**THE EVENTS INDUSTRY FORUM**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT NCASS, BIRMINGHAM

ON TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 2018

Present:

Steve Heap (Chair), Association of Festival Organisers

Jim Winship (Secretary), the Event Service Association

Andy Grove, Local Authority Event Organisers Group

Beverley Griffiths – Emergency Planning College

Steve Banks, Production Services Association

Susan Tanner, National Outdoor Event Association

Michael Hirst, Business Visits and Events Partnership

Mark Laurie, National Catering Association

Debbie Garner, Hire Association Europe

Sally-Anne Dod, National Traction Engine Trust

Steve Blake, IOSH

Alison Drummond, LAEOG

Sean Whittle, PSE

Louise Wilson, Essex Police, Gothic

Teresa Moore, The Greener Event and Universities

Caroline Jackson, Bournemouth University

Apologies:

Mark Harding, UK Crowd Management Association

Andy Lenthall, Production Services Association

Carol Smith, Concert Promoters Association

Paul Hooper – Association of Show and Agricultural Associations

Carl Hagemann, Chartered Institute for the Management of Sports & Physical Activity

David Hunt, Chief Fire Officers Association

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

These were approved by the meeting.

**Membership Report**

Jim Winship reported that 25 organisations are currently paid up in membership of EIF. In addition BVEP has a free membership.

**Purple Guide**

Updating Guide: A comprehensive updating of the Purple Guide is currently underway. Andy Grove is co-ordinating this. So far 10 chapters have been completed and others have been reviewed but sent back to the working groups for checking. It is hoped that most of the existing chapters will be completed by April. There are also some new chapters being created (see below).

Steve Heap called for the project to be completed by the next EIF meeting.

Medical Chapter: Steve Heap reported that this is underway and the working group hopes to have it completed soon.

Staff Welfare: Jim Winship reported that he had received a new draft from Mark Harding and would be going through this shortly. It was suggested that a paragraph should be included on harassment at work and possibly on modern slavery.

Sustainability: Teresa Moore said it was likely to be another six months before this was completed.

Emergency Planning: Beverley Griffiths said that this had been drafted and was awaiting approval.

Gas and Food: Mark Laurie said that these chapters should be available before Easter. New gas regulations needed to be taken into account, particularly as there are serious concerns about the handling of gas in the industry.

Police Charging: This draft has been the subject of some contention and Steve Heap asked Andy Grove to submit a draft to the EIF board for review.

**Research Project**

Steve Heap reported that the EIF Board has agreed to commission a major research project from Bournemouth University, looking at the value of outdoor events, particularly with regard to the contributions they make economically and socially to local communities. The aim is to complete the project by early 2019 and to produce a short report to circulate to MPs and local authorities across the UK. Copies will also be available for event organisers to use. The main report will also be freely accessible from the EIF website.

This project is being entirely funded by Purple Guide funds. Mash Media have also offered to fund some complimentary research and the final report, subject to agreement.

The Local Government Association, the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Visit Britain are supporting this work and have agreed to supply Bournemouth with data they hold.

Caroline Jackson, who is leading the project at Bournemouth, outlined the methodology being used for the research and asked members to support this by providing information and by helping to get their members to co-operate in providing information. EIF will circulate a press release explaining the project and outlining what Bournemouth needs in terms of support.

**Securities Industry Authority**

Unfortunately Paul Cartlidge from the Securities Industry Authority was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. EIF will invite him to the November meeting.

**Outdoor Event Round Table**

Following a meeting between Jim Winship and Nick du Bois, chair of the Event Industry Board, DCMS is planning to hold a round table meeting for key players in the outdoor event industry. Invitations are expected to go out shortly.

**All Party Parliamentary Group**

Jim Winship reported that he had met with James Heapey MP, who chairs the APPG, since the last meeting and discussed the issues identified by EIF as concerns for the industry. James Heappey was sympathetic to these.

There is a meeting of the APPG on 25th April to discuss ticket abuse.

Jim Winship agreed to recirculate the list of issues raised with James Heapey (attached with these minutes)

**BVEP Report**

Michael Hirst reported that the Minister of Tourism, Michael Ellis MP, had attended the last BVEP meeting and had been briefed on a number of issues raised by members. These included the challenges and opportunities from Brexit.

Michael Ellis has been invited to attend the Showman’s Show this year.

Michael also reported on the following:

City of Culture: Following Brexit, UK cities will no longer eligible to apply to the EU to be cities of Culture and DCMS is being urged to establish a similar scheme for the UK. This will create opportunities for the event sector.

Industrial Strategy: BVEP is still waiting to hear if the tourism bid, which includes events, is successful in gaining funding. If it is, members will be asked to support the programme.

Events Industry Board: Two new groups have been set up to look at ‘infrastructure’ (particularly looking at vacancy rates and what we need to do to fill them) and ‘skills/qualifications’ (looking at what skills we need in the sector).

Event Support Programme: Michael reminded members that Visit Britain has a fund (both monetary and soft) to support events bringing overseas visitors to Britain.

Overseas Support: There is also support from the Department of International Trade for businesses seeking to develop trade overseas.

MPs to Events

Michael reminded members about encouraging event organisers to invite their local MPs to attend events and to encourage them to join the APPG.

**Business Rates**

Steve Heap reported that there is an increasing move by local authorities to charge business rates on land used for festivals which is causing issues for the festival industry.

**Performing Rights Society**

Steve Heap reported that increased tariffs are the subject of a tribunal case due to be heard in May. The increases are expected to result in higher ticket prices as the proposal is that they should in future be based on all sources of revenue generated by an event. The new tariffs are also expected to affect a wider range of events than before, not just music events.

**SAGS (Safety Advisory Groups)**

Beverley Griffiths said that new guidance has been delayed as the Home Office has been discussing the introduction of legislation, although this is felt to be unlikely. Some concern was expressed about the level of competency of some on SAGS.

**JESSIP**

Beverley Griffiths said that no progress had been made on this to date.

**Operation Gothic**

Louise Wilson reminded members about Gothic, which was set up as a hub to share intelligence about crime between event organisers and the police. Although funding has been an issue, Festival Republic and Live Nation have now agreed to fund half the cost of the facility, with the rest met from national police funding.

Louise reported that a crime conference is being held to brief event organisers and suppliers about Gothic on Monday 26th March in Reading. Members, however, expressed concern that neither EIF or its members had been informed of this.

Louise told the meeting that the police were keen to work with all event organisers and promised to share information with members via EIF in future.

**Modern Slqavery**

Andy Lenthall raised this issue by email. It was agreed that some reference should be made to this in the Purple Guide.

**IOSH Event**

Steve Blake reported that IOSH is organizing a ‘Security and Counter Terrorism Impact’ conference on 15th May at Old Trafford.

**Event Wifi**

Steve Blake said that there was nothing to report on this to date but Andy Lenthall hoped to have something by the end of April.

**General Data Protection Regularion (GDPR)**

There was some discussion over the new data protection requirements. It was agreed that member associations should provide guidance for their members.

**Plastic/Metal Cups**

Mark Laurie handed round some samples of reusable metal cups which events are being encouraged to use as an alternative to plastics. There was some discussion over these being used as missiles, although it was pointed out that they were lightweight. It was felt that security staff should be made aware of their use otherwise they might be removed from people at the entrance to events.

**Food Waste**

Mark Laurie reported that NCASS is encouraging the development of a salvageable food programme, whereby waste food at the end of an event could be collected and given to charities rather than being thrown away.

**Next Meeting –** The next meeting will take place at NCASS in Birmingham on Wednesday 28th November 2018