

CHORLEY LIAISON

WEDNESDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2016, 6.30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, CHORLEY

The following reports were tabled the above meeting of the Chorley Liaison.

3 **Item from Chorley Council: IRONMAN** (Pages 3 - 8)

Questions for the organisers of Ironman.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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QUESTIONS FOR THE ORGANISERS OF IRONMAN UK

1. What impact did Ironman UK 2016 have on your local area? Both positive and negative.	
Adlington Town Council	<p>Positive impacts were the promotion of the village and the local area, the level of support shown by residents and the increased sales for local businesses.</p> <p>Negative comments received have been the excessive noise early on the Sunday morning, particularly made by spectators who brought their own public address systems and horns, a lot of littering, reports of carers denied access to their clients along part of the route and the large numbers of groups of cyclists using the route and causing obstruction to traffic in the days leading up to the event.</p>
Anderton Parish Council	<p>Negative perceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of supporters who congregate within the area and consequently generate much disturbance from early morning noise (whistles, horns, klaxons etc). • The difficulties of access for residents due to the blocking-off of roads despite assurances that residential access would be maintained at all times. There were claims of arguments with stewards and care workers being refused access. • The lack of clarity about road closure times on pre-event literature. <p>Positive perceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local businesses were able to take advantage of the event to increase trade by either increased footfall or additional opening. • Previous problems with unofficial road marking/painting had been addressed and this had been reduced. <p>In addition, although people perceived this event to be 'a good thing', there were still questions over who were the ultimate beneficiaries and a need for more informative and supportive literature prior to future events.</p>
Brindle Parish Council	<p>It is true to say that in general local residents feel there is a positive effect from the event however, residents on the route feel it has a detrimental effect on their amenities when the race is taking place as they are unable to leave their homes</p>
Charnock Richard PC	<p>As the Ironman event no longer runs through our Parish there is very little impact in Charnock Richard on the day of the event.</p>
Coppull Parish Council	<p>The Ironman UK 2016 did not have a great deal of impact on the parish. It appears to be very well run and well received by local residents, who have stated that they had no trouble accessing their properties on the route. The route is also well signposted with good stewards.</p>

Croston Parish Council	The event was positively supported by the community, with no negative feedback from residents. Representatives from Ironman UK volunteered to assist with the clear up in the aftermath of the Boxing Day floods
Eccleston Parish Council	Whilst the route did not pass directly through the village, the restricted access in neighbouring villages caused disruption to residents wishing to travel outside the area and visitors. Reports were provided of businesses closing for the day and local Churches affected. There were no positive comments.
Heapey Parish Council	The route takes the event through a small part of the parish ie the cycling event on a short length of Blackburn Road (A674). Councillors reported no negative feedback from residents in relation to the event.
Heskin Parish Council	The issues mainly are people being prevented from getting to work, inadequate and officious stewards , loss of business, closure of Church services , but mainly I think it's the length of time the road is closed due to the number of competitors, 2000. It's not like a rolling road closure eg Tour of Chorley where if your 15 minutes behind.
Ulnes Walton PC	The closure of Ulnes Walton Lane created inconvenience for residents. Carers struggled to gain access to patients and the Stewards appear to have been of variable quality in than some were pleasant and helpful and some not so.
Cllr Gordon France	In the past we have discussed the negative effect Iron Man has on Rivington Barn. The lunch bookings drop from approx 180 to 50/60. Whilst surprisingly Mr Salmon who leases the barn does not object to iron man he thinks the signage could be better. A few small signs saying business open as usual is insufficient
2. What could be done to improve the management of future Ironman UK Events for the benefit of residents, community groups, businesses etc in your area?	
Adlington Town Council	Rules on noise levels/times and consistent access arrangements for essential services
Brindle Parish Council	It is felt that a rerouting of the race along Holt Lane from Top oth Lane would be more beneficial. The use of Water Street at the times of the race on a Sunday morning affect St. James Parish Church services and the opening of the Cavendish Arms Pub
Charnock Richard PC	It is felt that better notification prior to the event would be beneficial.
Coppull Parish Council	The Ironman UK 2016 did not have a great deal of impact on the parish. It appears to be very well run and well received by local residents, who have stated that they had no trouble accessing their properties on the route. The route is also well signposted
Croston Parish Council	No suggestions put forward.

Eccleston Parish Council	Negative comments were made regarding the attitude of Stewards in dealing with people trying to get in and out of the village. Ironman UK should compensate local businesses and farmers affected by the event.
Heapey Parish Council	No suggestions put forward
Ulnes Walton PC	Adherence to road closure times and reasonable arrangements for residents and for their carers (possibly in the form of a permit system) for access to properties.
3. How would you prefer the Ironman UK organisers to communicate with you?	
Adlington Town Council	The email communication and website information currently available are comprehensive.
Brindle Parish Council	Communication by email is acceptable.
Charnock Richard PC	The Council would expect posters, flyers, editorial in local newspapers and on Council websites would be the first steps closely followed by the use of social media such as facebook and twitter etc. However, it must be stressed that not everyone is computer literate nor does everyone have access to, or use, computers therefore, paper notifications and communications must be continued.
Coppull Parish Council	Communication is already very good, informing residents and the Parish Council in plenty of time.
Croston Parish Council	Via email
Eccleston Parish Council	From a parish council point of view, via email. From the resident's viewpoint, improved consultation with resident's views taken into account.
Heapey Parish Council	Via email
Ulnes Walton PC	Via email
4. Are there any opportunities for groups in your area to get involved in future Ironman UK Events.	
Adlington Town Council	Advertising for volunteers has not been obviously promoted locally this year and there may be local groups or individuals who would have come forward if it had been. Volunteers would, however, be better allocated within their own village (this has not always been the case, leading to even more traffic).
Brindle Parish Council	We are not aware of any opportunities for groups in the Parish to get involved.
Charnock Richard PC	N/A
Coppull Parish Council	There are a number of people who showed interest in the event, maybe some of them would be amenable to being stewards

Croston Parish Council	Croston Cycling Club (Croston Velo) are based in the village and may wish to become involved http://www.crostonvelo.co.uk/contactus/
Eccleston Parish Council	No suggestions were put forward.
Heapey Parish Council	No suggestions were put forward.
Ulnes Walton PC	No suggestions were put forward.
5. Do you have any other comments you would want us to raise on your behalf with the organisers of Ironman UK and Lancashire County Council, as the highway authority?	
Adlington Town Council	Restrictions on the use of the roads by groups and competitors outside of the allocated closure times would improve road safety. It was suggested that if permission is given by competitors a list of "Local Heroes" could be made available so that spectators could be aware of local competitors and their progress.
Brindle Parish Council	Finally in the past and during this year`s race there were occasions when local residents were seriously affected by the stewards not allowing access for an emergency doctor to a resident in 2015 and this year a resident the times on the road closure signs were changed from 2.30pm on the day of the race to 3.30pm which prevent the resident from going to work and the subsequent loss of earnings. Also when the road closure signs taken down the ties were discarded in the grass verges and had to be removed later by the County Council.
Charnock Richard PC	The only other issues the Parish Council feel should be addressed are with regard to litter and tidying up after the event. The Parish Council feel that not enough time or consideration is given by the event organisers to tidying up litter, drinks bottles and takeaway rubbish, both on the day of the event and, in the few days following the event. More care and time should be devoted to returning the rural parishes through which the event runs to the same tranquil and tidy state they were in prior to the event. Also, Stewards and Marshalls at the event MUST receive proper and adequate training to Marshall the event. They should be giving consideration to residents on the route and not just to the cyclists taking part. The Marshalls should not be obstructive but rather be helpful and polite to the residents whose lives are being impacted by this event.
Coppull Parish Council	Although this event is only held once per year, it does bring an interest to the village, but as previously stated, the Parish Council feels there should be some recompense to the parish councils where it goes through.
Croston Parish Council	The Parish Council considers Ironman UK to be a positive addition to village activities.
Eccleston Parish Council	Look to reduce the blanket road closures wherever possible. This may mean a reduction in the numbers of participants or ensuring the participants are of similar ability.

Heapey Parish Council	No comments were raised.
Ulnes Walton PC	As above, some reasonable form of access for residents to their properties should be provided. It is believed the abilities of the participants are extremely varied which leads to the requirement for overly long road closures. A system similar to other events where participants falling more than a predetermined length of time behind the leaders should retire would address this.

Emails received

-----Original Message-----

> From: Lindsay Rutter [<mailto:lindsay.rutter@rutterjohnson.co.uk>]

> Sent: 17 July 2016 17:51

> To: athleteservices@ironman.com

> Cc: Lindsay.hoyle.mp@parliament.uk; Snape, Kim (Cllr)

> Subject: IRONMAN, BOLTON - 2017

> We reside at 212 Babylon Lane. Heath Charnock, Chorley PR6 9ES

> My wife is now disabled and unable to walk thus she is totally reliant on Car Transport.

> Since the Ironman started in our area Babylon Lane has been closed to traffic from 6:00am to 5:30pm, this I find totally unacceptable and I would request that you consider either an alternative route or at least access passes for residents.

> We have no option of arranging alternative transport and we have had great difficulty in accessing our property during todays event.

> Please consider the option of resident access passes for future events if an alternative route is not viable.

> Lindsay Rutter

From: [Kevin Band](#)

To: [IRONMAN UK Road Access](#)

Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 12:41 PM

Subject: Re: [IRONMAN UK Road Access] Re: Access for residents inside the cycle course.

Hello,

I'm not sure if this mailbox is still being monitored now that the event is over, but I feel I must complain about the organisation on the day.

I chose not to respond in haste on the day, but now over 2 weeks later, I find I am still very unhappy with the way I was treated.

I'm afraid that your re-assurance that I would be permitted access, cut no ice with the stewards on the day. We left the house early, met the first stewards at the top of Nickleton Brow who were happy to let us proceed and informed us to be careful as we would be driving across the bridge on the wrong side of the road, even though the cyclists had not yet started. We were at the top of Babylon Lane at around 06:50 and started indicating to turn Left into Babylon Lane

The Steward there stepped forward and told me that the road was closed and I couldn't go down. I tried to explain to him that I'd sent this email and you had confirmed I would be allowed access, but he wasn't at all interested and started to become rude and aggressive towards me. I also suggested to him that as indicated by the previous steward that at that time of day, the cyclist wouldn't even have set out, let

alone be anywhere near Babylon Lane. He still wasn't interested, and said something about being brought in from Blackpool to man that junction, didn't know anything about where the cyclists were (despite having a radio) and wouldn't let me down. As you might expect, at this point, I was also starting to get annoyed, but I must insist that the initial rudeness and aggressive attitude came from him. In the end I gave up trying to reason with him and took a long detour North on Long Lane and picked up the M61 at Chorley, before heading south again. 20 minutes and 9 miles later, I was back where I started passing under the same bridge with still no sign of any cyclists anywhere.

On return, I didn't even try to get in by my normal route as I had no confidence I would be allowed into my home, so again I took the long detour.

I'm sure you are aware that events such as this cannot go ahead without the good will of the residents which are directly affected by it. Year on year, when I speak to friends and neighbours I hear more and more stories about how the event has had a significant adverse affect on their lives. So much so, that many accept that they will be housebound for the entire day when this event is running.

In summary, the reassurance you gave me in advance was meaningless on the day because the stewards had not been given the same information, are not local to the area and have little or no sympathy for the residents who are affected.

I look forward to your response on this and would be pleased to hear what actions will be taken to address residents concerns in future years.

Finally, I wish you to know that I will be sending a copy of this email thread to my local councillor, so that she is aware of the kind of impact that this event has on the residents.

Regards,

Kevin Band.