

Appendix 30

Statement of John Dix

To the Licensing Committee

I, John Dix, am the owner of John Dix Travel, which is a local family-owned transport company. Our business address is Unit 9, Quedgeley Trading Estate, Gloucester, GL10 3EX
<https://www.iohndixtravel.co.uk>

We own and operate a variety of vehicles including mini-buses, coaches and double-deck buses. Our business involves corporate work, school transport services, day trips, private hire and transporting customers to large sports events, concerts, etc.

Last year, I agreed to provide transport for the Witcombe Cider Festival, which took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend at Painswick Road, Brockworth. This was the first time we had been involved with the festival, so I visited and surveyed the site beforehand so that I could plan the best method of implementing the transport arrangements safely. I had various discussions with the festival organiser, Joe Pointon, and we reached agreement to start the service around 9pm and continue until customers had dispersed. I supplied 3 double-deck buses and 1 single deck bus to transport festival attendees away from the event at the end of each evening, dropping them at certain points along a couple of routes. We also arranged that a door supervisor would travel on each bus to deter disorder and keep the bus protected and the driver safe.

I personally briefed each driver involved, so that they had a clear understanding of how the service would operate, where the buses would turn and load customers, etc.

I am delighted to say that the whole operation went exceptionally well. There were orderly queues for the buses when each bus arrived, and they were segregated into different queues depending on the route they wanted. The buses were arriving in succession with only a few minutes between each, so customers did not have to wait long for a lift home.

Security staff (Door Supervisors) were provided by Darren Simms and I am pleased to report that we did not have a single incident of disorder. Nor was anyone sick on any of our vehicles and no damage occurred. The whole operation was a resounding success.

I am aware that Joe Pointon is planning to relocate the festival to a new site at Brockworth Road, Churchdown, and is currently applying for a licence for that site with a 10,000 capacity on the licence. Joe has asked me if I would again provide transport for the event and I have no hesitation in agreeing. In fact this year, Joe would like festival customers to be picked up and taken to the event, as well as taking them home again at the end of each evening. This will reduce dependence on private cars to get to and from the festival and will therefore reduce the likelihood of drink-driving. It will also reduce traffic volumes on the roads and on the site, both of which are helpful.

I have already visited the new (intended) site and carried out a survey. There are two separate entrances to the field and they both lead onto flat and level ground which is well-drained. Either of the two entrances could be used for the buses, and there is a large area between the two entrances where the buses can turn. The gateways will be widened to facilitate entry from the highway and Joe will install trackway at the vehicle entrance, along with a trackway turning circle, so there will be no possibility of buses getting stuck in mud or wheels spinning on wet grass.

I estimate that this larger festival might need 10 buses in order to keep a steady flow and short waiting times at peak periods. My aim would be to ensure that there is always two buses loading up after 9pm. I already have sufficient buses and drivers to deploy to this event, with spare ones available should that be necessary.

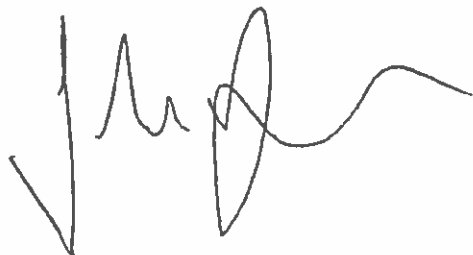
I have discussed a number of proposed routes with Joe and they will include a Gloucester route that will commence at Quedgeley and then pick up at various points in Gloucester, including Abbeymead, Hucclecote and Brockworth before heading to the festival site. We will configure the routes depending on where the demand is, which will be visible via the advanced ticket sales. I would anticipate running 2 separate Gloucester routes, taking in most of the suburbs and the city centre, each with anything between 40 and 60 minute turnarounds.

The other route will include Cheltenham town centre, Montpellier, Shurdington, and Brockworth. The round trip for this would normally take about 40 minutes in the evening.

My double-deck buses each have a capacity of 87 and the single deck buses up to 51. We have a fleet of 16 vehicles, 5 of which are minibuses and the rest coaches and double deckers. We will also be taking delivery of a further 3 double deckers ahead of the festival. In addition, we also have the ~~ability to contract other local operators to work alongside us in the parameters of our event plan,~~ should the demand necessitate this. Working steadily from 9pm-3am, we would have the capacity to transport 3,500 – 4,000 passengers without the need to enlist the support of other operators.

The festival website allows customers to pre-order bus services when they book their festival tickets, so Joe and I will have a good idea of how many people intend to use the service prior to the event, however I will also factor in additional provision for anyone who has not pre-booked e.g . for someone who has been dropped off by car and decides to catch the bus home, as one-way tickets and return tickets will be available.

John Dix



Dated: 16/05/18