



OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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2 June 2014

Our Ref: MP/ID/JF/alw

Dear Mr Brown

Proposed World Naked Bike Ride Event Clacton 26 July 2014

Further to your previous visit to the Safety Advisory Group I now write to clarify the position of the Council and Police in respect of the proposed event.

Firstly, I would like to point out that your ride did take place last year and we had no objections, although we had some concerns. The group of cyclists was also escorted by Essex Police. Therefore, I think you will agree that neither the Council nor the Police opposed the ride on the first occasion and assisted in facilitating it.

At that time you stated the purpose of the ride was an environmental protest however there was no evidence whatsoever – it was a clear promotion of naturism.

There was also one particular incident which gave both the Police and Council very serious concerns and was one we would not want to see repeated in our town. This particular incident involved one man and his totally unacceptable "behaviour" towards several women - and I am sure that you are aware of the incident to which we refer.

Also we received a number of complaints from residents and visitors, 13 alone logged officially by the Police switchboard, about the ride. There were other comments of objection - made by people along the route and overheard by the Police Officers on the escort - which firmly lead us to believe that our community does not want to see the ride return to Clacton this year.

Our demographic means that we have a large number of elderly people and young children in Clacton, which is a popular family seaside resort. It may be that other areas where you stage the ride are somewhat different and people do not object to it taking place.

I also notice from your latest route that you are choosing to maximise the amount of time you are in our town centre where the most people will be gathered on the first weekend of the school holidays.



Due to this we are asking you in a reasonable manner to please re-think your plans for this year. We believe it would be better for all if you staged the ride in a town or area which has not received the complaints we have.

We have, as I am sure you will know, received a letter from Malcolm Boura, Campaigns Director of British Naturism, who has made a number of comments and observations. He does not, however, mention anything about a peaceful protest against environmental issues which was your contention in 2013. In fact, from all that he says it appears that the ride is purely to promote and further the cause of naturism.

Mr Baura talks about the former Leader of the Council "creating fear and apprehension where none is justified." The Council and Police would contest that any fear and apprehension about this year was created by the event staged last year.

He ends by asking us to "reconsider and amend our approach" to the ride but we would ask you to do exactly that in respect of the wishes of the local community.

The Council and Police are acting in the interests and on the concerns already made by the community to what happened last year. They have spoken and we as a Council are there to represent their interests. It is our job to listen to what they are telling us and we did not receive any support, only complaints in 2013.

I feel that the total lack of any local support for the event was further evidenced by the lack of local people taking part last year!

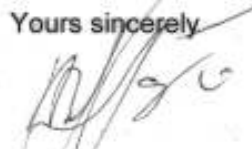
I would also draw your attention to the potential for those aggrieved by your event to take action directly against you, for example if there were a loss of earnings associated with the event disrupting the town centre.

Therefore our findings are that the ride should not take place on the following grounds:

- 1 There is no evidence of protest
- 2 It is not appropriate for this community
- 3 The blatant nature of the event in terms of the route, date and time it will take place, and the fact the ride has previously caused alarm and distress to those who witnessed it.

We would therefore strongly request that you reconsider your plans as we look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

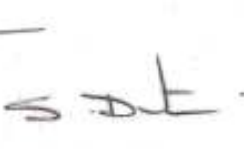
Yours sincerely,



Councillor Mick Page
Leader of the Council



Ian Davidson
Chief Executive



Steve Ditchburn
Superintendent,
North Local Policing Area