



St. Helens Council

Wirral A.C.
c/o Ronan Kearney,
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Peoples Department
Public Health and Wellbeing
Division
The Gamble Building
Victoria Square
St Helens
Merseyside WA10 1HF

Contact: Mrs Susan Forster
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Tel: 01744 673232
Our ref:
Your ref:

16th September 2020

Dear Ronan,

Re: Wirral A C Inter-Club Road Relay, Haydock Park Racecourse 20th September 2020

Thank you for participating in the online 'Teams' meeting to discuss the above event today.

Over recent weeks there has been a dramatic rise in the coronavirus infection rates within St Helens. As a result, there is a high probability that special measures may need to be introduced within the borough in a bid to curb the increase in infection within the local community. Of particular concern, are the current infection rates in the Newton, Earlestown and Haydock wards, which include Haydock Park Racecourse.

The St Helens Council Outbreak Management Board and Public Health England have been consulted over the athletics meeting. In light of the current localised infection rates The Outbreak Management Board have requested that the event does not go ahead at this current time.

Over recent weeks, there has been considerable work undertaken between yourself, racecourse management and the Council's Environmental Health section to develop a comprehensive race plan, which has been based upon a robust and comprehensive risk assessment. It is clear, that the standard of planning has been of the highest order and that it must be disappointing to receive a request of this nature after the completion of such preparatory works so close to the event.

Finally, I would say that the Council does recognise the role physical activity plays in respect of both physical and mental wellbeing. The current health risks surrounding the hosting of the Haydock Park events are exceptional and should the opportunity arise in future to hold a similar event under less challenging circumstances, then St Helens Council would be keen to support.

Yours faithfully,

Susan Forster
Director of Public Health
St Helens Council