

Shepton Mallet Carnival 2026



Road Crew Briefing
14th September 2026

Marshal's Committee Contacts

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Communication

The Whats App group is still live.

I will update the contacts for 2026 with any new Road Crew Captain details plus any other Member of clubs who I have been asked to include.

There are currently 88 contacts in this group

It is only for info regarding the cart movements before, during & after Shepton Mallet Carnival

Arrival & Line Up - Monday 16th November

Direct from MSN Carnival - 21:00 hrs – 23:59hrs

Arrival Route –

- From MSN Carnival via A37 to Charlton Traffic Lights and enter Whitstone Road

Parking at the Mid Somerset Showground until Tuesday night at 21:00hrs when you will filter into line up on Cannards Grave Road

Security onsite from 23:00- 07:00hrs

Direction of travel to access Showground
Arrival - Monday 16th November



Parking - Monday 16th November

If any of the 2 part units are only small car/trailer combinations, they can arrive on Wednesday and park in MDC car park with the entries in classes 7-13

Please confirm if you will travel on Monday night and require parking

Idea of how the carts will be parked in the showground



Requests

Which route will you take from MSN to Shepton Mallet?

1. Via Chilcompton & Gurney Slade?

Or

2. Via Stratton on Fosse & Oakhill?

Arrival & Line Up - Tuesday 17th November

21:00 hrs – 23:59hrs

Club Road Crew captains will receive a text if their club has not arrived into line up by Midnight on Tuesday 17th November 2026.

Security onsite from 23:00hrs – 08:00hrs

Arrival Route –

- From MSN Carnival via A37 to Charlton Traffic Lights and enter Whitstone Road
- via Wells (A371) following the procession route to Charlton Traffic Lights and enter Whitstone Road.
- via Pilton (A361 & A37), use the slip road at the Highwayman Inn and connect up before moving into Cannards Grave Road.

Best Route for 1 & 2 unit entries who do not need to connect up

Arrival & Line Up - Tuesday 17th November

Road Closures – Whitstone Road, Cannards Grave Road from 21:00hrs. Please do not enter the town before 21:00hrs

- Wells (Tincknells Roundabout) to Shepton Mallet approx **20mins**,
- Glastonbury (via Pilton) to Shepton Mallet approx **40 mins**.

If you aim to leave Glastonbury at 20:30hrs and Wells at 20.45hrs you will arrive in Shepton at approx 21:00hrs

Please do not arrive at the line up before 21:00hrs, you will be asked to find somewhere else to park until the roads are closed for Line Up.

Arrival & Line Up.

Tuesday 17th November

Whitstone Road

- **Hitching up** – This to be done in Whitstone Road ideally opposite the Webber Road entrance and opposite the Hobbs Road entrance where there is enough room for other vehicles to pass, as queues are possible Marshals will advise if hitching can be done outside of these areas.
- **Speed Limit** this is to be 5mph when passing other carts due to other Road Crews working in this area, this applies to all vehicles.
- **KEEP LEFT** - other vehicles who require access in this area (residents will use the road for access to properties)
- **Escort Vehicles** once you have arrived in Whitstone Road, **One** escort vehicle is more than enough in this road, others can proceed to and wait in the slip road by the Highwayman Inn to collect drivers etc after parking up.

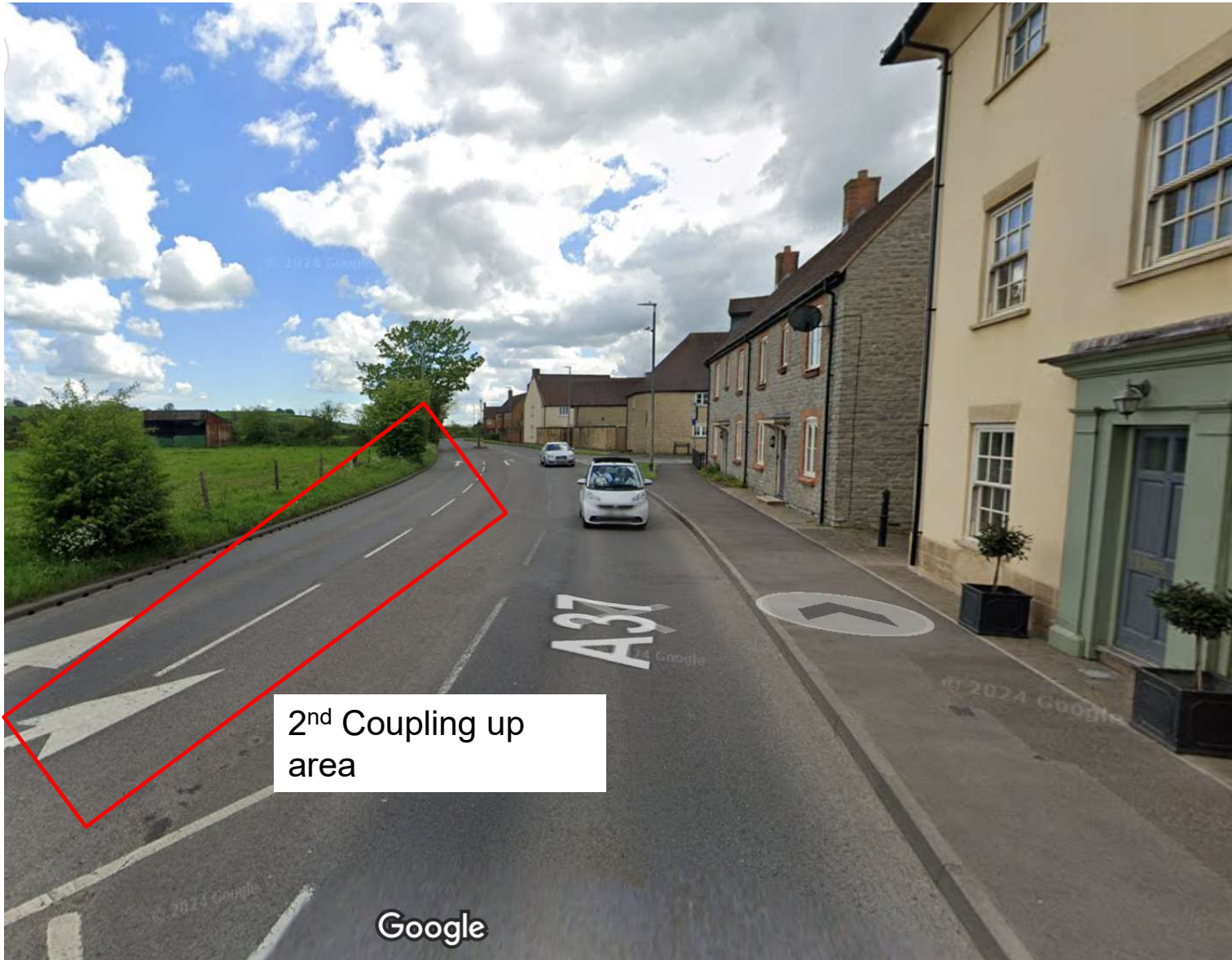
Reversing of vehicles to be done with the aid of a Banksman to ensure safety of other vehicles and road crews working in the area



Keep left and pass the old railway crossing to reach the area for coupling up



1st Coupling up
area



2nd Coupling up
area

Arrival & Line Up.

Tuesday 17th November

- **All communications** between crews to be via **intercom with Headsets** where possible in order not to disturb residents, a reduction of things like door slamming and engine revving etc to be thought of during the late hours in these areas.
- **Greeting Point** – Once in Cannards Grave Road you will be greeted by our Marshals and signed in, you will be issued with bags to use for all rubbish you may need to leave behind. You will be asked to proceed to your parking position as directed and will be parked
- **Spare Towing Vehicles** - These are to be parked in the showground at the beginning of the line up for the duration of your stay until the dispersal of our Carnival. The gate is padlocked and access will only be possible by contacting the Carnival Co –Ordinator.
- **Classes 7 to 13 & 17-19 (Walking Entries & Trade)** –

Wednesday 18th November

- **The line up area for these vehicles is Mendip District Council Car Park. And you should aim to arrive between 5pm & 6:30pm only on carnival day.** Trade Entries will line up in either MDC car park or Kingsland Road off Compton Road, Collecting Vehicles to muster in the doctors surgery from 5pm. Any clubs wishing to leave trailers from Monday night after MSN carnival to contact the Carnival Co-Ordinator who will arrange access to the showground for parking.

Overflow Parking

It will be necessary to use the Showground on Tuesday night to park some carts due to the same number in procession as 2024.

We may use the slip road as well

Approx 5 like last year.

There are 3 x 2 part entries arriving on Tuesday

Gemini CC
Oasis CC
Kipling CC

Plus 2 others from the 3 part units

For procession we will be able to juggle and filter these in by holding some at Little Brooks Lane to let them pass to ensure we split the carts up from the same class if required



Line Up.

Wednesday 12th November

Cannards Grave Road

Traffic Passing Zones - we will have 2 traffic passing zones in Cannards Grave Road,

1. Opposite no3 Cannards Grave Road.
2. Opposite the access entrance to the housing development.

This has been at the request of the emergency services as access to residential areas may be required, please **do not** park or leave crew vehicles in these areas at any time during line up when working on carts.

One Way Traffic System – This will be in operation during Wednesday , the direction of travel to be from the Flock Roundabout. The barrier at the 1st Cart inline up will be manned at all times to prevent vehicles travelling in the wrong direction.

If you move barriers please replace them – this will deter the public from trying to use the road.

Please do not use Little Brooks Lane (nr Food Van) for access, this is a Hard Closure

Residents will be informed through the local media of no entry to the line up road.

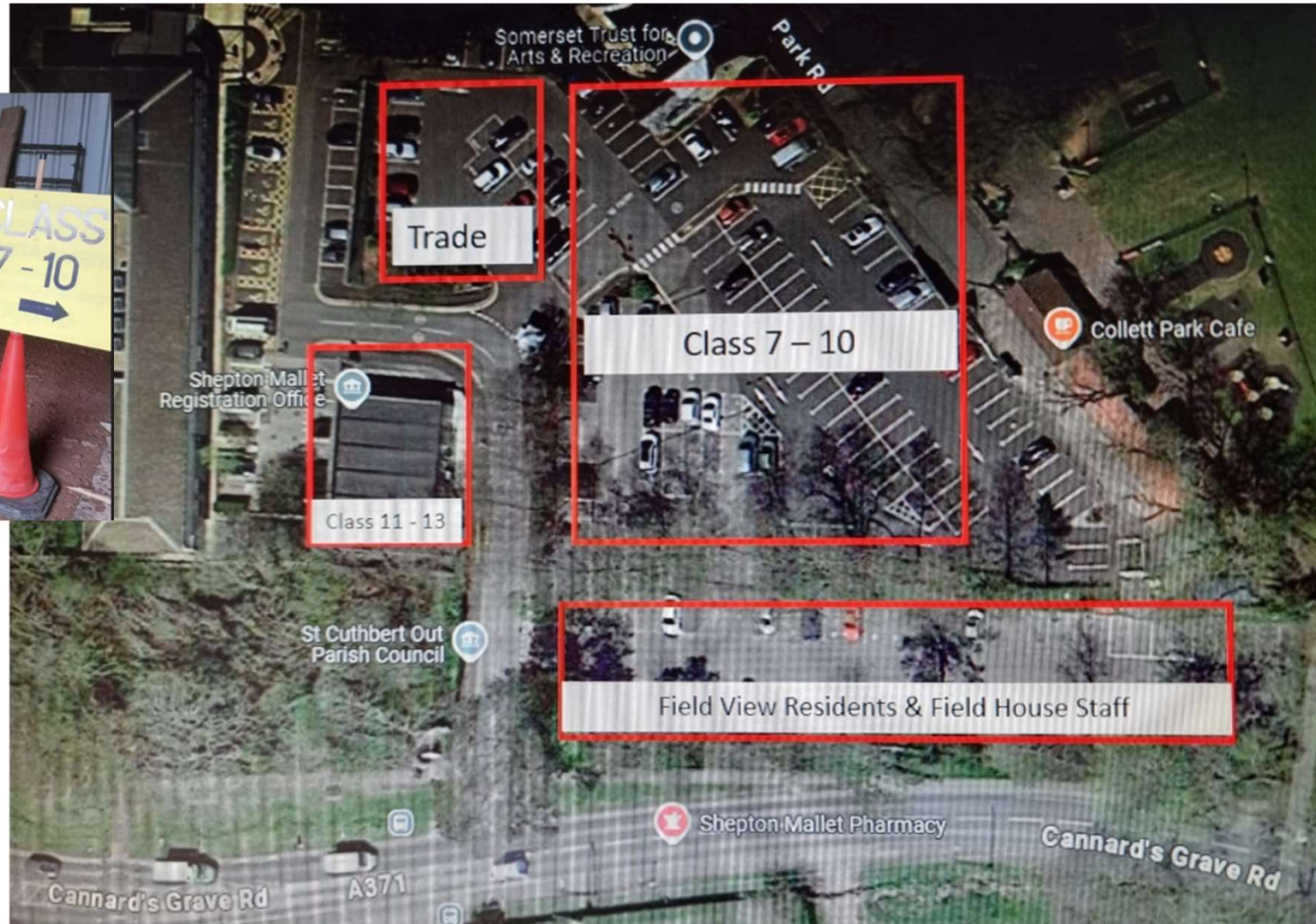
The old showground can be used for vehicles to park when equipment has been delivered. Do not park in Council Offices as it is patrolled by Parking Wardens and you will be Fined.



Muster Area for classes 7 -13

Same layout as last year in MDC Car Park.

Any small 2 part vehicles from classes 1-6 can also be accommodated in here in the 7-10 area.



If you arrive early during the day to set up, please stay with the vehicle /trailer at all times to ensure the parking warden doesn't get the chance to give you a ticket before the 5pm agreed time for muster.

Line Up.

Wednesday 18th November

Cannards Grave Road

Refuelling of Generators – we ask that care is taken during this operation and all spillages or leaks on to the road surface are made safe. Ideally re-fuelling should be able to be done before arriving in Shepton Mallet

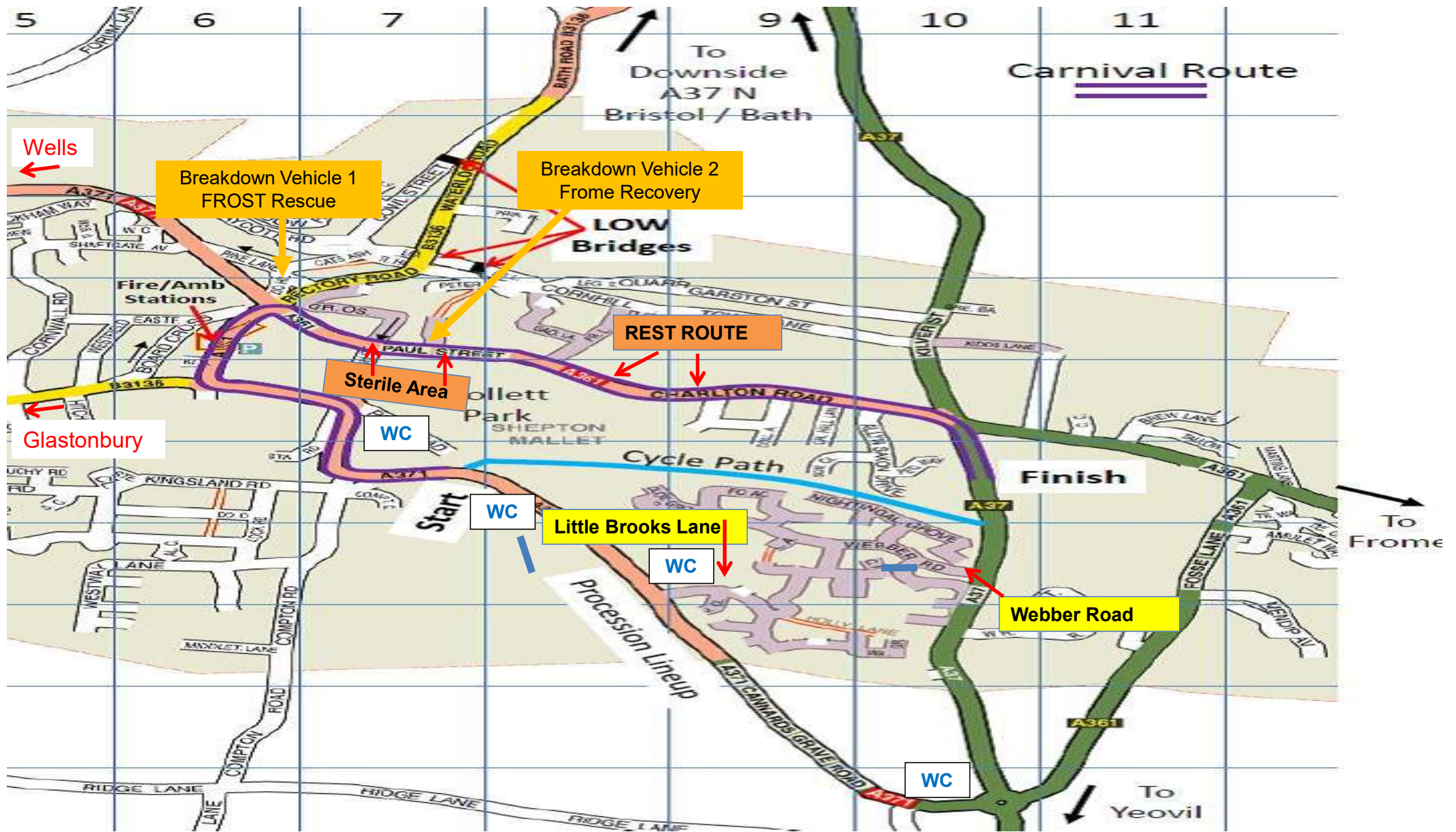
Lamps - if you replace damaged lamps please use the bags provided and not the fields alongside the Line Up for disposing of them. Livestock use the fields for grazing.

Music – please do not play or test music until **16:00hrs on Wednesday**, we must not disturb residents and businesses.

Emergencies a map will be made showing the position of each cart in the line up area to assist the emergency services in locating you if their assistance is needed.

Hand-Brakes please check all hand brakes as early as possible during Wednesday afternoon. We have had a few which could not be released when the procession started to move off following a few days of inactivity.

Escort vehicles – Tesco car park is available from 5pm onwards on carnival day to park your vehicles which can then be collected to meet the carts at the Wells line up area.



Procession.

Wednesday 18th November

• **Start Time** 19:30 hrs prompt – The firing of a rocket will signal the start of the procession.

All cart performers to be on board ready 10 mins before.

• **Start of Route** The Pedestrian Crossing outside the Doctors surgery

• **Route** – Cannards Grave Road – Townsend – Old Market Road – Commercial Road – Paul Street – Charlton Road – 40 Whitstone Road.

• **Walking Entries** – Class 7 – 13 these will be filtered into procession in an arranged order decided by our Carnival Co-Ordinator once the position of carts in line up is known. There will be no more than 2 walking entries between carts , this will ensure Judges have more time on each entry and Marshals will be aware of your position should an emergency arise.

This also creates a defined Gap between entries

Procession.

- **Trade Entries & Collection Vehicles** – These will also be filtered into procession in an arranged order once the position of carts in line up is known.

No collection vehicle will be placed in front of a tableaux entry.

Please give enough room for coin collectors to pick up from the floor

- **Sterile Area** This will be from the traffic lights at the old Nat West Bank to the Junction of Regal Road outside Phillips Tyres for 100 metres (2 cart Lengths) in Paul Street and will be signed and marshalled. No Spectators will be allowed in this area.

- **Rest Area** – This will be from the pedestrian entrance of Whitstone School in Charlton Road and finish at the main School Entrance at the junction of Kyte Road.

- **End of Route** – This will be at no 40 Whitstone Road as last year and will be well signed.

End of Procession – Whitstone Road

- **Class 1-6 Carts** - Keep left and proceed to the Sheep Roundabout.
No unloading of Performers until you are in Cannards Grave Road and parked to wait for travel to Wells.

You may be followed by cars exiting from Tadley Acres to Sheep Roundabout

Car/ trailer units to pull over on the right to get vehicles ready for onward travel.

- **Classes 7-9 Walking Groups with Vehicles** – please use the right hand side of the road and pull up as close to the Old Railway Crossing to get vehicles ready for onward travel.

Be aware of carts passing and keep performers on the pavement



Walking entries to go no further than this point to get ready for dispersal

Dispersal.

- **Dispersal Area** – Cannards Grave Road
- **Lights** please leave the cart lit up until you have unloaded performers and are parked waiting for onward movement to Wells, this will make it easier to spot pedestrians around the cart as the street lights are limited in Cannards Grave Road.
- **Unloading of Performers** – This to be done once you have reached your parking stop to wait to travel to Wells. Please follow marshals instructions.

If you are using the Highwayman Inn or Well Inn at Cannards Grave for Costume changing, please arrive later on Tuesday night for line up as this will mean you will park nearer the back of the line up and be closer for performers to walk to and from the cart and the pubs.

Dispersal.

It is important that you pull up as close to the cart in front of you and **only 1 escort vehicle to remain in the line up area with the cart.**

Any Reversing of vehicles to be done with the aid of a Banksman to ensure safety of other vehicles and road crews working in the area

All other crew vehicles should already be out of the line up area ready to meet with the cart in Wells using the Old Wells Road.

This will ensure that Whitstone Road is cleared of carts asap to allow the road to re-open.

Dispersal.

- **Movement to Wells** – This will happen from **22:00hrs** all crews are asked to be ready asap. Do not leave vehicles unattended at anytime. **Road crew to walk with the cart to the Tesco Roundabout to ensure any pedestrians are aware of cart movements.**

- **Splitting Down of Units** – Clubs are able to continue to travel to Wells under procession conditions, if any club needs to split their units, this is to be done in Old Market Road **ONLY** – this will allow the continuation of the convoy to Wells without disruption. All vehicles to park on the left, no blocking of road as this will stop the convoy. Marshals will ensure all spare towing vehicles **ONLY** turn left when leaving the show field during dispersal.

- **Sound Equipment and Fire Extinguishers etc.**

All items should be fixed or tethered to travel, the splitting down area is not to be used for this. Please ensure this is complete before.



2 x 30m Carts can split in this area at any time

Dispersal.

Convoy to Wells

- The Police Bike team will escort the carts in groups of approx 10 carts as per last year.
- Only 1 Escort Vehicle per cart **plus the extra Towing Vehicle**
Spare towing vehicle to be in front of cart behind escort vehicle to ensure the possibility of being able to move the cart if the towing vehicle does suffer a breakdown.
- Other support vehicles will have to use the Old Wells Road to Wells to meet with the cart when it arrives at the Dulcote Junction for Wells Line Up.
- Any carts that need to split down for the transit to Wells are requested to arrive from 23:00hrs on Tuesday Night to ensure they are at the back of procession which will allow the convoy to flow better, these clubs could then split down in the line up area and travel under normal conditions of travel.

Key Requirements Recap

- Carts from MSN can be parked on Monday night at Showground
- 1 escort vehicle with cart on arrival in Whitstone Road from Charlton Traffic lights.
- No waiting in the slip road by the Highwayman Inn on the Tuesday Night before 21:00hrs
- Clubs using the pubs at Cannards Grave for costume changing to arrive later on Tuesday
- Car Park for class 7-13 available at 5pm
- Tesco parking from 5pm
- Roads close latest at 6:45pm (from 6pm if required)
- Start time 7:30pm
- Clubs who will definitely split train for journey to Wells, to arrive later on Tuesday night - please inform me in advance.
- Support Vehicles for travel to Wells to be parked in Tesco car park on carnival night from 5pm and proceed to Wells to meet the cart on arrival.
- 1 escort vehicle plus spare towing vehicle to accompany the cart to Wells on A371

Possible changes to Plan

- Parking of spare towing vehicles may be at new showground?
- Convoy to Wells – waiting for Police confirmation

I will send updates on the Whatsapp chat if required

Good Luck