Law is robust – previous claims for compensation quashed. It was asked to be minuted that IM must indemnify the County Council against any claims- it is their event after all.

AR and KS

13.Ironman “Weymouth”

The name of the event came into question. Other events Ironman Wales, Ironman Bolton, why can't it be Ironman Dorset? AR claimed that Weymouth defines the event. People and businesses in rural Dorset could not identify with IM Weymouth. Ironman asked to revisit this.

Ironman

14.Call-to-Account –

PF - Issues to overcome before next year can be planned, more forward planning/consultation. This title of the meeting sounds quite “authoritarian” but is purely to reassure the Councillors that the event is under control, well managed and will not cause reputational damage. Event for next year can't be authorised until Called-to-Account has taken place.
 AR gave assurance that the issues would be resolved and was keen to publicise next year's event which is hoped will be on 17th September 2017.

KJC didn't want to end the meeting on a low note, but did state that holding events on the highway were Ironman's bread and butter work and had hoped that bringing this prestigious brand to the event would have brought with it a higher level of professionalism and expertise, so it was disappointing at the level of fall out this year. It is their event and is only a small part of the Traffic Teams remit (less than 10% on events). Lessons did need to be learnt and the Call-to-Account was a crucial point to reassure DCC that lessons have been learnt.

Ironman

AOB

Sept 17th 2017? AR keen to get the date on the Ironman website.

MC recommended liaising with Rotary/carnival committee for TM/Marshal requirements.

Iron Man Members Meeting – 25th May 2016**Present:**

Name	Email	Organisation
Kevin Cheleda (KC)	k.j.cheleda@dorsetcc.gov.uk	Dorset Highways
Marc Cutler (MC)	m.cutler@dorsetcc.gov.uk	Dorset Highways
Sam Paulley (SP)	s.m.paulley@dorsetcc.gov.uk	Dorset Highways
Andy Canning (AC)	andycanning@btinternet.com	Member DCC
David Mannings (DM)	d.g.mannings@dorsetcc.gov.uk	Member DCC
Simon King (SK)	sking@dorset.gov.uk	Dorset Councils Partnership
Steve Davies (SD)	stevedavies@dorset.gov.uk	Weymouth & Portland BC
Fred Horsington (FH)	horsina@hotmail.co.uk	Member DCC
Paul Kimber (PK)	p.kimber@dorsetcc.gov.uk	Member DCC
Andrew Cattaway (AC)	a.r.cattaway@dorsetcc.gov.uk	Member DCC
Jacqui Selwell (JS)	cllrjsewell@btinternet.com	
Tim Yarker (TY)	timyarker@btinternet.com	
Patrick Cooke (PC)	house@athelhampton.co.uk	West Dorset Councillor
Kevin Stewart (KS)	Ironman Director UK	Iron Man
Alan Rose	Ironman Race Director Weymouth	Iron Man

Apologies:

Richard Biggs

Trevor Jones

Peter Wharf

Jill Haynes

Mark Tewkesbury

David Harris

Mike Byatt

Kate Wheller

Clare Sutton

Michael Carhart-Harris

1. Traffic Management

There will be a variety of different types of traffic management along the route. Local communities become heavily involved with sections of the race in their areas.

Councillor Mannings expressed concern that the challenge event last year was chaos, and is worried that he hasn't been consulted up until this stage and asked how the bus routes would be affected?

Kevin Stewart confirmed that the plans are still being worked on as to timings and they are trying to ensure that there is limited impact and disruption to the route.

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of having a meeting with locals to inform them in more detail of how the event will affect them.

Councillor Mannings suggested the possible use of cycle lanes on roads in his area however it was pointed out that these lanes would not be suitable as they are not wide enough.

District Councillor Jacqui Sewell asked what measures had been taken regarding access for Emergency services along the route.

Kevin Cheleda confirmed that Safety advisory groups had taken place and as roads will have limited traffic emergency services will get through easier. In an emergency situation the race would stop completely.

Kevin Stewart confirmed that there is a contact list in place featuring all residents and businesses in the area.

2. Economic benefit

Concern was expressed that the benefit only seems to impact the start and finish locations yet there will be disruption throughout the route.

Information should be distributed to parish councils by the start of June so that they can respond with their thoughts.

It would be helpful to cross reference the route of the map on to ward/parishes map, it would then be easier to gain local knowledge for each separate location.

Kevin Stewart informed the meeting that Ironman have an obligation to minimise disruption and will speak to as many parishes as possible to improve route and event as a whole.

Alan Rose confirmed that he is looking to send out the route in full in the best position possible.

Kevin Stewart advised the meeting that the same event has been running for 5 years in Pembrokeshire and is running very smoothly now.

Kevin Cheleda also confirmed how much the Iron Man in Sherborne improved on a yearly basis.

District Councillor Fred Horsington advised Ironman that stewards with local knowledge are essential.

Alan Rose confirmed that each steward will be given individual location maps which will help them to guide people in the area. There will also be a police presence.

Junction Management

There will be various road closures in place between 0500 and 1800 when the race is in full flow.

Highways England need to be contacted regarding the diversion route signage

Kevin Stewart confirmed that the affected bus companies will be contacted to let them know of schedules and it might be necessary to cancel routes.

Councillor Mannings expressed concern with the Holiday day trips to Weymouth and how they may need to be contacted.

Kevin Cheleda advised that traffic travelling from the Bournemouth direction will be made aware of the event so they should follow diverted routes.

It was suggested that communities could make use of the closures in place for other events which could bring local communities together.

Alan Rose gave an example of possible economic gain for local businesses as he has spoken to the Blue Vinney in Puddletown which have been interested in holding an event.

District Councillor Patrick Cooke informed the meeting that research has been put in to the Pembrokeshire Event and it has been noted that the event is more sparsely populated which is easier to run.

It was noted that concern has been expressed by the Charlton Down Ward that Communication/ information has been sparse and it is not fair to allow communities to be blocked in due to the event and the closures required.

Kevin Stewart advised the meeting that communicating by ward hasn't worked in the past and they are looking for engagement to improve the event.

A discussion took place regarding the best way to cascade the information down to the parishes. Councillor Cattaway confirmed that Kevin Cheleda has the support of the Portfolio holder to work with Ironman to ensure the best route is in place, however it would be wise for the seven County Councillors who's area will be affected to consult with the all the necessary district, ward and parish's.

Kevin Stewart confirmed that if any additional parish meetings are requested then these can be arranged.

Councillor Cattaway strongly advised Ironman that communication should start immediately to ensure appropriate information is circulated.

Kevin Cheleda confirmed that there is an information document including maps that will be sent out to all residents and this document can also be sent out to Councillors.

Councillor Cattaway suggested that having a deadline in place would be beneficial.

Alan Rose confirmed that the final draft of residents information will be published on 30 May 2016.

There being no further business Councillor Cattaway thanked everyone for attending.

IRONMAN WEYMOUTH ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NOVEMBER 2016

Anne Gray, 21st November 2016

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IRONMAN WEYMOUTH ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT: November 2016

This analysis makes use of the AMORE Economic Impact Tool¹. The contents and findings of the report do not necessarily reflect the views of Dorset County Council.

The model is based on a set of economic and social accounts that allows analysis of the structure of and relationships within the economy. Economic impact analysis using this model takes into account not only the direct impact of a change on a particular industry, but also the indirect effects which occur through changes in purchases by that industry from domestic suppliers, and also the induced effects arising from changes in household incomes and consumption expenditures. The sum of these changes results in a net effect across the whole Dorset LEP area economy that can be expressed in terms of change in demand for GVA² and full-time equivalent worker numbers, (including the self-employed). The model also provides a sectoral analysis allowing identification of those sectors that are most affected by a particular change or shock to the economy. The model allows for leakage as firms make purchases of goods and services from outside the Dorset economy.

An Ironman triathlon is a challenging sporting event comprising a swim, a bicycle ride and a run, raced in that order with no break. There are strict time limits for each element of the event. Ironman events come under the umbrella of the World Triathlon Corporation (WTC) and the Dorset events were organized by Just Racing (UK) Ltd.

Two Ironman events took place in Weymouth on Sunday 11th September 2016:

- Ironman Weymouth over 140.6 miles with a 17 hour time limit;
- Ironman 70.3 Weymouth over 70.3 miles with an 8.5 hour time limit;

Both events started and finished in Weymouth with the swim (either 2.4 miles or 1.2 miles) taking place in Weymouth Bay, the cycling course (either 112 miles or 56 miles) held in the Dorset countryside and the multi-lap run (either 26.2 miles or 13.1 miles) taking place around Weymouth town, harbour and seafront.

There were just under 3,000 entrants for the two events.

To model the impact of the Ironman events upon the Dorset economy, a number of assumptions have been made which are outlined in the following section.

¹ Advanced Modelling of Regional Economies 2015, designed for Dorset County Council by Dr Stephen Brand

² GVA for an industry is its gross output at basic prices, less purchases of goods and services, less net spending taxes (ECON|I).

Assumptions

The data used as input to the economic modelling process is taken from a survey of participants sent to Ironman Weymouth entrants by the organisers using a framework of questions recommended by Dorset County Council. In line with the profile of entrants, about 90% of the survey respondents were from outside the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole area (referred to as 'Dorset' in this report), and about 10% were residents. With a high response rate of 25%, it is assumed that the survey findings are representative of entrants as a whole and the results have therefore been weighted accordingly to represent the full economic impact in Dorset.

Entrants were asked about their visits to Dorset in the 12 months before the event and also their visit to Dorset for the event itself. Questions were asked about the size of their party, the number of nights stayed and their spending pattern and this data has been used in the impact assessment. It is assumed that, where respondents resident in Dorset have indicated a visit to Dorset in the previous 12 months, they have made a visit to the locality of the race – this was most usually a day trip but there were some overnight stays. A number of responses from residents were disregarded where it was evident the respondent was referring to home-related expenses.

The pre-event spend data of those who would have made a visit to Dorset anyway in the previous 12 months has been disregarded.

A number of other issues also need to be considered to give a net, rather than a gross, impact.

a) Deadweight: would any of the projected outputs occur without the event being held?
: Whilst some of the competitors may have visited Dorset without the motivation of training for or attending the event, the event is assumed to be the major reason for their visits. Where survey respondents indicated that they would have visited Dorset anyway, ie without being in the event, then their pre-event survey response has not been included in the analysis.

b) Displacement: what proportion of the outputs is accounted for by reduced outputs elsewhere in the area?
: Displacement has been disregarded as no similar event was taking place in Dorset ie entrants have not chosen to take part in Ironman Weymouth in preference to another Dorset event.

c) Leakage: is a proportion of the economic outputs arising from the event likely to leak outside the area?

This may occur, for example,

- when firms outside the area benefit from the impact:
 - an allowance for geographical leakage outside the Dorset LEP area is built into the AMORE Economic Impact Tool;
- or if commuters live outside the area and may therefore spend a proportion of their income outside the area having an impact there instead:
 - This element would be related to employees in those businesses benefiting from visitors and whether or not they commute from outside Dorset. Many of the tourism related and retail jobs are likely to be of a low pay scale and therefore unlikely to encourage commuting from a long distance. There may be a small element of commuting for higher paid jobs, but it is not possible to quantify this.

d) Substitution: has the affected organisation substituted one activity for another and, for example, redeployed staff from one function to another rather than created new posts?

: It is assumed that the substitution effect is not applicable.

Summary of findings

There were nearly 3,000 entrants to the Ironman Weymouth event with about ten per cent of these being Dorset residents.

The aggregated spend of entrants during training visits to Dorset before the event and for the event itself was estimated as about £2.3 million.

This would have added a total of about £1.2 million in gross value added (GVA) to the Dorset economy through the increased demand for goods and services after deductions for taxes and retail margins.

In addition, spend of approximately £92,500 by the Ironman Weymouth organisers with local suppliers will have added a further £71,000 in GVA to the Dorset economy after deductions for taxes and retail margins (still giving a gross total of £1.2 million GVA).

Road closures and traffic build-up affecting some businesses on and around the cycle route may have resulted in lost turnover. Allowing for this, it is estimated that the impact of business losses would reduce the overall economic benefits by about £93,000.

This would suggest a net benefit to the Dorset economy of £1.1 million.

The majority of staying visitors stayed in or around Weymouth so the visitor impact is likely to have been felt in the immediate Weymouth area. In addition, about 45% of spend with local suppliers by the IRONMAN organisation was in Weymouth. The net benefit to Weymouth is estimated as about £953,600 (84% of the total net benefit) with the benefit to other parts of Dorset being £186,200³.

Spend and GVA impact	Total	Weymouth	Outside Weymouth
Pre-event spend (£m)	£0.9	<i>£0.79</i>	<i>£0.14</i>
Event spend (£m)	£1.4	<i>£1.21</i>	<i>£0.17</i>
Organiser spend (£m)	£0.1	<i>£0.04</i>	<i>£0.05</i>
Total spend (£m)	£2.3	£2.01	£0.32
Impact of pre-event spend (£m)	£0.5	<i>£0.39</i>	<i>£0.07</i>
Impact of event spend (£m)	£0.7	<i>£0.61</i>	<i>£0.09</i>
Impact of organiser spend (£m)	£0.1	<i>£0.03</i>	<i>£0.04</i>
Impact of overall spend (£m)	£1.2	£1.03	£0.20
Business loss impact (£m)	£0.1	<i>£0.08</i>	<i>£0.01</i>
Net impact (£m)	£1.1	£0.95	£0.19

³ Note: figures in table may not sum exactly due to rounding

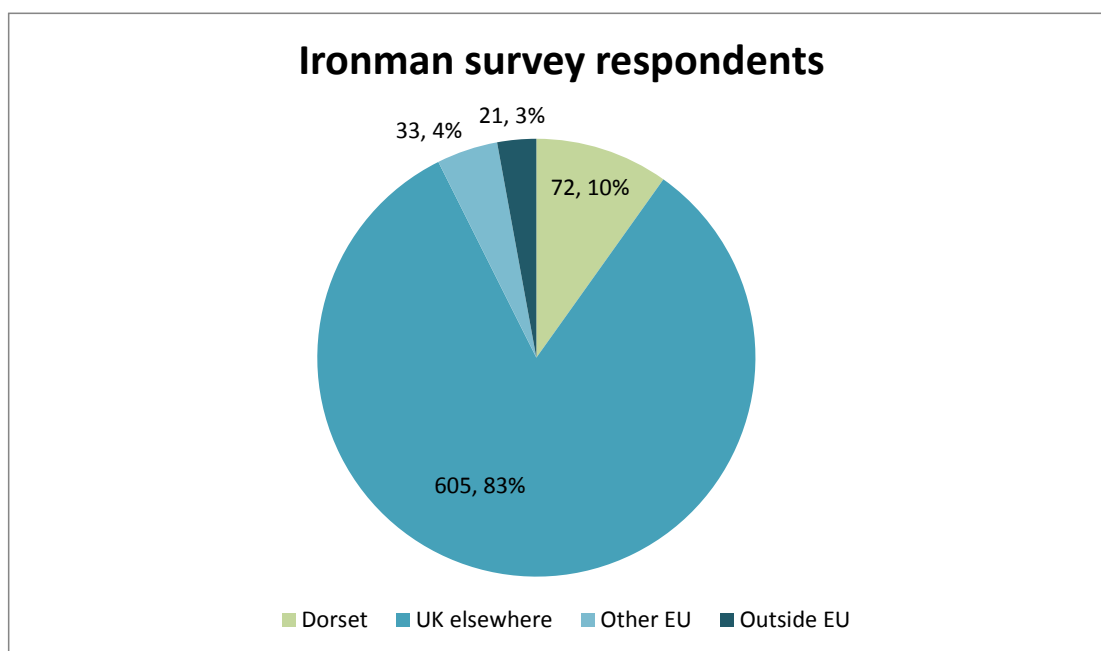
Analysis: respondent characteristics

There were 731 respondents to the survey which was circulated by Just Racing (UK) Ltd to the 2,970 athletes who took part in the event. This is a response rate of 25%⁴.

659 of the survey respondents were from outside the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole area:

- 605 from other parts of the UK;
- 33 from other EU countries (particularly Germany, Ireland, and Belgium);
- 21 from outside the EU

72 of the survey respondents were residents of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole area.



Just over half of 659 respondents who were resident outside the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole area visited Dorset at least once in the 12 months before the event.

Almost two-thirds of the 72 respondents who were resident in the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole area said that they had made one or more visits to Dorset – assuming they mean the locality – in the 12 months leading up to the event. Half of the visits made by residents were day trips.

⁴ Confidence intervals given in Appendix 1

Pre-event visits

A: Respondents from outside Dorset: pre-event visits

There were 659 respondents from outside the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole area giving a response rate of 24% of all non-resident entrants (2,720). The majority of these respondents were residents of other parts of the UK with just eight per cent resident in other countries.

Just over half of the 659 respondents from outside Dorset said that they had made one or more visits to Dorset in the 12 months leading up to the event (52% - 344 respondents).

About a quarter made one visit and more than a quarter (29%) made two or more visits.

Of those respondents who made one or more visits to Dorset before the event, more than half said they would not have visited Dorset as specified if they had not been taking part in the Ironman Weymouth event. This represents 29% of the total 659 respondents from outside Dorset.

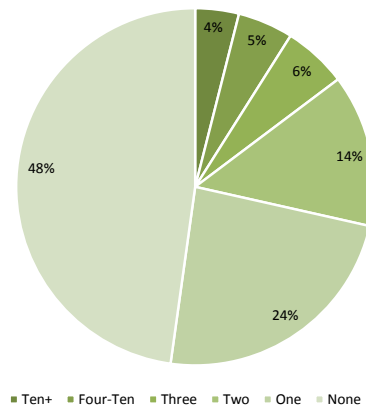
150 respondents said they would have visited Dorset anyway in the 12 months before the event. Whilst there may have been some additional race-related economic contribution from these entrants, their spend data has not been included in this pre-event impact analysis.

Of the 194 respondents who would not otherwise have visited Dorset in the 12 months prior to the event, the majority (175) were accompanied by at least one adult on at least one visit.

These 194 respondents made a total of 476 visits.

On only 60 of the visits were respondents unaccompanied (an eighth of all the 476 individual visits).

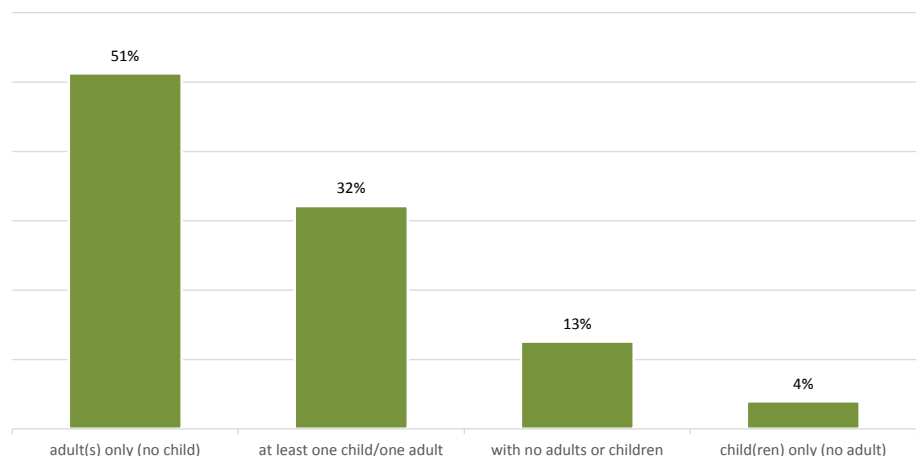
Number of pre-event visits (respondents outside Dorset)



476 individual pre-event visits, accompanied by

More than half of the visits were at least one adult only (no children).

Over the 476 visits, there was an average of 0.72 accompanying children per trip and an average of 1.80 accompanying adults per trip.



Day trips

One quarter of the 476 pre-event visits were day trips (117 trips).

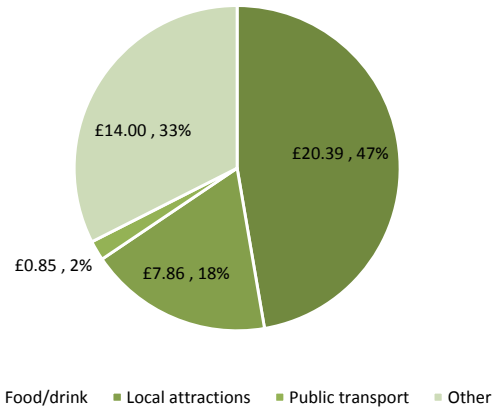
Spending per day trip averaged £43.11 per head, with the largest element of spend being on food and drink.

The second largest element of spend was 'other' which included car parking costs.

This average spend per head is above the Dorset average day trip visitor spend of around £35⁵.

The total pre-event day trip spend estimated from the survey response is weighted up to represent all entrants from outside Dorset giving an overall estimate of £79,261 spend from pre-event day trips.

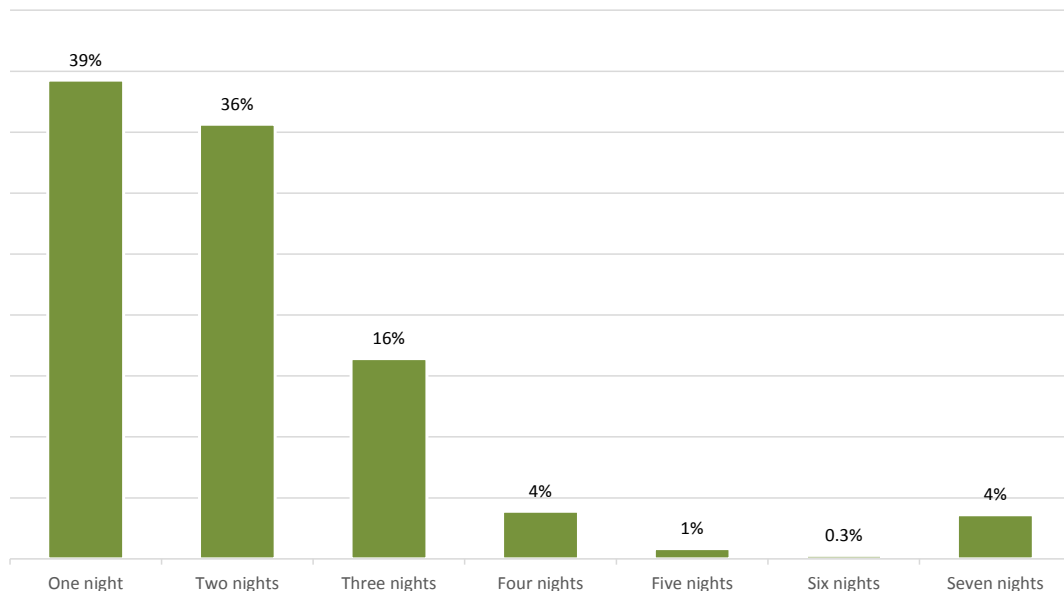
Day trips: average spend per head £43.11



Staying trips

Of all the staying trips made by respondents from outside Dorset (359), three-fifths were of more than one night's duration. Very few of the pre-event visits were made by respondents who were resident overseas (only six out of 359).

Staying trips (359) by duration

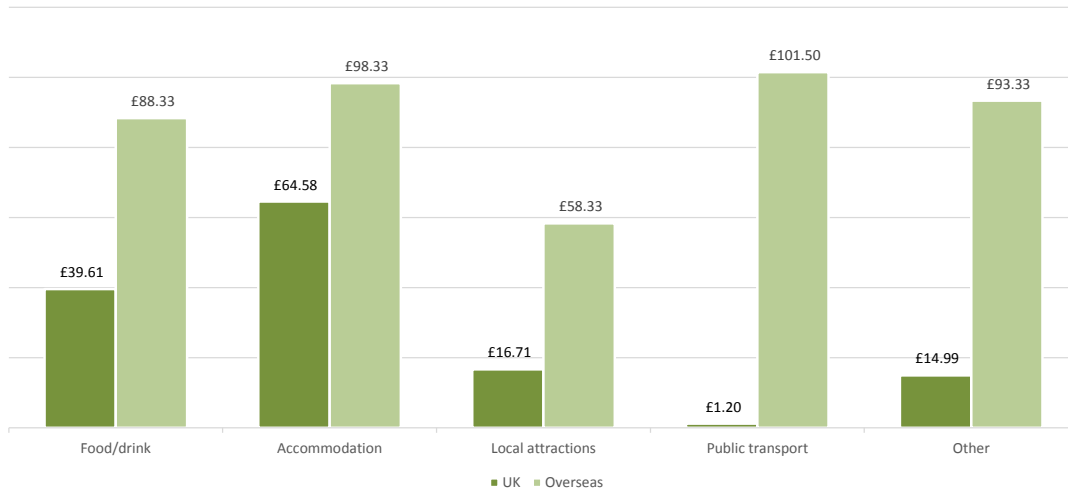


⁵ The South West Research Company Ltd for the Dorset Tourism Partnership, 2015

Spending per trip by UK respondents averaged £137 per head, with the largest element of spend being on accommodation. This is under the average staying visitor spend for Dorset of £210⁶, but this may well reflect the specific purpose of the visits, although some entrants will have combined training with a holiday element, particularly when accompanied by family members.

Spending per trip by overseas respondents averaged £440 per head, with the largest element of spend being on public transport. This is under the average staying spend for Dorset of £619⁷, but again this probably reflects the nature of the visits.

Staying trips: average spend per head of £137 UK and £440 overseas



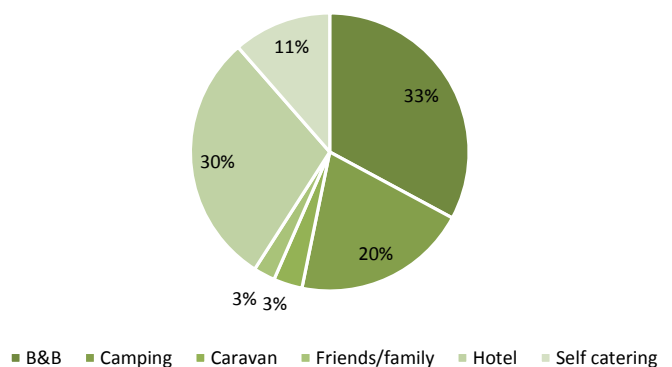
Spend across Dorset – non-residents

The total pre-event day trips spend of £79,261 is assumed to be spent in Weymouth, although it may be that a portion of this was spent in other Dorset locations.

Of the combined staying trips made by UK and international residents, almost three-quarters of the trips were located in Weymouth and just over a quarter outside the town.

Nearly two-thirds of those respondents staying for one night or more stayed in B&B or hotel accommodation. About a fifth camped.

Type of accommodation, pre-event



Of the combined staying/day trip spend of £826,800⁸, about four-fifths was spent by people staying in Weymouth and is therefore assumed to be spent in Weymouth itself. Around £128,400 was estimated as spent by those staying outside Weymouth.

⁶ The South West Research Company Ltd for the Dorset Tourism Partnership, 2015

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Weighted up to represent all entrants

B: Respondents from Dorset: pre-event visits

There were 72 survey respondents who were residents of Dorset giving a response rate of 29% of all Dorset entrants (248). Many of these made day trips or longer staying visits to the locality for pre-event training⁹.

Almost two-thirds of these Dorset respondents said that they had made one or more visits to Dorset – ie the locality – in the 12 months leading up to the event.

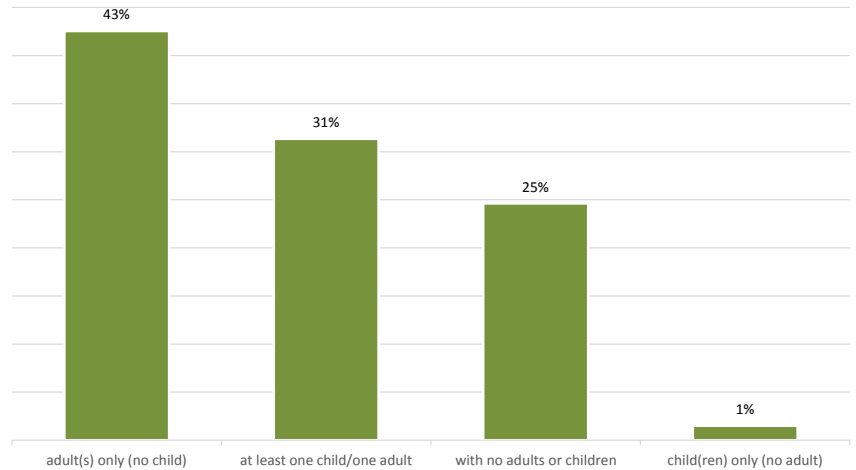
Of the 47 respondents who made one or more visits before the event, most (39) were accompanied by at least one adult on at least one visit.

These 47 respondents made a total of 134 visits.

On only 33 of the visits were respondents unaccompanied (a quarter of all the 134 individual visits).

On two-fifths of the visits, entrants were accompanied by at least one adult only (no children).

134 individual pre-event visits, accompanied by



Over the 134 visits, there was an average of 0.65 accompanying children per trip and an average of 1.93 accompanying adults per trip.

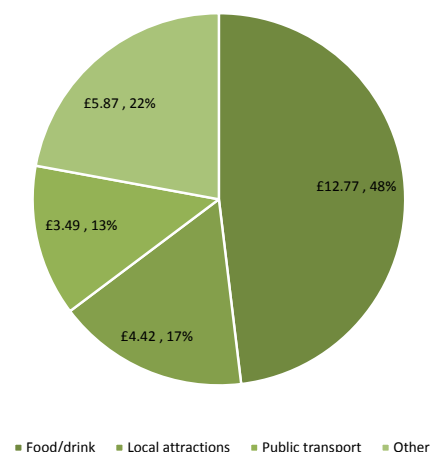
Day trips

One half of the 134 pre-event visits were day trips (69 trips).

Spending per trip averaged £26.55 per head, with the largest element of spend being on food and drink – almost half of all day trip spend. This average spend per head is below the Dorset average for day trip spend of around £35¹⁰.

The total pre-event day trip spend estimated from the survey response is weighted up to represent all Dorset entrants giving an overall estimate of £28,097 spend from pre-event day trips.

Day trips: average spend per head £26.55



⁹ Note: in the analysis for this section if, in response to the question 'How many times did you visit Dorset in the 12 months leading up to the IRONMAN Weymouth event?', the reply was 'I live here' or similar but spend data were provided, this has been included as one day trip unless the response indicates evidence to the contrary. This is likely to result in an under-estimate of day trip spend as it is likely that some residents will have made more trips to the area with an associated daily spend. Two responses were excluded as they appeared unlikely to represent visit spend, ie accommodation costs quoted appear more likely to be for a home rather than a visit.

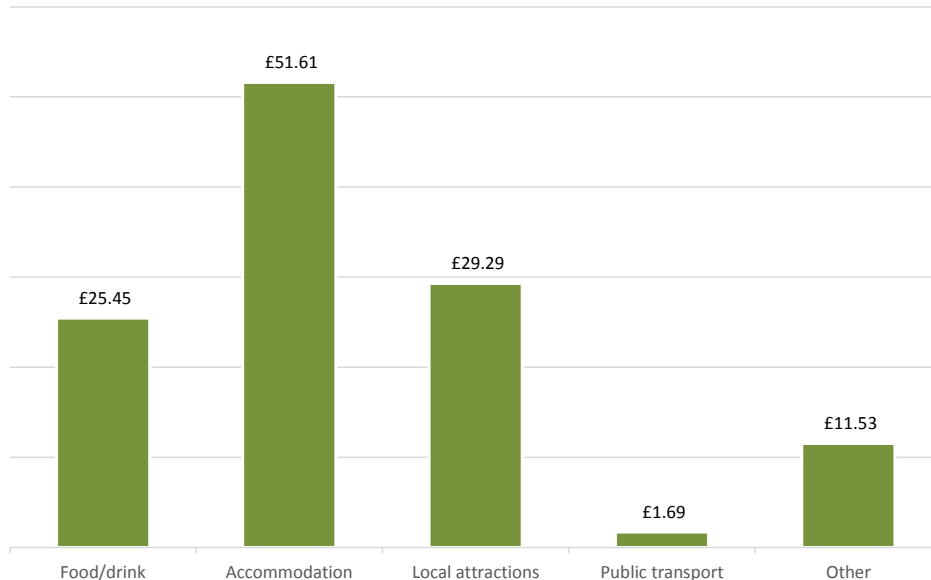
¹⁰ The South West Research Company Ltd for Dorset Tourism Partnership

Staying trips

Of the staying trips made by Dorset residents (62)¹¹, about a third were of one night's duration and the rest of more than one night.

Spending per trip averaged £120 per head, with the largest element of spend being on accommodation. This is under the average staying spend for Dorset of £210.

Staying trips: average spend per head of £120



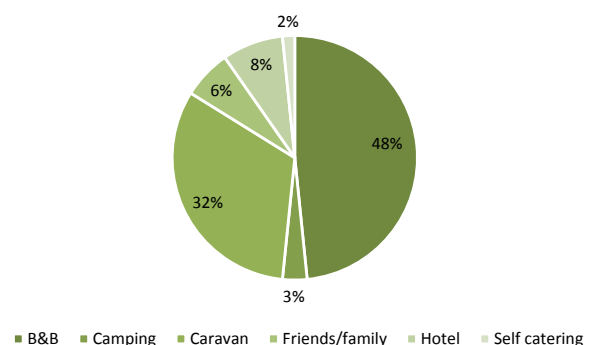
Spend across Dorset – Dorset residents

The total pre-event day trips spend of £28,097 is assumed to be spent in Weymouth, although it may be that a portion of this was spent in other Dorset locations.

Of the staying trips, most were located in Weymouth and fewer than one in ten outside the town.

More than half of those respondents staying for one night or more stayed in B&B or hotel accommodation. About a third stayed on caravan sites.

Type of accommodation, pre-event



Of the combined day/staying trip spend of £109,800¹², more than four-fifths was spent by people staying in Weymouth and is therefore assumed to be spent in Weymouth itself. Around £14,398 was spent by those staying outside Weymouth.

This gives a total pre-event visitor spend of almost a million pounds (£0.94 million) spent in Dorset. Most of this would have been spent in Weymouth (£794,000) but about 15% is estimated as spent outside Weymouth (£143,000) – see later for the economic impact of this spend.

¹¹ Note: three respondents gave no pre-event visit details – these make up the total 134

¹² Weighted up to represent all Dorset entrants

Visits during the Ironman Weymouth event

C: Respondents from outside Dorset: event visits

There were 659 respondents from outside the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole area (referred to as 'Dorset' in this report), the majority of these being UK residents.

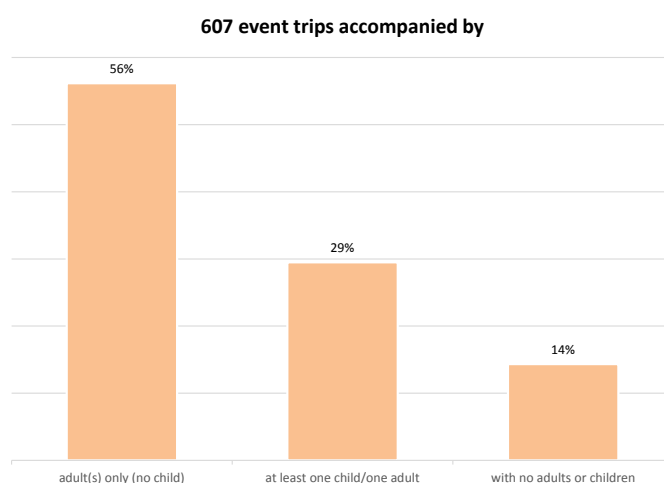
Of these, 52 did not respond to the questions about visits during the actual event.

Of the remaining 607 respondents, the majority stayed for at least one night in the area with just three percent making day trips for the event.

Of the 607 respondents, most (520, 86%) were accompanied by at least one adult on the visit.

Only 87 of the respondents came by themselves (just over an eighth of all responding).

Over the 607 visits, there was an average of 0.62 accompanying children per trip (below the pre-event average) and an average of 2.19 accompanying adults per trip (above the pre-event average).



Day trips

Just three per cent of the 607 respondents indicated that they made day trips (18 trips). However, a further 52 respondents did not respond to this section and are likely to at least have made day trips to the venue.

Spending per trip averaged £34.56 per head, with the largest element of spend being on food and drink.

This average spend per head is in line with the Dorset average for day trip spend of around £35¹³.

This gives a total event day trip spend of £8,222¹⁴ by non-Dorset residents.

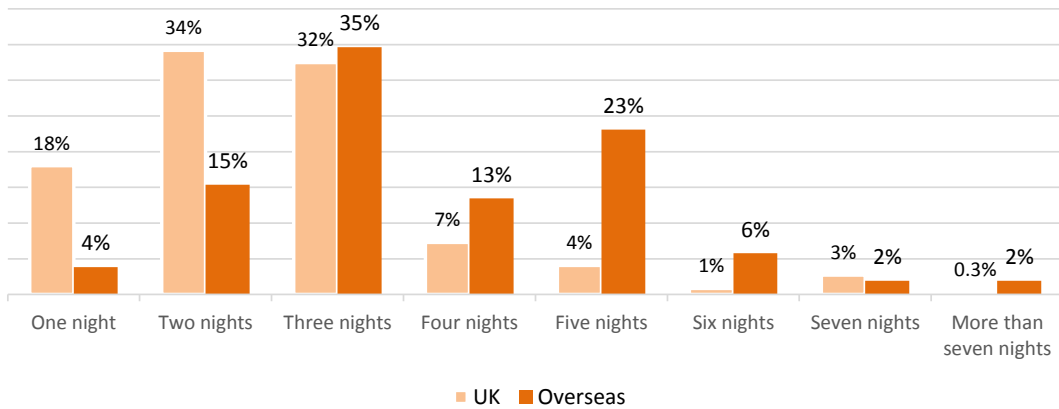
Staying trips

Of the staying trips (588), four-fifths were of more than one night's duration with two nights and three nights being frequent durations. 52 of the event visits were made by those respondents resident overseas and the majority stayed for two or more nights.

¹³ The South West Research Company Ltd for Dorset Tourism Partnership

¹⁴ Weighted up to represent all Dorset entrants

Staying trips by duration



Spending per trip by UK respondents averaged £133 per head, with the largest element of spend being on accommodation. This is under the average staying spend for Dorset of £210.

Spending per trip by overseas respondents averaged £189 per head, with the largest element of spend being on accommodation. This is under the average staying spend for Dorset of £619.

Staying trips: average spend per head of £133 UK and £189 overseas



Spend across Dorset: non-Dorset residents

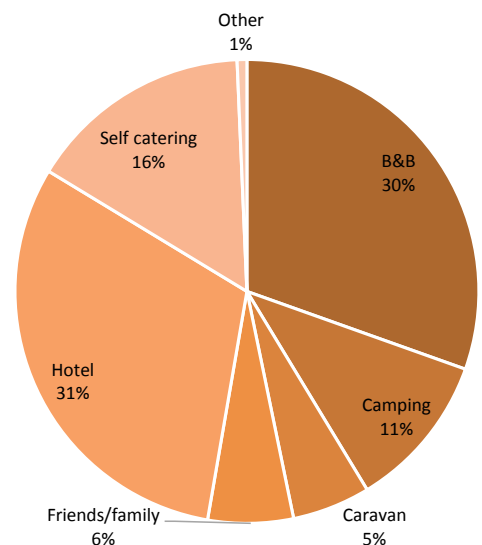
The total event day trip spend of £8,222 is assumed to be spent in Weymouth, although it may be that some of this was spent in other Dorset locations.

Of the combined staying trips, UK and international residents, four-fifths of the trips were located in Weymouth (81%) and just under a fifth outside the town.

Three-fifths of those respondents staying for one night or more stayed in B&B or hotel accommodation. About one in ten camped.

Of the combined staying and day trip spend by non-Dorset residents of £1.3 million, 87% was spent by people staying in Weymouth and is therefore assumed to have been spent in Weymouth itself. Around £168,600 was spent by those staying outside Weymouth.

Type of accommodation, event



D: Respondents from Dorset: event visits

There were 72 respondents who were Dorset residents. 23 of these respondents provided no answers for the remaining questions.

Day trips

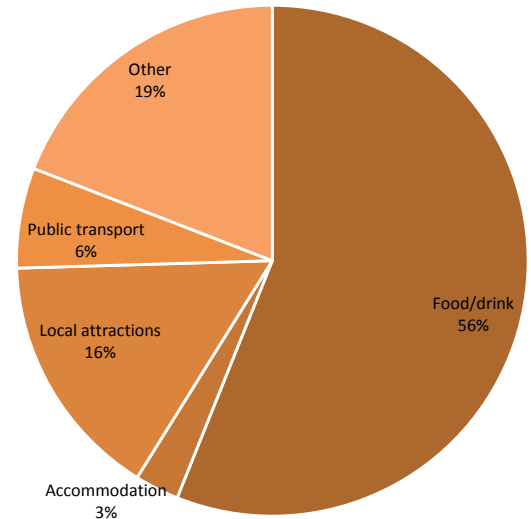
Half of these – probably more, but no data were provided – made day trips to the area for the day of the event.

Spending per trip averaged £31.53 per head, with the largest element of spend being on food and drink.

This average spend per head is below the Dorset average for day trip spend of around £35¹⁵.

This gives a total event day trip spend of £29,452¹⁶ by Dorset residents.

Day trips: average spend per head £31.53



Staying trips

Of the staying trips (16), just under a third were of one night's duration and the rest of more than one night. This is under the average staying spend for Dorset of £210.

Half of those respondents staying for one night or more stayed in B&B or hotel accommodation and others stayed with friends or in self-catering accommodation or camping/caravan

Spend across Dorset: Dorset residents

Of the combined staying/day trip spend by Dorset residents of £63,800¹⁷, 88% was spent by people staying in Weymouth and is therefore assumed to have been spent in Weymouth itself. Around £4,250 was spent by those staying outside Dorset.

Of the staying trips, most were located in Weymouth.

This gives a total event visitor spend of just over a million pounds (£1.4 million) spent in Dorset. Most of this would have been spent in Weymouth (£1.2 million) but about 12% is estimated as spent outside Weymouth (£173,000) – see later for the economic impact of this spend.

COMBINING the event spend PLUS the pre-event visitor spend gives total VISITOR SPEND of over two million pounds (£2.3 million) spent in Dorset. Most of this would have been spent in Weymouth (£2 million) but about 14% is estimated as spent outside Weymouth (£316,000) – see later for the economic impact of this spend.

¹⁵ The South West Research Company for Dorset Tourism Partnership

¹⁶ Weighted up to represent all Dorset entrants

¹⁷ Weighted up

Economic impact: pre-event

This assessment of economic impact is based on estimates of visitor spend during visits to Dorset over the 12 months leading up to the Ironman Weymouth event as outlined previously:

Pre-event visitor spend	Resident outside Dorset	Dorset residents	Total
Pre-event day trip spend	£79,261	£28,097	£107,358
Pre-event UK stay trip spend	£730,785	£81,672	£812,457
Pre-event international stay trip spend	£16,733	na	£16,733
Total pre-event spend	£826,779	£109,769	£936,548

The impact of this additional visitor spend is increased demand for the goods and services of local businesses resulting in greater output. This increases local GVA on a one-off basis, unless the event were to occur annually in which case there would be a permanent addition to Dorset's GVA.

Impact on GVA

GVA measures the contribution of each individual producer, or sector, to the economy by estimating the value of its outputs (goods and services), less purchases and less net spending taxes.

Visits to Dorset in the 12 months leading up to the event are likely to have added about half a million pounds in total to the Dorset economy, mostly through the businesses immediately associated with the visits and their direct suppliers – a direct impact of £0.4 million.

About 85% of this economic impact is attributed to the Weymouth area through visits taking place there.

Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (GVA)
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.5
				<i>Multiplier: 1.53</i>

Impact on employment

If the event were to continue on an annual basis at this same scale, then in terms of employment the equivalent of about 13 FTE direct jobs would be required to support pre-event visitor spend, perhaps on a seasonal basis or spread across the year: 12 in businesses immediately associated with the visits and another one with their direct suppliers. A further two FTEs would be required elsewhere in the economy through the supply chain impact and household spending giving a total of 15 FTEs.

Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (FTE)
FTEs	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs
12	1	0	2	15
				<i>Multiplier: 1.28</i>

Economic impact: the event

This assessment of economic impact is based on estimates of visitor spend during visits to Dorset for the purpose of the Ironman Weymouth event as outlined previously:

Event visitor spend	Resident outside Dorset	Dorset residents	Total
Event day trip spend	£8,222	£29,452	£37,674
Event UK stay trip spend	£1,209,041	£34,355	£1,243,396
Event international stay trip spend	£103,386	£0	£103,386
Total event spend	£1,320,650	£63,807	£1,384,456

The impact of this additional visitor spend is increased demand for the goods and services of local businesses resulting in greater output. This increases local GVA on a one-off basis, unless the event were to occur annually in which case there would be a permanent addition to Dorset's GVA.

Impact on GVA

Visits to Dorset for the Ironman Weymouth event are likely to have added almost three-quarters of a million pounds to the Dorset economy, mostly through the businesses immediately associated with the visits and their direct suppliers – a direct impact of £0.5 million.

About 88% of this economic impact is attributed to the Weymouth area through visits taking place there.

Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (GVA)
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.7
				<i>Multiplier: 1.53</i>

Impact on employment

If the event were to continue on an annual basis at this same scale, then in terms of employment about 20 FTE direct jobs would be required to support event-based visitor spend: 18 in businesses immediately associated with the visits and another two with their direct suppliers. A further three FTEs would be required elsewhere in the economy through the supply chain impact and household spending giving a total of 23 FTEs.

Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (FTE)
FTEs	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs
18	2	1	2	23
				<i>Multiplier: 1.28</i>

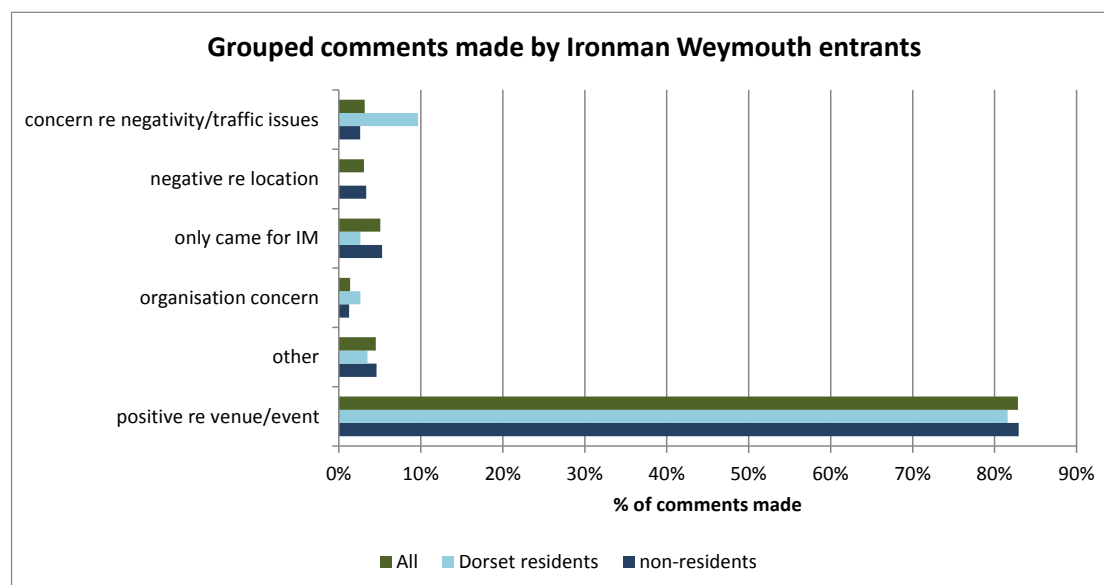
The COMBINED VISITOR ECONOMIC IMPACT of this increase in visitor spending in a year before and during the event would add approximately one million pounds GVA to the Dorset economy (£1.2m) in total, or £0.95m direct impact.

Comments and feedback

Comments made by competitors

As part of the survey, entrants were asked for comments about their experience in Dorset.

The majority of the comments were positive and complimentary about the area and the response of local people to the event with more than four-fifths of comments made by residents and non-residents reflecting this. Only a small proportion of the comments made by entrants were negative, as shown in the chart below. Non-resident entrants tended to be more positive than resident entrants.



Comments made by competitors are shown in Appendix 2 (those resident outside Dorset) and Appendix 3 (entrants resident in Dorset) and a summary is given at the end of this section.

Competitors were also asked **'How likely are you to visit Dorset again?'** 55 of the 659 entrants who lived outside Dorset did not answer. Of those answering the question, 90% said 'Very likely' or 'Likely' and a further nine percent said 'Possibly'.

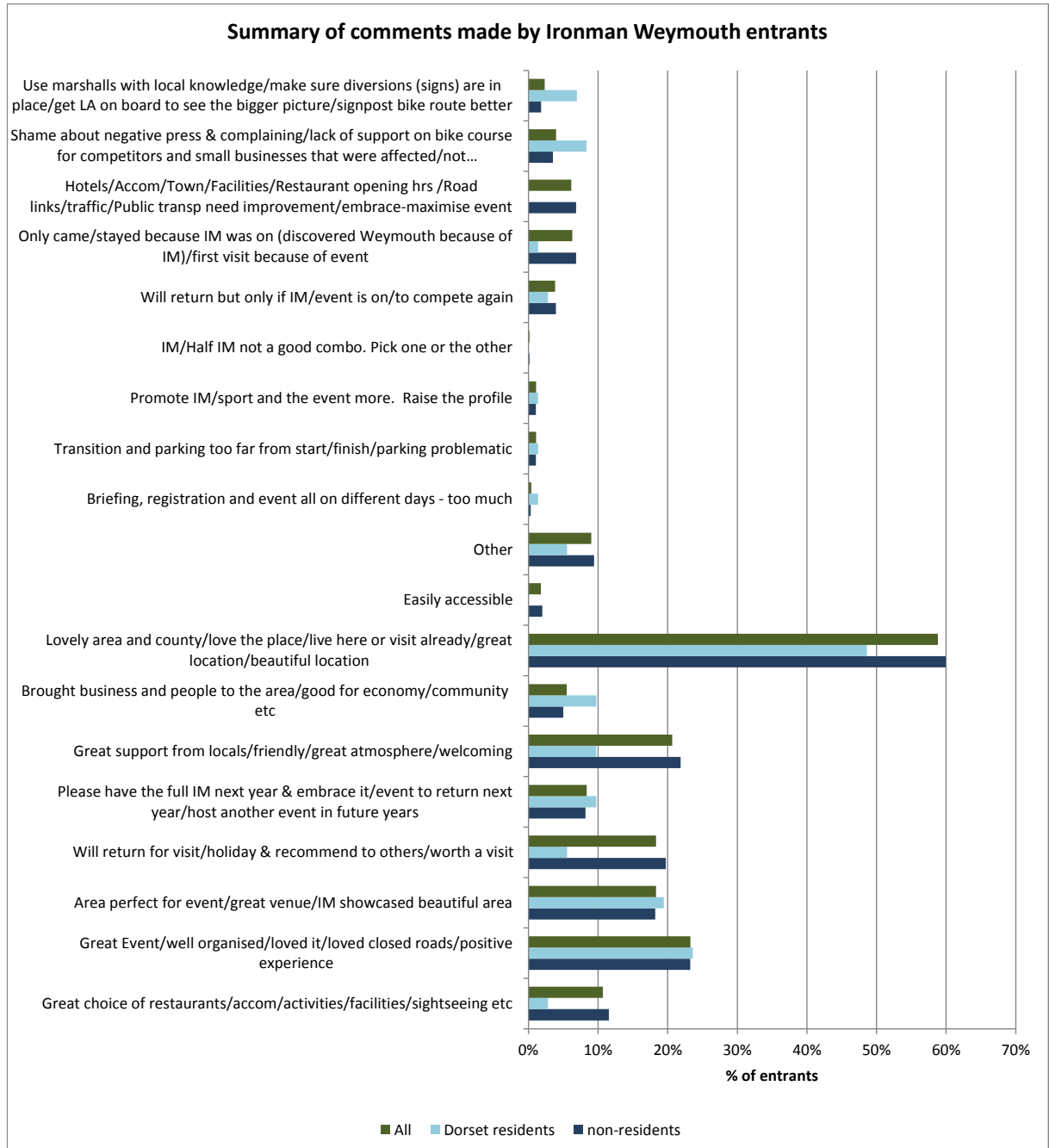
Competitors were also asked **'How likely are you to recommend a visit to Dorset to friends and family?'** Of those entrants resident outside Dorset answering the question, 96% said 'Very likely' or 'Likely' and a further four percent said 'Possibly'.

Complaints and feedback received from members of the public

During and soon after the event, some members of the public emailed or tweeted complaints and comments. The majority of these were about traffic management and road closures but there were also some comments about inconvenience or the distress of either not being able to leave home or being unable to access a location due to road closures. There were also some comments about care issues – particularly care and health workers being able to access clients – and animal care.

There were also comments about loss of business in some settlements, particularly among tourism/leisure related businesses and dairy farmers. Whilst most businesses did not specify a level of loss, where an indication was given, takings seemed broadly to be about half what they would normally have been on a Sunday. To take this negative impact into account, a further assessment has been made of the impact of tourism/leisure related businesses and dairy farmers in the area losing a half a day's turnover, see following.

The comments – with identifying features removed – can be viewed in Appendix 4:
 Appendix 4a – emails received
 Appendix 4b – social media comments



Economic impact of local spend by IRONMAN organisers

In addition to the impact of local spending by competitors and visitors, IRONMAN, the organisers of Ironman Weymouth themselves purchased goods and services from local suppliers and this will have had a further impact on the local economy. Detail of local demand from Dorset suppliers was provided by the IRONMAN organisers:

Local labour	£6,500
Police	£11,500
Water safety	£3,000
Marquees and furniture hire	£31,000
Staff accomm	£12,000
Staff meals/food	£2,500
Athlete food	£8,000
Local media advertising	£5,000
Venue hire	£6,500
Portaloos	£5,000
Production costs	£1,500
Total	£92,500

It has been assumed that 'local labour' refers to temporary staff who are likely to be in short term positions not demanding a high skill level and therefore unlikely to be commuting in from residences outside Dorset – no adjustment for leakage of benefits has therefore been made. The impact has been assessed on household demand (£6,500).

This assessment of economic impact is based on the above labour impact plus organiser spend of £86,000 with local suppliers during the Ironman Weymouth event as outlined above.

The gain to local GVA would be on a one-off basis, unless the event were to occur annually in which case this would be a permanent addition to Dorset's total GVA.

Impact on GVA

Organiser spend (including local labour) during the Ironman Weymouth event is likely to have resulted in a gain of about £71,000 in Dorset's GVA, mostly through those businesses immediately affected and their direct suppliers – a direct impact of £57,000.

Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (GVA)
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
0.049	0.008	0.002	0.012	0.071
				<i>Multiplier: 1.45</i>

The COMBINED SPEND ECONOMIC IMPACT of visitor spend PLUS organiser spend would add approximately one million pounds GVA to the Dorset economy (£1.2m) in total, or £0.95m direct impact.

Economic impact of business losses

A number of comments were received about loss of business in some settlements, particularly among tourism/leisure related businesses and dairy farmers. Whilst most businesses did not specify the extent of their loss, where an indication was given, takings seemed broadly to be about half what they would have been on a normal Sunday. To take this negative impact into account, a further assessment has been made of the impact of tourism/leisure related businesses and dairy farmers in the area losing a half a day's turnover.

About 330 businesses in tourism/leisure related businesses and dairy farming were identified along the Ironman Weymouth cycle route¹⁸. An estimate of their turnover for half a day was made: where turnover figures were provided for some businesses but not all, the estimate was made based on data provided and then scaled up to represent the full number of businesses. This suggests a loss of about £550 for each individual business which scales up to a loss of about £181,000 turnover on that day. The economic impact of this is based on lost farming output and lost visitor spend in tourism/leisure activities (including pubs and restaurants).

This assessment of economic impact is based on estimates of lost business turnover during the Ironman Weymouth event as outlined above:

The loss to local GVA would be on a one-off basis, unless the event were to occur annually in which case this would be a permanent loss to Dorset's total GVA, potentially counteracted by gains in other parts of the economy.

Impact on GVA

Business losses during the Ironman Weymouth event are likely to have resulted in a reduction of about £93,000 from Dorset's GVA, mostly through those businesses immediately affected and their direct suppliers – a direct impact of £70,000.

Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (GVA)
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
0.057	0.013	0.003	0.020	0.093
				<i>Multiplier: 1.63</i>

The NET ECONOMIC IMPACT of increased visitor spending as a result of the event less business losses would add approximately one million pounds GVA to the Dorset economy (£1.1m) in total, or £0.9m direct impact.

¹⁸ This includes Dorchester where some businesses may have felt an impact from traffic build up around the town. Only tourism/leisure related businesses and dairy farming have been included to reflect both the comments received from businesses and the expectation that these would be the types of business most likely to be operating as usual on a Sunday.

Summary tables of economic impacts

PRE EVENT SPEND:		GVA					
	Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (GVA)	Direct impact	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
All Dorset	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.4	
Weymouth	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	
				<i>Weymouth impact as % of all</i>	85%	85%	
EVENT SPEND:		GVA					
	Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (GVA)	Direct impact	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
All Dorset	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.5	
Weymouth	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.5	
				<i>Weymouth impact as % of all</i>	88%	88%	
ORGANISER SPEND:		GVA					
	Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (GVA)	Direct impact	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
All Dorset	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.06	
Weymouth	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.02	
				<i>Weymouth impact as % of all</i>	42%	41%	
COMBINED VISITOR ORGANISER SPEND:		GVA					
	Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (GVA)	Direct impact	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
All Dorset	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.2	1.0	
Weymouth	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.8	
				<i>Weymouth impact as % of all</i>	84%	84%	

NET IMPACT:		GVA – VISITOR/ORGANISER SPEND IMPACT LESS ESTIMATED BUSINESS LOSS IMPACT					
	Initial	Direct suppliers	Indirect suppliers	Income effects	TOTAL (GVA)	Direct impact	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
All Dorset	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.1	0.9	
Weymouth	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.8	
				<i>Weymouth impact as % of all</i>	91%	90%	

Appendix 1: statistical validity

Entrants		Survey respondents	% of Entrants by residence		95% confidence level
2,720	Outside Dorset	659	24%	CI +/-	3.32
248	Dorset	72	29%	CI +/-	9.75
2,968	Overall	731	25%	CI +/-	3.15

At a 95% confidence level, looking at the response from entrants outside Dorset or the survey overall, we can be 95% certain that the true figure lies within the confidence interval of about plus or minus three percentage points.

For example, if 47% of respondents to the whole survey pick an answer, we can be 95% confident that the true figure is between about 44% and 50% with just a one in twenty chance of it falling outside that range.

Appendix 2: comments from entrants outside Dorset

PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENTS ON YOUR EXPERIENCE IN DORSET
It is okay, hugely enjoyed my first ironman experience but don't think its a particularly nice town. Think there are plenty of other places more worthy of hosting the event in the U.K./ Ireland The bike course was the only plus point of the area.
Wonderful setting for an epic race
Very present
It's a beautiful part of the country, but needs events and tourism. Hopefully the locals will welcome people back for many years to come.
Weymouth was lovely weather was great and local seemed very polite and was a great atmosphere over the whole weekend definitely somewhere to visit again to explore more off the area
Fantastic location for a race. Poor road links to the rest of England.
Grandparents lived there , beautiful
I felt extremely welcome by the locals and was impressed with not only the Weymouth coastline but the amazing other coastal spots like Durdle Door, Portland Bill and Lulworth Cove
Ironman put on a fabulous event. It show cased the whole area and would be a massive shame if the event was not held again next year
Excellent.
Very good
Great place great beach kids loved it
Beautiful countryside, easy access from london, very friendly locals.
Nil
I would not have come if not for the race but would now recommend to others.
What a lovely place! The atmosphere was fantastic.
I had a perfect stay. I liked the city and people of Dorset.
Very positive experience, really lovely area. Traffic was a bit of a nightmare both times we visited so although the event made it worse on that visit, it still seemed bad the previous time we visited. Other than the traffic all experiences were positive!
Nice area / county which I would visit again if the IM event is held, I tend to organise my holidays around IM events at home and abroad

Nice places, not very friendly people
Loved Dorset. Fantastic venue. Great crowds and restaurants. Amazing bay and beach. Lovely roads. Will be coming back for some weekend breaks with the family.
Lovely place
Absolutely loved it. Never been there before but would certainly go back again!
Brilliant 6 days. Lovely area. Great locals. We will definitely be back.
Really enjoyed Weymouth as a triathlon venue. Friendly local, lots of supporters, brilliant and beautiful course.
Brilliant!
We enjoyed it immensely. It is a great resort town. I think part of the reason we liked it is that it seems to be a locals kind of resort town versus one with lots of outside the UK visitors. Being outside the UK visitors ourselves, seemed to feel more like we were experiencing "real UK" versus tourist UK, albeit, vacation seaside resort town UK. Overall, great town. I'll reiterate my comments about the IM/HIM combo, not good. Pick one or the other. I feel like the IM participants got shorted a bit in a few ways because of the focus on the HIM race. Not ideal.
Fantastic event and atmosphere, beautiful course and the people in and around Weymouth were amazing.
Absolutely loved it! Definitely want to go back at some point to compete and also take my family
Very good!
I was blown away by the friendliness of the local people.
Awesome
Beautiful scenic lovely seaside and rural area
Weymouth is a fantastic venue for open water swimming and triathlon. I am the captain of a small triathlon team based near Yeovil. We had several team days to Weymouth and we all ate in local restaurants after training. I was late booking accommodation for race day and was gutted to not be able to find anything close/suitable. I would happily stay for 4-5 days when training and during race week if the event is on again.
Very good. Beautiful scenery and lots to do.
Very lovely area, welcoming crowds
A beautiful part of the country. Not a million miles from home and always an enjoyable stay.
Loved Weymouth. Great resort and would definitely return again.
My girlfriend and I had a wonderful time in Dorset and spent time in Weymouth and the local area. We would not have come to the area if were not for the Ironman and will be returning for holidays in the future.
A LOVELY SEASIDE TOWN
It was fab
Very nice
Weymouth has certainly come forward since I lived there in the early 90's. Very pleasant stay and would certainly recommend family and friends staying in the area again. More specifically I have already recommend to my trip friends to compete in next years competition.
Very nice, scenic. Lovely town
I have never visited Weymouth before and only been to Dorset once, despite friends and family recommending the town and surrounding areas to me. I am planning to return for a longer visit at it seemed a lovely place for a family holiday in the UK
We found it a pleasant county with lots of tea houses to find and explore. Dorchester was lovely and spent some time also in Swanage.
The area was lovely, hopefully the event will get the go ahead for next year ..
Beautiful region and lovely people!
Lovely town, great location

I had never been to Weymouth before and only signed up 2 weeks before the event. It was such an awesome venue for the race. The swim was perfect, the roads were smooth and the course kept everyone honest, the run was fantastic with crowd support the whole time. I immediately wanted to sign up to race again next year. I hope that it works out and we can have the race again next year. It was a wonderful experience.
Fab!
Dorset is the perfect setting for an ironman event. I was able to get a pb for 70.3 and I'm looking forward to improving on it next year
I loved the event and the supporters. The locals were great and I would love to do then event again! Already booked into ironman exmoor so can't afford weymouth but would love to do it!!!
Nothing great place
Fantastic support in Weymouth and some of the villages
We hope to return as tourists. My parents came to watch the event and although we only stayed for three nights they stayed for a full week in a self catering appt. They used public transport all week and visited lots of tourist attractions as well as used lots of local pubs, restaurants and cafes. More than we did because we were focused on the race. Had we not been racing there then my parents would not have gone. It had introduced a new part of the UK to them. I was really disappointed to see how much the public had complained given how much info they were given beforehand. Unfortunately I think it is symptomatic of the general public thinking that things won't happen to them or affect them and not making alternative arrangements for travel e.g. train to work rather than drive, walk somewhere or cycle. The people of weymouth and dorset who came out to support the event were amazing.
Great place, will be visiting more often!
I loved the whole ironman experience and would love to take part in another event
Beautiful landscapes and very nice place for cycling Very welcoming abd helpful people The bike course should be indicated better all along the course The roads are narrow so it would be nice if there were sings asking the cars to share the route with bikes The beach is just amazing with cleay water and a long shallow section on the shore Restaurants serving pasta i.e. italian were not opened early enough they should open at 5 because we go to sleep early before an event... All the italian restaurants were fully booked... It would be helpful if they could do an early dinner so they can serve more triathletes hungry for pasta
We visited once or twice a week all summer to learn to sea swim with Bustinskin Triathlon Club. Very welcoming, friendly and helpful.
Weymouth is lovely. I didn't realise just how nice until I visited. I definitely intend to come back. I so hope they let you do the Ironman in future.
Fabulous location for the event and a great way to showcase the area. Grateful to all those people who it may have inconvenienced, but hopefully the benefits to the community and wider public are tangible enough to make it worthwhile.
I love Weymouth bay it's a fantastic venue for an Ironman and the local support was amazing on the day so I really hope it's something that can be built on each year to be another tenby in terms of atmosphere.
The ironman event in Dorset was amazing. I had never spent any time in Weymouth before but loved the location and will be heading back at some point next summer.
Lovely place great friendly atmosphere. Hope Weymouth hold an ironman event again
Lovely area. Pretty. Lovely feel around the town. Nice areas to visit, eat and drink.
Nice place, a little tired but great venue.
A great event shame the infrastructure wasn't prepared for it. A pain registration being one end then bike racking the other then back for the race brief. Hopefully local support will be better was not great, though I imagine this will grow as the event grows in popularity
Very enjoyable visit.
Very nice town with good restaurants and amenities for kids
Have been to weymouth since a child. Fantastic memories always feels lile home although very hilly
I enjoyed being there, enjoyed race, could see the town come alive as more and mreo racers arrived
We had a great time. Lots of lovely places to eat in the town. Very friendly locals.
Really enjoyed our time there,

Dorset is a beautiful place and perfect for the swim bike and run events for the ironman. I had absolutely no issues with anybody from the area and everybody was extremely accommodating. I would highly recommend Dorset and the Weymouth ironman.
It was a wonderful location for an Ironman. I really enjoyed the whole experience. Friendly people and a really good atmosphere.
Love Dorset! Beautiful scenery and friendly people
Had a fantastic experience of Weymouth on both my visits. Race day was truly amazing with some great support from the large crowds and thankfully we were blessed with some amazing weather.
Dorset was an excellent venue for ironman, lovely bay, the bike course was testing with some fantastic scenery and the run was enjoyable with great support from the local people.
Loved Dorset. Ironman event did not seem to have been embraced by the locals. Wales had flags in windows and whole town really bought into it.
Great
Loved it. We have already organised a family holiday next year at the start of the summer.
Without entering IM 70.3 Weymouth I wouldn't have visited Weymouth as I tend to holiday elsewhere in Devon, Cornwall and Wales however since my visit I will 100% be returning to holiday in Weymouth with the rest of my family.
Beautiful countryside.
Weymouth is a traditional seaside town and we enjoyed that aspect, especially the beach. The countryside around Dorset is beautiful. As a cyclist I particularly enjoyed the excellent surface on most of the roads around Weymouth!
Lovely country side and scenery
Great place for an ironman
First time to Weymouth. Thought it was a wonderful town and will visit again in future. That is thanks to Ironman.
Fantastic place, plenty to see and do. Will be visiting again to see more.
We only explored Weymouth and the immediate surrounding area. But would like to come back to Dorset to explore more.
Excellent experience
The town was exceptionally welcoming and the atmosphere amazing. I had a view that Weymouth was a bit rundown before visiting, but it actually has a lot of charm. Would definitely consider a holiday in the area now.
Love Weymouth, it's got it all. A lot to offer. Sheltered large bay, sandy beach, harbour, three sides of coast offering differing character. Nothe fort and gardens, rodwell trail are also great.
Guidance on traffic would be extremely useful as the roads are prone to congestion.
Nice part of the country, definitely worth a visit!
I 'm looking forward to Joining iRONMAN Race next year
Very good event, parking a bit tricky and quite spread out you just need to allow time when travelling between lodmoor and pavilion. Food was good in wetherspoons!
It was lovely
My family enjoy travelling to Dorset every year for week long breaks. The difference with having an Ironman event in Weymouth gives me a good reason to visit the town. I've been to the town few times but on Ironman event day there was a real buzz in the town We discovered Littlesea caravan site to be superb, very friendly staff and a great environment. We are likely to go here again outside of Ironman events. https://www.haven.com/parks/dorset/littlesea/ Would not have used this caravan site if it had not been for the event. Would be good to include this on list of spending vouchers in line with meal incentives. We didn't use the food ones because it was away from the caravan site. Would not have realised how good 'pub street' was without Ironman. Likely to visit again. I found the bike route a great experience on the day, with a lot of the smaller villages providing their support to competitors even putting up bunting etc. The traffic in Weymouth looked pretty poor, however, it wasn't too different when the Dorset County show was on. The one way system in Weymouth has always been horrendous. My family used the amusements (Sloties) in Weymouth along with the Jurassic Skyline (this was their first time) I want to go next time.

I would love to come back and take on Weymouth Ironman, the bike route is simply superb with great scenery. We even discovered Cerne Abbas which we will be going to visit when we are there next.
A lovely (but hilly!) county. Sadly Weymouth was fully booked for accommodation, so I had to find alternative lodging elsewhere.
The race was great and a very good venue to host at given accessibility of spectators to swim and run course.
Very picturesque county enjoyed my stay and great place for the Ironman
Beautiful place with lots of great things to do. Fabulous restaurants and hotels. I would love to come back soon
Beautiful scenery!
It was a well organised event and great support
We had a lovely stay at a campsite on the bank holiday weekend. We noticed lots of other people cycling the bike route whilst we were there, as did we! I had never been to Weymouth as an adult and on first impressions I wasn't sure it after being there for 4-5 days in total I can now completely see its charm, I would absolutely recommend the location and the iron man event to others
Even though the event cause disruption and loss of income on the day, I'm sure in the long run it will have generated increased revenue for the area
variety of scenery - seaside, countryside, town.
Seems very nice
We loved our visit. Weymouth is beautiful and the event was great. Friends and family came by car and train and no issues
Great event in a great location, but felt the local businesses could have done more to embrace the event and maximise the opportunity of 1,000's of visitors to the area for the weekend.
A very beautiful town, I had never seen the old harbour until checking out the run route, superb seafood restaurants. Superb scenery around Dorchester. Definitely recommend Smugglers Inn at Osmington Mills for food and beer.
We enjoyed Dorset and Weymouth
Amazing place worth visiting !
Loved Weymouth. Beautiful seafront. Lots for families to do.
Found it very pleasant with good support
Beautiful Scenery, good transport links. Lots to see and do. Family friendly - perfect for a mini break!!
No issues very happy. Love the place
Lovely time - wish I had spent more time there
Great location
Lovely area, friendly locals
Weymouth was great, as was the crowd support. All the local hotels and B&B's were full which has to be good for the local economy. We visit Dorset frequently due to our close proximity, but would not usually stay overnight, but did for Weymouth ironman.
Really enjoyed seeing Dorset and the surrounding areas, spending a week to recover from the event by lying on the beach was ideal! Really enjoyed the event, loved the course!
Weymouth is a lovely town and fab place to take part in an Ironman event
Lovely place full of lovely restaurants and splendid views.
Beautiful coastline and very friendly people!
We had a great time as a family as we stayed at a Holiday Park near the event. This was perfect for my family and the weather on the race day made the weekend for them.
Pleasant
very good
Weymouth was a lovely place too stay, our first time there will defiantly go back
A beautiful town with plenty of attractions for adults and children I would definitely consider taking my own three children there as when I was competing I was there with friends also taking part in the races. I hope to race at Weymouth again next year.

Great weekend, very nice place to stay and visit
Great! I didn't realise how nice weymouth was. Will definitely go back for weekend breaks.
Great area, Ironman racing deserves to be in Weymouth for the future, great town, great event.
Lovely coastline and countryside
I'm originally from Weymouth, but being in forces and being posted long way away I rarely come back (2 times a year). Coming back with a service friend also doing the event, training and being the tour guide renewed my love of the countryside and surrounding Dorset towns (Dorchester, West Bay, Abbotsbury, Swanage). My Girlfriend also loved the places and we are looking at doing a cheap holiday over Christmas. The beach is amazing! And well worth the visit.
I absolutely loved my visit to Weymouth. The scenery was beautiful and the locals were great!
It was a lovely well supported event in a beautiful place in the uk
Loved it.
I loved my whole experience of Weymouth. I was made to feel very welcome everywhere I visited. The people were very friendly. And what a day the event was! My first Ironman and definitely not my last. Thank you Ironman and thank you Weymouth!
i really enjoyed it
I was not sure, how the stay would be. This was the reason, why I left the Family behind. Next time I would take my family with me, for sure.
3 weeks in Cornwall and Dorset. Amazing. Think I'd like to move there. Great job on the Ironman. I am from Weymouth, Nova Scotia Canada. I ji I just had to see my hometown's namesake.
Great event, having grown up in Weymouth it is yet again disappointing to see the negative comments about the event. It needs to embrace the race as Tenby does.
Loved the area but due to work commitments could not stay longer so plan to visit again to explore the area more
Lovely place, would highly recommend it. Loved the race, the place, and the surrounding areas.
Beautiful region, friendly people. Lots of local support. Fantastic!
Loved Weymouth, would likely visit again for a holiday.
Great place to visit. Wanted to stay longer and explore the coast
We had an amazing time and it has prompted us to visit Weymouth again next summer, bringing another 6 adults with us for the bustin skins triathlon event in July. and hopefully next September to do the ironman event again. Due to recommending weymouth to my friend he then took his girlfriend there last weekend and proposed! staying all weekend and spending money in the local area!! we will be back several weekends next year to practice the bike course for the events were planning to do there. we have recommended the event to everyone in our trip club!!
Beautiful county, swim was amazing as is the bike course. Lots of local attractions. We went to the tank meseum, fort northe, monkey world, as well as tolpuddle. Ate out most days. Spent a pleasant afternoon on the quay drinking with friends at the rendezvous. All of which without IM Weymouth we wouldn't have done.
Beautiful place. Would definitely take my children there.
Great. Lovely place, and people.
Excellent stay for a great event, please do it next year!
Although we live in the opposite end of the UK (North West Scotland) my wife's brother has a house in Poole which we visit several times a year. Consequently we know Dorset quite well and have been visiting for many years - we love the county and regularly return. That's part of the reason I chose IM Weymouth.
Loved it. Closed roads were awesome.
Please have Ironman Weymouth full distance again. I'd definitely enter again. Please,please,please
Great local environment and coastline

<p>My wife, found the course amazing to watch seeing me on the first lap of the bike then walking back for transition and watching me on the run while having a coffee and shopping! She really enjoyed watching swimming I guess It helped with the beautiful weather.</p> <p>We stayed in the premier inn, the staff phoned before our arrival giving us details about access on the day of Ironman. The staff offered help about parking if my wife needed the car, a first class service.</p> <p>All the local pubs and restaurants, were still nice and friendly and we did not hear a bad word about the roads being closed, just an amazing buzz.</p> <p>Looking forward to 2017</p>
<p>On both visits I thought it was a very friendly, clean and picturesque place.</p>
<p>It was lovely seeing different parts of the UK I had previously never visited before</p>
<p>Lovely place, great atmosphere and extremely welcoming.</p>
<p>The ironman event was fantastic! I felt it didn't have the same presence as Ironman France earlier in the year...it was a bit more tucked out the way and not so 'in your face'!</p> <p>Our b&w only notified us the week of the event to say we couldn't park outside and had to use alternative parking, could have been better communicated!</p> <p>The race day itself was perfect! The organisation and volunteers were faultless and the fact the roads were closed meant the bike route was safe and quiet!</p> <p>I can appreciate the trouble it caused but it would have been a whole lot worse if you had Sunday motorists trying to bully their way past 3000 cyclists....tempers would have frayed and it would be utter carnage!!</p>
<p>Never visited before. Had 3 training weekends in Weymouth. Thoroughly enjoyed and aiming to compete there again along with a few additional mates</p>
<p>Loved it:)</p>
<p>It reminded us of a traditional seaside as yet unspoilt by too many arcades, we loved the town and surrounding area and are now planning to holiday in the area</p>
<p>Great time and made super welcome</p>
<p>Beautiful areas surrounding Weymouth especially Pulpit Rock. Be excellent if the bike part of the Ironman event incorporated the Isle of Portland.</p>
<p>We had a wonderful time in Weymouth itself and a great follow up family holiday on the Jurassic Coast afterwards - a nice change from our usual week in Padstow in Sept.</p> <p>Most of our time was spent on the beach and we ate out most days for either Lunch or Dinner.</p>
<p>Regularly visit Dorset, I thought the council could have offered free parking for the event as it didn't seem right that we had to pay for two lots once for registration and once for bike racking</p>
<p>The owner of the property was extremely pleased to accommodate our party of 4 adults (2 competing) and 2 children which was essentially post peak holiday season, we spent money in local restaurants, shops, amenities (local swimming pool) and everyone we met were fantastic and welcoming of the event and the additional trade. I appreciate the road closures may have disgruntled a few but surely IM brought fantastic economic benefits post peak holiday season, I sincerely hope the views of a minority do not jeopardise the event and benefits to the local community in the future.</p>
<p>Excellent event, well run & an amazing atmosphere</p>
<p>Lovely place very clean and tidy, we used the event as a family holiday also and enjoyed it very much. Lots to do and the event itself was super organised and a great day had by athletes and spectators.</p>
<p>Beautiful well kept part of the country</p>
<p>I had never been before and surprised how lovely it was</p>
<p>I was saddened by the negative comments regarding traffic directed at the event organisers. I feel the event was sabotaged very much like the challenge event the year before was sabotaged.</p>
<p>Weymouth is an excellent place in itself and as a location for triathlons. Also great place to bring the family and make a weekend of it. Keen to return again!!</p>
<p>I loved my experience in Dorset, very welcoming atmosphere and great locations for the events</p>
<p>Love Dorset. Thoroughly enjoy visiting Weymouth and Portland</p>
<p>Very nice location for an ironman event.</p>
<p>The locals and particularly the businesses were very welcoming.</p>
<p>very enjoyable - late summer weather was excellent</p>

Very beautiful coastline and very green area.
Great friendly place. People were welcoming and accommodation was wonderful. Would definitely recommend and stay again.
Lovely countryside + Weymouth great UK summer location along the sea
Generally very welcoming & great to have the support of those in the local community
beautiful countryside it made my first full ironman a memeory for life also the best experience of my life
Very enjoyable. Lucked in with the weather but would highly recommend the area to anyone.
We had a great experience and as we had never been to Weymouth we would consider visiting again. Being able to run along by the sea and the village tour on the bike was a great experience
Thoroughly enjoyed my race day, family enjoyed the day watching and playing on the beach, and the fish and chips !!
Very nice place
Brilliant - 9/10, lost marks for poor public transport services (cancelled services with no prior information).
Excellent. Great Crowds, great place. Want to Ironman Weymouth 70.3 again next year
Fabulous location. Never visited there before, nor thought about doing so, but would definitely return!
Loved it
The event was fantastic in many ways because of the location and the people. It was a perfect place to hold the event - access was easy, the town easily navigates le, the beach utterly gorgeous, and the bike a really fantastic ride, while the local volunteers were just fantastic. While I don't often go on breaks within England, I would certainly consider heading back down for cycling given how wonderful the roads and countryside were
Fantastic couple of days. Very well organised event
I loved the experience of racing in the jurassic coast, the environment and support from the local people was awesome
Very positive
Like Dorset generally which is why I chose Ironman Weymouth. Unlikely to visit again unless it's for another ironman
Really enjoyed doing the Weymouth Half Ironman, excellent location and organisation. Really enjoyed the local support as well it was great.
Love it
Nice town, nice location
We enjoyed and would not have travelled there were it not for the Ironman event. In so doing we were happy to boost the local economy
Very friendly place. I got lost a few times even though I had a hire car. Very vibrant, beautiful, friendly place.. Restaurants food was fantastic but mostly ate in the Premier inn pub.
Very much enjoyed the stay. Getting out took ages, but that was to be expected.
A beautiful setting - can't wait to visit again (either sporting or as a family road trip).
Weymouth and surrounding countryside provided a very enjoyable experience. Only negative was the over inflated accommodation prices over the Ironman weekend. Standard of accommodation was very poor for the price.
Had a brilliant time, been coming to Weymouth on holiday for years, would recommend experience to anyone
The sea was beautiful to swim in and the seafront was lovely.
Thanks for your assistance and cheering, was awesome!!
Loved it and wouldn't have visited the area if it wasn't for the event. I look forward to going back next year.
Looking forward to taking my family camping in Weymouth and taking them to the sandy beach
I absolutely loved it. The infrastructure and IRONMAN race organisation allowed for a VERY smooth participant experience. So thank you. I have recommend to the athlete's I coach and friends. I'll be back, hopefully :)
Amazing place. We discovered many Jems during our stays including great villages, castles, water parks and amazing beaches. Also great roads for cycling holidays in the future.
Great beach, nice restaurants

Loved Weymouth Beach is stunning and the Dorset views are amazing Nightclub in town needs more policing on the weekend however as I walked past drunk kids fighting at 4am in the morning on the way to the ironman start
Very welcoming, great support from locals and families. Police assistance was great.
Very pleasant stay and we've booked our summer holiday there next year!!!
It was an excellent venue. Plenty to do for spectators and everything was in close proximity making the accommodation, swim start, transition area and finish line all within easy walking distance of each other.
I visited weymouth as a child and have fond memories , i live in somerset now and visit weymouth quite regularly So when event was advertised in jumped at chance
Never been to Weymouth before, came down Once to bike the course before and obviously came for IM and absolutely loved it, will definitely be coming again summer.x
lovely place. will definitely visit again
I had never been to Weymouth previously and liked it so much I am taking the family there for a weeks holiday next summer
Very enjoyable event. Beautiful countryside
mega
Very nice place to visit , friendly people
Weymouth was a great setting for the ironman event.
Please don't let a few NIMBY complaints about traffic stop you from putting on another great event!
Some of the best weekends in Weymouth and Poole
Grew up in Weymouth, beautiful town and bay. Knowing the area well... The economy and mindset of people in the town, its no surprise that they are moaning about it. The town should be buying Ironmans have off to have it again. It needs all three investment it can get. I would definitely come back if it harkened again next year.
8 Friends and family were staying in Dorchester and Portland. Average spend Â£50pppn on accommodation for 3 nights.
Good exeperience, great place, however not an easy drive from london for a lack of motorways. Hotels were very expensive for what we were getting in terms or service, cleanliness. Not a large choice of restaurants and we would always prefer to compete in a race in Spain or in the med as probably overall works pretty much the same amount of money
Great location
Ironman event was great. Wouldn't have visited without it. Please run it again.
Beautiful. Only issue getting out after the event!
We are familiar with Dorset and frequently go to the Jurassic coast with the kids and dog. Always a good day and good transport links. The roads are generally better than Somerset (where we live) and that makes cycling a lot nicer!
Really friendly and warm atmosphere.
Was a brilliant location for a brilliant event
Great ironman event Weymouth was just a seaside resort that would normally be very quiet that weekend
Generaly a very positive experience. A little trouble with the roads but that was probably due to the volume of ironman traffic inbound for the weekend. Struggled to find places in local restaurants as very busy.
Beautiful countryside, lovely locals, pretty villages, good facilities and a warm welcome.
It's was a great event even better than previous years. Will do again.
It was very nice but I was pushed for time so didn't have time to explore.
Love Weymouth and its surroundings. I am a Triathlete and Weymouth is my favourite place to compete
Opened my eyes to the Jurassic coast and very pleasant countryside.
Dorset is a beautiful county and has so many beautiful places to visit and see, local people are friendly, and lots of places to stay, we were however disappointed with the number of supporters compared to Ironman UK Bolton and Ironman Wales, the supporters make the event! It may be that as this is the first time Ironman has been in Weymouth that the support was low in numbers and will grow in time to match or even rival Bolton and Tenby.

I enjoyed the experience and got to see an area of the country I would have been unlikely to visit were it not for Ironman. We will most likely return!
I thought Dorset a very beautiful county - wonderful countryside. Loved the beach at Weymouth.
Great experience, B&B owner wonderful and cheered us on, we are going back for a weekend stay as it was so lovely. We bought a local tri group from yeovil twice a week for five months where we all park at Lodmoor and eat out locally twice a week. I personally camped most weekends in Sumner and used parking at Lodmoor, local cafe, harvester etc, beach and did the park run and bicycle route whilst training for ironman. Family and friends all stated for event weekend and also for a week in the summer and will be returning. Locals at Greenhill very friendly. Thoroughly enjoyed and pretty much spent our whole summer here. If ironman doesn't go ahead we probably would go elsewhere next summer and for the six months training season.
Surprised at how nice it was.
I and we as a family had a great time, the hotel and staff were very welcoming and looking forward to the event. The restaurants we visited again were very welcoming of us as athletes and we're looking forward to th buzz the event was creating. I have done lots of events both ironman and other companies around Europe and would love to do Weymouth again. Thanks Andy'
It was my first time in Dorset and I would love to return for a family holiday now that I know what attractions there are.
Nice seaside town with great atmosphere from Ironman event.
Great country side and sea front
Good location for an ironman. Great swim & bike courses. Run congested in parts due to volume of athletes. Overall good.
I loved the whole experience. Picturesque and beautiful. A super location for Ironman with the amazing cycle route, super sea swim and run with amazing support.
I really enjoyed the locations and think it was perfect for an iron man event.
Hadn't visited before but will definately be back, and not just for the ironman!
Simple beautiful
Weymouth is such a great town with easy access by either train, bike or car. So pleased it was held there this year and hope it stays for many years
Really enjoyed Weymouth and surrounding areas. Perfect venue for Ironman event, perfect transition area close to swim, and finish line.
Great experience, fantastic venue would leave to see the event continue in such a beautiful setting
Great location which we'll be sure to return to
Event was quality had a great weekend and would definitely recommend Dorset after my visit.
Only wish it was closer to Essex
Beautiful area, perfect location for an IM event.
I have always like dorset, but hadn't been to Weymouth before, i really liked it ad will tell people it looked like a great sea side town
What a fantastic reception and level of support from the local community. Having raced everywhere from Australia's Gold Coast to Kona, racing in our own country with the level of encouragement and support from a town like Weymouth makes makes one ask why we bother going any further away!
Thank you Weymouth for a very special event. Please have us back to your special English seaside town to race again.
Ironman Weymouth was a brilliant event. Such a great vibe and hopefully a positive inspiration to locals and the many people who came to watch.
Cafe we visited on Saturday said it was the busiest they had ever been.
If not competing I'd return to watch the Ironman in 2017
Really really nice
Needed more time to enjoy it all so will need to go back
Love Dorset!! Visited for Bournemouth Marathon in 2015 and returned for Weymouth 70.3 in 2016. Moving there in 2017!
Great experience
Very much enjoyed.
Brilliant!
Very nice

Enjoyed
It was our first time to Weymouth and my girlfriend and I thought it was stunning. Really charming seaside town with a beautiful beach and surroundings we're and already planning to go back with the family and explore the surrounding areas and coastline out of Weymouth. It is an incredible setting for an event like this and being on the bike as we came over the hill back into the valley and seeing Weymouth down below was a real pinch me moment. I hope the event didn't cause too many problems for the local residents and the overall feeling from the town towards Ironman was a positive one. I would definitely come back to compete again for sure!
Very enjoyable race although I noticed a lack of support from locals
Very nice
The ironman Weymouth event was my first and I enjoyed the support and local hospitality very much and couldn't have wished for a better venue and event for my first ironman
we have been to weymouth in the past and loved it and i'm desperatly hoping ironman takes place in 2017 as it would be a great race and feed back through triathlon forums and facebook groups has been amazing, bolton and tenby both want to keep ironman in their towns due to the income that it recieves from participants and spectators what is happening at weymouth is triathlon not good enough for them. to be honest the fact they are not snapping ironman's hand off to put the event on next year is rather worrying! Maybe try another venue if you have to jump through hoops maybe brighton or even an ironman scotland!
Great place great event more again next year please.
Great family location, and excellent venue for people wishing to do a 70.3 or full Ironman.
Thoroughly enjoyed the event - great location
Go to Weymouth every year on holiday so that's what attracted me to the ironman event when I heard its was coming to Weymouth. The town has lots of good hotels and nice restaurants to eat in and a really good beach for the kids to play on.
Welcoming people, although many locals had no idea that the event was on.
A wonderful weekend, such beautiful countryside and such a warm welcome from so many people... It was a privilege to be able to participate in such an event.
We came down to Dorset to support my nephew in the Ironman event. I would very much like to return in 2017 to enter the Ironman if the authorities allow the event to go ahead.
Dorset is beautiful and the locals are very welcoming, the area is clean and inviting, every body was sad to leave!
Unfortunately we were sick. But we did love our time there. The race was awesome and the scenery was great. I would certainly come back and would recommend the area to friends in Canada to come and visit as well.
Excellent
I've raced Bolton and been a supporter in Tenby. Weymouth was a great event but the locals would benefit more from the event if they came out and supported us more. In Bolton they ran ironkids, this was mainly for the local children. Arrange some street parties on the closed roads, make it about the locals and not tourism, get the local children involved. The thing that makes ironman so good is the support. Grumpy locals could cost Weymouth a ton of revenue, people who do ironman are not poor, we don't collect Sun tokens to get a free holiday.
excellent place for an IM
Great place and very clean, great support
Great place to visit, great event & will definitely return for the event in the future
Dorset is a lovely friendly place with lots to see, especially the beaches and Monkey World! We will be coming back after a positive experience visiting in preparation for the IRONMAN event. But now we are planning to holiday there next year we liked it so much! The people were very friendly in Weymouth for the event itself and the residents considerate and supportive of the event.
I have been before, on my first ever romantic weekend away with my now wife, and with my father, who is a geologist, to visit the Jurassic Coast. And now my first ever Iron Man event too. So, it is a county close to my heart.
Fantastic time had by all
Totally satisfied with the whole experience of the ironman and of the area chosen . Weymouth is an excellent choice and have already booked a weekend break in April next year

Great event, loved Weymouth. Really positive experience
We found Dorset a lovely place to visit and thoroughly enjoyed the site seeing without having to spend too much to enjoy ourselves
Event was good. However staying in central Weymouth was quite noisy with party goers staying out to the early hours making a great deal of enthusiastic noise...
Awesome event
Thoroughly enjoyed the stay and being by the sea. Lovely place! Would certainly consider visiting again. Many thanks.
Beautiful. We're regulars as we live c40 minutes away.
Loved Weymouth, never been before but will definitely come back for long weekend style holiday
Surprised how much there was to do in the area
I thought Weymouth was lovely, the sea was extremely clean and the cycling route was also fabulous. I'm highly likely to travel with the entire family.
Great experience. Really showcased Weymouth. Will return. The locals on the route did Dorset proud. Big thanks hope we can come back.
Beautiful part of the world I wouldn't have seen if not for the races held in Weymouth
Great stay in wonderful b&b 2 mins from transition. Good selection of cafes and restaurants and ideal venue for Ironman.
Great event, great location
Beautiful area - showcased even more by the stunning bike route. Will hopefully be back in a few years time to give it another go!
Love Dorset
Love Dorset - been on holiday to Weymouth and surrounding area numerous times. Our knowledge and enjoyment of the area played a big part in choosing IM 70.3 Weymouth as our first IM branded event.
The race course was excellent and the location was superb for an Ironman event. The closed roads around a beautiful cycle course made the race for me. I'm looking forward to next year and hope the locals embrace this wonderful event.
Well run event, - appreciate the road closures and impact but this has on patient locals but it allows for a great event and I will do it again- full or half. Ironman brand offer comes with closed roads and conditions/safety, I get what I pay for.
It is a beautiful part of the British Isles at all times of the year. Weymouth is so characterful during the summer when full of people and lovely to walk around at all times of year with a wonderful safe beach for children.
Beautiful countryside, perfect setting
Great event in fantastic surrounding, good for local economy and tourism
We had a great time exploring lots of local beaches and villages. Would have loved it if more people came down to the run course to support the race. Having raced in Tenby the locals have really taken the race to the heart.
Lovely place!
It was good.
Friendly and personal
I'd never heard of it nor would i ever considered visiting prior to the event. See you all next year!
excellnt area to visit, lots to see and do. Next time I wont have to do an Ironman so I'll enjoy the local attractions more :)
Enjoyed it
We all loved the area, if not for the Ironman event, we would never have visited probably. The event puts Weymouth on the map to thousands of people, who would not otherwise visit.
Was a lovely place came this year with my family to support friends & am looking to take part in 2017 My son loved it and in 2017 may stay for longer to enjoy the area
This was mine and my family's first visit to Weymouth or Dorset and we thoroughly enjoyed it. It's not a place I'd have thought to visit previously. The event was world class in itself but showcased the area for its beautiful bay, harbour, beaches and breathtaking coastline and countryside! Our rented accommodation on the local Haven site was superb and we're highly likely to return to explore more of the area.
we visited weymouth several years ago for a coastal trail series run but had forgotten how lovely this place it and its beautiful location!

Lovely place and have been since
A lovely scenic place,with loads to do,will be back to windsurf in the near future
Race was great, fantastic atmosphere in the town on the run. Great location for the event! Will be even better if it can be grown and the ironman field swelled.
We have been to Weymouth before and would never have been a location we would have chosen to go for a small holiday too if it wasn't for the ironman. We did find that it generally seemed unfriendly and that ironman was not welcomed. Public toilets in Weymouth are near unaccessible with a pushchair which made it very difficult for my partner with two young children.
Always had a good time in Weymouth and Portland.
Great location!
My family and I had an amazing time in Weymouth for the Ironman triathlon this September. It was the first time I'd ever visited Weymouth and i will certainly be back. Stunning scenery, friendly and accommodating people and a very well organised event. Thank you. John Cooke, Chester.
On the whole everyone I came across were fantastic. They clapped and cheered the 3,000 athletes along the way to a brilliant day out racing...
Fabulous place to be, very supportive crowds and lovely atmosphere! I want to do the full distance next year, for sure.
Parts of Weymouth town centre are a bit run down, which is a shame. The countryside around Weymouth is beautiful.
I had an amazing weekend meeting a good friend who stays in Weymouth spending time with them, whilst also being able to compete at the ironman event
We thought Weymouth and Swanage were very nice..neat and tidy. Bournemouth was a mess outside the towncentre and the public toilets were just awful. Lots of shops shut and charity shops everywhere...very sad.
Lovely location - sea and beach were beautiful
Love Dorset. Have visited Weymouth a bit to train for this ironman and other Ines and it's a nice local beach
Charming. Beautiful. Hilly. Cute.
Enjoyed it!
We frequently visit Dorset for weekends and this is mainly why I chose to do my first Ironman here
Beautiful sea and countryside and smooth roads
We had a fabulous few days, in particular on the day of the event in Weymouth when the weather was very fine and made the whole environment around the promenade particularly enjoyable. The level of support shown by the spectators was incredible and really added to the entire experience. Given the experience, if I compete at IM Weymouth again I would certainly encourage even more friends and family to come along next time
Enjoyed my visit. Weymouth is a stunning place. Hoping to go back next year to do the "full" ironman.
Fantastic Place, Nice Town and friendly people
Very clean
The beach and beachwalk in Weymouth were very nice. The roads are vertu rough and some of the closed roads were nog respected by locals which caused some probs during the bike.
Weymouth itself lacks a certain sophistication but has a beautiful beach and the people are chariming
we prefer other parts of the world.
A great family destination
Brilliant! Extremely friendly hosts, wonderful scenery, delightful cuisine. And, of course a great IM event!
A great beach for families to enjoy Plenty of accommodation to choose from, suiting all needs and budgets.
Love Dorset!! Great Ironman event too!! Well done!!!

I wasn't there for IM Weymouth. But I did take part both years when the event was run by Challenge. We stayed at the same B&B each time who love the event as their B&B was full all weekend when they would normally have been empty or nearly. The couple who run the B&B were also out supporting their guests taking part. We ate out at Mallams Restaurant, Prezzo which were both busy those nights and a local Chinese restaurant after the race. That wasn't full but the few customers in there on a miserable stormy Sunday night were race competitors.
Can't wait to come again, lovely place and lovely people
Beautiful time of year and gorgeous weather. I loved the race and my husband hired a motorbike from Bournemouth and loved riding around the countryside. Weymouth offers a great variety of eating places and next time I would like to stay longer to check out the old harbour and shops
Great event, beautiful scenery
Beautiful
a nice small town
The race was the first time I have been to Weymouth. The last time I was at a seaside town like this was as a child. It reintroduced me to the pleasures of visiting such a place. I am so grateful for you allowing IM to use to the location.
In general all the local residents I & my party of supporters met were very supportive of the event.
Very nice , clean place. Lots to do with kids etc. Not sure about town safety at night but that is a matter for council and police. My family and I enjoyed the experience.
Nice place 4 an event
I have family in Weymouth so it is always great to visit. This time I visited Portland and Lulworth Cove (parking very expensive for a short stay!). The countryside is lovely.
Beautiful area. Have booked the autumn school holidays in Dorset
lovely place just hope they reconsider doing the events here again
Good location for IM
nice
It was a fantastic event that showcased Dorset at its best.
Had a wonderful time in Weymouth and would highly recommend it to friends and family :-)
Some parts of the cycle had traffic on the roads which directly interfered with my race.
Lovely place with great support for the race.
Very good
Very nice town.
Very surprised, it was a lovely town and I would like to return with my family.
a great experience all round, lovely coast and town and very friendly people, loved the event, will be back for camping in the summer and perhaps for the full distance event next year
We love Weymouth and very excited to have an Ironman event in a place we regularly visit. I did the half and my husband did the full we brought our children, friends and family to support and looking forward to 2017 as more of our team Passionfit wish to complete this one!
Never been to Weymouth or surroundings before planning and completing IM Weymouth. Spent a fortune but loved it and will be going back throughout the Year.
Never been to Weymouth before but will certainly return - its a hidden gem (hidden gem for Irish people anyway!)
We loved our first trip there and plan to come back both for holiday and Weymouth 2017.
It was a great race course. The support on race day was was great from the locals although it was noticeable that support was lacking in the days before and after the event. I hope to race the course again
Beautiful part of the country.
Beautiful county, very clean and tidy.

<p>It was my first time to visit Weymouth; I found it very smart and clean and despite the long drive well worth a second visit. The bike ride gave a good introduction to the villages and countryside inland and I wish I had been able to spend time visiting them properly. Finally, I was so impressed with the reception from the people of Weymouth in particular - so encouraging and embracing of the event. I realise that events such as these do cause a lot of disruption so always try to show my appreciation.</p>
<p>Weymouth was very nice and child friendly</p>
<p>I enjoyed my stay very much indeed. Will attend Ironman event there in the future and will take kids as well.</p>
<p>Weymouth is now probably my favourite place in the UK. As a result of the Ironman I will be taking part in a number of other events in Weymouth purely due to the location. There is always enough accommodation so that the price is competitive and the town is family friendly, which is important to me.</p>
<p>i'm relatively local ,so weymouyth is a place that i have visted for hoildays in the past...Ironman gave me a reason to revisit and discovered that it is very much worth the drive from my home - for cycling or beach time.</p>
<p>Only come for Triathlon, but enjoy it a lot and Weymouth puts on a great show</p>
<p>I took part in the Ironman event and loved every minute. Well organised, great sea side venue to have the Event. You will always get people complaining but it is one day out of so many and I am sure they were all informed anyway so not sure what the fuss is all about. I would definitely recommend Dorset/ Weymouth to friends and family, the Ironman brand hands down made Weymouth that weekend- I'm sure the local businesses were thriving.</p>
<p>very pleasant place to visit</p>
<p>Well organized event great venue for an ironman !</p>
<p>The hotels and B&Bs on the waterfront are pretty tired and need modernisation, and generally the main Weymouth areas have a 25 years ago feel to them. The waterfront shops are also narrow in their appeal. I could live with a few arcades and gift shops but there needs to be a wider range of quality outlets.</p>
<p>Lovely</p>
<p>Weymouth was perfect for spectators (three adults and one baby in my case). The esplanade makes a great run course. Would happily return and stay 2/3 nights for the event in future.</p>
<p>like Dorset some challenges with the transport situation with driving but overall good.</p>
<p>Never been before and was surprised how nice the beach was :-)</p>
<p>IM Weymouth was amazing. Weymouth and surrounding areas we passed through on the bike course stunning. Organisation faultless, well done !! Full distance in 2017</p>
<p>Wonderful town, would definitely revisit.</p>
<p>A lovely area, and a pleasure to participate in an Ironman in a great location.</p>
<p>Lovely place</p>
<p>Dorset is a wonderful county with so many attractions that most people and especially families can be satisfied. Good restaurants, great pubs, lovely beach and shore walks, plenty to do outdoors, the one area that could be improved are the museums and other park attractions. I find them to be relatively poor in standard and not great value. Accommodation is generally very good too, with plenty of options whether hotels, B&B, camping or caravan parks. As I live in West London, it is also accessible as a weekend getaway (traffic is usually OK) and I may consider buying a caravan on one of the parks near Weymouth.</p>
<p>great place. only real issue i saw was traffic congestion leaving the town on race day. I guess thats to be expected</p>
<p>Really enjoyed it and would like to visit again.</p>
<p>Roads a little busy getting to Weymouth, but in general it was a very nice place to hold the event.</p>
<p>Transport links from Cambridge are poor due to traffic at all times on the M3. Weymouth itself was nice but feels a little bit dated and in need of some modernization.</p>

<p>Weymouth was lovely, and very tourist friendly. However it was a poor venue for such a big event, especially with transition being so far from the finish line.</p> <p>Additionally parking was an issue - there was little on offer if at all the day before the race for the brief and registration and limited options on race day, especially having done the 70.3 and having an earlier finish. With the road closures it made getting out incredibly difficult.</p> <p>There was also limited option along the run route for my spectators to get a take away coffee or sandwich etc. There were few marshalls monitoring the prom, which meant that the tourists were walking across the course and getting in the way of us athletes. It needs some ironing out before next year.</p> <p>The major bonus of this venue was Weymouth Bay - the water temperature was perfect, it was incredibly calm, clear, and quite shallow which was a welcomed treat for those of us who aren't very keen on open water.</p>
<p>Weymouth is a fantastic place and have been here many times before which is why I chose it as one of the ironman events I was doing. I've not only visited for small weekend getaways but have played against other Weymouth sports teams and been involved in their festivals over the years.</p> <p>My entire party had an absolutely fabulous time, the sun was shining, the scenery was beautiful.. the people were fantastic!!</p> <p>It is well known amongst locals that the roads heading south block up every weekend especially when the sun comes out so getting down early is the key. This event would have brought a lot of value to the local economy and I for one would like to continue to see it run for many years to come.</p> <p>Ironman runs in larger places than this so as long as there is notice of the event, proper "local" marshals and signage then I don't see there being any issue for an event of this magnitude to run.</p>
<p>Weymouth-lovely town with good amenities and road links. Difficult to judge town for itself as have only ever visited during triathlon events. Usually travel through Dorset to get from Cornwall to other destinations further east.</p>
<p>Excellent event helped by perfect weather on the day, lead up was not so nice but the area is beautiful and good food is widely available. Had a great time.</p>
<p>Loved it</p>
<p>great venue great area difficult to get too from the midlands</p>
<p>Great location, fantastic rolling hills and the coast line is stunning. Not sure if someone can look into the weather though? Perhaps a bit more sunshine :)</p>
<p>Weymouth is a lovely place to visit with a great beach.</p>
<p>It was a place I loved my wife and me to spend a few days relaxing, besides being an ideal place to race.</p>
<p>Having gone to Bournemouth Uni back in the 80's I've always had an affinity with Dorset - lovely county - lovely weather and friendly people.</p> <p>Being able to do an Ironman in such a lovely place was a bonus.</p> <p>Thanks!</p>
<p>Friendly people. Lots of supporters for the event, which made it fun. The cycle route was one of the best. The problem with Weymouth is it stinks of frying fish and chips. Can't the British be persuaded to eat something else?</p>
<p>Really nice city, but lots of indifferent people. I wasn't safe there, or feel safe there.</p>
<p>Weymouth was a fantastic place for this event, great seafront, roads and the locals seemed to get right behind the event - our B&B owner said they thought it was great!</p> <p>We all thoroughly enjoyed our visit and the event.</p>
<p>Very scenic and quiet. Lovely people.</p>
<p>It was a great seaside town that I would like to visit again</p>
<p>Very friendly and picturesque.</p>
<p>I am a Portlander born and bred and left to join the RN in 1988. When I heard that Ironman would be taking part in Weymouth I had to be involved. It was my first event. I found the whole day to be incredibly well planned and a great day out for my family. As a local who now lives in Glasgow, I am proud that Weymouth continues to host major sporting events.</p>
<p>It was great to have a race that was in the middle of the town. Sea was beautiful, bike course was very attractive and it was a bonus to run through Weymouth. Weather was ideal</p>

nice time and great race, but traffic getting to dorset is often horrendous and much of the accommodation in weymouth is sub-standard.
Lovely location, will visit again with the family now that I have discovered the area.
generally good experience
Beautiful scenery, welcoming locals and friendly atmosphere in Local Pubs and establishments. Our B&B has been welcoming the Triathlon scene for last 3 years and was very accommodating to us. Have highly recommended this event to lots of people & given it great reviews.
Really enjoyed the weekend and the town had some great areas and bars, cafes, and restaurants. The countryside was beautiful and we took it as an opportunity to learn about the local area (tolpuddle martyrs etc). I think the town missed some money making opportunities - not many coffee shops open on the saturday late afternoon (when hundreds of athletes had just been let out of the athlete briefing) and many restaurants weren't serving food till 7pm on the Sunday - they missed a lot of trade from athletes desperate for food when they finished their races earlier. Send one of the Weymouth council members responsible for IM Weymouth to Taupo in New Zealand for IMNZ to see how to really create a buzz & engage a town.
Beautiful area and countryside, excellent beach etc for family holiday, and surprisingly pleasant drive through new forest from London. Biggest negative is the TERRIBLE parking arrangements. Takes ages to try to pay by phone, and I received a ticket on race day, despite having tried to pay by phone in the morning. Appears to be a "rip-off-tourists" arrangement (or deliberately making it inconvenient) which leaves a really bad taste from my visit, and is an embarrassment for someone from the UK. Should organise a "all weekend" parking pass for triathletes?... i would happily pay Â£25+ for this to save the annoyance and penalty
Wonderful surroundings, great service from the b&b I was in. Really enjoyed it.
Loved it, great local people, great event. Would be a huge shame to cancel the full.
The whole experience was very good - it was well organised and we enjoyed ourselves.
Enjoyed it. I would imagine Ironman benefits Weymouth and dorset however if traffic was the only issue this just needs to be addressed earlier. Always teething problems and no reason weymouth should be any different to the other cities. Fantastic venue to go to for an Ironman plus the cycle highlighted many other areas of Dorset i had previously not seen.
Outstanding beauty
Very well run event, Weymouth ad Dorset area were perfect venues for the race
we didn't explore the county, we drove in to Weymouth on the Saturday, and out again on the sunday
I had the time of my life in Dorset! Great country, friendly people!
A very friendly place with amazing views, clean, and a great place to be
I really impressed with the things to do and places to visit in and around Weymouth, we will return
Good accommodation, town centre has good facilities and there is some nice surrounding countryside. The beach and water were both clean.
I would bring the family next time
Very friendly town - really embraced the event.
Great place, warm and welcoming. Would travel back for an IM race
Really nice place to visit
all very welcoming
We really enjoyed both visits to Weymouth, we would have been unlikely to have discovered this beautiful part of the country if it was not for the ironman event. It was the perfect venue for competing and relaxing afterwards.
Went to various attractions in the area, including these Sealife Centre, Tower, Dorchester, Tank museum, Monkey World.
Too brief a visit but will be back & for longer
Beautiful place. Loved it.
Loved the area
Weymouth was very nice. Worth another visit!
Ironman Weymouth was a brilliant day for all the family. Can't wait to go back and try the full distance in 2017!
Such a beautiful place to hold an Ironman event. Local support was fantastic.

Beautiful part of the world, accommodating guest house, friendly people. Glad we booked a restaurant in advance as everywhere seemed packed!
I discover a region that I did not know.... Already planning to go back for a week dn with my family from France
If we did it again we would stay overnight before the event - day tripping was too much!
Good
It was lovely, not just on race day which was brilliantly supported, but all week I had a great time. Felt like i was on holiday so much, I'd forgotten I had the race to do on the Sunday
Lovely seaside town, never been before, but the beach and surrounding area was lovely, event was great, and support was fab.
Great Place and surroundings of Weymouth
The town was a great Venue for both athletes and spectators. It was easy to get around and had loads of accommodation, restaurants and cafes. The locals were very friendly and welcoming.
Very enjoyable. Very clean and lots to see.
Thank you to Weymouth and Dorset for having us for the weekend. It was such a lovely weekend and the atmosphere was fantastic.
I love the jurassic coast
Good
beautiful part of the country, locals we met were all very welcoming and keen to know what ironman was all about. Weymouth was very clean and tidy with a great choice of restuarants
I come from Weymouth. I grew up there and went to school and college there and still have my mum and dad there. I was so very proud of Weymouth and how the town engaged with the ironman event, and not just Weymouth but all the beautiful villages of Dorset that hosted part of the bike route. It was an amazing exeorience for me to take part in such a prestigious event in my hometown. I can only imagine that the tourism industry had a boom that week the town was packed and it was fantastic to see. I e not seen crowds like that since the Olympics. I understand the road closures will have caused a bit of upset, but I'd encourage the residents of affected parts of Dorset to understand what an incredible event they helped to host and the interest that must have been generated by having so many people visit. In my opinion, Weymouth has provided (hands down) the best triathlon experience in the UK. I already know of many triathletes who are planning on coming to Weymouth next year.
Having never been to Dorset before, I was pleasantly surprised. The local area was beautiful
I was a spectator watching the wife do the IRONMAN 70.3, whilst staying in the area I found the locals very welcoming, over the 2 days I really enjoyed Weymouth, and utilising the local amenities ie the pubs and the restaurants The event itself was very well organised and will seriously look at entering myself next year
Lovely County
I found the local residents to be very encouraging to the athletes during the event. I have always thought of Weymouth as an old fashioned beach town but Ironman changed its image into a healthy and positive place to be.
Great location. Friendly people. Easy access from London.
I love Dorset. A very beautiful county with lots to do and friendly people
Great area, especially in the lead up and post the event
A Beautiful area the Weymouth bay was stunning and the town friendly and active, I thought the port area most attractive
We loved Dorset and the coast, the traffic near Lyme Regis was full of slow moving traffic so we will probably stay somewhere else on our next visit.
Lovely friendly people, amazing scenery. Will be back for more soon!
I love weymouth and brought back childhood memories
Really enjoyed the weekend away and the event was absolutely fantastic
Pleasant, great crowd
very nice place to visit, nice people, great atmosphere, lovely seaside

<p>This was a glorious location for a fantastic event. The town would gain more benefit from the event if the waterfront bars and food outlets bought into supporting the event. Chorley New Rd (Bolton IM) is an absolute mass of supporters, all spending money in the crowded bars and food outlets. I will be back, as long as there is another IM Weymouth.</p>
<p>Beautiful countryside, lovely town on the Jurassic coast. Local B & B was perfectly suited and very pleasant</p>
<p>My partner & I had a wonderful time and enjoyed the warm atmosphere and the welcoming residents. We will be back next year for IM with more friends & family!!</p>
<p>Weymouth pubs & restaurants need to wise up to Ironman weekend. Cafes closing early on Saturday afternoon, like 4pm??? Pubs on Sunday not serving food until 7:30 in the evening.</p>
<p>Very welcoming people. Very pretty attractions.</p>
<p>Weymouth is just fab!!! The local people I spoke to about the event were not in the least bit worried that there were road closures. Weymouth benefitted from the injection of money to host the Olympics and should continue to host many great sporting events because it is set up for that purpose</p>
<p>Beautiful part of the world!</p>
<p>Lovely coastline and a great venue for the race weekend.</p>
<p>Beautiful place. Enjoyed the visit</p>
<p>Wonderful experience - and it is clear to me that the event brings much economically to the local area.</p>
<p>It's beautifully and people are really friendly</p>
<p>Had a great time in Weymouth at the Ironman event. We spent a weekend down in Weymouth to check out the course in the spring. The whole family came down for the ironman event and stayed for a week. The town was great so much so that we are planning our trip back next year. Would not have discovered Weymouth had it not been for Weymouth. As for the event I thought that the course was amazing. Beautiful beach, great scenery and fantastic support on the run. Coming from London it was perfect location as Wales and Bolton were a bit further afield. Incredibly grateful to ironman and the people of Weymouth for a truly life changing experience!</p>
<p>Because of the Ironman cycle I got to see parts of Dorset that I wouldn't have otherwise. Dorset was very picturesque, and due to the Ironman atmosphere my family and friends were able to see Weymouth in full bloom. The town centre does look tired but the sea/beach appeared very clean.</p>
<p>Only went due to ironman. Loved Weymouth so will return for the next one if it runs</p>
<p>Wonderful, friendly, perfect racing conditions. I did feel for the people affected by the problems with road closures, but am confident this can be resolved for the future, as I believe the Town in general has embraced the event.</p>
<p>Very enjoyable. Very friendly had a brilliant time. Can not wait till next year's event</p>
<p>Enjoyable and friendly</p>
<p>It was good.</p>
<p>Really glad I went to Weymouth in the May before the event and again in the August. Really love the beaches and attractions for the kids and will definitely be back for 2017</p>
<p>Surprised at how nice it was. I didn't remember it like that.</p>
<p>The IM definitely have a reason to visit and the coast is lovely I will come back</p>
<p>All the spectators on the course were very enthusiastic.</p>
<p>Never thought of visiting the place before but it was great to see and do after the ironman was over. Fantastic venue for the event and it was great to see the place with such a buzz. It seemed like so much business came to the town. I certainly would not have visited without the ironman event happening and neither would my cheer squad.</p>
<p>We stay in Portland during our stay which was pleasant, as far as my weekend experience during the race overall it was good and I couldn't really complain. It was obvious that a fair amount of the local population weren't happy with the race and the disruption it caused on the roads. During one point of the race there was a section where both cars and cyclists were together on the road and considering the motorists were already frustrated it was a potentially volatile situation that could have resulted in an incident. This was about 40-45 miles in the cycle course on the 70.3.</p>

<p>We always visit family in Dorset once a year and turn this into one of our annual holidays. We wouldn't go anywhere else in the uk. We find the beaches, attractions and relaxed way of life very enjoyable and very welcoming. Now that Ironman are in town then it will be another reason to pop down and enjoy the surroundings. Hopefully next year the Full Ironman distance will be come back as I have a PB to beat. If not then I will settle for the 70.3. Beautiful country side, adorable villages, and a seaside atmosphere of which I have never experienced before. See you next year Weymouth</p>
Beautiful venue and perfect course
Ironman weekend was smazi g ang could get better
Nice and easy to get around. Easy to park. Good choice of places to eat and drink. Beach lovely.
Great place to visit
A really lovely place that I look forward to visiting again
<p>The ironman event in Weymouth was spectacular. It was very well organised and run. I appreciate there were some difficulties with road closures but this should not be an Insurmountable issue. The event brought thousands of athletes and spectators to the area and with wonderful support from local hoteliers and restaurants accommodating everyone and their needs, everyone came away with a glowing review of the event. I was part of a group of 15 athletes racing and we had a support crew of 40 or more all of whom came and shared in the experience. Collectively we spend thousands of pounds in hotels and food and loved every minute. Those who didn't come were envious of all of our photos and were inspired to race in Weymouth in the future. This event show cases Weymouth and Dorset and it would be a shame if it didn't continue. If anything is possible Ironman, then surely resolving the road closures and other teething problems are all part of the challenge.</p>
Loved Weymouth, beautiful place and perfect for an ironman event.
Very good location, easy access due to good road links
Great county! Awesome event! Fantastic local support
Excellent facilities
Really enjoyed the area and the welcome from people in general
Fantastic venue for triathlon, lovely seaside town lovely coast great cycle route lovely Dorset villages. Would definitely come back for another triathlon and would visit Dorset again anyway.
Beautiful Town that I would like to visit again.
Nice place to make Ironman nd then relax :)
<p>Very pleased by environment, city of Dorchester. Problem: congested roads! enad rain :)</p>
The Jurassic coast is a marvel of this world! Weymouth itself is absolutely gorgeous and its people very welcoming!
It was a nice place and the surrounding area looks like a place I might visit in the future
<p>We love the event in Weymouth - have competed in the Iron Man and previously Challenge for the past 3 years and would hope to continue. It is not only a great course well organised but brilliant for the family with lots of activities to do while I compete but also having the ability to support me on the swim and run. Thank you Weymouth!</p>
<p>I had visited Dorset before (Jurassic Coast, cycling events) but had never stayed in Weymouth. I really loved it and really hope both Ironman events (70.3 and full distance) will become a permanent fixture as I found them to be fantastic events, on par with the best IM events in the UK (I've raced at Ironman UK and/or Ironman Wales every year since 2012).</p>
Lovely location
Loved the area and thanks to the IM Event we will definitely return.
Lovely place
very nice part of the world very clean seaside resort ,great support
Great race, well supported, local support was good, routes excellent, really appreciate the race being held and the patience of the community whilst we were allowed to race. People seemed genuinely pleased we were there, especially business owners

Lovely area with some nice shops and amazing local scenery
A wonderful place, will definitely come back for a holiday. Also, definitely coming back for Ironman Weymouth next year as a SPECTATOR to cheer on the runners and to enjoy A WEEK's holiday.
Lovely scenery and home to the most momentous day of my life so far. I would definitely go back again to Weymouth for either another Ironman event or just to visit
Excellent, Weymouth is the perfect place to host such an event.
Brilliant event, lovely people, lovely place and great support - def booking the event in 2017.
Great experience!
lovely venue, roads and great support from the public
Great race weekend. Fantastic atmosphere and organisation. Great closed road cycle race, with huge support throughout all the villages. Weymouth itself was a lot smarter and nicer than I remember!
First time in Weymouth. Would definitely visit again if on holiday in this area.
Weymouth was excellent and the Sea front was a great place to hang out the days leading up to the event and even the day after! We will definitely be going back for a visit in the future.
Great place, loved it. Will definitely be back.
Leading up to race day I would recommend the local area. It's beautiful. Th negative impact on race day left me a bit jaded.
great venue for the event.
Beautiful coast line and impressed with beach. Good choice of accommodation and people really friendly
Dorset was lovely, great venue, facilities and weather
Weymouth was an excellent venue to host an Ironman event, road closures played a big part in the overall enjoyment of race day. Felt welcomed by all the local people we came into contact with.
too much traffic due to too many competitors. the split transition with NO parking at either venue was very problematic and resulted in many people missing the race briefing. there was plenty of public parking in the large carpark in between both venues which isn't much use when you have a bike and kit bag to lug to registration, then transition, then find your way back to registration for the race briefing. it wasn't particularly well thought on in that respect.
I visited Weymouth multiple times to sea swim and cycle the bike route of the ironman course. I live about an hour and a half away do day trips and a few stop overs. My daughter had a good time as there's lots to do. It would be a real shame if the full distance did not happen again!
Enjoyed the weekend, town and beach lovely
I have family in Dorset so I know it very well and was one of the reasons I chose to participate in this race.
Weymouth was a lovely place for the Ironman race. My family came to watch and stayed in there motor homes just outside Weymouth.
Nice place to visit,
Loved the event. We chose this event because my Mum lives in Weymouth. The support and entire experience was wonderful.
Love the place.
The adults who came to support me all said they'll be coming back to Weymouth to visit with 2 of them saying they'd be signing up for the IM event as well. The area is stunning and the ride route meant I've discovered other places to visit that I wasn't aware of previously.
Great
Excellent location
A very nice visit and a great race. Disappointing reaction from the locals in regards to the travel situation. From what I saw the Ironman volunteers were fantastic and the supporters came out to enjoy the race and day. In my view it was only a few that spoilt the event. A great shame it looks as though the full ironman wont take place in 2017 as I thoroughly enjoyed the race!

Great event in a great location and town.
Great place to visit, fantastic scenery and beaches.
We love Dorset will always keep it in mind for hols/short breaks we are visiting as a family group on October lovely area beaches very clean good attractions lots to do not spoilt by tourism. Ironman Weymouth was a fantastic event keep it up !
Beautiful Town, Beautiful sea front, and the locals, especially the B&B staff were just brilliant!
We had an amazing visit. The countryside was beautiful we would definitely like to go back for a proper holiday. The ironman was also an amazing event.
my husband and i started together at ironman weymouth and came alone to weymouth. thats the reason why we cant spend money at the events around the ironman. :)
Atmosphere in Weymouth when ironman event on was brilliant especially round the harbour! Pubs and restaurants was full! Great event done it past 3 years!
I had a very good time in Weymouth and would even consider coming back for a holiday, proper British Sea side town. I would definitely recommend it to others
Dorset is a great place
All round great experience
We had a Nice weekend.
Lovely whether, very nice town
We parked in Dorchester and did a route recce from there beforehand. Free car parking and plenty of places to eat.
None
well worth it great event definitely boosted my opinion of dorset and weymouth which without the iron man event probably never would have happened
Stayed in *** B & B, very welcome, really impressed with local people supporting this event.
A truly magical town with lovely views and places
First time in Dorset for many years. Reminded me how much it has to offer.
Very well run event in a great location
Great are to visit, almost forgot how nice the beach was.
Enjoyable and friendly, good facilities
Beautiful area
Wonderful setting for a race. Beautiful course route. Shame there was not more accomodation in Weymouth! Parking closer to the race start would have also been helpful.
Weymouth was a lovely area. I have family in Bournemouth / Poole, and friends in Verwood, so visit Dorset fairly regularly, but had not been to Weymouth before. Visiting as part of Ironman 70.3 has made me realise it is somewhere I should visit separately, outside of any future visits for racing.

Appendix 3: comments from entrants resident in Dorset

PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENTS ON YOUR EXPERIENCE IN DORSET
As a Dorset resident [Corfe Castle] and Ironman 70.3 event participant, I was very impressed with the event organisation which showcased the beautiful Dorset countryside at its best. We invited friends from London who stayed with us in our house and appreciated the attractions and activities in Weymouth during the event, especially for kids. We look forward to coming back again next year!
So good I live here
I love Dorset. Weymouth will always be home. I think it is a fantastic venue for the ironman and 70.3
It's a beautiful place to visit
I love Dorset. Got the train into Weymouth which was extremely handy as it took us straight onto the sea front and all the action on race day.
Loved it.
Rearly enjoyed weymouth
The seaside got lovely place for race so brilliant last September
Loved it - please bring Ironman full distance back - the local area is perfect for it and if the town can get behind it even more it will be incredible - I loved the local support on the bike and run course. I also really enjoyed the food voucher for the pasta party as it was a great way to go out with friends, get a good meal and support local businesses.
Amazing weekend Can't wait for next year
I live in Dorset so i love the place. This event was excellent and a really good attraction to bring to Weymouth which is itself a very sporty town well supported by local triathlons and a large community of athletes always seen running,cycling and swimming. I do hope it returns again in future years. I will certainly attend as will my family and i will drag out of town friends to Weymouth for the experience also. I know that some people whinged about traffic problems this year, and perhaps these could have been avoided slightly but Weymouth's heyday in the 19th Century is long gone; Something like the Ironman is an excellent, modern event and a huge draw for healthy athletes and supporters alike and I am sure that it was a huge benefit to the economy.
Beautiful place, everyone was so friendly creating a fantastic atmosphere
Great! That's why I live here.
Amazing place
Loved the event and despite living in Bournemouth for 7 years it was the first time my family had visited Weymouth and they loved it
Weymouth was buzzing with excitement over ironman it brought thousands to the town for such a high profile event. Great place to host the event and good for local economy.such a shame over negative press about the roads after all signage and postal leaflet that most had and saw.
I live here
Awesome. We visit Weymouth & Portland regularly it is so fantastic.
I live and work in Dorset and would not move away.
We loved Dorset, easy to get to from London and lots of accommodation close to the event, the locals where fraindly and helpful and plenty of places for food and drink and also sports massage as well. We will definitely be down again to train and compete!
Very well organised event
Iron man weymouth brought huge numbers of people to the area - all the runners i spoke to felt the area great and the experience first class
Please bring the IM back to Wmth. Sept is a great time to do it out of season and the town was heaving. Ok so we aren't Tenby or Bolton but please give us a chance. The locals (I'm one) had plenty of time to get their act together 're closed roads. Ok yes employing the road closure marshals from the local community might have been better instead of coaching them in.

the event was fantastic and the location was truly amazing.
Wouldnt live anywhere else
Briefing registration and the race were on different days this meant I had to travel to Weymouth three separate times- other iron mans require a max of two trips.
I am probably not the most useful person for your survey as I live in Weymouth however I greatly enjoyed participating in Ironman 70.3, it was well organised & the atmosphere was fantastic. Many of my friends and family came to Weymouth to cheer me on & they too greatly enjoyed the day. Those that don't live in Weymouth came by train thereby avoiding any traffic problems. I have other friends who did not attend the event who had some major problems with traffic but say if an obvious alternative route had been available there would not have been any issues, it was the fact that roads were closed & no diversions were in place. There are a lot of small minded, anal people living in Weymouth who will complain about anything good or bad!! I for one hope to see you back next year!!
Please bring the event back!! Loved it xxx
This survey is flawed as I live in Weymouth! I love Dorset that's why I live here
Love it! Fresh air atmosphere and the choice of things to do
I live in Dorset, but Dorset businesses benefit due to me being in the race. Including £250 at bike shop, £120.00 on running shoes at local store, £250 at swimming pool, £200 with local sports masseur. Total of £820.00 additional direct spend. Plus I was eating a lot more for the year!! In addition I have personally motivated 3 adults and 2 children in Dorset to start triathlon when they hadn't been active previously.
Loved it talking to athletes from around the world they said how wonderful the area was
As a resident of Poole in Dorset, my experience of Dorset is very positive. It is pleasing to see that major events sporting events, which are open to the public, are catered for in this area. I regularly run in the Bournemouth marathon which attracts a large number of participants spectators, and I hope to see the Weymouth Ironman become a regular fixture in my calendar.
This survey is not really applicable for the local resident, but I have completed it the best I can. My wife came to support on the day, and we had dinner the night before. 2 friends travelled down to Dorset from Hertfordshire to support on the day.
My race experience was very positive and I think Dorset has the potential to be a world-class activity events location. The swim and run were well supported but the bike was quite isolated and we heard more people shouting at us than supporting. My elation at taking part in the event was short lived as the local rag was stirring up the moaners and racists (see references to marshalls on their comments pages) before the event had even finished. Having competed in the first Ironman Wales, the experience was very different to the support at Narberth and Saundersfoot was uplifting and I can still vividly remember. I really hope the local authorities see the bigger picture and appropriately support the event next year to improve traffic management and work with their communities and utilise the IronKids experience. Good luck!
Brilliant place - the seafront is fantastic and was bustling with activity on race day, and the Jurassic Coast is superb.
Super experience would have been nice to have dogs on the beach though
Good Event but Weymouth could only just cope - parking too far away from event start/finish
Really nice event, great location I often come to Weymouth to ride.
Great day, great experience. Small business owners around the bike course (The Cafe at Moreton) that were affected by the road closures have commented that they lost out on trade and didn't benefit from the increased numbers of visitors. The London Marathon produce a map of the route with places to eat and drink around the route, could something similar be produced for next year to try and placate such comments?
I live in Dorset so the event is local to me. I have cycled the route many times and on each occasion have brought secondary spend in as I usually have food and drink. I have cycled the route alone and with members of my tri club. On the race day my club and my family were part of a feedstation. They brought themselves food and drink and spent on average Â£10 each.

<p>Excellent time in Weymouth (myself as a competitor) and my wife spectating. The local community seemed to really embrace the event, lets have more!</p> <p>I also live in Dorset, 28 miles from Weymouth. On the subject of road closures, I recieved a leaflet through my door notifying me well in advance of the event. Also, road signage and radio clearly promoted the event. I am disappointed that some people complained about being held up in traffic jams, lets not forget that Weymouth IS a TOURIST attraction and suffers from congestion through out the year. Possibly more could be done to promote our sport in the area and for the general public to realise the effort required by athletes to just get to the start line, let alone the planning required by Ironman, Local Authorities and shop keepers etc. But hey, who am I have an opinion. Oh yes, I AM AN IRONMAN!</p> <p>In summary, great event, see you next year.</p>
<p>Fantastic location, although the cycle route was a bit too hill climb intense, could have done with some longer spells of flat riding.</p>
<p>I thought the Ironman event showcased Dorset brilliantly it was a great advert for the County</p>
<p>i live in Weymouth and i am absolute advocate of the IRONMAN events return here next year</p>
<p>As a local I welcomed the event whole heartedly. Whilst all triathletes think this is a brilliant event, outside of the sport, Ironman in little known about locally.</p> <p>General feedback was that a lot of people were unaware the event was happening and therefore unprepared for road closures in this busy tourist location.</p> <p>I would love locals to embrace both 70.3 and full and to achieve this I feel a lot more work needs to be put into working with the locals and general population of Dorset.</p> <p>I am a teacher, have you thought about getting into schools and raising the profile? IronKids would be a great way to do this? Local press and radio stations can be very supportive - could the event be promoted in the media, to encourage support and raise awareness of road closures etc? Recruit LOCAL volunteers that know the roads - the route of the bike course is key. We are the only county without a motorway, our roads get busy very quickly. Perhaps review the Dorchester section? So much east to west traffic HAS to travel around that major town. Could you consider rerouting the bike course and keep it south of Dorchester, spreading it wider, e.g. to the East, and through quieter roads instead? There are so many cyclists and triathletes that are local that would love to help with this. I'm new to the sport and Weymouth was my first event and I loved it. I really hope to see this grow into something that is well supported, like Tenby, but I think somehow the you need to work with locals to raise the profile. I would be happy to assist with this. Kind regards, Terri.</p>
<p>I am a resident. The event was well received by many despite the criticisms about traffic management. The marshals needed local knowledge. Better signage was needed for motorists. As a competitor, I found it very well managed .</p>
<p>Lovely landscape and clean water. Fabulous countryside and relaxed pace of life</p>

Appendix 4a: feedback and complaints - emails

1	<p>Your *** is reported as saying Weymouth Ironman is a 'prestigious sporting event' and was a 'great boost' for Dorset. It might have been, if Dorset had been considered. Why were no signs put in place well in advance of the event, no press announcements, outside possibly Weymouth. I live in Winterborne Kingston travelling to Exmoor, BBC travel and satnav say congestion on Puddletown bypass, so you wish to leave A35 at Puddletown and use the minor road just to the north of A35. With no warning 'road closed'. No information given and in Tolpuddle you turn right, no signs to say road is closed in Affpuddle and so it goes on. I met a car trying to get home to Moreton and no knowledge of road closures. People living on the edge of Dorchester, just in from the Stinsford roundabout could not get to the tip, again no knowledge of road closures. BBC Travel and Satnav had no knowledge of road closures, WHY? There has been a MASSIVE ERROR.</p> <p>The A35 from Puddletown to south of Dorchester jammed and in the reverse direction long queues with people trying to use the Wareham turning to find it closed.</p> <p>The Dorset Echo had that carers could not get to those they cared for, businesses complaining of loss of trade. It is not just me who did not know, it seems as if everybody did not know. WHY?</p> <p>Your *** needs to go, it has been a total disaster for Dorset and its economy. On summer Sundays people are enjoy Dorset and road closures should not take place, let alone cut Dorset in two, with no entry to Dorchester from the east. Iron man Exmoor is signed a good month in advance, so why did Dorset do nothing? My 2 hr journey took 3 hrs and a lot of wasted fuel! This must be the first and last Ironman Weymouth. Dorset Ironman has been a disaster for Dorset as no advance road signs or press announcements seem to have made. Why did nobody seem to know what was going on. The race seems to have cut Dorset in two. Dorset Highways, somebody needs to be held responsible.</p>
2	<p>No notification of event.. ***.. No advance warning signs warning of event.</p> <p>Roads around Dorchester very busy.</p> <p>Marshals not consistent in their directions, some waved you through to be greeted by the next marshall who advised that you couldn't pass (Dorchester town centre)</p> <p>Bypass from Monkeys Jump busy right through to A352 junction which was busy and vehicles turning in the road which was dangerous.</p> <p>Knew of the event as friend taking part, but didn't know how big event was and the effect it would have on the town. Doesn't follow media coverage.</p> <p>Marshals in local area [Dorchester] knew suitable route to get home.. otherwise, marshals further away from town centre did not know local area well enough to give directions.</p>

3	<p>Advance-warning sign for recent Ironman Event road closures not evident on the day from the A37 route (and roundabout) into Dorchester. No diversion route(s) signs at closed roads for local and particularly through-traffic. Lack of knowledge by marshalls about roads available to exit town; in our case to access the A35 to Bournemouth/Poole. Our journey to frail mother-in-law delayed over one hour thereby. Queue chaos converging at light-controlled pedestrian crossings and three-way traffic lights when trying to exit the town as a result. Very 'disappointed' at best at the lack of Best Practice and, at worst, possible failure to implement legal process and to have due regard for alternative routes. Needless to say, we were not the only travellers having a problem that day with this. This is said in case others have not contacted you, perhaps for lack of confidence in this not occurring again. We have encountered similar events in recent years and the information on the ground and on the day has been very good, as it should be, even down to approx. times of day!</p>
4	<p>Who agreed to and signed off on the Ironman route that split the county in half for 20 miles North to South from Weymouth with no adequate provision for people travelling East/West? Even the inadequate implementation of a traffic plan could not counter the closure of every route North South with only the gridlocked A35 being open but with no indication of how to access the A35, especially if travelling East out of Dorchester.</p> <p>Why was there no signage on any of the many approaches to closed roads that I encountered on Sunday? There were no signs waiting to be "stood up" on any of the many closed roads that I was directed to.</p> <p>Why staff with no accreditation were directing traffic and what sanction the organiser will face for doing this? This is surely a matter for DCC and Dorset Police?</p> <p>Dorset Highways should be more than experienced at major events in Dorset with Camp Bestival and the Bournemouth Airshow to name just two that are held successfully every year. There is simply no excuse for such a poor plan that has cost every town and village in a 20 mile radius of Weymouth lost trade and huge inconvenience. A wash up meeting that while I'm sure will take Ironman Weymouth to task for their poor traffic management needs to impose some form of penalty on a money making event run by a Chinese conglomerate who value their Ironman event company at \$900m.</p>

5	<p>I wish to complain in the strongest possible manner about the road closures north of Dorchester on Sunday last. Along with a very high number of others, I was astonished to find that I couldn't get to Dorchester at around mid-day. At the time, I had no idea as to why as there was absolutely no information given. I tried via the A352, then through the Puddle Valley, was stopped again by a person who couldn't tell me why, was sent onto another minor road, as directed, only to be stopped once again by others.</p> <p>There was by now, a very large group of motorists, none of which had any idea as to what was going on. Road works are necessary, advance notice is always given and given well although there is always the unexpected emergency work. All is forgiven. Weather - no one can help that, accidents, can always happen.</p> <p>But this was very different. I read the local press, listen to local news on both radio and tv, I am informed of live traffic problems via BBC radio whilst on the move, I take notice of road signs. But this time there was absolutely nothing.</p> <p>After travelling for over 1 1/2 hours for what is a 25 minute journey, I abandoned any idea of reaching my destination.</p> <p>A bad day.</p> <p>At 13.58, BBC Radio Solent announced that there were a number of road closures north of Weymouth due to an Iron Man race. That was the first I had heard. The planning of an event of this kind takes some considerable effort and has to be planned many months in advance. This I know, I am very experienced of such things. The county must have been aware of this event for probably a year, if not more.</p> <p>This was an unforgivable farce. It ruined my day, left me very distressed, wasted a considerable amount of fuel, caused a lot of unnecessary wear and tare, clogged up the narrow roads of this beautiful county and wasted a phenomenal amount of my time. I was not, by far, the only one. I saw one woman in tears as she apparently needed to visit the county hospital.</p> <p>I demand no less than the immediate resignation of the person(s) responsible and I also demand a payment of £50 to cover my distress, time and fuel.</p>
6	<p>We travelled up from South Wales on Sunday 11th September 2016 in order to spend the day at Monkey World. We did not know this coincided with an Ironman event being staged. In short, it took us over 3 hours to find a route to Monkey World due to massive road closures. There were no signs on the approach to Dorchester that this event has happening, nor where there any warning signs of delays or road closures. There was no diversion set up or diversion route for people not familiar with the area. The marshals were unhelpful, rude, appeared stressed out and did not know the local area. One marshal in Dorchester suggested to us we park the car and walk (the remaining 10 miles) to Monkey World. Not one of them could help us out with an alternative route. There was no guidance on how to bypass the road closures, no help and no one even seemed to care. It added 3 hours to our day and limited the time we could spend in Monkey World. We had hired a car for the day and left our house at 7am in order to be at the park when it opened at 10am to enjoy a full day. We did not get to the park until 1pm due to the poor organisation of the Ironman event. Make better provisions for this kind of event. Notify drivers with signs on the roads leading in to the event that roads are closed. Give drivers plenty of warnings with these signs. Leave at least one road, however minor open so people can circumnavigate around the road closures. Provide diversion routes. Employ helpful marshals with local knowledge. We will not be back to Dorset in any great hurry.</p>

7	<p>I tried to drive to Dorchester on the day of the Ironman from Kings Stag. There were no diversion signs or notices concerning the road closures until the closure points were reached. The Marshalls had no information about alternative routes. We tried the A352 and then went back and tried the B31343 and up to the closure point and then the road from Cheselborne to Puddletown and this was closed. Having now missed my appointment I went home. WHERE WERE THE DIVERSION/INFORMATION SIGNS! We were not the only cars driving around without information</p>
8	<p>lack of notice and information signs about the road closures whilst the Ironman event was on caused extensive traffic build up outside my business. Road closures while the Weymouth Ironman event was taking place, left my us disadvantaged and caused a loss of business as my customers where unable to visit my premises. I incurred a loss of business and subsequently a loss of profit. Make sure that, if this event is to take place next year, an alternative route is found.</p>
9	<p>The ironman competition was yesterday - Sunday 11th September. As the owner of a business in Cerne Abbas (***) and also as a resident of ***, I received no notification of the competition. I was advised by some local residents that had received a leaflet drop with a map - which basically showed all routes surrounding Cerne Abbas as being 'restricted from 08.30 until 17.30. I telephoned the Ironman helpline on Monday of last week (5th September) to be advised that there was no one available to talk me through the restrictions, but that I would receive a call back. I didn't receive a call back so I telephoned again on Wednesday and spoke to ***. ** advised me that everyone in Cerne Abbas should have received a leaflet - I did not. Neither did *** opposite my business and neither did ***. In fact, it appears that the businesses in Cerne Abbas did not receive any notification of the restrictions to visiting our village. In any event, I do strongly feel that it is not appropriate to communicate such a restriction to our village via leaflet! I tried to explain to *** that by restricting both the top and bottom roads into Cerne (A352 and B3147) was seriously hindering our opportunity to trade. Whilst sympathetic, *** basically told me that *** didn't know where the businesses were and that it was the Highways Agency that had agreed the route. *** also advised me that the bottom road would be open (A352) north bound, limited to a speed restriction of 30mph but that the top road (B3147) would be closed in both directions. This means that anyone coming from Buckland Newton, Plush, Piddletrentide, Tolpuddle and the surrounding areas wouldn't be able to get into Cerne Abbas - unless they went significantly out of their way - which of course they didn't! In addition, *** told me that the reason they had put 'restricted access' on every road around Cerne was to discourage anyone using the roads - this gives little thought or consideration to people like me - independent sole traders who are trying to trade on a busy day in September. The market is still very buoyant with visitors - the weather being favourable at the moment and the kids having gone back to school. My custom on Sunday was down at least 40%. I am not in the slightest bit surprised that my custom was down as when my husband took my son to a football match in *** (a journey normally taking 25 mins but took him over an hour and 15 minutes) on his return he was travelling down the A352 towards Cerne Abbas. This is the only road that was supposed to be OPEN, but limited to 30 mph. He was met with a sign just before Charlton Down which said 'ACCESS TO CHARLTON DOWN ONLY'. He was stopped by the marshall and told him that we had been advised that we could access Cerne Abbas this way. The marshall agreed that he could, and then moved the sign and allowed him to come through. I am aware of two of my Customers that were not able to come through and some residents of Cerne that thought it meant they could not come through and subsequently turned back. The road sign being incorrect basically meant that both roads were CLOSED and there was no access to Cerne Abbas at all.</p>

	<p>There is so much I am not happy about. I am not happy about the organisation of the race. How can anyone think it is appropriate or correct to completely sever all access points to a busy village? How can anyone think that it is acceptable to communicate to businesses about the implications of the road closures via a leaflet drop?- albeit an inconsistent one that none of us businesses received. I am not happy that I had to reduce the *** cost and 'compensate' my *** guests £50.00 as they were significantly inconvenienced by the road closures. I am not happy that on a beautiful sunny day my *** sales were down by at least £300.00 and it could have been significantly more. It is becoming increasingly difficult to trade as a small independent business - small business relief rate tax being axed, business rates now payable, pension contributions now mandatory - I rely on making money during the good weather period, when we have visitors and tourists in the village. We don't have many weekends left of this season before the nights draw in, the walkers are few and far between and the visitors stop. Yesterday should have been a bumper day - the weather was warm and sunny. We should have had around 150 covers through the ***. We didn't. It was dismal. I had my usual *** staff working - sitting twiddling their thumbs. I have been affected on two counts - (1) the absolute lack of custom on what should have been a very busy day given the weather. (2) 3 separate complaints from my *** Customers - 2 of whom could not get to where they needed to get to on Sunday and the third guests who arrived to check in on Sunday and had been sent round in circles from the marshalls. I would like you to compensate me for my loss of takings which as a minimum were £300.00 plus an additional £50.00 which was reduced from the *** cost as a pacifier.</p>
10	<p>I would like to complain about the total chaos I experienced at Dorchester yesterday, Sep 11th 2016. I was driving from north Cornwall where I live, to Swanage in Dorset where as a professional musician I was booked to perform in a Concert at the ***. I left home at 10.45am in order to arrive in time for a rehearsal in Swanage at 1pm which should have been plenty of time. Approaching Dorchester bypass I could see there was very heavy traffic although there were NO SIGNS explaining what the problem was or how to avoid it.</p> <p>Since I didn't know which roads were closed or what was going on, I attempted to leave the bypass at the Max Gate roundabout and make my way to Swanage via Broadmayne, only to find that this road was closed at the first roundabout (WHY WAS THIS NOT MADE CLEAR AT THE JUNCTION WITH THE BYPASS?? – because this traffic was then channelled back INTO Dorchester town centre – the traffic here was stationary and I was stuck in this queue for about 30 mins, a totally unnecessary delay if the road had been properly signed with proper diversion signs to 'Poole' etc.)</p> <p>Again with no satisfactory diversion signs in place, and with absolutely no knowledge of which roads had been closed, I then attempted to drive north of Dorchester and get round towards Puddletown via Charminster. Going along these back roads I made four attempts to navigate my way towards Puddletown, each of which were blocked at the last possible stage – and with NO ADVANCED WARNING. I was also shocked to see how the many highly decorated stewards that had been supplied for the race, were apparently bussed in from outside of Dorset and were totally useless and unable to advise on alternative routes, just shaking their heads, with absolutely no advice or maps of their own race.</p> <p>Since I was due to play in a unique one-off concert in which other people were involved and for which tickets had been sold, I cannot describe the stress this created as I tried to battle my way on through the back lanes. I can quite understand how events like this need to close roads and have a right to put on their events, but the apparent attitude that no-one else on the roads that day mattered, or had anywhere important to go, or needed or deserved adequate information WELL IN ADVANCE so that they could plan their journeys properly, is a total disgrace.</p> <p>I cannot understand how this event was allowed to take place with such totally inadequate provision being made for traffic management?</p>

	<p>Could you please pass my comments on to whoever may be responsible so I may have an answer to this question?</p> <p>Every-time I was turned back during my failed attempts to get through, there were several other drivers in the same predicament and equally enraged as I was, so I think we ALL deserve an explanation.</p>
11	<p>Sorry to escalate the problems due to Ironman to Chief Exec level, but as I am sure you will be aware there is a great deal of reputational damage to “The Council” when things go wrong.</p> <p>My understanding is the Officers and County Councillors who signed off the traffic management plan did so in good faith however the organisers introduced further restrictions which may well have been unlawful. The marshals then did not even stick to those restrictions.</p> <p>Could you decide how we should proceed. I am very keen that a sporting event that ticks all the boxes for Dorset can be run in future years and that plans made should be strictly adhered to. I believe in many ways the assumption that cars and a road race don’t mix is a false one after all if the organisers insist on a “road” rather than a race track the assumption must be that shared use with priority for the Cycles (particularly at junctions) should be a workable solution particularly on roads that do not afford a by-pass for cars.</p> <p>I am about to go on holiday until the *** and while I do not need to be involved in finding a solution to this I am willing to volunteer to take part in this if the leaders wish it.</p> <p>I am copying in the complaint from *** as an extreme example of a business who did everything right in terms of their interaction with Ironman only to be VERY let down. I understand *** has now been in touch with *** and has not offered a reply acceptable to either *** nor I.</p>

12	<p>In response to your article about the chaos surrounding Ironman I run ***, near Dorchester. This is the second year we have been badly affected by this event and below are the main points I would raise:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visitors were down over 80% on what we would expect on a sunny Sunday in September. This is the second year we have suffered financially from this event 2. Lots of phone calls from people asking how to get to us, virtually all gave up as traffic was so bad 3. The event causes widespread traffic disruption with parts of the county virtually inaccessible. 4. Many Dorset businesses suffer financially because of the road closures. In our area Athelhampton House, The Tank Museum and Monkey World to name a few. 5. Thousands of visitors to Dorset are inconvenienced by traffic delays - this is not the experience of Dorset we should be inflicting on visitors to our county. 6. The only beneficiaries of the event outside Weymouth are the participants who cycle along the closed roads. The marshals along the route outnumber the spectators by some margin so it's not as though it is a spectator sport. 7. If Weymouth wants to hold such an event then make the cycle route circuit the town and do not damage Dorset businesses. 8. Looking at the photograph on social media the number of spectators in Weymouth was not very high - probably mainly friends and family of the participants. For the level of damage this does to other Dorset businesses is this justified? 9. Why can a private company come to Dorset and hold an event that causes financial loss to so many local businesses whilst making a profit for themselves? Surely they should be made to compensate those businesses adversely affected? 10. How much does this event cost Dorset County Council in terms of administration and organising road closures? Is this paid for by the event organisers or funded by the council through council tax? If the latter should locals be paying for this? <p>Our visitor numbers due to Ironman were severely down, as I am sure yours were. I have written to *** and to Dorset Echo and was thinking that Dorset businesses affected by this should get together to make sure it doesn't happen again. Below is the letter I sent to the Echo, let me know what you think.</p>
13	<p>I should say that the "lecture" *** PC were given by Ironman was nothing short of an imposition. Initially the roads were all to be closed for an excessive period [7am to 3 pm - way over what the TUC do for Tolpuddle].</p> <p>I did manage to persuade DCC that a oneway system on the old main road from Tolpuddle to Puddletown could operate. On a personal business level we did manage to open on Architectural Heritage Weekend all be it on reduced numbers.</p> <p>However the lockdown for residents inside the Tincleton area and the Piddle Valley is in my mind unjustifiable. I have received a number of emails which I can forward on to anyone at DCC who is collating complaints.</p> <p>The traffic issues created on the roads which were open around Dorchester and across to Bere Regis are a result of an excessive amount of closures for too long a period.</p>

	<p>Puddletown and Piddle Valley are expected to go through all this again for the Dorchester Marathon next May.</p> <p>As regards your comment about “what went wrong”. I would suggest if the Ironman run the event again the outcome will be the same. Even with stewards who have local knowledge if a road is shut for 7 hours on any day gridlock and lack of access will result.</p> <p>The question is whether this is a price worth paying for an event based in Weymouth and how many times a year we should allow closures to the rural area.</p>
14	<p>I don't know who is responsible for allowing this event to take place in Weymouth so I am asking that you put forward a complaint on my behalf.</p> <p>It is bad enough that as residents we have to put up with having our roads closed for such an event but to be woken up at around 6.30 am on a Sunday morning by some idiot who likes the sound of his own voice, pumping out extremely loud music across Preston is disgraceful and totally unacceptable. I imagine mine won't be the only complaint being made about this .</p> <p>I thank you in advance for your help in dealing with this.</p>
15	<p>I was stuck in Dorchester on Sunday as a result of road closures for the Ironman event. There were no directions about what roads were not closed and people manning the closures did not know Dorchester and its traffic routes. People were getting very cross and I witnessed the worst road rage I have ever seen resulting from 2 vehicles colliding and I have been told of other similar experiences elsewhere in Dorchester. I don't think Dorchester is at all suitable for such an event where some people can have fun at many others expense. What is the legitimacy of closing roads for a fun event? The gridlock created made me wonder how the emergency serviced might cope I think they would have been locked in just the same as everyone else.</p> <p>I hope Dorchester will not be involved in such an event again.</p>
16	<p>What a shambles. On vacation in this area, our whole day yesterday was ruined by the closure of roads .I understand that this is more to do with Weymouth, so why hold it around Dorchester?</p> <p>We live in Surrey, and also have many events, mainly for charity, and have never experienced such chaos. Why were the diversion and road closed signs left in situ long after the race was over?</p> <p>I feel for the many small shops, and actually for the bigger ones in Dorchester itself who must have suffered a big loss of business.</p> <p>Think very carefully about how this should be dealt with next time, as no event, least if all when not for charity, should disrupt the lives of locals or visitors in the area.</p>

17	I had heard good things about Dorset so I brought my 3 year old down to enjoy the jurrasice coast. On our last day in Dorset we tried to get from Warmwell to Weymouth so that we could visit the coast and the sealife centre. It too us 3 hours to reach Weymouth a 10 mile trip. Each time we reached road blocks the staff were unhelpful and being from theach area we did not understand the directions. We then found out that we could not reach the sealife centre and had to return to warmwell which took another hour due to road closures. All this time I had a wet and hungry 3 year old in the car. I understand that events must happen but the organisation of this one should be an embarrassment to anyone involved and ruined the last day of what should have been a good holiday. Ruined a 3 year olds last day in Dorset he just wanted to see some fish. Find a way to apologise to my child.
18	Dorchester was completely gridlock yesterday due to the iron man event. I had to abandon a trip to Wareham and cancel a lunch booking. I spent an hour trying to get out of Dorchester. There was nothing on the A35 to say that the Wareham road was closed. This must not happen again. It ruined my, and many other people's day.
19	On what legal basis do you think you have the right to confine me to my home on the 11 September 2016 in order that a profit making organisation can run an event to make money in my domicile area. I pay for the maintenance of the roads in Dorset through my Council Tax, I pay for the Police Forces who are earning overtime to enforce the road closures preventing me and my family from going about our lawful business and I pay for you to look after my interests. What benefit am I and my family gaining from being corralled in my house, which I pay you handsomely for the privilege of occupying? My daughter is staying with friends tonight because she cannot get out of Prison Camp Preston to go to work tomorrow at 0800. Where was the communication from my local Councillor advising me that my personal freedoms were being traduced? Where was the communication or consultation from the "Council" advising me that I am under house arrest? I would have better citizen's rights in the Ukraine. Yours in Disgust,
20	I would like to complain about the dreadful traffic situation created by the iron man event around Dorchester yesterday. Was this event subject of Safety Advisory Group meetings beforehand and if so was a traffic management plan submitted and approved by you beforehand please? If so was it a question of the organisers not providing the information and /or resources required or not just planning properly beforehand? I will refrain from listing of all of the shortcomings evident on the day save to inform you that my family journey took 11/2 hours from Dorchester to the Cheese Fair at Sturminster Newton eventually via Yeovil and the A37. An awful lot of time and fuel was wasted. I am sure that you are well aware of the difficulties to many road users the evnt caused.

21	<p>Dear Sir , I wish to register a formal complaint concerning the disruption caused by the Iron Man event held on 11th September . I have attempted to raise this by phone with somebody called ***. He refused point blank to give me his surname .</p> <p>Prior to the event a pamphlet was delivered to my house which stated that Littlemoor Road would only be closed at the Coombe Valley end . I the event the road was also closed at the relief road , isolating the businesses and severely reducing trade .</p> <p>*** would not discuss my complaint and told me that all authority for the closures was delegated to the Iron Man organisation and I should complain to them . I do not believe that DCC have followed correct procedures in delegating the authority to close roads as they see fit , and I am appalled that nobody will discuss the issue with me .There was no consultation prior to the event taking place and the effect on local businesses was totaly ignored . After which DCC refuse to accept any responsibility . My staff had difficulty gaining access to my premises , *** on Littlemoor Road . The number of customers and sales were reduced by about two thirds. I want a full investigation as to who was responsible for the disruption within the council , an appology and full compensation for the loss of trade . I have already raised this with the local authority ombudsman , case reference number *** .</p>
22	<p>Please can you tell me how this event was able to stop people from leaving Dorchester, when we were able to get out we were told to drive on the wrong side of the road along with several other cars from the crossroads at waddock road B3390 TO Clouds Hill, where we met traffic coming the other way HEAD ON !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! this was the most badly organised event and I get 1800 people pay to take part but on a population of over 28k this is not an advantage to the area but a hindrance, when we stopped to talk to the steward he said I am not local I have had this all day we don't even get a radio provided, who has done the health and safety sign off on this, I would like to be provided with a copy of this as I feel they have breached every thing on it and the person who signed off on it has not checked anything</p>
23	<p>I am writing to voice my total annoyance with the traffic miss-management of the Iron Man event held on Dorset's roads today. Travelling from Stalbridge to Dorchester became a farcical at best and a very stressful and taxing one for all normal road user's I met on route who were only trying to go about their normal business. Whomever was responsible for placing marshal's around the counties roads with no local knowledge, no radio's and only mobile phone's using Google maps need to be retrained in event and traffic management. Marshal's bused in from Aldershot, Exeter and other areas outside the county was not a sound move when asking them to direct traffic on minor roads that are not used to the volume of traffic experienced today where there were no diversion signs (least not on the 40 mile detour we had to make). You will undoubtedly have a de-brief and I hope you come to the conclusion that this area is not equipped to host such an event in the future. I look forward to your comment and response.</p>
24	<p>I wish to inform you of my inconvenience caused by today's Iron Man event. The closure of roads and ensuing chaos was intolerable.</p> <p>I'd been away for the weekend and was returning to my home in Winterbourne Abbas on Sunday morning. I was aware that the Iron Man event was taking place but had checked in advance that trunk road routes around Dorchester would be free for traffic. However, travelling from Blandford, when I reached the junction of the A354 and A35, wishing to then travel west on the A35 towards Dorchester, I was instructed by a marshall to go east on the A35 and "find the first opportunity to turn round and come back west-bound". This is despite the fact that access to the A35 west-bound, as I'm sure you know, is only a matter of 50 yds, just over the bridge crossing the A35.</p>

	<p>I attempted to come off the A35 at the first available junction, Toluddle Ball, just to the east of Tolpuddle but was blocked again - and I was not alone, there were many very angry motorists by this time.</p> <p>In the end I was forced to drive all the way to Bere Regis before I could turn round and then head west-bound back to Dorchester.</p> <p>In my view the route of the cycle race and programme of road closures was very poorly thought out. Added to which the marshalling was appalling. Certainly two of the marshalls I had need to speak to were not local - one, for instance, had no idea where Bere Regis was when I asked him if I had to drive all the way there before turning back on myself Could you please convey my displeasure to the organisers of the Iron Man event and to any discussion within the Council about how the event had been organised.</p> <p>My final comment would be "let them go elsewhere in future". I appreciate that events like this bring financial benefits to an area but this must be balanced against the appalling disruption to local residents.</p>
25	<p>Me and my family wanted a nice day out at Iulworth cove, we were angered at how badly the iron man event was managed/organised, there were no diversion signs, no prior warnings coming into Dorchester and the marshalls were plain rude, traffic management was diabolical. The only hint of the event was when we were stuck at a road closed sign, this must have happened a dozen times. At one point I even had to get out of my car and remind the marshalls to let cars cross a crossroads as the traffic had got so bad, they were more worried that it was a 'timed event' than actually helping traffic. Disgusting management by the organisers and council alike. Traffic management/marshall attitude. 2 children spent hours in a hot car on what is usually less than an hour journey. Used at least £10 more worth of petrol, which is disgusting. Future organisation to be better planned, and not just the immediate location. A refund of petrol money. I'd like to add that the marshalls were seriously lacking in not only local knowledge but in common sense, at one point, I was on the course itself facing oncoming bicycles in Puddletown, wanting to turn right to join the dual carriageway, I was told I could not go that way but had to take a 10 mile detour still driving toward oncoming bicycles, instead of a 400 metre drive that would have got me off the course straight away.</p>
26	<p>ROAD SIGNS NOT RIGHT, VILLAGE CUT OFF, BOOKINGS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF BEING DIVERTED AT CHARLTON DOWN BACK INTO DORCHESTER BECAUSE THEY WERE TOLD NO ACCESS BEYOND THIS POINT. YET THE INFORMATION SENT THROUGH TO RESIDENTS SAID THERE WOULD BE ACCESS TO CERNE ABBAS. ALSO NO INFORMATION WAS SENT TO THE LOCAL BUSINESSES WE HAD TO RELY ON RESIDENTS TO KEEP US INFORMED PEOPLE CANCELLED BOOKINGS, LOSS OF BUSINESS ON A SUNNY DAY. SIGNS SAYING NO ACCESS WHEN THE PAPERWORK SAID THERE WAS ACCESS</p> <p>LOSS OF INCOME THIS SUNDAY £352 PREVIOUS SUNDAYS £755 / £720 COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF INCOME. STAFF STILL NEED TO BE PAID AS THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BUSY DAY</p>
27	<p>The Weymouth Ironman event caused havoc on Dorset roads coming from Sherborne towards Dorchester through absolutely NO signage whatsoever. The first we were aware of this was to hit a roadblock in Middlemarsh. We were directed to turn round and head through Buckland Newton. We then hit another roadclosure in Piddlehinton and had to turn round again. Again NO signage at all. It eventually took us 2 hours from Sherborne to Bere Regis. Whoever organises this event clearly has no idea of the impact they are causing by not doing their job correctly. There should have been far more signage starting in</p>

	Yeovil from this area. We and hundreds of other road users suffered exactly the same difficulties needlessly. It made our journey 2 hours longer. Put someone in charge of organisation or better still do not stage the event at all.
28	<p>Iron Man Weymouth 11th Sept. Information given out inaccurate. No diversions in place. Safety issue on slip road to A35 and on A35. The information given out was inaccurate in that the A352 was in fact closed in both directions not just southbound. In fact the information for Broadmayne residents was zero as it did not feature on the sheet. There were simply 'road closed' signs placed with no diversions to guide drivers as to the correct way. Road closed signs not placed in Broadmayne to show Northbound A352 was shut. Marshals were clearly untrained and not equipped with skills to keep traffic flowing. I cannot see why the A352 needed to be closed in both directions. If the cyclists had used the wrong side of the road then the road could have remained open to southbound traffic (perhaps with speed restriction) and this would significantly eased congestion.</p> <p>I left my house at 9.45am to do some unplanned food/essentials shopping. I went via A352 expecting northbound to be open. On the hill just before Whitcombe turning I was stopped by a Marshall and advised I must turn back via West Knighton (almost back to my house). (I thought this a very dangerous position to place a Marshall with no warning sign). Additionally due to the queuing traffic coming off the A35 to the A352 people were making dangerous U turns on the slip road and so I nearly hit one of them coming round the bend on the slip road as I went to join the A35. I cannot imagine it would be long before traffic was queuing on the 'free access' A35. In fact when I came back from Tesco at 10.45am the traffic was queuing from the stadium roundabout so I decided to go via Winterborne Herriston- which was an advertised route. Here I found a massive queue of cars trying to get across the crossroads to Coombe Valley. Whereas normally it would take 10 mins it took over 1/2 hour in each direction and extra miles as the instructions were incorrect. I am 38 weeks pregnant and have a small toddler who screamed most of the way home. This was a stress I did not need. Ensure full diversion signs are in place. More thought into route and how it will affect residents. Ensure organisers provide full and correct information to residents.</p>
29	<p>Yesterday morning (Sunday 11th September) we set out on a planned trip to Tyneham Village. We turned off the A35 towards Wareham, only to be sent on a complete goose-chase around Dorchester for 1 hour, with no proper signage or information. It was mayhem, (apparently due to a cycle event) There had been no forethought and consequently the poor unsuspecting public were held ransom to this one event.</p> <p>We abandoned our trip. *All it required was advanced warning on the A35. closure of the turning to Wareham, and proper re-routing. Trip aborted</p>
30	<p>With the Ironman contest on 11th Sept 2016 the roads and access to and from Crossways was completely compromised and unacceptable. The event caused major delays on the ring road around Dorchester and access to and from Crossways was nearly completely impossible. The traffic was held up for long periods on all access and exit points, only to be turned around in every direction I went, giving me no options for exiting or entry to the village.</p> <p>My journey of 6 miles to and from Dorchester (usual time <10 mins) took 50 minutes. This was 50 minutes of complete chaos. No one knew what roads were open. Several of my friends from Crossways experienced far longer delays than myself, reaching over 2 hours to complete a ten minute journey. The stewards were completely oblivious to the road closures and were from Plymouth etc, so could not advise of any local area diversions. Although to be fair, I don't think there were any diversions in place.</p> <p>The general attitude was of no care or compassion for the inhabitants.</p> <p>I am more than happy for sporting events to occur, but perhaps with better planning, alternative route diversions sign posted and advertised and a road</p>

	<p>closure structure that allows people to still move freely around the area. People have work to get to, social events and personal errands to run. It is simply not fair to compromise the travelling ability of several thousand inhabitants.</p> <p>2015 did not have such issues. Please can you work harder to make this better next year!</p>
31	<p>We were due to meet friends for lunch at a pub in Winfrith but came up against the road closures for the cycle race in and around Dorchester. We turned into the A352 from the A35 to head south and there were no signs to say that the road was going to be closed. When we reached the first roundabout the A352 was closed and we were turned back in towards Dorchester. We should have been able to turn round at that point and head back to the A35 .</p> <p>As we had no choice we turned back towards Dorchester with the idea that we could cut across towards the A35 at a later point. However we joined a long queue of traffic and every time we tried to take a right hand turn further roads were closed. There were people at the road closed signs but they were unable to give useful directions how to proceed. We were stuck in Dorchester gridlock for about an hour and eventually had to abandon our planned lunch as when we eventually were able to rejoin the A35 at the Monkey Jump roundabout the A35 road heading East was again solid. The complete lack of direction around Dorchester when so many roads were closed. Also at times it appeared that one half of the road could have been operating when there were only cyclists along one side of the road.</p> <p>There should have been clear signage on the A35 of the road closures and in particular the closures on the A352. Had this been shown clearly , we would have proceeded along the A35 and taken an alternative route to our destination via the B3390.</p> <p>Having phoned the pub twice to apologise for our delay we eventually had to cancel the reservation and the meeting with our friends. the pub landlord advised that their trade had been very badly affected by these road closures as well. We wasted an hours worth of fuel in gridlocked traffic around Dorchester and were unable to meet our friends for lunch. If an event like this is to held again in the future - you need much better signage from the A35 and also proper diversion signs and routings so that people are not just left in "limbo" with no idea which direction that are supposed to be headed.</p> <p>This was a disgraceful situation.</p>
32	<p>My staff have asked that I contact you, as they were refused access to *** yesterday, 11th September. The staff work 6 hour shifts and a number of them could not enter or exit from the road. As they are responsible for looking after and feeding up to 10 elderly residents this was unacceptable. Discretion for workers to access their place of work should have been in place and considering the fact that several of our residents are in their 90's. Their care should have come before a road closures that effectively held people who worked and live in Preston prisoners. An event of this nature should not shut down a town.</p> <p>Access for businesses should have been in place. Just because it was a Sunday, did not mean that nobody was working that day. Care of the elderly should have been thought about, whether at Home like ours, Care Homes and Care in the Community.</p>
33	<p>What an absolute shambles the road closures have been for the Ironman competition today. Road closures badly marked, without giving alternative routes. I knew the road to Affpuddle was closed today, because I had seen the signs during the week, so I avoided that route out of Crossways and instead went to go to Tescos in Dorchester for my petrol and shopping. A journey that should have taken me 45 minutes max (including shopping time) ended up taking me 2 hours 15 minutes. Every way I tried to get home after my shop ended up at a road closure (previously un sign posted at the start of the road, only to be closed after</p>

	<p>having wasted 20 minutes or so trying to get there).. I am so angry, why "attempt" to arrange an event if you are not capable of setting up suitable diversions or staffing the road closures, so at the very least people can be given advice on which way they should be going? I saw people reversing over single carriageway bridges through tiny villages, straight into oncoming traffic - so dangerous! Appalling planning, lack of diversions. Lack of staffing at road closures. Wasted and additional 1.5 hours in the car. Very stressed and worried about my dogs being left for so long. Plan things better if you are going to attempt to put on any kind of event like this in the future. Better signing for diversions. Put some staff at the road closures who can advise people what way they should be going to get to where they need to go... Basic stuff really!!</p>
34	<p>I hope things are starting to calm down after the weekend for you.</p> <p>There were obviously some problems with the traffic planning around the Iron Man event on Sunday, I spoke to one of your colleagues yesterday who suggested we emailed you with the problems we had to help the organizers plan next year's event.</p> <p>The letter sent out and the website map/list of road closures did not list the road closures in the town centre. Only Preston beach Rd out.</p> <p>So we could inform the Lifeboat crew the best route to the station we needed this information. We contacted the advertised helpline and was informed the seafront, Custom House Quay and round into St Mary's street would be closed.</p> <p>I asked if Weymouth town bridge would be closed and was told No there would be no need to close the bridge.</p> <p>On the morning of the race two of our crew were stopped on North Quay approaching the town bridge on their way to the Lifeboat Station for a planned exercise and were stopped and told they could not carry on along Trinity Rd as the Town bridge was closed. They were eventually allowed to proceed as they did not need to cross the bridge anyway.</p> <p>Lots of cars were driving down North Quay road and being turned back when they reached the bridge. This was causing tailbacks along this road. Had signs been placed on the approach roads to Asda junction saying Town bridge closed this could have been avoided. I approached the marshal there and explained the problem, he did manage to get a sign placed on Boot Hill.</p> <p>Lower Saint Edmond street was also closed for some reason.</p> <p>I did witness one couple trying to get to the Crown hotel and they were turned back at the bridge but not told how they could get there.</p> <p>Sunday early evening we towed a vessel back into Weymouth Harbour and requested assistance from the HM Coastguard Mobile team on are arrival in Weymouth harbour. The Harbour wanted the vessel on a pontoon by the Pavilion car park. The Coastguard team were held back by the marshals until we got the harbour authority to intervene. Luckily it was not a life or death situation but it does show a need to plan for access if needed.</p> <p>I hope this is of some help to you and the organizers in planning next year's event. The problems we occurred look to be quite easy to fix.</p> <p>There looked to be a great turnout for the event so let's hope we can keep it going.</p>
35	<p>I set off for Dorchester on Sunday 11th Sept for an appointment and found entry to the top road from Buckland Newton was blocked but no prior signs to save drivers from going fruitless miles so had to turn back....access at Piddletrenthide also blocked, also no prior warning.. deviations via Cerne and Sydling made a very circuitous journey and appointment missed.....</p> <p>By all means have an event but the lack of signage and on road information was infuriating and seemed incompetent, very poorly planned and uselessly (un)signed.</p>

	<p>I have found info on-line after the event, I had no reason to check before hand, but why no signs on roads warning of closed access and advising diversions? Was anyone responsible for providing warning signs and diversions, it seemed not.</p> <p>Extremely unfortunate that the signage was not showing, it would have avoided all the upset for what seems now to be quite a large number of rather angry drivers left roaming Dorset looking for ways around the route.</p> <p>I felt sorry for the stewards, they seemed a bit shocked and unprepared that they were having to guide drivers rather than just the cyclists and they were probably getting a fair bit of anger directed at them.</p> <p>I am in north Dorset so was not in receipt of the letters that I now understand from news sources were sent out to locals and had not picked up on other news sources, information about the event, so with no road signs detailing what was happening, there was no chance of being aware of what to avoid/ where to avoid it.</p>
36	<p>I wish to register a formal complaint concerning the disruption caused by the Iron Man event held on 11th September . I have attempted to raise this by phone with somebody called *** . He refused point blank to give me his surname .</p> <p>Prior to the event a pamphlet was delivered to my house which stated that Littlemoor Road would only be closed at the Coombe Valley end . I the event the road was also closed at the relief road , isolating the businesses and severely reducing trade .</p> <p>*** would not discuss my complaint and told me that all authority for the closures was delegated to the Iron Man organisation and I should complain to them . I do not believe that DCC have followed correct procedures in delegating the authority to close roads as they see fit , and I am appalled that nobody will discuss the issue with me . There was no consultation prior to the event taking place and the effect on local businesses was totally ignored . After which DCC refuse to accept any responsibility .</p> <p>My staff had difficulty gaining access to my premises , ***. The number of customers and sales were reduced by about two thirds</p> <p>I want a full investigation as to who was responsible for the disruption within the council , an appology and full compensation for the loss of trade .</p> <p>I have already raised this with the local authority ombudsman , case reference number ***.</p>
37	<p>lack of notice and information signs about the road closures whilst the Ironman event was on caused extensive traffic build up outside my business.</p> <p>Road closures while the Weymouth Ironman event was taking place, left my us disadvantaged and caused a loss of business as my customers where unable to visit my premises.</p> <p>I incurred a loss of business and subsequently a loss of profit.</p> <p>Make sure that, if this event is to take place next year, an alternative route is found.</p> <p>I would also like it to be noted that the residents and business had no advance notice of the road closures. Surely this is something that should have happened.</p> <p>Also that I have an email response from Ironman saying that it was Dorset Councils issue. As you have stated in your email below they employed an traffic management company. With this type of response it clearly shows that they care only about their event and not those living and working in the area's effected.</p>

38	<p>The information given out was inaccurate in that the A352 was in fact closed in both directions not just southbound. In fact the information for Broadmayne residents was zero as it did not feature on the sheet. There were simply 'road closed' signs placed with no diversions to guide drivers as to the correct way. Road closed signs not placed in Broadmayne to show Northbound A352 was shut. Marshals were clearly untrained and not equipped with skills to keep traffic flowing.</p> <p>I cannot see why the A352 needed to be closed in both directions. If the cyclists had used the wrong side of the road then the road could have remained open to southbound traffic (perhaps with speed restriction) and this would significantly eased congestion. I left my house at 9.45am to do some unplanned food/essentials shopping. I went via A352 expecting northbound to be open. On the hill just before Whitcombe turning I was stopped by a Marshall and advised I must turn back via West Knighton (almost back to my house). (I thought this a very dangerous position to place a Marshall with no warning sign). Additionally due to the queuing traffic coming off the A35 to the A352 people were making dangerous U turns on the slip road and so I nearly hit one of them coming round the bend on the slip road as I went to join the A35. I cannot imagine it would be long before traffic was queuing on the 'free access' A35. In fact when I came back from Tesco at 10.45am the traffic was queuing from the stadium roundabout so I decided to go via Winterborne Herriston- which was an advertised route. Here I found a massive queue of cars trying to get across the crossroads to Coombe Valley. Whereas normally it would take 10 mins it took over 1/2 hour in each direction and extra miles as the instructions were incorrect. I am 38 weeks pregnant and have a small toddler who screamed most of the way home. This was a stress I did not need. Ensure full diversion signs are in place. More thought into route and how it will affect residents. Ensure organisers provide full and correct information to residents. I would like to add further information about our day. After my form was filled in it took my husband 2 hours to get home to Broadmayne from Budmouth college. This was because there was no warning that there would be no access to West Stafford bypass from the A35. On leaving the A35 he was directed into Dorchester, which was gridlocked. After speaking to me on the phone he very slowly made his way out via Herriston Rd. It took him over an hour to get through Dorchester town centre.</p> <p>We needed to go out to a family gathering in the afternoon. We delayed our departure until 3.30pm, after the peak time and took the route I had used in the morning (West Knighton, West Stafford bypass). However this time we found a 'Road Closed' sign and had to turn into West Stafford and out via Higher Bockhampton to the A35 before heading towards Bridport. Yet another large detour determined by ourselves, no diversion signs in place, no warning on entering West Stafford bypass it was shut at far end! And furthermore why was the road open in the morning but shut in the afternoon when most of the competitors had finished the course????</p> <p>This level of disruption to residents lives who live in the rural areas around the course is unacceptable. It's all very well for residents of Weymouth to say just walk or take a bus. That is not an option for us. There are stories all over social media about essential nurses and carers not getting through. I dread to think what would have happened if I had gone into labour as the midwives would not have been able to reach me.</p>
39	<p>Journey started at Bridport. Travelling to Bournemouth for the day.. Got to Dorchester no signs anywhere about anything to do with the event as close as Monkeys Jump.. Through Dorchester town centre towards the shell garage at London Road - "Road closed."</p> <p>Garage said the road at the bridge was closed and that other side roads were very busy...</p> <p>Roads closed towards the bypass.. spent 40 minutes travelling around Dorchester back to Monkey's Jump...</p> <p>Decided to go via Charlton Down - half way along the road.. Policeman on bike said road closed and half the villages closed - don't use bypass - gridlocked.</p> <p>Went through Charminster - road closed directed back on to A37. Eventually went via Sherborne - Stur Newton, Blandford to bypass.</p> <p>Marshals at signs had no information and no idea about directions.. No advance warning signs.</p>

	<p>3.5hrs journey time. No clear alternative routes or diversion. Saw no media coverage prior to the event, was not informed.</p>
40	<p>As a resident of Milborne St Andrew I was trying to get to Dorchester but on arriving at the Puddletown roundabout on the A354 I encountered a queue of traffic and a road closure sign on the roundabout itself. A large number of people were stopping to speak to the marshalls as there was no signage on the approach to the roundabout and no indication of a diversion. The marshalls clearly did not know the area and could only direct people on to the A35 heading East. However, while this took you away from Dorchester there were diverted traffic signs at the Tolpuddle exit so a large volume of traffic followed these, expecting to be able to rejoin the A35 heading West. When reaching the bottom of the slip road there was another road closed sign and the diversion signs merely sent you back up to Milborne St Andrew. This resulted in a large number of people performing dangerous u-turns on a slip road from a 70mph dual carriageway. The only option was to then proceed to Bere Regis on the A35, turn around and head back towards Dorchester, a considerable diversion.</p> <p>Eventually reaching Dorchester following a considerable delay I found it to be empty and every trader complaining that they had severely reduced trade due to the Ironman event as well as residents who had been told they could not drive out of their own homes. I then tried to exit Dorchester by driving down the B3150 but found there was another road closed sign, again with no prior signage, and traffic having to turn into High Street Fordington. This traffic was then sent back on to the B3150 heading in the very direction it had just come from. When I questioned a marshall on this I was told that they weren't from Dorset and were just told to direct people. When I then questioned them on where their accreditation was to direct traffic they told me that they were "just a steward" and had no qualification but if I didn't like it I should talk to the nearby policeman, which I then did. He informed me that the police had been asked to oversee the activity and that it was a private event they had no control over and that I should complain to the highways department and the event organiser. He was very apologetic and was clearly unhappy with the situation.</p> <p>To get back to Milborne St Andrew I had to drive North as far as Cerne Abbas, encountering numerous closed road and unqualified marshalls directing traffic and handing out incorrect advice on road closures. Not one single road closure had signage on the approach and and journey that should have taken twenty minutes took two hours.</p> <p>I would like to know who at the council agreed and signed off on the route for the Ironman and the traffic management plan? Whether the organisers kept to this plan? Why there were no signs on the approaches to any of the closed roads? Why staff with no accreditation or training were directing traffic in clear breach of the rules set down by Dorset Police and DCC for events traffic management and finally why anyone ever thought it acceptable to to close every major route from Weymouth North to Middlemarsh (a distance of 20 miles) for an entire day?</p> <p>Even with a traffic management plan this was clearly going to be a disaster and should never have been allowed to take place in its current form. The recent Olympic triathlon course in Rio managed to get by with a series of laps so I cannot understand why a shorter route with more laps and less disruption was not chosen.</p> <p>I have seen the statement from *** describing this as a great boost for Dorset. This may have been a boost for a small number of traders in Weymouth but the impact on every facet of business outside of Weymouth clearly outweighs any boost Weymouth might have received, and disproportionately affects the rest of the county negatively. The statement from Dorset Police regarding some sign tampering in no way goes towards explaining the chaos I saw today from an ill prepared organiser with inadequate staffing or oversight. The statement released to the Echo by the event organisers appears to be completely unrepentant and accept little to no responsibility.</p>

	<p>I have referred to your published document on events traffic management plan guidance and cannot see how this event has met any of its basic criteria on impact on local residents and traffic control and signing. There must have been a safety advisory group organised prior to this event with representation from the Police, highways and any other relevant bodies? Did this take place and if so why was this event agreed in the way it was?</p> <p>This event cannot run again in this format and needs to be seriously reconsidered in its size and scope. It is a private money making event that has shown no consideration for the residents and if found to be in breach of any agreed regulations should face a financial penalty, if not investigation by the police for its use of un-accredited traffic marshalls.</p>
41	<p>I set off for Dorchester on Sunday 11th Sept for an appointment and found entry to the top road from Buckland Newton was blocked but no prior signs to save drivers from going fruitless miles so had to turn back....access at Piddletrenthide also blocked, also no prior warning.. deviations via Cerne and Sydling made a very circuitous journey and appointment missed.....</p> <p>By all means have an event but the lack of signage and on road information was infuriating and seemed incompetent, very poorly planned and uselessly (un)signed.</p> <p>I have found info on-line after the event, I had no reason to check before hand, but why no signs on roads warning of closed access and advising diversions? Was anyone responsible for providing warning signs and diversions, it seemed not.</p>
42	<p>I would also like it noted that if the event is going to happen again then the highways team need to do a lot more work.</p> <p>There is hardly no advance warning signs out, untrained marshals directing traffic and again I have had several complaints about this.</p> <p>I understand and see what a fantastic opportunity this event is for Weymouth & Portland (and Dorset) but more is needed to be done to ensure event runs more smoothly with even less disruption to local residents</p>
43	<p>I wish to complain most bitterly of the road closures and lack of signs relating to them yesterday, due to this race</p> <p>I had hoped to go to a dressage competition at Kingston Maurward but could not gain access after Middlemarsh. I then cut across and came down to Piddletrentide only to be refused access again.From joining the 3030 to Middlemarsh and Piddletrentide I did not see a single sign. I had to give up and go home as I was too late for my competition.</p> <p>Had anyone at either of these junctions had the slightest concern for road users things need not have been so bad, but not a single person including a policemen cared a jot. Knowledge by the stewards of the area and the alternative routes could have helped in view of the lack of signs but they were all foreigners and I doubt they had a clue as to where they were themselves.</p> <p>All this was extremely stressful, disappointing and expensive.The entries of £40.00 and extra fuel travelling around the countryside to no avail.just adds to annoyance.</p>
44	<p>Phone Call received 15:10 on the 12.09.16 - *** ** - Spoke to 2 girls two week prior to the event telling them that he needed to exit his home and how he could. He did not receive a call back and mad further calls to no avail. He spoke to *** today, and reported that *** was abusive and calling him 'stupid'. Would like more notice in future - between now & 3 months. Marshall were abusive to his wife in 2015</p>

45	Runs a farm and one of the marshals for the ironman refused to let animal welfare in to his address. He has contacted trading standards regarding this and has also been trying to speak with the people from Ironman as he does not think it is right to put some people cycling above the needs of the animals here as not only lost money on this but the animals suffered. ***
46	This morning my daughter was taken ill, and we needed to get her to Dorchester Hospital. We had no information about the end of the village being closed. We were also not told when the event was happening. We were told at the end of the village by a marshal with no radio, that we were not allowed through even tho it was an emergency, and even though my daughters eyes had swollen up. The marshal had no clue where else we could get to Dorchester Hospital. We drove another 5 miles, and again met the road blocked , thus not allowing us on to the A35. We had to get a police officer to get us on to the A35 to allow us to get her to hospital. When we arrived at the hospital an hour later, which should have taken 15 mins, we met a consultant there reporting to a police officer, how he was on an emergency call, and was sent on a 20 mile extra journey to get to the hospital?... When we left the hospital to come back, we tried going towards Charminster to get back towards Dewlish. No signs until we got there after a long traffic queue it was shut, with angry locals. We then all headed towards Piddlehinton... again no signs and shut. The police had to come as people were getting out and shouting at the council worker as he had no clue which road was not shut. We were then told to head onto the A35 by the police, which had a 7 mile traffic queue. Then the turn off for Dewlish was closed.... We then tried Bere Regis, and found a way to Milborne St Andrew to get home that way... Took over an hour and half.... Please tell me why this went so wrong, and caused people in emergency situation being block to get to Dorchester Hospital
47	I just want to say this event caused total traffic chaos for so many people today. I hope someone enjoyed it while we were driving around all dorset trying to get around it get home
48	I am priest at ***. Sunday is, of course, the day when committed Christians attend church, but when I received details of the Ironman event, and after studying the very poorly produced map on the leaflet. I decided that it would be best to cancel our Sunday service for that day. Apart from my my wife and I, all of our congregation travel some distance, most from the Sherborne or Bridport direction and I could imagine them having to be diverted to unfamiliar roads with possible hold-ups. I have been criticised for taking this course, but subsequent reports suggest that it was the right decision, and I trust that there will be no repetition of this event. The area is just not suitable.
49	I feel the need to write to inform you of serious disruption to our business caused by yesterday's Ironman event. Despite not even being on the route this year, the roads all around us were closed without any prior notice. Neither did we receive prior notification of the event itself. Our staff were unable to get to work on time to feed and attend livestock. One member of staff took 105 minutes to travel from Puddletown to Dewlish. Another individual travelled 62 miles for a 4 mile journey between Affpuddle and Puddletown. The marshalling staff were incompetent with no local knowledge. Milk tanker collections, which run 24 hours per day anyway, were also disrupted causing further delays through to this morning. This poorly organised event will have cost us at least £1000 in reduced milk production, staff costs and compromised animal welfare. I am not prepared to carry these losses in future.

	<p>I need you to be able to assure me that this event will not occur again. It is disruptive, expensive and unwelcome. I hope that Dorset County Council realise the damage this event has brought to the local economy and goodwill of the local electorate. I also expect the Police to be able to respond better than to simplistically blame some of the public for removing road signs.</p>
50	<p>I am writing to you to inform you and express my sheer frustration of the chaos that occurred yesterday in Dorchester due to the Iron man Triathlon. My family and I live in Blandford Forum and therefore we were completely unaware of the event taken place. There was no pre warning of any of the road closers until you reached the road that was closed. Where were the diversion signs? The marshals that were attending the road closer signs were rude and unhelpful even one marshal not even knowing what part of Dorset he was in.</p> <p>It took 1 hour longer to get into Dorchester and it took 2 1/2 hours getting out. We tried several different ways getting out of Dorchester and actually saw an articulated milk tanker having to turn round in Charminster. Lots of people were unable to get to and do there jobs properly. 2,700 competitors and in my guessing 20,000 cars blocking up many major roads in Dorset.</p> <p>I quote you from the BBC red button service as saying the Iron man Triathlon as a "Prestigious sporting event" and was a "great boost for Dorset". I would like you to inform me as to how this was a great boost for Dorset? we were unable to carry out half of what we wanted to do in Dorchester due to the gridlocked traffic, Many people complaining business was poor.</p> <p>Dorset doe not need a boost it has it's Heritage, charm and beautiful scenery renowned world wide. one day of utter chaos and head ache surely wasn't necessary.</p> <p>Our day was completely ruined and I say again the sheer frustration of the event and the county council's lack of thought and preparation was an absolute disgrace.</p>
51	<p>How lovely to have such a high profile event as yesterday's in the County</p> <p>Can I ask that, if anything similar is ever contemplated, that the event is publicised widely within the County, so that residents are aware that they should check the website for potential impact, and that both coordination with the Highway Authority and advance signage are greatly improved?</p> <p>One could do worse than look at the example of The Great Dorset Steam Fair</p>
52	<p>I was camping with my partner at Cerne Abbas yesterday (11th September) and had seen a few signs warning of the Ironman the day before.</p> <p>While I am fully supportive of these events (we should have more!) I felt I should write to you to tell you the traffic management we terrible. Virtually all the roads around that area were closed and none of your stewards knew what was going on and none of them had radio contact with event organisers. Lots of cars (including ours) were just sent from one road block to the next much to the irritation of the local residents.</p> <p>We were trying to get from Cerne Abbas to Athelhampton which should take about 20 mins I guess. The journey took three hours! And we didn't even get there – we gave up in the end when we got to the final road closure on the A35.</p> <p>We were on a weekend away so it wasn't too important that we lost our morning. The nurse in the car behind who could get to work was much less sanguine.</p>

53	<p>*** is quoted as saying that yesterday's Iron Man was "a great boost for Dorset"; I cannot agree and would ask for some early explanation of yesterday's road debacle.</p> <p>Yesterday I came down the A352 from Sherborne to visit Dorchester. Just south of Longburton there was the one single sign of what lay ahead, saying access to Weymouth via A37. The A37 is a long way from where I was, and in any case I was going to Dorchester. At Middlemarsh with no warning the road was closed: that was all, with no indication of why, for how long, and suggested alternative route. The lonely contractor in the road could only say it was closed till 6 o'clock, and that he had no authority or further knowledge. We turned round and went down the Piddle Valley – same thing, no warning, no explanation, and now a narrow road to turn round in and fight back against mounting congestion. So off to Puddletown – with the same result. This is not a "great boost" for Dorset but a great "disaster".</p> <p>Returning home I visited DCC Highways website and found nothing to announce this activity: in any case coming from outside Dorset that is not something I would expect to have to do. You also have a duty to give some sort of warning on the day and ahead of the actual closure: you did not (and the A352 is not a minor road). Sensibly you should advise alternative route(s); you did not – and I assure you that chaos resulted for many motorists.</p> <p>Please can I have some explanation of this total dereliction of duty by your authority, and your understanding that yesterday was not exactly an outstanding success.</p>
54	<p>I wish to strongly endorse the comments from *** in his message below, having had a very similar experience driving from Sherborne towards Dorchester on Sunday afternoon. The lack of signage was a disgrace and I hope that there were no emergency runs to Dorchester hospital that afternoon as they would have been very distressing. As it was, it took us around an extra hour to find a way to the coast which would have been much simpler and quicker if sufficient warning had been given of the road closures.</p>
55	<p>re Iron man you still put people life at risk and made a profit not to tell us in this area your closing the road on Thursday before using total mindless people on check points .my mums ill in *** and I had to go .if it was so good for Weymouth KEEP it in Weymouth .you said " delivered road closure leaflets to 70,000 residents " that's a lie 400 people here did not get the notice do a risk assessment on how long any services would take to here ,or the care home on here .. KEEP it in Weymouth NOT HERE Charlton Downs Regards</p>
56	<p>I organise a major fundraising event for *** (we oversee the 14 national collections of plants in Dorset, including those at Kingston Maurward, Abbotsbury Gardens & Knoll Gardens). Each year we have specialist plant fairs at Athelhampton House in May and Sept. The dates are usually fixed up to 12-18 months in advance and we advertise them widely amongst the horticultural community in Dorset and the neighbouring counties. Most of our specialist nurseries, exhibiting at these events come from Dorset or Somerset but some travel from West Sussex, mid-Devon and Wilts. As far as possible we try to deconflict with other events in the area (eg Dorset County Show, Mapperton Plant Fair, Forde Abbey Plant Fair etc) but May and Sept are very busy months for events and sometimes this is not always possible. Once we heard that the Iron Man event was going to be on on 11th Sept, we considered back in May moving the event to another date but the diary was already busy every weekend and we were re-assured that all would be well when Iron Man confirmed that traffic would be</p>

allowed to flow one way from Puddletown to Athelhampton. We notified all of our members, stall-holders and exhibitors that they would be able to get to the event by this route, which was shown in yellow on the Iron Man website and maps delivered to residents. We told them that when they left Athelhampton after the fair they would have to turn left (west) towards Bere Regis.

I arrived at Athelhampton at 6.30am on Sun 11th after putting up road signs for the Plant Fair and obviously had no difficulties getting in. Unfortunately, some exhibitors were denied access to the Fair and by 8am (the time for exhibitors to arrive and set up only 6 out of 25 had got through). Some (including an Athelhampton House member of staff) were held up on the High Street opposite the shop in Puddletown, others (a convoy of 7 vehicles, some with trailers) were stuck down a single lane road near Bryantspuddle (having been directed there by marshals) unable to move because diverted traffic was being sent by marshals in the opposite direction. One exhibitor, completely exasperated, had travelled from Southampton and got within 1 mile of Athelhampton but couldn't get any further - after 4 hours on the road, eventually he made it at 10am, absolutely seething, having been passed from pillar to post by successive marshals with no overall picture of the problem. I could go on - but essentially our event was a flop, most of our customers were deterred from arriving so went home. Ordinarily we would expect 500-600 - I suspect that we had less than 60 paying guests. 4 Exhibitors didn't arrive at all and have asked for refunds of their pitch fees.

I had spoken to some marshals by phone (Exhibitors had phoned me and I had asked to speak to the Marshal) and it was obvious they had no local knowledge (2 were from Bristol, one was from London) and had never been to Dorset before. They had no knowledge of local place names or roads and had not been given maps by the Iron Man organisers. Consequently they were sending vehicles away and people were just driving to the next road block, just adding to the frustration. After then event, I spoke to some marshals who were exhausted, frustrated by the abuse they had received from motorists. Some of them were not British and English was not their first language, which added to the communication problems. I understand that some of them had denied access to vehicles but had been over-ruled by Police Officers, who had some scope for common sense and trying to prevent a tense situation becoming worse. These Police Officers then moved on and the grid-lock resumed. I understand that the marshals did not have walkie-talkies to communicate with other marshals.

I have the following observations - the Iron Man Cycle route was too ambitious. Dorset has a relatively poor road infrastructure system compared with most counties. To have the route crossing the A35 (a major arterial route) might have seemed straight forward but there were problems on the slip roads near Puddletown and at the Bere Regis end. The route should have been considerably shorter, concentrating the disruption on a smaller part of the county. They would have needed fewer signs, fewer marshals and fewer road closures. The overall distance cycled could have been achieved by having more laps of the same route. Perhaps more marshals with local knowledge could have been used with out shipping in others from different parts of the country or overseas?. Iron Man should not be allowed to disrupt the lives and businesses of people in Dorset and the many visitors who were here but not for the Iron Man event. Sunday might seem like a quiet day but many people still have to get to work, lots of people work shifts and many businesses rely on tourism (Sept is still quite a busy holiday month). **I am aware of carers being denied access to homes of aged and disabled; worse still I am aware of nurses being denied access or delayed access to give palliative care to terminally ill patients at home.**

Looking at people living in Preston - the Littlemoor Road was closed, the Preston Beach Road was closed, the Coombe Valley Road was closed - the only way out was East towards Osmington. Road users then met road restrictions at Broadmayne and Moreton. If a road is going to be closed then an adjacent road must remain open as a logical alternative route for other traffic. Whoever sanctioned these closures at CC level, should have been able to see the problem. You cannot reasonably expect residents and holidaymakers to be confined to their accommodation/homes or leave their homes before 7am and not try and get

	<p>back until 4pm, if they didn't want to be involved in Iron Man or had other important events to attend. Members of my group living in the Cerne area also had similar problems - why did we allow the closure of both the A352 and the Old Sherborne road (parallel)?</p> <p>I don't think that I am being a Nimby; I genuinely recognise the benefit of attracting major events like Iron Man to Dorset. My father was a racing cyclist in the 50s & 60s and my wife and I regularly watch the Olympic cycling and Tour de France/Britain on TV. I just think that the planning for this event ignored some of the practical problems on the ground.</p> <p>Our Plant Heritage events at Athelhampton next year are fixed for Sun 7 May and Sun 10th Sept 2017 , information has already been published and 2000 leaflets printed. I sincerely hope that Iron Man or anything similar doesn't impact on those dates.</p>
57	<p>In short</p> <p>The stewards were ill briefed and less than useless</p> <p>Far too many strategic routes were compromised if not actually closed.....A35 should be accessible at all times at all junctions</p> <p>Leaflets not distributed in time</p> <p>The route affected everyone wanting to access Dorchester from anywhere !</p>
58	<p>Hi thought you might be interested. Every house at bottom of Coombe Valley Road had this notice on a bollard blocking each driveway. Prisoners in their house! Even unable to go to iron-man! Surely some reasonable criteria should be in place to protect residents rights to access and free movement. At very least a maximum number of hours eg two or three not eight and half. ***</p>
59	<p>I am writing to you to inform you and express my sheer frustration of the chaos that occurred yesterday in Dorchester due to the Iron man Triathlon.</p> <p>My family and I live in Blandford Forum and therefore we were completely unaware of the event taken place. There was no pre warning of any of the road closers until you reached the road that was closed. Where were the diversion signs? The marshals that were attending the road closer signs were rude and unhelpful even one marshal not even knowing what part of Dorset he was in.</p> <p>It took 1 hour longer to get into Dorchester and it took 2 1/2 hours getting out. We tried several different ways getting out of Dorchester and actually saw an articulated milk tanker having to turn round in Charminster. Lots of people were unable to get to and do there jobs properly.</p> <p>2,700 competitors and in my guessing 20,000 cars blocking up many major roads in Dorset.</p> <p>I quote you from the BBC red button service as saying the Iron man Triathlon as a "Prestigious sporting event" and was a "great boost for Dorset". I would like you to inform me as to how this was a great boost for Dorset? we were unable to carry out half of what we wanted to do in Dorchester due to the gridlocked traffic, Many people complaining business was poor.</p> <p>Dorset doe not need a boost it has it's Heritage, charm and beautiful scenery renowned world wide. one day of utter chaos and head ache surely wasn't necessary.</p>

	<p>Our day was completely ruined and I say again the sheer frustration of the event and the county council's lack of thought and preparation was an absolute disgrace.</p>
60	<p>The issues caused by the Ironman event this year affecting the rural community differ little from the previous year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The road closures effectively lock down the area. • There are no diversions and it would require a computer programme to take into account every possible journey and destination. • Residents within and near the cycling route are effectively “locked in” and primarily take the decision to stay at home if they have the option. This has a secondary impact that they are economically inactive during the event hence businesses dependant on local trade miss out. • It is pointless planning any other event in Purbeck or South Dorset on this day. Community, charity and private events, possibly arranged a year in advance, will be poorly attended and likely to lose money (eg. Athelhampton House plant sale). Potential attendees either remain at home (as above) or are faced with colossal delays and are prevented from using roads, some of which were not even part of the course. • Businesses that depend on an increase in trade over a weekend will lose out, anything from a small village shop to garden centres. • The pre event notification cannot take into account the potential impact on visitors from outside the area. Effectively they will meet road closure after road closure with no diversion options and marshals who do not know the area and able to give them effective advice. This is counter productive to the area as people may not return and spreads further with negative talk. • The event prevents, or significantly intrudes on, residents and visitors going about their lawful business.
61	<p>With reference to the Ironman event I would like to make the following observations.</p> <p>I am resident in Briantspuddle and many of our connecting roads were closed for the event making travel very difficult.</p> <p>Visiting my brother in a nursing home in Blandford proved a challenging journey and on my return via Milborne St Andrew was met by a stream of motorists advising me that the roads were closed and they had no idea how to complete their journeys.</p> <p>The signage merely stated road closed and offered no diversion routes, the marshals were in the main not local and did not have the knowledge to direct traffic on alternative routes. The marshal at the cross roads in Briantspuddle directing me to go south to get to Blandford (incidentally the road to the south was also closed).</p> <p>There was general chaos on the roads and many people trapped in their homes. It is not acceptable to close off an entire area for nearly twelve hours. As was widely reported carers were unable to get to their patients, other sporting and local events suffered due to the road closures and businesses were affected. Whilst pre warnings were given with regard to the road closures no contingency plans were made to enable the general public to move freely and in many cases go about their business within the area.</p>

	<p>If this event is to be run again there needs to be a complete rethink on the routes and road closures, there are an ever increasing number of these events being run in our area and residents cannot be expected to be 'trapped' in their homes for the enjoyment of others.</p>
62	<p>My comments on Ironman - we had several riders coming off their bikes and into our hedge on the corner because of excessive speed down the hill and round the bends. The Marshall who was stationed at the closed end of *** Lane to redirect traffic, ended up shouting at the cyclists to slow down! There needed to be warning signs at the very least.</p> <p>There was obviously no signage in Tolpuddle to warn drivers that there was no exit at Affpuddle, or if there was it was not conspicuous enough. This resulted in a number of aggrieved drivers having to turn round and travel back. And how DID anyone get to Moreton Station that day?!</p> <p>The thought of a worse repeat of this when the Dorchester Marathon takes place next year is pretty awful. It is my birthday weekend and I always have a big family party on that Bank Holiday Sunday, but I wonder how people are going to get to me if *** Lane is closed as well as the B3390? Perhaps *** can comment on this too!</p>
63	<p>I would like to add my comments to those already submitted regarding the "Ironman" fiasco. On that Sunday we had just returned from holiday and were met in Southampton by a taxi who had already had problems getting out of Weymouth. Our return to Crossways took 40mins longer and cost us £40 extra as it involved a complicated detour around Dorchester and several arguments with "marshalls". The driver and I had each consulted the website in advance but found it totally unhelpful. I understand that this event may run again next year so I would like to make some suggestions. Surely it would be possible to produce some positive information i.e.a map on your website showing the roads which are OPEN instead of just a list of the ones which are closed. Anyone planning in advance could print off the relevant area for their own use, and all the marshalls should be given copies for their areas so that they can help anyone who finds themselves caught up in it unexpectedly. Whilst I can see that a few businesses may have benefited from the event it seems that a much larger number have suffered losses. All information in the future should be aimed at helping the MAJORITY who are just trying to carry on as normal instead of the MINORITY who are taking part.</p>

Appendix 4b: feedback and complaints – social media

Comments directly to DCC and chatter searched out on Social Media
*** Cannot believe all these road closures in Dorset have been allowed. Some people have to work on a Sunday.
*** really very poor information on road closures for the ironman - just got abused by an official on a road that's open per your map
*** *** just improve your maps and signs! Piddlehinton is jammed full of traffic because no warning until people reach it
Dear *** *** please ask for some more "Diversion" this Xmas as your road management is shocking!***
*** You have gridlocked Dorchester. ***
I hope Dorset gets a lot of money for hosting this event. Can we please have some better signs and more information about the road closures
*** Feels like I've had to swim a mile, cycle 112m and run 26m just to get back from work. *** road chaos!
Absolute chaos getting back from work in Dorch today thanks to the ironman - very poor diversions and signage ***
*** absolute traffic mayhem around dorchester for the ironman is it worth all the aggro ? Why are roads closed both ways ?
*** triathlon going one way yet roads shut both ways , ridiculous !
*** ***complete shambles. Seeing as it's 'Weymouth ironman' why not keep it around there (laps) instead of causing
*** *** chaos around a good chunk of west Dorset the majority of whom do not benefit from the event
***yes a fool proof plan I'm sure. Like being trapped in a maze all day.
*** Signs/road closures today very poor. Sent round in circles for 2 hours in Dorchester. 2 crying kids & ruined last day of hols.
*** As a supporter of the event really disappointing that traffic management was an absolute shambles.***
*** *** I'll be sending my fuel bill to the for-profit ***organisers.
*** *** that's a real shame. Hopefully they can learn the lessons
*** ***Hope so, although I suspect organisers will meet substantial objections in future.
*** *** always a challenge with such a big event, communication is key. Let's hope they sort it, looks like great event
Agree *** disruption to football matches due to ironman weymouth. Players arriving late delays. Why close so many roads nr Dorchester?
*** Got stuck for ages today, no warning, lack of information. Not good.

*** As a supporter of the event really disappointing that traffic management was an absolute shambles.***
*** thanks for completely ****ing up our Sunday. How dare you close an entire village [tolpuddle] and prevent ANY access. Disgusting.
Well done to everyone involved in ironman weymouth for a well designed system of road closures.*** **
There are some angry people in Dorchester as ironman weymouth road closures have caused chaos so park up car as we did and cheer them on!
Traffic hell in Dorchester. Some sort of triathlon event. With nobody marshalling the roads and no road sides from the bypass.
Traffic gridlock as result of weymouth ironman ...2 hours to complete 7 miles too and from Dorchester trying to use A354 and A35.
Traffic at a standstill from Sherborne to Dorchester on A352 fork up to revels hill and Lyons Gate junction. Road is shut all directions.
Weymouth Ironman = Omnishambles. Who organised the traffic situation? 8 hours of my life wasted. *** ** *
The ironman weymouth has ****ed up the traffic in Dorch. Do it in the early hours of you have to. Been stuck with kids in the car for hours!
*** it was bedlam, it added 2hrs on to our journey (good to know you are listening - good work)
Don't be pleased if you won the ironman, you only won at pissing all of Dorset off
Fantastic atmosphere in Weymouth for the Ironman triathlon today (unless you speak to the moaning drivers who can't plan ahead)
*** ** Just one sign saying A352 & A353 closed would've saved us hours of misery today, pathetic lack of organization
*** Pitiful signing for those of us trying to pass through Dorchester today. Nothing on A35 to say A352 & A353 closed, grrr
*** total shambles ref organisation... stewards who didn't speak English or give a dam.. shocking
Dorchester roads closed for cycle race. Not a diversion in sight! People driving round in circles. Pathetically ***
From Sherborne on A352, never any signs until Middlemarsh, about 6 miles too late. Ironman traffic: bbc.co.uk/news/uk-englan... ***
*** great to have these Dorset events, don't mind the road closures if notified in advance, particularly 'A' roads around Dorchester!
2 n a half hours we spent trying to get through Dorchester cos they decided to close EVERY road they have
The IRONMANtri event in Dorchester's organisation is a joke. Effectively shut down an entire town and all its roads.
Today, one of the worst day's I've seen for traffic, thank you to my customers for being so understanding ***
*** It's been awful. Took my family over 3 hours to get from Yeovil to Poole, most of it stuck in and around Dorchester!
*** awful wasn't it, my district nursing colleagues have had a difficult time today.
*** Ironman routes are making Dorchester impossible today.The stewards are clueless & are sending people in circles.Please step in Dorset Police
A35 From Football grd roundabout Dorchester to A352 Wareham turnoff to Broadmayne in gridlock. ***

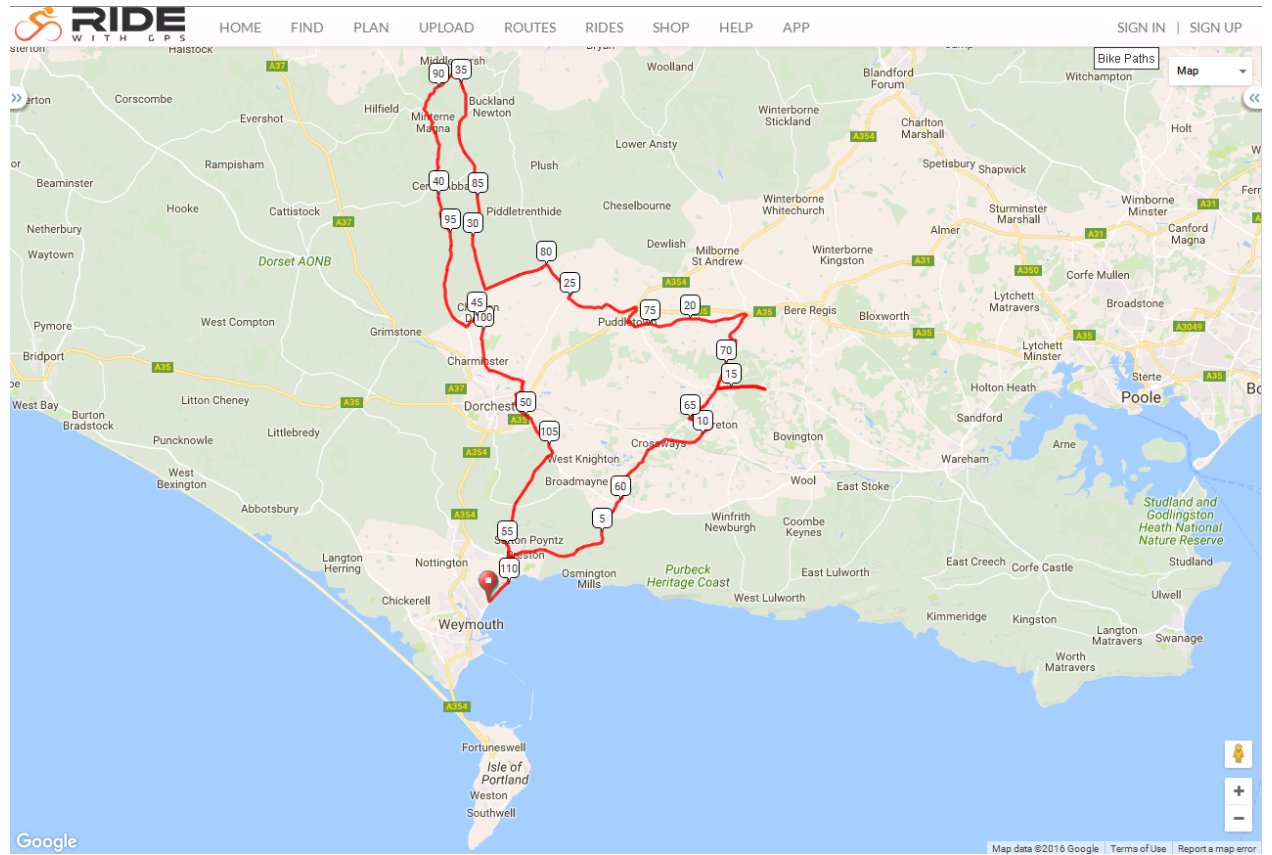
*** Jesus...45 mins and counting to try drive out of Dorchester ...pissed off doesn't even cover it [?][?][?]
*** focus your efforts on the selfish prats who moved the signs. Same last year, and tipped diesel over part of the course.
*** *** Ironman race road closures are a shambles. They have closed all access to my pub, The Thimble Inn DT2 7TD
*** no diverstion signs just road closed signs and reopen times that was not stuck to .. traffic managment need sacking
*** thankyou. Maybe also raise that no access signs would be useful at the beginning of a route not 6 miles later at a dead end!
*** Someone may have moved a few signs, but most of the Dorset road network was gridlocked - wasn't just Weymouth that had issues
*** I told Ironman a week before the race they were cutting me off and they couldn't care less. No communication & pure arrogance
*** hopefully my comments too. Police the signs, prosecute the vandals, minimise disruption. Do not give in to negative lowlifes.
*** they had a plan, and someone moved the traffic signs. Maybe that's why the traffic was so bad!!!
*** Furious at appalling traffic chaos at Dorchester Sep 11th - nearly missed performing in concert - some people have to WORK!

Appendix 5: survey questions

	Questions		Further question/text box for:
	Please give the first part of your postcode eg BH15	postcode	
		or	Country if outside UK
	Before the Ironman Weymouth event		
1	How many times did you visit Dorset in the 12 months leading up to the event?	one visit	
		two visits	
		three visits	
		more than three	please state how many
2	Would you have visited Dorset as above if you had not been taking part in the Ironman Weymouth event?	yes	
		no	
3	Were you accompanied by anyone on your visits?	number of adults	on how many visits
		number of children	on how many visits
4	On average, for how long did you stay?	day visit	
		1 night	
		2 nights	
		3 nights	
		4 nights	
		5 nights	
		6 nights	
		a week	
		more than a week	please state
5	On average, how much did you spend per day per person on the following?		
	Food and drink	£	
	Accommodation	£	
	Local attractions	£	
	Public transport	£	
	Other	£	
6	Where did you stay on your visit(s)?	Weymouth	
		Elsewhere in Dorset	please state where
		Outside Dorset	please state where
7	What type of accommodation did you stay in?	Hotel	
		B&B	
		Self-catering	
		Camping	
		Other	please state

The Ironman Weymouth event			
8	On average, for how long did you stay?	day visit	
		1 night	
		2 nights	
		3 nights	
		4 nights	
		5 nights	
		6 nights	
		a week	
		more than a week	please state
9	Were you accompanied by anyone on your visit?	number of adults	on how many visits
		number of children	on how many visits
10	On average, how much did you spend per day per person on the following?		
	Food and drink	£	
	Accommodation	£	
	Local attractions	£	
	Public transport	£	
	Other	£	
11	Where did you stay on your visit(s)?	Weymouth	
		Elsewhere in Dorset	please state where
		Outside Dorset	please state where
12	What type of accommodation did you stay in?	Hotel	
		B&B	
		Self-catering	
		Camping	
13	How likely are you to visit Dorset again in the future?	Very likely	Any comments on your visit(s) to Dorset
		Likely	“ ”
		Possibly	“ ”
		Not likely	“ ”
14	How likely are you to recommend a visit to Dorset to friends and family?	Very likely	
		Likely	
		Possibly	
		Not likely	Why not?
15	Comments on your Ironman Weymouth experience		

Appendix 6: Map of the cycling route



Anne Gray, 21st November 2016
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Audit and Governance Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	7 December 2016
Officer	Denise Hunt
Subject of Report	Call to Account Ironman 2016 - feedback from members of the public
Executive Summary	<p>On 3 November the local press provided information on the Audit and Governance Committee "call to account".</p> <p>Local residents, businesses and groups were invited to give their views as part of the inquiry. The following table provides the positive and negative feedback that was received as a result of the press article.</p>
Recommendation	The Committee is asked to consider and explore public comments made in response to the Audit and Governance Committee Call to Account.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure that public feedback is considered as part of the Call to Account process.
Appendices	Appendix 1 – table containing public feedback
Background Papers	N/A
Officer Contact	<p>Name: Denise Hunt, Senior Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>Tel: 01305 224878</p> <p>Email: d.hunt@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

Feedback and complaints - emails

1	<p>I have lived in the area since 1993.</p> <p>Any event using the public roads is likely to have some impact on other road users, but there is of course a limit to what is acceptable.</p> <p>I would prefer to see events such as the Weymouth Ironman taking place in the area, in preference to the many motor vehicle rallies and other events which take place each year, which cause a great deal of noise, environmental damage, and increased traffic.</p> <p>The recent Ironman event was very well organised and planned, and we were informed in good time regarding the road closures and delays which may occur. Information was sent to our home address, and information was also disseminated through other media.</p> <p>There was also clear and concise signage on the appropriate routes, giving advance and current warning of possible delays, and alternative routes.</p> <p>The cause of the exceptional and unacceptable levels of disruption to motor vehicle users was as a result of the removal and destruction of significant signs which had been placed by the organisers. This is not the first time that signs placed by event organisers of this type of event have been interfered with locally.</p> <p>As a local resident I would prefer to welcome events such as the Weymouth Ironman, in preference to the many vintage and veteran, club and marque vehicle rallies which regularly take place here each year.</p>
2	<p>I understand you're after statements regarding how the Weymouth Triathlon has affected the wider community.</p> <p>I live in Wool, and on the day of the 2015 event, I left home for a 10am appointment in Dorchester, unaware of any road closures on my route.</p> <p>There seem to be 3 main ways over communicating the road closures...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Signs on the routes saying "This Road will be Closed". So if you hadn't travelled that way in the previous week or so then you wouldn't see the signs.2. Posted in the Dorset echo – I don't by the local paper.3. Announced on Wessex FM – I live outside the main catchment area for Wessex FM.

So if you don't regularly travel on the route, (bearing in mind the event is on a Sunday, and therefore outside of peoples routine), and you don't read the Dorset echo or listen to Wessex FM you're in the dark.

After following a number of diversions I reached the roundabout on the outskirts of Dorchester via West Stafford, where the traffic was held up by Stop boards operated by stewards who were clearly uninterested in allowing traffic to flow despite significant gaps between cyclists. These stewards were clearly very young and incapable of adequately managing the traffic, drivers began to get frustrated and sounded their horns only to receive abuse from the competitors. This is NOT a nice way to spend a Sunday morning.

A 25 minute journey took me well over an hour and I was late for my appointment.

Therefore for the return journey I decided to avoid the A352 and take the A35 towards Bere Regis, exit at the Affpuddle junction and head back to Wool via Moreton. After leaving the A35 and driving under the flyover, I was confronted by "Road Closed" and cyclists in the road and having to head back on to the A35! There had been no signage on the A35 warning of this closure, and in 2015 they weren't blaming vandals for the poor signage.

I then had to go to Bere Regis and headed to Wool on the Tott Hill road. To my shock at Puddletown Road I was again confronted with a Stop board and again operated by someone incapable as at first he waved me on and then as I pulled away indicated for me to stop. When I did proceed I then discovered that the cyclist were competing on the open road with oncoming traffic having to negotiate around them as they overtook each other.

I eventually arrived home very late and extremely stressed by the experience. Not the way I'd planned to spend what turned out to be a significant part of my Sunday. Later hearing the organisers patting themselves on the back unaware the havoc and distress they(!) caused.

Key points for me:

1. Cyclists competitively overtaking should not be permitted on the public highway.
2. If this is the Weymouth Triathlon... **then keep it in Weymouth...** have them ride from Lodmoor to Portland Bill and back again as many times as it takes to complete the mileage they need to get their badge.
3. Stewards should be specially trained and of character capable of making the judgements required to manage traffic effectively.
4. It is wrong to close off so many routes and leave NO event free alternatives.

	<p>On the day of the 2016 triathlon my wife and I left home for [REDACTED] However only my bad experience of the 2015 triathlon alerted me to the need to take a circuitous route via Wareham thus avoiding the delays and trauma of the event on the Wool to Bere Regis road. Seemingly no lessons learned and the organisers still patting themselves on their backs.</p>
3	<p>As a resident of Owermoigne, I drive to and from Wimborne every day for work but visit Dorchester on the weekends in order to do shopping etc. Due to this, I had no prior warning of the event taking place and thus, discovering that Broadmayne was closed caused a nightmare for me, as what should've been a 10/15 minute journey actually turned in to an hour and forty five minutes of waiting with a child in the car needing the toilet. Now, had I had a leaflet to advise me that the event was going on, I'd have rearranged that day and gone to Poole - not a problem, but the fact that a main village was completely closed off caused frustration and stress.</p> <p>I have no issue with events, I used to work for [REDACTED] and I'm a cyclist, so understand the occasional ride taking place is good fun and brings good publicity for an area. Although [REDACTED] got a bit of hostility from locals in the New Forest, at least the events were advertised with good notice and roads were still open but drivers were advised to proceed with caution. You will always get hostile people, but people that are informed and have the knowledge of such events taking place will most likely just rearrange plans.</p>
4	<p>Hi I would like to add my questions for the triathlon event and the problems we encountered. I will be unable to come to the meeting. We live on Alington road in Dorchester, DT1 [REDACTED]. I did receive the leaflet though the post, but it was not apparent that the houses that received this post were going to be directly affected. Upon reviewing the web site when I realised we would be directly affected it read that our road (it only gave the B0000 number and I had to look up which one was ours) that we would have a one way system in place. It would have been nice to watch but we had to out on this day [REDACTED]. It turned out that our road was fully closed!!! He had to park a distance away and walk in after queuing for 90 minutes from Bridport side of town to sort of near our house. He was eventually told after checking on our dog that he could park on our drive. We then returned home at 17.30 to be told we could not drive to our house!!! and to park nearby and walk in. Once finally getting a sensible steward we were able to continue as the event had practically finished and to keep an eye out for cyclists. If we were to be disrupted to this extent I would have expected a more personal way of notification, even a person to knock on the door with a letter of what can be done to help and if this would cause us any distress. The site quite clearly stated one way and this was incorrect on the day. I was not impressed to read we would make alternative arrangement for road work in the press, from the roadworks we have encountered they always give access to peoples drives. If this was to park elsewhere for the day I would expect an area arranged for this. So my main points are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Road names to be mentioned as well as road numbers. 2- That houses/businesses that are directly to be affected to get better communication of the road closures

	<p>3- A one way system to the roads left open would have caused less congestion</p> <p>4- Stewards knowing the area better, they could have had maps of the routes themselves</p> <p>5- A rolling road closure may have been better</p> <p>6- Not closing all routes to the main roads</p> <p>7- THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS CORRECT</p> <p>I cannot explain how angry by the issues that we encountered made us there was absolutely no thought to how some people would be affected and stewards with no regard to individual issues. I thought I had made all the necessary arrangements and these were all wrong as advice given was INCORRECT.</p>
5	<p>I live in Dorchester and had planned to meet a friend from Poole for a walk along the coast near Lulworth on the day of the ironman race. Seeing the road signs the day before and investigating further on line, it was clear that it would be impossible to go in any direction except west for 12 hours on the day in question. So we sadly abandoned our plans for a nice sunny late summer day.</p> <p>I am retired and have some flexibility as to when I do things, but how unfair for the working population to have their movements on their precious weekend days dictated to by a minority. And there was obviously no thought given to people who were working on the Sunday and needed to get around. A 2 hour traffic restriction (with access allowed for people going to work) may have been acceptable, but I would feel any more imposition on other people unreasonable.</p>
6	<p>The following is self-explanatory and I would emphasize that I have no wish to have sporting events stopped - there are a multitude of benefits, but such events must be better organised.</p> <p>In response to today's Echo article and the 'review' that is being undertaken into the traffic management of the Ironman event, I would like to raise two points highlighting the inconvenience caused to my wife and I and on speaking with neighbours, many others. The advance notifications were displayed showing designated routes over lengthy blanket periods, but gave no indication that traffic movements would be totally stopped.</p> <p>We left our house at Casterbridge Road, Dorchester at about 9.30 am on the day with the intention of driving to Weymouth, specifically Goulds Garden Centre in Littlemoor. On arriving at the Littlemoor Roundabout from the bye-pass, a foreign speaking steward who clearly had no idea of local knowledge, surrounded by traffic cones, refused to allow us to travel along to Littlemoor, commenting that the garden centre was closed that day. The driver in front I understand was similarly instructed until he pointed out that he was Mr Gould, the owner and that it would be</p>

	<p>open. On eventually being allowed through, the centre was empty with restaurant staff just waiting around – I hate to think of the loss of revenue for the company.</p> <p>We chose to return up the Dorchester Road to the Tesco's roundabout, along the ring road to the A352 slip-road past the allotments. Fortunately, we had arrived at the head of the queue as the tailback quickly and dangerously lengthened back across the ring road. We wanted to cross the roundabout at Alington Road, (Max Gate junction) to follow round to our home at Casterbridge Road – there is no other access! The roundabout was closed off to circling traffic and we were directed back north towards the Town Centre. At the Trumpet Major pub, I was not prepared to go round in circles around Dorchester being only half a mile from home. I went round this roundabout heading towards Broadmayne and though driving slowly and considerately, was met with a tirade of abuse from Ironman supporters on the kerbside shouting that the road was closed.</p> <p>Why residents should be prevented from getting to their homes and freely travelling the county to allow for a sporting event is in my view, quite unacceptable. I hope that this is of use in your considerations and recommendations for next year.</p>
7	<p>We were caught up in this and to be honest what we experienced was nothing short of ridiculous.</p> <p>We were attempting to go from Dorchester to Sherborne, and the previous night I had checked the signage which informs us that the right hand side into Dorchester would be closed.</p> <p>We approached the Junction that goes down to Charlton Down on the old Sherborne road which a lorry had blocked off, so we continued to Sherborne only to find that The Sherborne Road was then closed at the Piddlehinton turn off.</p> <p>So you had about 20 cars that couldn't go forward or backwards.</p> <p>We were told no roads would be open until 4 o'clock that day.</p> <p>People besides ourselves included a lady that was trying to get to work, and a gentleman whose brother had been rushed into hospital with a heart attack.</p> <p>We all called the police but with little response and the only way we escaped was to force our way</p> <p>Through the junction leading to Charlton Down then onto the A352.</p> <p>None of the marshals had a clue what was going on. This mess was just very bad planning.</p>

8	<p>My main question is Was and if so who did a full risk assessment of the roads used between Puddletown and Blandford on a Sunday?</p> <p>This is a very busy road at any time of the day and certainly more so on a Sundays - used by both motorcycles, cars and lorries.</p> <p>Closing the Puddletown by-pass was not a good idea when the majority of the alternative routes were also closed.</p> <p>The majority of the side roads between Puddletown and Blandford are single track with very few passing places. On the day in question these roads became a race track for motorists who had no idea where they were going and were not used to driving on this type of road. Actually there were just going in a circle as the road through Dewlish was closed at the Piddletrenthide junction.</p> <p>I live on one such road and the traffic was horrendous.</p> <p>████████ collapsed at ██████ on this day at approximately 13.45 - it took the ambulance 2 hours to get to him - the crew were from Sherborne and found numerous roads closed with no diversion signs.</p> <p>Why was this part of Dorset affected by something happening in Weymouth. I trust if the competition does go ahead next year more thought is given and more traffic assessments are made. Also any stewards/marshals are better trained and are specifically trained for the area they are working in. Roads that were supposed to be closed at a certain time were closed far earlier.</p> <p>I would appreciate confirmation that this e-mail has been received and the outcome of this meeting is fully reported.</p>
9	<p>I went out to Charlton Down to watch the cycle part of the Ironman. The sign that was placed there by DCC workmen in the road leading up to Charlton Down, past the bridge and past an entrance to Cowden Farm, stated that THIS ROAD IS CLOSED SOUTHBOUND SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 08.00 TO 16.45. On the day at the junction of the road to Cerne Abbas and the road to Charlton Down were four marshals, two who were out of the area and did not know where they were or what they had to do, and two who were in contact with DCC but equally did not know what they were doing and were trying to contact someone from DCC who could advise. At no time between 08.00 and 16.45 was any part of the road closed going up to Charlton Down or down. There was buses, delivery lorries, breakdown vehicles and a constant stream of traffic mixed in and holding up the cyclists. It is a wonder some of the cyclist and spectators were not seriously injured.</p> <p>Some of the spectators were running up and down the road asking the marshals not to allow any further traffic up the road until the bottlenecks could be cleared.</p> <p>This was clearly bad management on the part of DCC, no one else can be blamed for the lack of traffic management. It will be a great shame that the event is being reduced or even lost in the future because of the incompetency of DCC.</p>

10

I write on behalf of Goulds Garden centre, located in Littlemoor Road, Preston, Weymouth with regard to the Ironman event that was held in Weymouth during September 2016. We wholeheartedly support events that raise the profile of the local area and bring welcome new visitors and much appreciated trade and revenue to the local economy. However these events must be planned in such a way as to minimise disruption to local residents and businesses.

During the day of the event, Littlemoor Road was closed at the junction with the Bincombe Bumps roundabout which caused long tailbacks along the main relief road as each car was stopped by a marshal and either allowed through or re-directed. Despite having a business along Littlemoor Road that was open for business that day, I was refused entry at the first time of asking. After speaking to colleagues and finding out that other staff had been allowed through I made a second attempt and was granted access. Throughout the day a large number of our customers were refused access along Littlemoor Road which resulted in us losing several thousand pounds of turnover on the day in question.

In my opinion there was no need to close Littlemoor Road at that point. As all the 'action' was at the Chalbury Corner / Coombe Valley end of the road, Littlemoor Road could have been closed just before the turning to Coombe Valley Road, allowing local residents and visitors, access to homes and businesses all along Littlemoor Road. This would have prevented the large and potentially dangerous tailback of traffic along the relief road and would have significantly reduced the number of interactions the marshal's would have had to deal with.

I don't think any business or organisation should be allowed to put on an event or be given permission to run an event that causes numerous other businesses to lose thousands of pounds worth of turnover. Whilst I appreciate that many hotels, pubs and bed & breakfasts will have experienced a welcome uplift in trade, many other local retailers, including us had their turnover significantly impacted by road closures and disruption caused by the event. It is totally counterproductive to bring additional revenue into an area if the impact and loss of trade to local businesses is greater than the amount generated by the event itself. I'm sure if I contacted the organisers of the Ironman event and told them that I was going to hold a plant sale at the end of their road and that they had no say in the matter, and oh, by the way it's going to them 5k, they wouldn't be impressed. All we ask is that when planning events, they are sympathetic to businesses that already operate in the event area and do everything they can to mitigate any potential losses.

It is no good to say that if enough advanced warning is provided, people can make alternative arrangements to avoid the road closures. Whilst some people who don't work during the weekend will be able to make amendments to their leisure activities and shopping trips, there are many people who still need to turn up for work, visit the hospital or attend to a sick relative who can't make changes and will have no option but to travel into the affected areas, despite notice of road closures.

There are several improvements I would like to see.

	<p>Marshals need to be employed locally and must possess good knowledge of the local area so that they can redirect people effectively. Ideally they should be given paper maps to hand out showing road closures and alternative routes so that travellers can re-plan routes easily.</p> <p>Marshals need to be able to communicate with each other so that problems can be communicated and dealt with much earlier.</p> <p>Signage needs to be much improved with clear instructions.</p> <p>Most importantly, the course needs to be designed to avoid heavily populated areas and major traffic bottlenecks altogether. There are plenty of beautiful roads and places around Dorset that could accommodate part of the route and not impact on the daily lives of hundreds of local people who need to go about their daily business.</p> <p>I hope you find the feedback above useful.</p>
11	<p>I fully support having the Ironman locally and have no objection to our road being closed for it. We live in the narrow part of Coombe Valley Road. It was a brilliant spectacle.</p> <p>However, the communication beforehand and during the event was pitifully inadequate.</p> <p>About a month beforehand, a general leaflet (covering the Ironman area) was provided which stated that the road would be closed but that alternative parking would be provided.</p> <p>I expected that we would be provided with more details before the event including detail of where the alternative parking was located, how to access it etc. When this wasn't received, I tried emailing and phoning but I didn't get a reply to the email and the phone wasn't answered. Some people in the road were clearly not aware at all before the event that the road would be closed and one or two ignored it.</p> <p>In the wider part of the road below Rhosewood drive, it wasn't obvious whether cars were allowed or not. The side roads weren't manned and the cones and signage at the junction of Barton drive remained in a pile all day.</p> <p>A more general comment about the event:</p> <p>Leaflet and signage were focused on what you couldn't do but gave no useful info about how to get round it.</p> <p>The people manning individual barriers had no knowledge of how they fitted in to the big picture so could provide no useful advice.</p> <p>In conclusion, the communication and signage for the event must be vastly improved but it's a great event which should continue.</p>

12	<p>The issue of the 'Ironman Call to Account' was discussed at the meeting of Dorchester Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee on 7 November 2016 and I have been asked to forward on their comments to you.</p> <p>Committee members had not received any complaints directly and while they were aware that there had been problems and lessons to be learned, they felt that some problems had been exaggerated and the benefits outweighed the negatives.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Biggs commented that he had not personally received any complaints only two praising the event and he would like to see it repeated.</p>
13	<p>I recently read a report regarding the above event which I took part in this year,</p> <p>Firstly I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and Dorset county council for allowing this event to take part in 2016 and giving my family and me a reason to visit Weymouth having never had any desire to in the past</p> <p>I have completed Ironman Wales twice as it's on my doorstep and is classed as my Local Ironman Event now I'm sure if you were to speak to anyone regarding Ironman in the UK they would all comment on the support on offer from everyone in Pembrokeshire and when I say everyone I mean everyone.</p> <p>Weymouth has the infrastructure to hold these events as I'm sure you are aware after the success of London 2012 and it baffles me as to why it seemed to struggle with an influx of triathletes and supporters I suppose this is something you are looking into.</p> <p>As an area which thrives during the tourist seasons I would have expected Weymouth as a whole to support the event as the holiday season had ended weeks before surely it should have been a welcomed event as it would bring much wanted revenue to the area I for one spent in excess of £500 over the 4 days I spent in Weymouth add in my family who supported me (5 extras) who also spent money in your local area over the weekend</p> <p>It baffles me as to how and who has decided IM Weymouth 2017 will not go ahead.... it's a shame as you definitely have the making of a world leading Triathlon in your grasp but are failing to seize the moment</p> <p>The highlight of my Day was being asked by a couple (whilst I was running along the seafront) what's everyone running for?</p>
14	<p>I am relatively new to Ironman, but have participated in the UK Ironman in Bolton, the Wales ironman in Tenby and the 70.3 UK Ironman on Exmoor as well as participating in the 70.3 Ironman in Weymouth.</p>

	<p>In all but the Weymouth Ironman, the locals thoroughly embraced the events and respected the road closures and parking restrictions. There was a positive atmosphere round each of the courses, from volunteers to people on the side of the road camped out to enjoy the day, to pedestrians and even people temporarily held up in their cars.</p> <p>However, with Weymouth there was a lot of dissension and discussion prior to the event. On the day, when cycling through Crossways, two vehicles, a car and a motorcycle overtook us along the wrong side of the road - should traffic have wanted to come in the opposite direction I am not sure what would have happened. When cycling through Tolpuddle there was a police car and police motorcyclist trying to sort out the problems as the clearway had not been respected and vehicles trying to travel East were held up by parked cars causing a considerable tailback and ill feeling. It was also noticeable that this was the one village where no one was out to watch or encourage. When riding through Puddletown, again the clearway had not been respected and not only was no one was out to encourage, but I was sworn at by a pedestrian.</p> <p>Whilst I acknowledge that there were problems on the day, especially due to the lack of experience and local knowledge, of some of the marshals, many locals contributed to the problems.</p> <p>The Ironman coming to Weymouth is a great asset, not only to businesses by bringing in so many athletes and their families to the area and the World wide publicity for Weymouth by the Ironman, but also for the locals in the area who are inspired to take up sport and participate in such events, thus improving their health and decreasing the demands on the National Health Service.</p>
15	<p>I am writing to give my full support to this event which was highly enjoyable and the only time I have ever spent 6 hours on the Weymouth Esplanade and spent £10 in Weymouth because of it. I also enjoyed the Challenge Weymouth, September 2014 when I spent at least 4 hours on the Esplanade and also spent a some cash.</p> <p>I travelled outside of Weymouth on the Sunday morning of the Iron Man and made my plans accordingly as I kept the free map and instructions delivered to my home. I had also taken note of the road signage which went up days ahead of the competition to give warning. I know that some of my friends in more rural parts of Dorset e.g. Wynford Eagle also kept their maps and planned accordingly.</p> <p>I enjoyed the sporting atmosphere which was created briefly during the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games returning to Weymouth. It was a real pleasure to see many of these amateur athletes, many of whom live in Dorset compete. Their endurance was amazing and you could only applaud as they raced past. I cannot believe that there has been so much fuss and lack of preparation by local businesses and residents, it was one day and they did have notice.</p>
16	<p>I would like to contribute to your discussion of the Ironman event of September this year.</p> <p>We live in Osmington and were very much affected by the road closure surrounding the event.</p>

	<p>Firstly, we received no advance notification of the road closures or the timings of the cycle racing. We had planned to go out that day to see friends and had to cancel our plans at the last minute. This is dreadful - if the county council closes a road, then there is weeks of warning and advanced notice - Ironman gave nothing in the way of information.</p> <p>Secondly, there were 2 young girls manning the road closures at Chapel Lane and Church Lane. They were super - but placed in a very difficult situation dealing with irate motorists and residents who found that their freedom of movement was denied. I felt very sorry for them. In fact they had no authority to stop traffic and only a warranted police officer can do so.</p> <p>Finally, the A353 in Osmington is a dangerous road at the best of times. The cyclists were passing through at speeds of 40 MPH and I dread to think of the consequences of a farm tractor or large machine having got onto the road because a farm access was not blocked off.</p> <p>Our village dairy closed on the day due to the lack of business as the road was closed - a disaster for a small business on what is normally one of their busiest days of the summer.</p> <p>Simply crossing the road in the day was hazardous - one can hear a car coming, bicycles are silent and their speed well above the speed limit - can they be prosecuted for exceeding the 30 MPH speed limit during a race - there are special laws covering that fact in the Isle of Man for the TT races.</p> <p>Overall, the event information was poor and many, many people inconvenienced. What if there had been a fire and an emergency appliance had been on the route and met cyclists cutting the corner in Osmington (as many did) head on??</p> <p>Bad show sadly. Thank you for your efforts in holding this investigation.</p>
17	<p>One of many emails written to Ironman and Dorset for You follows.</p> <p>As you will see, I wrote this one a few days before the Ironman event but in total I sent 9 emails to either/and/or Dorset For You. I did not receive a single reply. I also tried to ring Ironman on the number given on the closure signs. On the 5th attempt and having had to hold for an unacceptably long time on the previous 4, I timed the duration that I was on hold - 25 minutes before I was unceremoniously cut off! I had left messages asking for a return call on 2 previous occasions but no one rang me back at all.</p> <p>Finally about 3 days before the event, I rang County Hall and, whilst again I had to wait for nearly half an hour during which time I had been asked on several occasions whether I had looked on the website for my answer as that would save me time, which was extremely frustrating as there was no solution to be found on the website, despite looking about 8 times. However, on this occasion I spoke with a very pleasant and apologetic lady who spent a long time looking at what I had been looking at, but who eventually came to the conclusion that there was no way</p>

back to Osmington once the event had started until 2 p.m., or was it 2.30 p.m. or 3 p.m. (she acknowledged that the sign times and those shown on the internet varied and were of no value).

The lady gave me the address and telephone number of 'traffic', assuring me that they would help. I left a message and I sent an email but, guess what? No one came back to me.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 06 September 2016 13:13

To: weymouth@ironmanroadaccess.com

Subject: Road closure

I live in Osmington just off A353 and have to travel to Bere Heath on Sunday, 11th September. I would usually go on A353 to Warmwell roundabout, straight across on to B3390 and then turn right towards Clouds Hill. It would seem that this is not going to be possible, in which case I would go to Warmwell and then right on to A352 to Wool. Is this possible?

If it is impossible to get out of Osmington that way, then presumably I will need to go down the hill and on to the A354 at Charlbury Corner, using the A35 to Dorchester and then Bere Regis. Your map does not even seem to show Littlemoor Road from Charlbury Corner so I am assuming that that road will be open.

Can you advise on that one, please?

Then, my partner has to go to Dorchester for 7 a.m., which is fine, but how is he to get home again at about 9 a.m.? It would seem that the Broadmayne road is closed as is from Charlbury Corner to Osmington, what is he supposed to do?

I await your reply.

I would also be interested to learn who locally benefits from this Ironman challenge? Certainly not the local businesses who live along the road closures - Craig's Dairy for example, or all the little nurseries and shops throughout the area, lots of whom have to work 7 days a week but will have no income for that day. How are their staff supposed to get to them from, say, Portland? If people want to participate in this event they should learn how to ride on the roads along with the usual traffic, like so many of the smaller, local events do. I suspect that it will bring little or

no income to the area, other than to Weymouth town centre, possibly, but only at the exclusion of the normal, Sunday beach visitors anyway, who will be deterred from coming.

Perhaps you can advise from a road point of view how we are to conduct ourselves on Sunday.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 September 2016 15:12
To: traveldorset@dorsetcc.gov.uk
Subject: Ironman Road Closures

Good afternoon,

During the Ironman road closure I need to go from DT3 [REDACTED] (Osmington) to Bere Heath (BH20 [REDACTED]).

Whilst the road is closed eastbound for a chunk of the day, I think that I can get through via Charlbury Corner, Littlemoor Road, to Dorchester and then along the A35 to Bere Regis.

However, I am unable to find a return journey as Osmington Hill eastbound is closed, so unable to get back the same way. I would usually use the B3390 in both directions but I understand that that is affected for most of the day and, anyway, Clouds Hill is closed going towards the B3390. If I come back via Wool, then part of the A352 is closed, so no access to Warmwell roundabout. Perhaps you can advise how I can get out of Osmington to Bere Heath and back again whilst the event is on.

Also, my partner has to go to Dorchester, so down Osmington Hill will be fine but he is unable to get back that way, Broadmayne is closed so how is he to get back from Dorchester?

I have emailed weymouth@ironmanroadaccess.com but have received no reply, I have rung their number and been answered by an ansafone, leaving my number, but no one has rung back.

I assume that in the absence of any authoritative response on how to travel, then I may continue to use the roads as best I can.

	<p>Whilst there is a lot of hype about how good this event is for the area, I would be interested to hear who is going to benefit and measure the cost of this against those small businesses who will be paying the cost!!! (Craig's Farm, for example, who will lose all custom during the day at their shop/tea room, not to mention the problem of delivery drivers and workers needing to get to and from work if they live on Portland).</p> <p>I await your reply, though if Ironman Road Access is anything to go by, the event will long be over before I find the answer.</p> <p>I am, as you can tell, a very frustrated resident, not least because I had to hold for 37 minutes this afternoon to be answered by a very helpful young lady (she was actually very good but where is the management organisation that I should be kept waiting so long, being bored to death about how wonderful your website is, very patronising since I use it all the time), who was unable to resolve the problem and then gave me your contact details. Again, another cost for a local council tax payer caused by the holding of this 'prestigious event'.</p>	
18	<p>I am writing to make a representation in relation to this event. We run a shop and beach carpark at Ringstead Bay whose business was severely damaged on the day of the Ironman event. Members of the public were prevented from accessing Ringstead until the afternoon and consequently on a fine September Sunday we had hardly any visitors. I have had similar comments from other local businesses and if the event is to be run again it needs to be organised in such a way as not to damage the financial interests of local businesses.</p>	
19	<p><i>(see below)</i></p>	
	<p>Problem</p>	<p>Suggestions</p>
	<p>Too little consultation over significant effects of closing off areas to access all day. Such as Dorchester recycling or Trumpet Major inaccessible all day Isolating some villages and areas totally all day Woodsford, Broadmayne</p>	<p>Set up consultation criteria with responses from local district/Parish councils/BID/farmers/ local residents to proposed route. Risks to residents and businesses and facilities to be assessed by local councillors/volunteers/BID as acceptable before giving permission for road closures.</p>
	<p>Failure to stick to their own information – generating a lack of trust for future arrangements No access for Carers without having to walk or no access at all to vulnerable elderly</p>	<p>Despite their information Carers were not allowed access -all main agencies within the area should be consulted on route and access to all areas MUST be available for visits throughout any closures as times of visits to supervise clients for medication can arise at a variety of times.</p>
	<p>Isolating businesses without warning</p>	<p>ALL businesses likely to be cut off should be consulted and compensation for loss of earnings provided or refund on business rates. Time for restrictions kept to only a couple of hours which businesses might be able to live with.</p>

	<p>Changes in information prior to the roads being closed e.g. Closing road before Budgens when closure only at Coombe valley road – isolating Budgens, Goulds, Aquatic centre etc.</p>	<p>Once road closures are decided on route these cannot be changed by organization – all closures and signage to be approved by local councillors/BID/emergency services by going round the route and imagining you are non-resident and need to understand where signage needs to provide clear diversions to e.g. Dorchester from the Yeovil road.</p>
	<p>Map flyer was confusing and difficult to follow for non-cyclists. Circulation was limited.</p>	<p>All residents to be provided with a map showing access routes as well as where roads closed without confusing east, west directions which may be understandable to cyclists but not a resident. ALL residents and businesses need to be provided with clear map showing red with time where closed and arrows showing where any one way access and access routes to all areas which appear cut off. Posters of maps should be displayed in libraries, post offices, tourist information, council offices, GP surgeries etc. Unlikely many people actually will look at their website – they need to be provided with information hard copy.</p>
	<p>Number of hours when access restricted was unacceptable for some residents e.g. Coombe Valley road 8 hours</p>	<p>No loss of access for residents of more than 2? Or 3? Hours maximum – these residents to be offered some compensation for losing access.</p>
	<p>Gridlock in Dorchester – could have been predicted.</p>	<p>A lot more criteria should be in place before any submission for permission to close roads is accepted by Highways.</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>Please relay the following at the "call to account" Council probe into Ironman.</p> <p>It's staggering that so many highly paid members of the council could mess up so badly! Who from the council was in overall charge of the Ironman event?</p> <p>It has been stated that Councillor Finney (Cabinet member for highways) worked closely with the organisers in the lead-up to the event, attended all meetings prior to the event. Why did it go so wrong??</p> <p>As the Leader of the council has stated: "Heads of Service do an outstanding job and therefore deserve their pay." What went wrong and what part has Mike Harries (highways) had in this debacle? Is this really the standard we can expect from an individual with such an inflated salary? In his terms of reference it states - Set high standards and enhance the performance, effectiveness and reputation of the County Council - in this case he has failed miserably; what measures will be taken against him?</p>	

	<p>To add to the mismanagement of the Event it is now known that the road closures were illegal - why did this happen? The Chief Executive has the remit - to ensure that the Authority remains up to date and compliant with all relevant legislation - what went wrong?</p> <p>The responsibility for this Event was obviously delegated, however the accountability cannot be. Who will be reprimanded, censured, fined, demoted, sacked for this pathetic shambles of an event?</p> <p>I look forward to the answers to the questions posed, but please do not come back with the nauseous "lessons have been learned" comment. It is my taxes that pay for these individuals and I expect value for money!</p>
21	<p>In the days following the event I was on a high. But I was so disappointed and indeed surprised to see the negative coverage in the local press. As a competitor I saw nothing adverse. I certainly saw no queues of traffic at any of the junctions or any traffic chaos. In a couple of places vehicles were shepherded along or across the route and the marshalls took this into account.</p> <p>I have consulted with the members of the groups I represent and with my friends and acquaintances. Most of these people are not athletes and some have local business interests. They all welcomed this huge boost to the West Dorset economy over a week when the area would otherwise be very quiet. This boost was in excess of £2m. Some of those to whom I spoke wrote off the adverse publicity, blaming the media. Several suggested it was the same small minority of moaners who rubbished the Tall Ships race and the Olympics.</p> <p>Please could I urge you to do all you can to facilitate and encourage the 2017 event? We have already lost the prestigious full Ironman event which last September flashed lovely pictures of West Dorset around the world. We cannot afford to lose the Ironman 70.3. We need all the footfall we can get in September.</p> <p>Our economy depends on tourism. I am sure that most local residents are happy to make small concessions to enable our economy to prosper. After all we make concessions all the time during the summer season, and for the many other events year round. Other areas, including our capital city, do this cheerfully, why not us for the Ironman?</p> <p>Please could I urge you to facilitate the Ironman event which many residents enjoy with the expectation that it will flourish and expand in the years to come?</p>
22	<p>I am writing in support of holding the Ironman in Weymouth, and indeed similar events in Dorset as a whole.</p> <p>I am a Weymouth resident and was in the town throughout Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the Ironman weekend in September this year. On Friday and Saturday briefings were held and were compulsory for all competitors. On Saturday the bikes had to be deposited at the transition area. Therefore all non local competitors had to stay at least one night, most would have stayed two or three. Some of those I spoke to were</p>

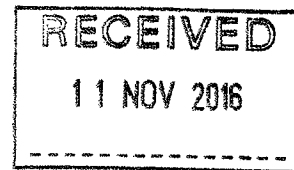
staying longer and enjoying a holiday with family or friends. Competitors came from throughout the UK and from many other countries, including from as far away as Australia and South Africa. These people are high spenders.

Dorset as a whole and Weymouth in particular need the income from tourism. Our economy depends on it. This event, after the high season has finished, must have brought an enormous boost to business. The event itself was a huge success which led to good publicity for our beautiful county.

The atmosphere throughout the town was electric on all three days. Competitors and spectators were all friendly and enthusiastic. On the day itself many spectators encouraged the swimmers into the water very early in the morning, and more were there on their return. The cycling and running routes were lined with spectators cheering and waving them on.

I am disappointed that the full Ironman will not run next year. I urge you to do all that you can to support the organisers of the 70.3 in 2017 and hopefully both events in future years.

Councillor Trevor Jones
Chairman Audit and Scrutiny Committee
Dorset County Council
County Hall
Dorchester



5th November 2016

Dear Councillor Jones

Re: Ironman competition

As the Secretary of the Dorchester Rifle and Pistol Club (which has over 100 members locally) I have been asked to write to you on behalf of the Club to register our dissatisfaction with the organisation (or lack of) of the Ironman competition in September. Like most sports clubs in and around Dorchester, we plan and book our events at least twelve months in advance. This is to allow time for members to book the dates in their diaries and arrange their social and work life around these dates. We are always mindful of avoiding clashes with other events i.e. Dorchester County Show and have in past moved our event so as not to clash with theirs.

At our committee meeting in December 2015 we booked our Club Championships at our outdoor range at Piddlehinton for Saturday 10th September. We made all the necessary arrangements, including publicity, arranging for portable toilets, catering, scorers, etc. The Club Championship has taken place every year on the same weekend. It was therefore very frustrating to find out shortly before it took place that because of various road closures, we could not get access to our range. This resulted in having to cancel, at short notice, our Club Championship. Bearing in mind

that this has not happened since the end of World War 2 you can understand our anger that no consideration had been given to the impact the Ironman competition would have on other sports clubs in the area. No attempt was made by anybody to contact other organisations in the area to see what impact the proposed road closures would have upon their members' activities. It showed a total lack of regard and consideration for other users. Rescheduling our Club Championship for another weekend is not an easy option as our range is fully booked every weekend to other users such as the Purbeck Gun Club and the Bridport Shooting Club, as well as being used for County competitions.

We would ask that if any such future events are planned that local clubs are consulted prior to dates being fixed.

On a personal level I can give you a good example of the poor organisation and poor management of certain aspects of this event based upon my experience of it on the day. [REDACTED] and I were returning home around lunchtime on Saturday on the A352. Although I had seen signs around Dorchester and Weymouth in the preceding weeks about the Ironman event, there were no signs from Sherborne to say that the road would be closed, until you hit the bend in Middlemarsh where the road forks towards Dorchester in one direction and Cerne Abbas in the other. As traffic came around the bend we found that the road was closed in both directions. Stewards and the police were telling motorists to turn around and find an alternative route. This was easier said than done as there was little room to turn around on the bend, especially for those with caravans and horse trailers. It would not be an exaggeration to say that it was mayhem.

The stewards were very pleasant but lacked local knowledge. This was not their fault, but the fault of the organisers for not briefing them fully on alternative routes. The police officer was totally useless. When asked how to get around the road closure, he merely shrugged his shoulders and told people to check their satnavs. All he kept reiterating was that the road was closed and would be for at least 4-6 hours. To say it was chaos is an understatement. Not surprisingly, many motorists were extremely angry. From Middlemarsh to Sydling St Nicholas normally takes about 15 minutes. After several abortive attempts to find a way around the road closure (bearing in mind I know the local roads) it took me 55 minutes to get home. For those who didn't know the area, I hate to think how long it took them to get to their destination. I suspect many of them gave up and went home. This must have affected many businesses in the area. I know for a fact that two of the vehicles in the queue behind me were supposed to be having lunch at pubs in Cerne Abbas.

By closing a circular route it made it impossible to cross inside it and by not having advance warning signs on the A352 leaving Sherborne it meant that people drove past possible alternative routes. This resulted in unnecessarily having to back track for many miles in order to reach a possible alternative route.

Judging by conversations with friends and colleagues, as well as looking at the comments in the press and social media, it is clear that the event caused a major disruption to many people in the county. All of which could have been reduced, or avoided, had the organisers and the local authorities managed the organisation and communication of the event much better than they did. Hopefully lessons will have been learned in order to avoid a repeat of the fiasco that took place.

Kind regards



Steve Maros

Hon. Secretary – Dorchester Rifle & Pistol Club

Trevor Jones, Councillor,
Syward Cottage, 35 Syward Road,
Dorchester DT3 2A3,
Email trevor@sywardcottage.co.uk

Dear Councillor, Re Traffic congestion during "Iron Man" race, 2016 Nov 4th.

As you may have realized, I live very near to "Brownlee" brothers, who "pollute" the roads around this beautiful Dales area, and together with "Tour de France" or Tour de Yorkshire, Gary Verity claims, "Brings millions of visitors" to Yorkshire, does it ?

Up to recently [REDACTED] & I, enjoyed cycling, camping holidays in your area, usually en-route to visit my "baby" brother [REDACTED] even more traffic congested.

Iron Man Triathlon MUST be a "JOKE" as the race is timed END to END but three races are taking part (1) Swimming, (2) Cycling, (3) Running" with a FINISH TIME.

No allowance is made for "errors" in the change-over, eg Unable to un-dress & dress quickly, and body muscles to adapt to "new" movements with "heart" trying to cope.

Could emergency services be able to cope with "competitors" suffering collapse ??.

Take this into consideration with the traffic disruption caused by "IRON MAN" and any compensation claims, by residents AND/OR visitors to "Dorset" is SCARY.

Locally in Yorkshire, cyclists "pretend" to be "Tour de France" competitors BUT forget, Police close the roads, prior to "race" arriving, and later, spectators leaving

"Would be "Cycle Racers" throw their empty drink bottles into nearby drains, WHICH being "plastic" do not breakdown and finish up beneath tracks to farm fields WHICH could be reason, we have much larger flood problems, than in [REDACTED], long gone by.

Contrary to Gary Herity claim "Million's of Visitors" to stay, perhaps for a period, BUT I ask, "Where are they going to stay? An increase of Hotels / Guest Houses CANNOT be funded on the "promise" that "Million's of EXTRA visits will come to the area"

The increased threats from ??? has already caused the closure of flights to "Sharm el Sheikh" and anybody, thought was a "good idea" to invest in Hotels, think again.

Crowds waiting to view "Competitions" require "Toilets", where are they situated ?.

Extra trains "might" be provided BUT where are the "extra" train drivers WHO have to work, alone in train cabs, that DO NOT comply with H.S.E Welfare at Work laws WHICH require EMPLOYERS to provide, without delay, TOILETS for EMPLOYEES.

1999 Oct 5th @ 8-08, my life changed for ever, as did for others, they went to HEAVEN

Regent [REDACTED]

MY ENVELOPE OPENED EARLY FROM

ABBOYS PAGE 145

