# Fulham Football Club - Safety Advisory Group Meeting

# 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

# **Minutes of Meeting**

## **Via MS TEAMS**

## Attendees:

NAME	INITIALS	ORGANISATION
Stephen Hollingworth – SAG Chair	SH	LBHF
Graham Souster	GS	LBHF
Stephanie Needham	SN	LBHF
Anna Pater	AP	LBHF
Matthew Ramsey	MR	LBHF
Stefan Brstrzanowski	SB	LBHF
Christian Uys	CU	LBHF
Darren Preston	DP	FFC
Chris Baker	СВ	FFC
Aimee McKenzie	AM	FFC
Dujon Brown-Taylor	DBT	FFC
Gavin Megaw	GM	FST
Tony Delamo	TD	MPS
Boyd Fisher	BF	LAS
Matt Shute	MS	LSA
Katy John	KJ	NHS
Geoff Galilee	GG	SGSA

# **Apologies:**

Neal King, London Underground Steve White – FFC Michael Masella – Network Management Thiru Moolan – Head of Building Control Dr Nicky Lang – Director of Public Health Janet Nairne – Network Management Adrian Overton – Licensing Josh Ryan - LAS Trevor Jenner - TFL

## Actions extract from minutes.

Item / Page	Action	Member	Status
4 / Page 5	CB advised the tabletop has been written but postponed, awaiting date for it to take place. Test events, the original plan was to have a low-key event with stewards to familiarise them with key points to be manned, then invite stakeholders, season ticket holders/guests in, get people in to look around the stand.	FFC	Actioned – to be discussed during meeting.

	Second test event would need an activity on the pitch with a larger crowd e.g., friendly/open training session – to be planned.		
5 / Page 8	GS discussed advance meeting to discuss ticket sales about the allocation to Luton before looking at the intelligence. QPR v Luton required a massive police operation and it wasn't just about fan on fan disorder because but fighting with the police too. Need to be mindful of ticket sales at this early stage,		Actioned - allocation to Luton was kept to below 1900.
	DP mentioned having early planning partnership meeting asap if allocations are on the table.	FFC/MPS/LBHF	
6 / Page 9	CB queried if GM could report back on their behaviour at away games	FST	
6 / Page 9	GS will speak with the lighting team again. Attending the Millwall evening match, so will look around and check the situation.	LBHF	
6 / Page 9	DP suggested looking at lighting some of those areas from FFC building rather than more streetlights but could cause nuisance for neighbours. Aware the lighting from the council can't be increased. At least FFFC lighting would only be on for the duration of the match.  AM to take forward to help improve the ambient lighting.	FFC	
7/ Page 11	LFB looking to put 8 water safety boards put up between Hammersmith and Putney Bridges. 2 near Fulham's end where the football club is, will need to be sponsored. LFB happy to do the upkeep, LFB looking for sponsorship from partners/business for the Boards. Sponsorship ranging from under		

	£500/board (depends on the installation costs. SH confirmed he is aware, the key issues will be maintaining and looking after them, but as LFB are taking this on, that is the main burden. DP advised this is something the club would be interested in supporting and requested further details.  JB to send DP the details.		
8 /Page 13	GS understands the club has planning permission for a new First Aid facility in between the Hammersmith and Johnny Haynes Stand. GO discussed the timescales.  AM mentioned this will go in around the middle of May.	FFC	Still outstanding
8 Page 14	GS mentioned safety certificates, the last one was issued in July 2021 when the club returned to full capacity. GS mindful it will need a review due to increased seating.	LBHF	Ongoing on the Agenda Item

ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION
1	Welcome	
	SH welcomed all.	
	SH mentioned on a more sombre note the death of Paul Parish at Saturday's match with Blackpool and sent the SAGs condolences to Paul's family and friends.	
	SH welcomes Gavin Megaw who is representing the Fulham Supporters' Trust and a new member Boyd Fisher from the LAS (taken over from the redoubtable Paul Smith).	
	Went through meeting protocols and mentioned that the meeting was being recorded.	
2	Apologies	
	As above.	
3	Confirmation of previous minutes & matters arising	
	2 outstanding actions	
	Item 8 – Bishop's Park and the gates and not being opened on occasion. Spoken to new law Enforcement Team (LET). GS thinks there is a solution with the club – will discuss later.	
	Item 16 – GS circulated the Postponement MOU. It was about updating people's contacts from the blue lights/club. GS confirmed it has gone out in draft form, queried whether the content of the document regarding protocols needs changes (cancellation/bad weather). Can add additional numbers if needed – let GS know and he will re- issue document to all once completed.	
4	Stadium Redevelopment Progress Update	FFC
	DP gave an update. It is progressing. Bowl side arrangements are largely complete. Buckingham is the contractor on the base build. Finishing up their works at the moment. Working with Portview – fit out contracts to commence work on the interiors. Looking to have the stand in operation next year, looking at test events/familiarisation sessions around the end of this year (details to be confirmed around the weekend of the May bank holiday).	-
	SH queried Building Control	
	SB stated the current issue is with the sprinkler system as it hasn't been installed as yet. There is a design, but it hasn't been agreed as yet.	
	SH mentioned the related works to the New Riverside Stand in Bishop's Park and the Ex-zone along the river path. Work is about to start on this to relay the path and add new lighting, plus additional CCTV to be added to the path. There is a meetings taking place, useful to have the Police involved on where the CCTV cameras would beneficial. Pick-up on this with a separate meeting.	

SH discussed test events. The intention is to have the lower tier open next season or part of it? Queried the tabletop exercise.

CB advised the tabletop has been written but postponed, awaiting date for it to take place. Test events, the original plan was to have a low-key event with stewards to familiarise them with key points to be manned, then invite stakeholders, season ticket holders/guests in, get people in to look around the stand.

Second test event would need an activity on the pitch with a larger crowd e.g., friendly/open training session – to be planned. ACTION

**FFC** 

DP mentioned the new control room is now in use, working well, still some improvements needed. The media facilities are in use, there a few new seats and re-arranged concourse in the Putney end which is almost in use. Part of this work was to re-arrange the two corners (Hammersmith & Putney Stands) — almost there. GS/Building control have been engaged throughout.

# 5 Safety Management for first half of the season

MPS/BTP

CB gave an overview. SW/DBT have held the fort whilst CB not around, very challenging for them.

Return from lockdown has been a struggle across the country, lost a lot of experienced stewards who have not returned following the lockdown. Influx of new stewards who are inexperienced and need training.

Fans behaviour since their return to football has been generally poor. Ejections have increased, large number of drug ejections. Fans negative towards stewards. The club has strived to kept the customer friendly approach and many fans respond well but some don't and are challenging.

Fulham fans generally well behaved. Certainly during the medical incident at the Hammersmith End there was some disappointing behaviour. The away fans have been very challenging.

SW/DBT have managed and allowed us to give deputy safety officers experience in the control room on a rota basis. Because of Covid we set up two teams in case of a problem we always had a safety team available for matches. The teams were rotated, seen Paul Clements and Peter Lacey come on and gained experience and the club has resilience.

Starting recruiting stewards in house, can't do recruitment evenings as all online. We have 1/3 in house stewards and 2/3 agency. Agency standard is bad. Need to turn this ratio around. Starting to recruit, but a slot process. Arranging funded training and is progressing well..

Arrests/Ejections

High prior to CB joining, need to keep a warm approach, don't want heavy handed approach. We want it not to be a intimidating place to come to and more welcoming. We are seeing a reactions to this. For the Blackpool game last Saturday we had horrendous intelligence on their past travels. However, we had some early ejections (largely drug related), but the very rest of fans were respectful during the medical situation and were compliant, lively but friendly and engage well with stewards.

#### Medical incidents

The key one clearly was Paul Parish at the weekend. Overall, the debrief there are learning issues which have come out of it. But by and large the treatment was rapid and gave Paul the best possible chance. CB thanked everyone involved.

CB not had chance to meet the FST, intend to meet at some meetings and welcomes the opportunity

## Future challenging fixtures

All fixtures are challenging due to away fans behaviour.

Millwall, Blackburn and Nottingham Forrest. Forest will be bringing
15 coaches and will sell out despite the time of the kick-off.

Last game of the season – Luton. Could be a celebration match for

FFC.

#### **Bristol City Game**

DBT gave an update.

On of the most challenging games of the season.

Had 20 BC fans in a hospitality box in the Hammersmith Stand which caused issues where Police support was needed.

BC fans in the away ends ripped of the segregation line and charge towards the FFC fans and needed Police support again.

DBT thanked the Police for their help with this one.

3 flares were set off, all dealt with well.

SH queried if CB/SW on site when the second team is in the control room?

CB confirmed its DBT (full time experienced) / Paul Clements and then Steve White/Peter Lacey. Always a full-time safety officer in the control room as Head Safety Officer with a deputy.

CB will be easing himself back in, will be at weekend games, not week games. We will be seeing people develop in their roles.

GG queried the Bristol City match, was there a physical segregation line in place (netting/taking out seats) or use of the redial gangway?

CB confirmed there is fixed netting of 1/2 a block of physical segregation, plus stewards as well.

GG queried the behaviour of fans and whether more than just netting could be used, maybe a drop in physical barrier could be used (adjustable form that can be moved.)

Corporate boxes were discussed with regard the wrong people in the wrong boxes, this is a problem in other grounds particularly of late. Commercial side who sell the boxes haven't been communicating with the safety side of the club so ending up with the wrong people in the boxes near to opposing fans. Need to be more communication with the Commercial side selling the boxes and the safety teams.

CB stated there is now a monthly meeting with sales to discuss the forthcoming monthly matches, they raise any bookings that maybe a challenge/away fans in them. It has been open and transparent since the Bristol City game.

GM welcomed back CB and queried the medical incident during last Saturday's match and the reported poor behaviour from home fans.

CB updated there was a lad filming it all and aggressive towards stewards when they asked him to be respectful and stop filming; some which came down to watch and when asked to move were verbally abusive to the stewards. FFC fans which left said it was ridiculous having to wait. Quite disappointing really but it's always a minority as the vast majority of supporters were fantastic

TD queried the power cut during the Bristol City game. Has the problem was isolated and fixed?

DP confirmed it was still being investigated, but we haven't found the cause as yet. Everything has been serviced / re-certified, introduced more monitoring on the system so if we do have a recurrence we should be able to find out why it's happened.

SH mentioned being aware of issues with QPR v Luton – fans came to fight. Luton arrived late and stormed the entry barriers. Luton have caused these issues whenever they have gone away and a real concern. Whether this need to be further discussed at the partnership meeting?

CB advised that the resources for the Luton fixture will need to be significantly increased.

TD mentioned having intelligence from Luton, going onto the boats doing booze cruises, which on one hand is good as the police know where they are but on the other hand results in more drunken behaviour when they arrive. TD is in touch with Luton police on the intelligence and will be advising the club accordingly. The key will in avoiding pitch invasions and ensuring the Luton fans react. A plan needs to be in place for this.

GM mentioned that there was trouble at the Luton away match and there may be issues of "payback". TD advised he was at that match and there was reference to the Luton supporter who was in hospital after the QPR fixture which did not go down well and started things off. TD didn't think there would be any "payback" as the focus is on QPR when they go to Luton. The key focus will be more about on the stakes for both clubs with the match.

GS discussed advance meeting to discuss ticket sales about the allocation to Luton before looking at the intelligence. QPR v Luton required a massive police operation and it wasn't just about fan on fan disorder because but fighting with the police too. Need to be mindful of ticket sales at this early stage,

# DP mentioned having early planning partnership meeting asap if allocations are on the table. ACTION

FFC/MPS/LBHF

CB discussed issues around P5/P6 blocks to the Putney Stand and monitoring carried out during Saturday's fixture by himself and GS. Ongoing issue with fans getting near the segregation line and create overcrowding. CB has made some recommendations to AM about signage/response team in place for the next game. There are things we can do to improve things. Putting two of the most experienced stewards on this landing, plus new signage, and a response team at the bottom, checking all tickets. Will change the entrance to P5 only. P6 will be sent to P6/7 staircase and move people along. We will try this at the next match and see how it goes. It has been an ongoing problem compounded by inexperienced stewarding.

# 6. Fulham Supporters' Trust update.

GM gave an update from the Supporters Trust.

Agreed with general behaviour of fans. Poor behaviour from young FFC fans on their away travels, trying to find out if the same cohort causing issues both home and away. Not gone down well with wider FFC fans.

Wider question around the Putney end, what the plans will be for next season and beyond? Will it remain the away end, will the mixed area continue?

GM thanked the club for the actions taken to resolve the problems encountered during the Bristol City.

FST doing some research with female FFC fans, will report back next time as there are some issues with regards to their experiences in the ground. Also research on fans wishing to come back and be situated in the new Riverside Stand, that will be fed into the club. The FST have had a really high response to the Riverside Stand questionnaire / survey on this, about 600 on the first day.

FTS meet monthly, continue to have very good relationship with FFC with open conversations. Concerned about behaviour of a small number of supporters – mostly away matches but also in the Hammersmith Stand at the top. The FST are very willing to work with anyone to deal with as required.

CB discussed away fans. Also had complaints about the Hammersmith Stand at the back. There has been more activity with the stewards on their arrival trying to keep aisles clear etc/ticket checks. Aware of one ring leaders of the group (using a junior ticket) has been banned.

CB queried if GM could report back on their behaviour at away games	FST
Expect a number of older fans using junior tickets, looking to rectify this.	
GM mentioned lighting around the ground, the public highway/kerbs etc. Some people tripping at night games as not well lit, the Putney end. Could be a one off but raising in case a trend.	
SH stated there has been a general concern around lighting at the Putney end. Some of the streetlights have been off and neighbours wanting this. Not sure if we can increase the lux level or if they are fixed.	
GS mentioned it has come up on a number of occasions, in Bishop's Park where lights haven't been working, liaised with the local lighting team. The new LED lighting can't be adjusted, but there are lights which are out, so trying to get these fixed as soon as possible.	
GS will speak with the lighting team again. Attending the Millwall evening match, so will look around and check the situation. ACTION	LBHF
GG queried the light levels in the park when it becomes the entrance/exit routes when the new stand is fully opened. Queried security/tripping/CCTV with regards lighting. Something that may need to be considered.	
GS confirmed the council have done a survey on the lighting. SH has been involved in meetings with the lighting team and club and all needs to be fit for purpose.	
CU discussed the women's group and looking at women's safety, they will highlight areas of concern. GS to liaise with Network management	
DP suggested looking at lighting some of those areas from FFC building rather than more streetlights but could cause nuisance for neighbours. Aware the lighting from the council can't be increased. At least FFFC lighting would only be on for the duration of the match	
AM to take forward to help improve the ambient lighting. ACTION	FFC
7. MPS	
TD updated	
Issues with stewarding, this is a nationwide issues. Strange start to the season, fans not listening to stewards. We are trying to educate and move people into the right direction This season;	
14 arrests; 12 away fans, 2 home.	

2 flares, 2 assault on stewards, 3 drunk and disorderly, 2 Section 5 Public Order, 1 racially aggravated Section 4 Public Order, breach of a banning order, 1 arrest for class A drugs, 1 arrest for indecent exposure.

1 arrest at an away game.

Started identifying, have 2 small youth groups causing issues at away games, joining together at the stadium. Looking to get all the names, will then catch up with CB and work out how to deal with them, try some intervention work. Doing an educational approach first, then a club ban, then court action. TD liaises with the FST.

Policing wise – trying to get on top with everything into a good place. Been given carte blanche, no major issues in Central London, extra police available when needed. Every one is looking at football owing to recent events and the media attention.

Other than the Luton game to come no other major issues. The rest of the other fixture are up risk wise owing to recent events. TD thanked the club and all other agencies. Inspector Grieg Baker-Dawes sends apologies, on leave.

CB thanked the police for their support in what has been a very difficult start of the season.

TD advised the police do not need to have a presence at the Hammersmith Stand they leave this to the club to manage but happy to assist if required.

CB confirmed that the club would continue to intervene and educate the younger fans on their behaviour.

Nobody on from British Transport Police

GS mentioned some issues raised by Neal King in relation to fixture clash with Fulham/Cardiff and Chelsea were at home in the Champions League against Malmo also back in October. Concerns raised before the match and feedback after in relation to pressure on the tube network (District Line) with fans leaving at the same time. Putney Bridge was closed. The priority was given to Fulham Broadway station and the Chelsea match. Transport for London are concerned with matches for both clubs on the same evening.

SH advised that NK made reference in his email about communication with fans from FFC when the station is closed.

SH queried what else what we could do about telling fans Putney Bridge was closed.

DP confirmed it is communicated as widely as possible. Can't resolve FFC fans being disappointed over a decision which prioritises Chelsea. It's not the first time that UEFA matches take priority over matches that are already in the calendar. It is a matter that you and your predecessor has written to them about. However,

it happens rarely, hoping next year won't be an issue if in Premier League. I get that TFL do their job and risk assess this. Will look at announcing on the tannoy when fans are leaving (if it wasn't done previously). GM confirmed you won't be able to 100% communication with all fans. GM mentioned that FFC has done effectively during Covid text messaging. This has been really positive. This could be beneficial to do this in advance/end of the game to remind people as would a tannoy announcement. GS mentioned a positive meeting with the FA, UEFA didn't respond to the communication. Things have moved on with less shared safety personnel between both clubs. GO stated we have consideration for the X zone. Understands LUL concerns but we need credible evidence from the emergency services and the clubs in terms of managing the matches safely. **London Fire Brigade** 7 JB updated No mobilisations. The truck was out a couple of times due to Covid. Raised if FFC were aware of the water safety boards that were being put in and if FFC wanted to get involved in the project. JB confirmed, before Christmas had a 21-year-old who died in the water at Putney Bridge, with the new stand going in, LFB looking to put 8 water safety boards put up between Hammersmith and Putney Bridges. 2 near Fulham's end where the football club is, will need to be sponsored. LFB happy to do the upkeep, LFB looking for sponsorship from partners/business for the Boards. Sponsorship ranging from under £500/board (depends on the installation costs. SH confirmed he is aware, the key issues will be maintaining and looking after them, but as LFB are taking this on, that is the main burden. DP advised this is something the club would be interested in supporting and requested further details. JB to send DP the details. LFB DP confirmed with the new stand. FFC are putting in grab chains/ladders and buoyancy aids on the footprint. Happy to look at other options also. JB mentioned having DP in one of the meetings and the potential to customise one of the boards to house one of FFC buoyancy aids or a defib equipment. JB advised that the LFB gets automatic alerts when the equipment is used and responds

8

**Medical Plans** 

CB updated

Had medical debrief about the weekend's incident. Valuable meeting. Medical plan is being reviewed with some updates being made. Making immediate changes for the Millwall game. National incidents regarding fans calling players to attract medical attention (Saturday alone there were 4).

FFC changing things to make sure crowd medical people near the dugouts who will respond rather than the team medical guys. Insurance issues if the team medics get involved and the game has to stop due to not having the right medical provision for the players. Use of team's medical provisions being used also causes issues.

Up until Saturday the medical plan worked well. Had a couple of serious incidents prior to this. Have SATS looking after the team medical side of things and EMATS supporting the FFC medical team. Few incidents. Marcus Griffin is reviewing. Relatively few incidents to be honest. Looking at improved communications,

GG discussed trend of Premier League fans getting pitch medical help. EMAG have discussed this – crowd doctor mainly, their concern is players were stopping the match in response and calling the ref/medical teams to get involved. Lots of problems with this. GG has spoken to SW about Saturday's incident and the appropriate action was taken as it was very close to the pitch. Potential fallout is a press get onto it, reporting that the club doesn't have sufficient medical cover if the team medics have to get involved. This is wrong. Issues around who is in charge e.g. the team medics/crowd doctor and it is something that the Premier League, Football League discussing this

Looking to get some guidance out about what should be done with similar medical issues take place, plus a comms to spectators. Pre brief that the refs/players were not aware about the medical provision at grounds involved to make sure they are aware what is in place. There is also a knock-on impact on long delays to matches especially at night and transport for supporters getting away.

The Players Professional Association are being briefed on this too.

CB advised they had put the protocol in that very week, it was very much the referee's call to stop the match. Our medical team were not as visible. CB mentioned opening the concourse concessions to move people away from the area. This worked well but the kiosk by the Hammersmith turnstiles was a learning as it is on the egress route.

GG mentioned that EMAG have reported a drop in men's health particularly since Covid leading to an increase in medical incidents.

#### LAS

MS updated

Relatively simple season so far. With Paul Smith retiring, we had a gap to fill so BF have been working hard to get some more CADRE

officers in familiarisation with the ground doing the LAS role on match days. Most day there is someone shadowing/learning.

Apart from the cardiac arrest it's been relatively simple. Mentioned the useful debrief. All the providers were present. It was an incredibly challenging situation to deal with – credit to all involved. Working with Marcus Griffin to make sure the crowd medical plan is sufficient.

BF updated of the 17 matches, 17 minor casualties, 5 to hospital, agrees with the statement of becoming less healthy. The 5 to hospital in 17 matches is quite a lot. BF making sure the local management team being trained as the operational commanders for FFC that we engage and become as slick as possible.

GS understands the club has planning permission for a new First Aid facility in between the Hammersmith and Johnny Haynes Stand. GO discussed the timescales.

AM mentioned this will go in around the middle of May. ACTION CB stated we have a mobile vehicle in the immediate area outside as a secondary medical point, there is another treatment area that they can be taken to outside.

KJ mentioned the potential clashes of matches with Chelsea/Fulham, that could raise issues in the hospitals and clashes that might happen outside the stadium. Nothing raised as yet

# 9 Local Authority

GS attend partnership meetings before the matches, being held virtually, great liaison with the club/police. Since the last SAG, GS has only done 3 match inspections: QPR, Sheffield United and Blackpool.

QPR – few issues with segregation line requiring steward intervention. Discussed CB was ill for the match and the resilience of the team t hat has been built overing the remainder of the season.

Sheffield United – first match when Government Plan B Covid pass arrangements came in. GS focus was on those arrangements. GS confirmed it was managed very well. The capacity prior to Christmas was relatively low with supporters not wishing to attend matches, struggled to get stewards and recruited some from Birmingham to do the Covid checks. They went about this very well and supporters were well versed and ready to show their Covid passes.

Blackpool – concerned with the entry onto the stand. Discussed P5/P6 issues. Stewarding was disappointing in this area. GS would like to engage a bit further on the management of this as it raises S Factor concerns over the capacity and the slow egress from the stand.

CB mentioned trying new measures and will monitor and get feedback as to how it works. At the end of the game, we utilised the

**FFC** 

under-croft for some of the fans, we opened up one side of the disabled block (once the disabled fans had dispersed) and allowed people to go out through this area. First time this has been done and was received positively.

GS advised mentioned a project on questioning stewards with their knowledge and what their job is. CB has been hounding the agencies for training records.

A lot of time has been given to the seat release for the New Riverside Stand, and GS expressed disappointment that the works to the Hammersmith and Putney seating corners when asked to inspect had not been fully completed for Safety Certification.

GS mentioned safety certificates, the last one was issued in July 2021 when the club returned to full capacity. **GS mindful it will need a review due to increased seating.** 

**LBHF** 

GS had a recent audit from the Sportsground Safety Authority, there were some positive recommendations which we need to ensure we annually review the safety certificate. LA will require updated P and S factor assessment for the stadium.

Operations manual which are the documents detailed in the safety certificate, we had online access to these documents, but the link is no longer working. It's a great way to share information. Need to get the link working or another way to get access to the documents so they can be reviewed. ACTION

# Customer Feedback/Complaints

Couple of complaints, complaint from a Blackpool City supporter. Leeds – Carabao Cup match complaint regarding the concourse space being tight.

## Licensing

Nobody on the call Adrian Overton has sent apologies. Club has made a new application for the new Riverside Stand if there was a seat release for the sale of alcohol, this has been approved. DP had conversations with Adrian Overton about future licensing aspects for the new stand.

SH mentioned an application for the Bishop's Park Café for an alcohol licence, but they aren't asking for one on match days.

## **Network Management**

CU had nothing on traffic orders and parking to raise. CU moved to traffic.

GS mentioned a challenging season for traffic related matters. 2 games where road works were taking place. Traffic control arrangements put in place for future works for Thames Water, has caused chaos, delayed the team bus (twice this season). QPR game, GS complained afterwards. Mentioned a little bit of planning for match days can also impact the emergency services.

DP discussed as group we need to get better at enabling the planned works. Understand emergency work is out of our control, but this didn't look like emergency work.

CU mentioned floods etc in basement flats which Thames Water have had to deal with. Record year for works being done and think its rainfall related and flooding.

DT advised they had to override the lights to get the traffic moving. Queried if CU gets informed of the works and maybe GS could get copied in. We could then get ahead of the game and find different routes for the coaches.

CU confirmed network management need to liaise with all stakeholders/Thames Water, they look at TM plans and anything else on the network, plus match fixtures. GS to liaise with Network Management.

CB does get a weekly sheet of works bit the problems for these matches was not referenced.

## **Law Enforcement Team**

Nobody present.

GS confirmed the club have a key to the gates as FFC put portable toilets in Bishop's Park. GO suggested gates that need opening can be added to their standard operating procedures for their traffic control team can make sure they are open. Also need to be locked to avoid encampments.

DP queried if FFC had keys and if all the gates of the park need to be opened.

GO confirmed just the football gates. But all gates need to be open on match days. GS confirmed it's the LET.

CB stated it should be the LET responsibility, but we have a contingency to open the gates if they are missed prior to the game.

# 10 Sports Ground Safety Authority

Pyrotechnics generally there has been an increase again with pyros coming into grounds.

**SGSA** 

SGSA has together with EFL/Premier League/ FA / Football Supporter's Association and UKFPU (represent policing) put together a toolkit in respect of dealing with pyrotechnics at sports grounds, this has gone out in draft form to all clubs and local authorities as a draft for comments.

All comments will be taken into account the revised draft will be issued. The toolkit reaffirms advice given by UEFA in 2016 around pyrotechnics at Sportsgrounds plus some additional text, allowing pyrotechnics on the pitch to be burnt out and not try to move them,

not put them out using sand. When burned out using buckets of water. CB/GS should have had sight of this.

Licenced safe standing in seating areas. 5 grounds (one of which Chelsea) had licences changed with approval from the Government for the rest of the season to allow standing in areas where rail seating has been put in in accordance with new standards in place. Being monitored by An independent research company. SGSA doing monitoring, UKFPU have also tasked some officers to go to some of the matches. All information will be fed back in at the end of the season, there may be an interim report. That will impact on the Government decision on changing legislation so it can be a matter of course.

If that goes ahead, will impact Fulham in the future. Any persistent standing at the ground, there would a number of options you would have to put in place; manage it so it doesn't happen or put rail seating into those areas where it's appropriate. There are elements at Fulham where the home and away supporters do stand at Craven Cottage.

Discussed cardiac arrest.

Wembley disorder, SGSA are working with the response to the report by Baroness Casey. A lot of issues were related to zone-ex.

Fan led review for football governance by Tracey Crouch – won't affect SGSA, will be a totally different scheme. Mentioned the return of alcohol to the stands, considering a trial in the National League (Step 1) where the same rules apply to them in view of the pitch. The Home Office will need to be involved and the police.

Stewarding – work being done with DCMS, it's an issue across the whole of the leisure industry.

A new document SG03 on Safety management, supplements the green guide, it is out now. All club's SGSA licence have online copies. Can get more – purchase required.

Conference 24/5/22 in Etihad Stadium, details on the website. Running training courses. 1 – SGO3 about event safety management and one aimed at local authorities on safety certification training. No dates as yet (details on the website).

GG concerned that it has been challenging so far this season with supporters behaviour.

CB has had the pyro toolkit. Queried if any plans for education to the fans. FFC had a homemade pyro found.

GG will get some more information from Mark Holland, understanding is, this is where it should happen. There should be a campaign that the Premier League and EFL need to back and push for all grounds concerned. Believe this is being worked on.

	GM suggested adding a step to be taken with the media, so they aren't publishing photos of fans with flares in play that people then try to replicate.	
11	Chairman's Update	Chair
	No further updates.	
12	AOB	
	TD spoken to CB regarding drones following recent incident at Brentford, going to review plans around drones if anything happens in the stadium.  The nightclub style amnesty bin at the stadium, seizing drugs. Being looked at currently by the UKFPU as you can't get a ban for being under the influence of drugs at game, but you can for being drunk. May be dealt with in the future by the police. May take out the drug bin and start dealing with them in Courts. Nothing confirmed. TD will update with any changes in the future.	
13	Date of next meeting	TBC
	July 2022	