

Dear Vikki Slade,

Copies to: Graham Farrant, Dorset Police, Dorset Civil Contingencies Unit, MPs
BPCCR Executive

Re: **'Major Incident' Thursday and Friday 25 & 26th June**

Following the events of 25 & 26th June, The Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs Residents Association wish to officially register serious concerns about the issues that arose. This email is a coordinated response on behalf of our 3000 members.

Our Association is aware of the challenges facing the Police and BCP amongst other agencies, but having said that, to be holding an emergency meeting on Thursday at the very height of the crisis doesn't instill confidence. That meeting should have been held a few days before. Most residents in our area who are used to large crowds visiting knew what was likely to happen. How is it the Police and BCP seemingly didn't know what was the likely agenda?

We all are very aware of what took place over those few days so the BPCCR would prefer to concentrate on the plans you have in place for the future. It is quite likely there will be a replay along our beaches and promenade and the adjacent areas.

We would make the point that the visitors cannot be held entirely responsible, as has been portrayed by local and central government. The lack of preparedness, clearly played a part. The issues we experienced last week, exposed cracks in the system of collaboration and coordination between Police, the Council and other agencies. A robust infrastructure of response and recovery to deal with issues rapidly, effectively and flexibly is needed. Vikki, your email providing a list of what was discussed at your meeting on Thursday whilst mayhem was unravelling on the beaches bought incredulity amongst our membership.

The Association is being asked by its members "What does a Multi Agency Response actually mean in reality" and "what is the Plan of Action".

We ask BCP the following questions that we are being asked by our members and hope they will be considered in a constructive way as that is our intent in putting them forward.

1. Beach patrols by young Council lads & girls that stay in their vehicles are no deterrent to mobs of unruly visitors. And it's not fair to expect those youngsters to be able to deal with ASB anyway. Are they trained for that role?
2. The Coast Guard made little or no attempt to stop barbecues before the 6pm threshold. Will they change their approach next time round and do they have adequate resources to meet the challenge? For instance, Two yellow buoys that mark the limit for jet skis had drifted in close to the beach which resulted in reckless jet ski drivers being amongst the swimmers. That situation has been so for at least 2 or 3 weeks with no action taken.

3. Will police be drafted in from other areas to support the local force if Police numbers locally are not adequate?
4. What direct action will be taken by the Police to deal with large-scale anti social behaviour at many locations?
5. Will lavatories remain open later which would be good for obvious reasons?
6. Are BCP staff to be available in numbers and paid overtime to work extra hours?
7. Are St Johns Ambulance crews to be available and on station as they are at festivals?
8. Can BCP position additional rubbish skips and litter bins which will help to make the clear up more efficient? This should be a priority anyway during summer months.
9. Will there be additional rubbish collections during the weekend?
10. Will there be adequate and fit for purpose traffic management?
11. Will traffic wardens and police be issuing parking tickets as we didn't see much of that going on in our part of town. *The figure of a £1,000.00 of fines being issued has been mentioned. Was that calculated at the full ticket price or the discounted price for early payment? This statement was inaccurate, we had misinterpreted the data. What we should have said is that there were nearly 1,000 parking tickets issued, not £1,000 worth of fines. So the value of fines if paid within 7 days would amount to close to £35,000*

Our Association is sympathetic to the monumental tasks being faced but let's be frank BCP were caught off guard. Next time a firm hand is required to protect the majority of peaceful visitors and the locals who have the right to go on the beaches in safety.

We appreciate that Councillors are not trained to handle such scenarios, so we expect the BCP Council Officials, Police, Civil Contingency Unit and other professional agencies to be leading from the front. And for our elected members to monitor their performance and hold them to account.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Moss
Special Projects Coordinator
Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs Residents Association

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