

14 October 2011

Improved security at Bisley Camp

Further to my initial communication about enhanced security measures, this is just a note to let you know about the feedback we have received and to respond to some of the comments and questions that have been raised thus far.

Feedback

We have received about 50 responses to this e-mail, with all positive apart from one. Many share the view that it is sad that we feel the need to do this, but many say that they feel it is overdue..

A number of people have raised practical issues which I am happy to seek to address here. I would stress though that we are feeling our way into this and will adopt whatever is the most appropriate or practical approach as our experience grows.

Access or entry cards

Many of you suggest the use of entry cards that would allow access to Camp at whatever time of day or night. Clearly we are looking at this, but we need to be mindful of the multiplicity of users of Bisley; from NRA members through to the CNC and casual visitors to the NSRA, Bisley Pavilion or elsewhere. It may well be that we do issue car passes to speed entry, but we would need to work out careful procedures before we went as far as a card entry for all.

Getting around the gate or entry via the Exit road

Some respondents mentioned these prosaic, but very practical points and we plan to address them by installing a one-way ramp on the Exit road and sealing off the grassed areas at the side of both roads with bollards.

On a related point, there are some access points other than the main gate. The two entrances that afford access for vehicles now have very substantial locks on and the keys to these are held centrally with limited access. There are routes onto Camp on foot, which we are looking at making more secure, but the reality is that on a site as large as this, we will never prevent pedestrian access. nevertheless, we can and should prevent unauthorised access by vehicle, as well doing something to deter the casual vandal or thief.

Guard patrols and getting in whilst he is away

The guard will have transport and will do patrols at various irregular times to avoid being predictable. In the event that he is on patrol, he will have a mobile and the number will be on the gate. We have timed the route from the farthest extent of his longest patrol route (there are several) and it is a very modest time. You will forgive me if I do not publish how long. Equally, the maximum period he will be away is also modest, and he will be doing these patrols outside of 'peak' periods which we will need some time to establish anyway.

Some members have expressed the concern that they do not possess mobiles. I feel we need to see how this works in practice in terms of when the patrols occur to see how much of an issue this is likely to be.

Further developments

As I mentioned in my previous e-mail, we look to extend these security arrangements over time, eventually to 24 hours as funds allow and as we learn how to implement these arrangements sensitively and effectively. We will take time over this; not to cause delay, but to try and get it right.

I would like to thank those who have already taken the time to give us their feedback and in particular, Frank Cox at Bunhill Lodge, who has generously donated a microwave oven for our hungry security man!!

I continue to monitor feedback and we would appreciate more. Thank you in advance and we hope that these arrangements will be for the benefit of all those with an interest in the future of the NRA and Bisley.

Regards

Derrick Mabbott

Acting Chief Executive

NRA/NSC