

PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE

We would like to share the information that we have regarding the 'Under The Hill Fest' to be held Saturday, 27th May at A46 end of The Groaten, at the Pig Barn site. This is being organised by James Nicklin, as you will be aware from the flyers that he has delivered to all houses in the village.

This event has been organised in line with all requirements of the Council, Environmental Health and the Police. It is not an event that the Parish Council was required to be consulted on, before or after the organisers applied for the licence. It is covered under the Temporary Event Notice. This is the same notice that an event at the village hall or cricket club may apply for to hold an event.

We have tried to consider what you, as residents, might raise and to ensure that the organisers incorporate this into their plans, as well as ensure that all appropriate licensing and insurances etc are in place. Members of the Parish Council therefore met with Mr Nicklin last week.

Mr Nicklin, has a lot of previous festival experience at major festivals, as well as holding a similar event two years ago in Ashton. He has detailed plans in place and had already considered all the areas that the Parish Council raised with him.

We told Mr Nicklin that our main concern was noise affecting the residents and traffic. Mr Nicklin has plans in place for both; including noise limiting speakers with reduced bass (which is what makes the noise carry) and parking in a neighbouring field with shuttle bus transport from stations and local towns. Half of the tickets already sold are for people in the Village.

Other points

- Ed Spires' security company has been hired to manage the gate
- There are strict controls on age limit, under 16s must be accompanied by an adult
- Attendees will be searched before entry
- Strictly no alcohol or drugs can be taken into the event
- Alcohol will be sold at pub prices only to stop bulk purchasing
- The footpath that runs adjacent to the solar panels will be maintained.
- There will be toilets and showers provided for the visitors and campers
- Camping is in a roped off area at the end of the field
- There will be a third party First Aid service
- There are detailed Health and Safety procedures in place for all risks
- There are numerous noise limiting strategies in place and the noise level will be monitored independently
- Cars parking for the event are required to buy a ticket before the event, so that car parking can be managed (only three tickets were sold for the first 220 tickets sold). Further parking is available in a field off the A46 and shuttle buses will collect from the overflow car park if needed. Cars will not be able to park on the Groaten. No cars from the event should be entering the village.

We would like to reassure anyone with concerns that we are satisfied all aspects of the event have been addressed. Of the 499 maximum tickets available (which includes all band members, security staff, stall holders etc), approx 220 had been sold last week. Of those, 100 will be for the bands, staff etc. This means that the event size is approx three times the size of an event in the Village Hall; e.g. the recent Mexican Night or the Run Around Supper. Mr Nicklin held a similar event in the village two years ago without an issue.

If people still have concerns, please ring James Nicklin on 01386 896111 or email him at james@underthehillfest.co.uk. You can also find out information on the website: <http://www.underthehillfest.co.uk/>.

Sarah Smith (Chair) Ashton under Hill Parish Council