

CLACTON AIR SHOW TO GO-AHEAD AS PLANNED

The organisers of Clacton Air Show expect the event to go-ahead as planned despite uncertainty around the appearance of the Red Arrows.

The Red Arrows' jets have been grounded following the tragic death of Flight Lieutenant Jon Egging following a display at Bournemouth Air Show yesterday.

They are not expected to appear again in public until the cause of the accident has been identified and it is not known how long the investigation will take.

The Red Arrows are currently included in both days of the programme for Clacton's 20th Anniversary Show on Thursday and Friday (August 25 and 26).

David Hall, Tendring District Council's Event Director, said the Council will be totally guided by the show's flight director Ray Thilthorpe.

"Ray is currently down in Bournemouth as he is also the flight director there, and they are going ahead with the show today," he said.

"We will be speaking to him tomorrow but at this stage the Clacton show will continue.

"We have to assume that the Red Arrows are unlikely to appear but that is being kept open until we know more from Ray and the team."

Mr Hall said that if the Red Arrows do have to pull out a replacement will be found to maintain a full-strength display.

He expects the Council to put out a further statement tomorrow once further discussions have taken place.

Stephen Mayzes, TDC's Cabinet Member for Tourism and Community Life, said immediate thoughts are with Flt Lt Egging's family and the Red Arrows team.

"They have been regular visitors to our show over the past 19 years and everyone was deeply saddened to learn of yesterday's tragic events," he said.

"It will be a very difficult time for everyone involved with the team."

21/8/11

NEWSDESKS

For further information on this press release contact Nigel Brown, Tendring District Council's Communications Manager on 01255 686338 or 07775530242.