

STONEHENGE

ROUND TABLE GROUP MEETING

SUMMARY AND ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 04 July 2018

AT FISHERTON HALL, ST PAUL'S CHURCH, SALISBURY

1.0	WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS
	<p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the group for taking the time to attend.</p> <p>Each attendee introduced themselves and agreed to adhere to the Round table code of conduct;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare for the meeting by reading the agenda, papers and any emails before the meeting.• In order for all points on the agenda to be heard - try to be concise.• Contribute positively to the discussions.• Speak truthfully and do not deliberately misrepresent and misquote an individual (whether they are a RTG attendee or outside the meeting).• Listen to other people's views respectfully and don't talk over others when they are speaking.• Discourage side conversations to enable everyone to concentrate on the meeting.• Agree to differ on issues where a 'consensus' is not reached.• Commit to sharing the information exchanged with your external groups and organisations• Actions from meetings to be distributed within 2 weeks of the meeting taking place• Aggressive behaviour, swearing or insults won't be tolerated by the group.• Attendees unable to abide by the Code of Conduct may be issued with a warning and can be asked to leave; in extreme circumstances the meeting will be ended. <p>Apologies were extended from those not able to attend.</p>
2.0	FEEDBACK SUMMARY FROM PLANNING TEAM FOR SUMMER SOLSTICE 2018
	<p>Summer Solstice opened on time and the celebration was very peaceful and happy. There were zero arrests, 8 ejections, and 11 refused entry.</p> <p>The key welfare issue was keeping people warm overnight.</p> <p>Really nice to see lots of people from the local community and families in attendance, all to witness a beautiful clear sunrise.</p>
3.0	FEEDBACK FROM RTG AND DISCUSSION ON POINTS RAISED
	<p><u>Access to Monument Field with medication</u></p> <p>Attention was brought to RTG regarding an attempt to confiscate prescribed medicine from an attendee by security at the search lane entering the Monument Field. English</p>

Heritage will create and share a Prescribed Medicines Policy ahead of Summer Solstice 2019 with an aim to maintain the safety and wellbeing of all of those on site

Climbing on stones

It was highlighted that people are sitting or climbing on the stones and little attempt appears to be made to stop this. Agreement was made that the Peace Stewards and security teams would work to decrease this contravention of the terms and conditions of entry.

Conflicting reports regarding start time of clearing of Monument Field

One report from RTG member stated that the Monument was cleared 10 minutes early (7:50) but another stated that they were inside the Stone Circle at 8:05 and security had only just started to request people to leave at that point. English Heritage will ask staff on the ground the timings around this but is not aware of any clearance starting ahead of schedule.

Catering

An issue was raised regarding some caterers not fulfilling meal voucher commitment. EH to highlight issue with catering contractors and rectify for 2019. Overall reports were that the food this year was of good quality and reasonably priced.

Drones

RTG member reported a drone being present very low down in the Monument Field and queried the effectiveness of the searching procedure. It was highlighted that it is not legal to be flying drones in a crowded place, but also that drones can be operated from afar so could have easily been flown in from outside the perimeter. Security and steward teams continuously strive to eliminate the use of drones but this is an increasingly troublesome issue.

Maps

A request was made for a large map to be positioned by the entrance of the Monument Field for Summer Solstice 2019. English Heritage to arrange this.

Security

There was a report regarding the use of torches to shine in eyes of attendees by security or stewards. EH to investigate with relevant security company and ensure correct briefing for 2019.

Talking Space

This area was well received and the RTG would like to build on this for next year by programming a few speakers to help trigger conversations.

Urinals

A request for further screening on the far side (disabled pedestrian route into the Monument Field) of men's urinals was made as only one thickness of scrim was used in this area. English Heritage will increase the scrim layers for 2019.

Crowdfunding proposal for Dave Sanger's stage

The cost to one RTG member to provide funding for the hire and insurance of this stage was proposed to be £800 to £900. This member has requested support to set up a crowdfunding page to help with these costs for Summer Solstice 2019. As some of these costs include insurance for the whole year, it was suggested that the crowdfunding should focus on raising money for the stage throughout the year rather than solstice-focussed. This would need to be agreed by Dave Sanger himself. A draft is

	<p>to be written and sent to English Heritage before the next RTG meeting so that it can be agreed and advice taken.</p> <p><u>English Heritage retail shop</u></p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding the English Heritage retail marquee that was positioned by the entrance to the Monument Field during Summer Solstice, and that this was commercialisation of solstice. RTG attendees commented that the shop was unobtrusive, discreet and that the items sold were very useful for those attending. However, one attendee reported it to be like a fairground attraction when the caterers were considered too.</p> <p>It was highlighted that Solstice is enjoyed by thousands of people outside of the Round Table Group, who have every right to attend and enjoy the experience. Many of these people were very pleased to have the chance to support the charity by purchasing blankets, hoodies and memorabilia on site.</p> <p>English Heritage highlighted that they considered carefully the provision of a retail tent at Solstice and did not intend it to be disrespectful to anyone attending. Commercial caterers have been present for over 15 years and are positioned closer to the Monument. English Heritage is a charity, and any income generated through retail sales at the Solstice is used to care for the nation's heritage and the 400 sites under the care of the charity. The shop was intended to sell mostly hoodies and blankets to keep people warm overnight. There was no signage on the exterior of the tent, and it was well received by those who wanted to purchase something.</p>
4.0	<p>DISCUSSION ON REMOTE ACCESS FOR RTG MEETINGS</p>
	<p>It was highlighted that broadcasting of meetings digitally would not enable the meetings to operate under Chatham House rules as they could then be recorded and shared publicly. Some members of the RTG have previously stated that they would not be willing to attend if discussions were shared in this way so is of notable concern that while becoming more inclusive for some, remote access may also alienate others.</p> <p>The practice of inviting agenda items ahead of the meeting and sharing contributions from those unable to attend with the group enabled those from afar to contribute to the meetings. More comprehensive meeting notes also encourage inclusivity by sharing key points of the discussions held at meetings.</p> <p>It was proposed and agreed that if someone would like to join the meeting digitally to speak on a certain point of the agenda that was particularly important to them, then this would be facilitated via Skype or a similar platform, but an agreement would be required for the meeting not to be recorded and shared publicly.</p>
5.0	<p>AOB</p>
	<p>RTG member suggested that it was unfair to charge Blue Badge holders at Summer Solstice.</p> <p>English Heritage stated that a lot of research is done each year to assess best practice regarding fees for Blue Badge holders in similar locations. English Heritage will assess again for next year, as this is always done on a yearly basis. It was also highlighted that considerable improvement is seen year on year as is exemplified by the provision of accessible Salisbury Reds buses from Salisbury and an onsite charging facility for mobility scooters for 2018.</p> <p>RTG member suggested that the shuttle buses running from the Visitor Centre to the Monument Field were overcrowded.</p> <p>English Heritage stated that the full capacity is not taken advantage of on these buses as</p>

	<p>English Heritage believe this would result in people not having an acceptable amount of space around them. The legal capacity therefore is not reached on these journeys. However, the quantity of people permitted onto the bus for Summer Solstice in particular will be looked at in respect of this feedback.</p>
7.0	DATE FOR NEXT MEETING AND HOST DECIDED
	<p>The group agreed that Roy Gillet would chair the meetings for the forthcoming year unless another RTG member particularly wanted to take up the Chair.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th October from 1pm to 3pm at Fisherton Hall, St Paul's Church, Salisbury.</p>