

Billingham Event Infrastructure / Billingham International Folk Festival (BIFF)

SBC has provided support to the accommodation needs of BIFF for a number of years; historically this was within school buildings but more recently between 2015 and 2017 this was within the sports block and part hardstanding at former Billingham campus site, Marsh House Ave. As the sports block building together with the hardstanding was asset transferred to Onsite Building Trust the building is no longer available for BIFF to use in future years due to demand for community groups using the building all year round (part of approved business case and viability assessment of asset transfer). The following have been considered as space for a temporary event village for the accommodation, feeding and rehearsal needs of BIFF or similar events.

This report is structured as follows:

1. SBC owned sites;
2. Comments regarding non-Council owned sites; and
3. Alternative options for accommodation and estimated costs.

1. SBC owned sites

Note, all Council owned sites will be subject to a Licence to Occupy, site constraints and Health & Safety considerations.

Site	Owner/ Responsibility	Comments See Appendix 1 & 2 - Applicable to each location.
1. Hardstanding at Sports Block, Marsh House Ave, Billingham (land only and not the building)	Onsite Building Trust	Not considered a permanent solution as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient hardstanding to accommodate BIFF's requirements; • Part of the hardstanding is within Onsite's exclusive leased area; and • Remaining part of hardstanding and adjoining land is earmarked for future development.
2. Public Open Space at John Whitehead Park, Billingham	SBC	Possibility of using this site as a permanent solution but the following need to be considered and agreed with the Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost to accommodate the marquees; infrastructure costs; reinstatement costs; compound and site security costs; • Loss of temporary public amenity; • Ground scan required to ensure suitability of land; • Public consultation required; and • Public Open Space advert required and objections considered before possibility of granting any licence to BIFF.
3. Public Open Space at former college site, Sidlaw Road, Billingham	SBC	Possibility of using this site as a permanent solution but the following need to be considered and agreed with the Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost to accommodate the marquees; infrastructure costs; reinstatement costs; compound and site security costs;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of temporary public amenity; • Ground scan required to ensure suitability of land; • Public consultation required; and • Public Open Space advert required and objections considered before possibility of granting any licence to BIFF.
4. Public Open Space at Bedford Tce, Billingham	SBC	Not considered suitable as there is insufficient access by heavy vehicles.
5. Public Open Space on the corner of Rievaulx & Marsh House Ave	SBC	Not considered suitable as there is insufficient land available due to football pitches on the land and BIFF's occupation would clash with other users' requirements.
6. SBC maintained schools in Billingham	SBC maintained: Billingham South Primary; Bewley Primary; Roseberry Primary; Oakdene Primary; Priors Mill Primary and Northfield Secondary.	Not considered a suitable as there is insufficient land available to accommodate BIFF's requirements.

(Appendix 1)

General Health & Safety considerations for the use of any site:

- Effective planning is central to putting on a safe event
- Prepare an event safety plan
- Have appropriate management arrangements in place to ensure the health and safety of employees and others, including volunteers and the public, during all stages of the event
- Carry out a systematic assessment of the risks to employees, volunteers and the public
- Implement risk control measures identified by the risk assessment
- Put appropriate arrangements in place to monitor health and safety compliance
- Provide competent health and safety advice
- Liaise with other interested parties, including local authorities, stadium management, arena operators, safety advisory groups and the emergency services, early in the planning process
- Thorough investigation of the site to be used.

The guidance provides a structured approach that may be applied proportionately to most organised events.

(Appendix 2)

General event management considerations for the use of any site

It is quite difficult to assess the use of clear span marquees as suitable accommodation as SBC do not use marquees for this type of residential accommodation and have no direct connection with local providers who supply them.

- The amount of marquee space required is significant. Approximately 80 beds could be put into a 15 x 48m marquee.
- Large marquees may require plant machinery to erect which may have implications on soft ground.
- All sites on soft standing would need track mat to ensure HGV's can safely manoeuvre
- Welfare for 300 persons would need to be considered i.e. catering, showers, toilets, waste, and security.
- Security of artist possessions.
- Modesty screening.
- Power.
- Lighting – Curfew required if only global lighting used
- Emergency lighting.
- Fire warning systems and/or wardens.
- Fire breaks between units

2. Comments regarding non-Council owned sites

The Council is unable to comment on the suitability of non-Council owned sites and whether they have sufficient land to accommodate BIFF's requirements. If they are able to secure an alternative non-Council owned site there will be the same costs and considerations required as if it was Council land plus there is also the possibility of additional costs such as rent being charged.

3. Alternative options for accommodation and Estimated Costs

Alternative options for accommodation:

The following event infrastructure solutions are included here for reference and comparison. SBC is not endorsing them or recommending them as suitable solutions to the specific needs of BIFF.

- Snoozebox pods – www.snoozeboxhotel.co.uk
- Festihuts <http://www.chaletevents.net/festihuts-about/>
- BunkKabin <http://www.bunkabin.co.uk/>
- The Pop up hotel <http://www.thepopuphotel.com/pop-up-room>

Estimated Costs:

At the time of writing we have not been able to gain estimates for the above commercial supplier solutions, however as an approximate guide the cost to accommodate circa 80 of the artists within 15 cabins in August 2017 was believed to be £25,000 and it is therefore reasonable to assume a proportionately higher cost for the full complement of 300 artists. This gives a cost in the region of £75,000 and £100,000. This estimate is based on basic cabins on hardstanding and does not include track mat costs for soft ground, fencing and security costs, but does include marquee for feeding.