

MANAGEMENT OF DEBATE EVENT, THURSDAY 8TH MARCH 2018

Online ticketing provided via ticketsource.co.uk and paper tickets issued by the Town Clerk.

The online ticketing system requires completion of the following fields: Last name, first name, title, address, Postcode, Contact telephone no and email address.

The booking details clearly state that the event is for Ryedale residents ONLY and 'Please note that tickets will be restricted to 2 per applicant.'

The online ticketing system is formatted so that it is only possible to have 2 tickets issued per email address. On completion of the online booking form an e-ticket is automatically issued and sent via email.

It is not possible to format the ticketing to set a restriction so that only Ryedale postcodes are accepted. The list of attendees generated by the ticketing system details all fields completed. In compliance with Data Protection and risk management the Town Clerk is the only individual with access to this information. It should be noted that it is not possible to validate the accuracy or authenticity of information provided when applying for tickets online.

On review of the attendee data any entries providing a post code outside of Ryedale were queried. The Town Clerk contacted said individuals and reiterated that the event is for Ryedale residents only and enquired as to their interest in the event. Any other discrepancies, for example multiple entries made providing the same postal address, or any hint of disingenuousness were similarly queried.

Summary of applicants flagged during monitoring:

Online ticketing

1. 2 applicants (accounting for 3 attendees) submitted details flagged as inconsistent or suspicious having registered with a Ryedale post code but suspected to be a resident elsewhere; of these 1 was subsequently invited as a guest of one of the speakers and 2 were denied entry as they were not Ryedale residents, had not been invited as a guest by any of the participants and demonstrated disingenuousness by providing personal email addresses then subsequently requesting to attend the event as corporate representatives;
2. 1 applicant (accounting for 2 attendees) submitted details flagged as inconsistent or suspicious from outside Ryedale – Booking cancelled;
3. 8 applications were made from postcodes outside of Ryedale. Of these 8 applicants:
 - 2 were from members of the press - discretionary attendance granted;
 - 1 was from a neighbouring resident with local concerns - discretionary attendance granted as children attend a school in Ryedale;
 - 2 had been invited to attend as guests of the Chair - discretionary attendance granted;
 - 1 apologised for misappropriating tickets; and
 - 2 did not respond.

Paper ticketing

Paper tickets issued by the Town Clerk were made available for collection in person from Kirkbymoorside library.

The following tickets were issued to residents outside Ryedale:

1. 6 tickets issued to each speaker
2. 2 tickets issued to guests of the Chair

3. 2 tickets issued to members of the press
4. 3 tickets issued to residents of neighbouring towns outside of Ryedale upon valid request
5. Only 4 people were denied tickets on the basis that there were none remaining

All information issued by Kirkbymoorside Town Council in respect of the event clearly stated that the event was for Ryedale residents only. Discretionary dispensation was granted by the Town Clerk as Officer of the Town Council, due to time constraints not being sufficient to allow consideration by the full council at a meeting.

Each participant had been extended the courtesy to invite a select number of guests to the event. Mike Hill and Kevin Hollinrake had each requested 6 tickets for discretionary allocation so there is no question about equity. Bishop James Jones similarly invited several guests to attend the debate.

The Town Council were contacted by ITV Calendar News and BBC Look North (none of the representatives of which reside in Ryedale), and authorisation had been given for them to attend the event.

Attendees were required to show their ticket in order to enter the event and this was cross referenced against the attendee list. (In compliance with Data Protection it is not possible to share this information). Again it should be noted that the Town Council has not means by which to validate the accuracy and/or authenticity of information provided during the application process and is reliant on the honesty and integrity of applicants.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the parameters of the event were adhered and the management of the event conducted with due diligence.

Lisa Bolland

Town Clerk to Kirkbymoorside Town Council