

Report to: **Scrutiny Committee for Economy, Transport and Environment**

Date: **19 June 2012**

Report By: **Director of Economy, Transport and Environment**

Title of Report: **Olympics Update**

Purpose of Report: **To update the Committee on the implications of the Olympic Torch Relay as it passes through East Sussex on the 17 and 18 July 2012.**

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note:

- (1) The implications of the Olympic flame coming through the County;**
 - (2) What to expect on the day of the Torch Relay; and**
 - (3) Road closures subject to the torch relay.**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 East Sussex County Council has no budget provision for anything over and above the activities outlined in this paper. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report other than staffing support. We are presently talking with Hastings Borough Council about support for their evening event as a contribution for the necessary health and safety expenditure relating to a giant screen to show activities around the Olympic Torch Relay and evening celebrations in Hastings on 17 July 2012. The provision of barriers and signage may also be supported by East Sussex County Council.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 Please note the date and time the Olympic Flame will visit each town in East Sussex (See Appendix 1 for details). It will arrive in Crowborough on the 17 July and the retinue will stop at Beacon Community College for lunch (N.B. Not open to the public). The following day it leaves East Sussex via Rye after evening celebrations at the ticketed event in Hastings.

2.2 The Torch Relay route will be lined by community spectators and street decorations. Wealden District Council is also facilitating local school children to attend the route. Local community entertainment along the route in Lewes includes salsa, the Skull Drummary band and an art exhibition. Eastbourne will be televising the relay at a community Live Site on a giant screen in Princes Park as a welcome to the torch as it enters the town. In Warrior Square, Hastings, there will be arts, crafts, and games and an open air circus with trapeze artists. Hastings Borough Council will also be holding a giant picnic along the full length of the seafront as well as providing a variety of entertainment activities in the Town Centre. There are 3,500 tickets to the official London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay event at The Stade on Hastings Sea front in the evening.

2.3 Appendix 1 is a briefing outlining the proposals for road closures in East Sussex. Please note these are the initial drafts and subject to revision following consultation. Once plans have been confirmed by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Highways this will then be communicated to residents, businesses and local transport providers both on a District and Borough and County level via the Intranet and website (and direct contact where appropriate). Large crowds are anticipated in both Lewes and Eastbourne and delays to travel times through the town centre may be expected. Until plans are confirmed and road closures communicated to local transport providers, details of bus diversion routes and additional local transport provisions are still to be confirmed.

2.4 It will be day 60 of the torch relay when it comes to East Sussex; it is currently on its second week of its journey through the South West and although we have learnt much already about what to expect, the momentum of the build up to Olympics may slow down by mid-July. Estimated crowds are therefore difficult to tell. South West communities have had mixed attendance, from very small crowds to 20,000 spectators in the city of Bristol. We can expect crowds to increase when there are high profile torch bearers carrying the flame; the only one yet to be confirmed in East Sussex is Eddie Kid, the former daredevil stuntman, who will be carrying the flame through Lewes.

3. Comments/Appraisal

3.1 East Sussex County Council and wider stakeholders (e.g. emergency services, schools, and business) are working to ensure that all of the logistics and opportunities surrounding the Torch Relay are coordinated. Local Authorities have individual responsibilities for the provision of stewards, security at the sites, cleaning and waste management. Local authorities will also ensure that events, relay route and celebration sites are suitably planned and approved through Local Safety Advisory Groups in association with crowd management, road closures and traffic management processes.

4. Environmental Issues

4.1 Branded materials such as street decorations may be used on business and public property to line the Torch Relay route, sponsor partners will travel ahead of the torch convoy to gear up the crowd and hand out free items. Observations from the South West team so far suggest sponsor activations will be very varied. In some places they have not been handing out the items at all, and in others they have been very generous. These items include: Coke aluminium bottles and hand flags; Lloyds towelling wrist bands, hand ribbon flags; Samsung; wrist bands and hand held flags. But the type and quantities of these items vary enormously at every part of the route and events.

5. Community Safety Issues

5.1 The only potential concern within the County is the ticketed evening celebration in Hastings. The Stade has a 3,500 capacity. Hasting Borough Council is closing the whole seafront and will secure an area on Pelham Place with a giant screen; this open area has 5,000 capacity with no barriers or restrictions planned. Securing funding for the 46 metre screen is considered essential by the Safety Advisory Group as a solution to mitigating the risk associated with crowd management issues and capacity problems at the Stade. ESCC may be able to help fund the screen given the risks associated.

7. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations

7.1 To note the impact of the Torch Relay and what to expect as it passes through East Sussex on the 17 and 18 July.

7.2 To note the potential delay and disruption to journeys in the communities hosting to the relay and where road closures may apply.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

The Olympic Torch Relay Schedule

- CROWBOROUGH – Tuesday 17 July, 12:06 start
- LEWES - Tuesday 17 July, 14:15 start
- EASTBOURNE - Tuesday 17 July, 15:18 start
- PEVENSEY BAY - Tuesday 17 July, 16:42 start
- PEVENSEY - Tuesday 17 July, 16:54 start
- BEXHILL–ON-SEA - Tuesday 17 July, 17:09 start
- ST LEONARDS-ON-SEA - Tuesday 17 July, 17:58 start
- HASTINGS -Tuesday 17 July, 18:20 start
- HASTINGS - Wednesday 18 July, 08:17 start
- RYE - Wednesday 18 July, 09:44 start

Further details of the street level route can also be viewed at: <http://www.london2012.com/torch-relay/route/>

ROAD CLOSURES BRIEF:WEALDEN

In **Crowborough**, local Road Closure Orders under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1841 will be required over most of the length of the route from where it leaves the A26 and turns into Green Lane to where it rejoins the A26 at the western end of the High Street. The road closures will be in two parts.

- The first road closure will be between 10.00 and 13.00:
Green Lane (from Palesgate Lane) to Crowborough Hill to Beeches Road to the western end of East Beeches Road.
- The second road closure will be between 12.00 and 15.00:
North Beeches Road to Crowborough Hill to The Broadway to the western end of High Street where it meets the A26.

In **Pevensey Bay**, no road closures are required, but parking will be suspended as far as is possible on the A259 Eastbourne Road. The traffic flow will be reversed along the one-way section of Eastbourne Road during the period the torch relay is running through this section of Pevensey Bay. This will be controlled by the Police supported by Wealden DC's marshals.

LEWES

The following road closures for vehicular traffic are being proposed to accommodate the crowds expected in Lewes for the Torch Relay on Tuesday 17 July.

An application has been made under the Town Police Clauses Act for road closures on the following roads between **1300 - 1530 hrs Tuesday 17/7**. However please note that certain roads will only be closed on the approach of the Torch Convoy or when safety concerns demand to minimise disruption to the travelling public. These have been identified separately below:

1300 hrs:

Phoenix Causeway
Eastgate Street
High Street from Eastgate Street to Western Road
Western Road
Brighton Road
Friars Walk from High Street to Court Road
St Nicholas Lane
Station Street
Fisher Street

White Hill
Mount Pleasant
West Street
North Street from Market Lane to Lancaster Street
Little East Street
Market Lane
East Street
Albion Street
Castle Precincts
Westgate Street
Antioch Street
Rotten Row from High Street to St Pancras Road
St Pancras Road from Grange Road to Rotten Row
Irelands Lane
St Anne's Crescent
Spital Road from Nevill Road to Western Road

1410 hrs: The following roads will be closed on the approach of the Convoy; however they may be closed earlier if public safety demands it.

Malling Down
Malling Hill
Malling Street from Malling Hill to junction with Brooks Road
Church Lane from Malling Down to Mayhew Way
Mayhew Way
Southdowns Road
Brooks Road
Cuilfail Tunnel
Southerham Road

Traffic wishing to access the A275 via Offham Road will be diverted via Prince Edwards Road

Advance signage will need to be put out and Stewards available on junctions on the day to provide advice where necessary and close roads if circumstances dictate. All road closures will be lifted the moment it is considered safe to do so after the convoy has passed.

Parking Restrictions

The only car park under subject to closure is Brook Street car park; all the rest will remain open. Parking bays along the Lewes high street will also be suspended and alternative arrangements for those with residential permits are currently under review.

EASTBOURNE

Eastbourne is subject to rolling road closures rather than full restrictions as most of the torch relay route follows double yellow lines. There will be stewards at every small junction and police marshals at larger junctions to deal with the oncoming traffic. No parking restrictions have been confirmed to date.

HASTINGS

Access to properties will be maintained at all times and unless otherwise stated pedestrian access will not be affected. The restriction will be lifted as soon as the event is complete and the Police are satisfied that it is safe to re-open the road.

On the 17 July 2012 the Olympic Torch Relay will arrive in Hastings during which time the A259 will be very busy and liable to become obstructed; in order to facilitate the event it will therefore be necessary to introduce temporary road closures as follows:

- A259 (between its junctions with Bridge Way and Schwerte Way) the closure will be a rolling one to minimise disruption to traffic. The road will be reopened as the torch bearer passes

and it is safe to do so. It is anticipated the closure will apply from approximately 17:00 at Bridge Way to 17:30 at Schwerte Way.

- A259 (between its junctions with Schwerte Way and Courthouse Street), Robertson Street (entire length), Harold Place (entire length), DPROW 286 (path running between George Street & West Hill), High Street (between A259 & Swan Terrace), All Saints Street (between Rock-a-Nore Road and Courthouse Street east), Rock-a-Nore Road (entire length) between the hours of 14:00 and 23:59.
- During the closures in order to facilitate access for residents and passenger services it will also be necessary to temporarily suspend the existing u-turn ban at Havelock Road, suspension of existing one way at All Saints Street (between Crown Lane & Courthouse Street east; note this section of road will be marshalled to manage traffic) and temporary reversal of the existing one way at Courthouse Street east from its junction with The Bourne to its junction with All Saints Street.

On the 18 of July 2012 the Olympic Torch Relay will continue on the relay route exiting the town during which time the roads as listed below will have temporary road closures as follows:

- A259 (between its junctions with Rock-a-Nore Road and the Borough Boundary at Rye Road) the closure will be a rolling one to minimise disruption to traffic. The road will be reopened as the torch bearer passes and it is safe to do so. It is anticipated the closure will apply from approximately 08:15 at The Stade to 09:15 at the Borough Boundary on Rye Road (it is anticipated the torch should reach the Sussex Arms junction at approximately 08:45).

DIVERSION ROUTE AND CLASSIFICATION

Tuesday 17th July- (though traffic) will be signed via:

The Ridge,
The Ridge West,
Queensway,
Crowhurst Road,
Harley Shute Road

(town traffic) will be signed via Ring Road

Wednesday 18 July 2012

ROTHER

For the purposes of facilitating a procession for the Olympic Torch Relay and follow on the Children's Procession on 18 July 2012, the roads listed below shall be closed to vehicular traffic between the hours of 9am to 12 noon:

Wish Ward
The Strand
The Mint
High Street
East Cliff
Landgate
Cinque Ports Street
Rope Walk
The Grove Rye.