

Appendix 18A

Ilminster Town Council
Old Magistrates Court
East Street
Ilminster
TA19 0DG

16 August 2024

Dear Ilminster Town Council,

Minster Milers' Mash - Ilminster 10k run - Sunday 7 April 2024

Further to our email exchange with Cllr Stuart Shepherd in March this year, I am now writing to you to provide more details of this event and to gain your support and approval.

Background

Minster Milers is an Ilminster based running club that has some 60 active members from Ilminster and the surrounding villages. We cater for all abilities and running achievement levels meeting every Wednesday at 7pm at The Archie Gooch pavilion. We run a number of groups each week that include a steady 5k, a progressive 5k, a 10k and an 8 mile run all on the roads, lanes and footpaths around Ilminster.

In addition, we support local initiatives. For example, in the last year, we have coordinated couch to 5k groups, organised and completed a fundraising fun run for the Minster food bank and supported United Response for a charity run.

In 2019 we successfully held the Minster Milers' Mash 10k event starting and finishing in Britten's Field (near The Archie Gooch pavilion) and taking in Kingstone via Moolham Lane, Dillington Estate and Ilminster Town. The detailed route map is in the attached Management document.

We are affiliated to ARC (Association of Running Clubs) who provide race licences and insurance, including £10,000,000 Public Liability Insurance, and have applied for a Race Permit (R/MIN/0535).

Proposal

Since 2019 we have been unable to arrange another event largely due to COVID restrictions. However, as membership numbers have now grown back to previous levels, we are able to manage and coordinate and are planning the event for Sunday 7 April 2024.

The race would start at 10am with race HQ opening at 8am (although we may need to put up some awnings the night before). The event should be finished and packed away by 2pm. We have also booked The Archie Gooch Pavilion (refreshments and bad weather back up for race HQ).

We would therefore like the Council's permission to use Britten's Field and for return access through Ilminster Town. We also request permission for vehicular access to Britten's Field on the day for the race timing company DB Max to set up the start/finish area and timing equipment and First Aiders from Rapid Ems Limited to set up a medical centre.

The proposal is to use the same route as in 2019 as we know it works well for the runners. We will conduct a full dynamic risk assessment prior to the event and on the day and will control runners at all road junctions with pre-briefed marshals.

Event instructions will direct entrants to park in Ilminster's public car parks and will specifically discourage parking along Canal Way and adjacent residential areas.

We have also secured agreement from the private landowners concerned (Dillington Estate and Frogmary Green Farm) and have liaised with Highways and Somerset and Avon Police who are both content that no road closures are required.

In addition and as in 2019, we would like to affix some advertising banners on the railings at the junction of Canal Way and Orchard Vale for a one month period leading up to the event. These will be removed on the Sunday immediately on completion of the race.

An important feature of the event this year is that we are partnering with Ferne Animal Sanctuary who will be providing assistance with PR, marketing and fundraising, thus providing a charitable element to this event.

We will limit participating runners to 350 who together with their supporters and families will represent a significant event for Ilminster.

We are investigating ways of involving as many local businesses as possible in our plans for the day, to promote local products and create a memorable event which we hope will become a regular fixture in the town calendar.

I hope that you are in agreement with this proposal. If in the meantime you would like any further information or would like us to attend a meeting then please do not hesitate to contact either myself or our chair, John Cusack

Yours sincerely

