



June 2017

For immediate release

VISITOR SAFETY IS PRIORITISED FOR THE KENT COUNTY SHOW

The Kent County Show on 7, 8, 9 July will be prioritising their visitor safety this year, and have worked with key agencies to produce a comprehensive Event Safety Plan.

The Kent County Agricultural Society have been actively working with their Health and Safety Advisor, Head of Security, Kent Police and Maidstone Borough Council Safety Advisory Group to ensure that after recent attacks in the UK and overseas, the annual event has identified any potential risks and have the relevant responses in place to ensure a safe and secure day out for visitors.

The Event Safety Plan has been reviewed and endorsed by Kent Police and key emergency services. This plan will include a number of emergency procedures, evacuation plans, liaisons with emergency services, on site security and a response to a major incident.

The organisers would like to make visitors aware that as part of the improved procedure, there will be bag searches as people enter the Showground. This may cause additional waiting times at entry points, however these checks are essential for the safety of everyone on site during the three day Show.

Lucy Hegarty, Show Manager, explained, "We are asking our visitors to limit the items they bring to the Show so that the bag searches cause the least possible impact and delays and we would like to thank the public for their

support. We are aware that this may mean a longer wait at peak times. Visitors should to arrive earlier to avoid these peaks”.

The Show opens at 8.00am on Show days; Friday is the quietest day with peak entry times on Saturday and Sunday between 10.00am and midday.

Kevin Attwood, Chairman, said “We would like to inform all our visitors that there is no specific perceived threat to the Kent County Show. As a responsible organisation, we believe that enhancing our Event Safety Plan and seeking advice from experts is the correct route to take”.

The site security staff includes Security Industry Authority licensed teams who have been appropriately trained and will be conducting thorough security checks for people accessing the showground, as well as patrols inside the event.

National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Protective Security, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D’Orsi said, "Keeping the public safe to enjoy a summer of special events is our top priority. Sadly we have seen that these can be targeted by those who want to cause harm. But the public should be reassured that police, partners and commercial organisations are working hard together to keep them safe and secure. We have had a tremendous response from companies who want to do all they can to raise awareness with their staff”.

If visitors would like more information there is comprehensive advice from the National Police Chiefs Council website, www.npcc.police.uk

The online ticket system is open to purchase discounted tickets for the 2017 Show. A family ticket will cost £45.00 in advance or £50.00 when bought at the gate. The family ticket entitles 2 adults and 2 children aged between 5 and 15 a full day entrance. Children under 5 go free and parking is free. Adult tickets are £20.70 in advance and £23.00 on the gate, a child ticket is £6.30 in advance and £7.00 on the gate.

The Kent County Show starts at 8.00am and stays open until 6.00pm although there is no rush to leave as some of the food stands stay open later. The Show has over 150 different activities, workshops, displays and competitions which run throughout the day and are often repeated daily.

****ENDS****

For more information and images contact Lucy Hegarty, Show Manager
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The Kent County Show is organised by the Kent County Agricultural Society. The Society has been supporting education and improvement in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and related industries since 1923. They provide grants to Kent Young Farmers Clubs, offer scholarships to university students, provide free school visits with their initiative 'Farming in the Classroom' and host over 2,800 children at the annual education event, the Living Land. The Kent County Show attracted 80,000 visitors last year and over 500 trade stands.

Registered charity number: 1001191.

Kent County Show – 7, 8, 9 July 2017

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