

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**12 March 2007**Attendance:

Councillors:

Mather (Chairman) (P)

Izard (P)

Weston (P)

1. **WICKHAM FOLK FESTIVAL, MILL LANE, WICKHAM**
(Report LR217 refers)

The Sub-Committee met to consider an application by Mr Peter Chegwyn, for a new premises licence for a folk festival to be held in a field near to the Community Centre in Mill Lane, Wickham, for the first weekend in August each year.

The Parties present at the meeting (in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005) were Mr Peter Chegwyn (Applicant) and Mrs Angela Robinson as an Interested Party. The Director of Communities also attended to answer any queries the Sub-Committee might have, although he had not made a representation. There were two members of the public present.

The Licensing and Registration Manager presented the application to the Sub-Committee as set out in the report. He explained that the application for the new premises licence, should it be granted, would allow the festival to run every year for the first weekend in August. One representation had been received from a local resident, which included signatures from several other residents, voicing concerns over the potential for noise pollution and disturbance caused by any open air events held in the field identified for this purpose. He added that, although there had been some safety issues which had been brought to the organiser's attention during the previous year, he had addressed those issues effectively and efficiently. There was also a written representation from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service regarding a number of safety issues (a representative of the Service was not present at the hearing).

Mr Chegwyn then presented his application. He explained that the event was a small scale, family friendly, folk music festival, attracting an audience of less than 2,000 people. Although the event had been held in the Community Centre in 2006, there were no current plans to hold any regulated entertainment at the Centre during the folk festival. Moving the event to the field would create a better access for people attending and the emergency services, as well as being positioned further away from most noise sensitive properties in the immediate area.

Mr Chegwyn explained that he wished to be a good neighbour to the villagers and that, in the event of any complaints about noise, he was willing to ensure that noise levels were reduced. Those levels would be constantly monitored and kept at an acceptable level. He continued that he had written to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Mrs Robinson, who had both made representations, and stated that he was happy to meet with both parties and answer any concerns they may have. Mr

Chegwyn confirmed that there would be a dedicated Health and Safety Officer available throughout the event, as well as medical and security services.

Responding to Members' questions, Mr Chegwyn stated that a full Traffic Management Plan (TMP) would be submitted to the Council before the event, outlining access to the site and the car parking arrangements. He explained that the route to the site has been designed to ensure that the majority of traffic was kept away from the centre of Wickham, but that a large increase in the number of vehicles in the area was not anticipated. Should the weather be bad, it was agreed that a condition could be attached to the licence stating that the access and egress roads would be swept clear of excess mud, to ensure the safety of the drivers using the roads. This would also be included in the TMP. Arrival times would be staggered throughout the weekend and Mr Chegwyn clarified that the TMP would have to be approved by the City Council and Responsible Authorities before the event could go ahead.

In response to further questions, Mr Chegwyn reiterated that he had no intention of using both the field and the Community Centre simultaneously for live music during this event. The Community Centre would only be used for non-licensable activities and possible catering for the backstage crews. The licence for the field would only be for the four days per year when the festival took place and he was happy to accept this as a condition on the licence.

Mr Chegwyn answered concerns over rubbish in the area following the previous year's event. He explained that there were skips available that were cleared each day and daily litter picks. The landowner had been satisfied that the site had been cleared fully in 2006. Mr Chegwyn stated that he was willing to walk round the local area with residents during the 2007 event to ensure that the surrounding roads, hedges and ditches were also kept litter free.

Mrs Robinson, as an Interested Party, then spoke about the application. She voiced her concerns over the possible noise nuisance that the local residents would experience during the extended hours of the event. She would like a telephone number which residents could call should they have any complaints of this nature. The two concurrent licences were also a concern, as both sites could be used in future years simultaneously for regulated entertainment. Mrs Robinson continued, explaining that the roads in the area were in bad condition and that they would not be able to cope with the increased number of vehicles for the event.

Mr Chegwyn responded that there would be a hotline telephone number to the event, which members of the public could use in the event of a noise complaint. This would be included in both the Event Management Plan and Noise Management Plan. The Director of Communities confirmed that the Council would not have its own dedicated line, but people could still ring the Council's emergency out of hours number if necessary. It was pointed out, however, that the Council did not provide an out of hours noise response service. Mr. Chegwyn confirmed that as organiser, he would adhere to national noise level guidelines and a noise limiter would be run through the sound desk, to constantly monitor the levels. He added that any caravans staying on site over the weekend would be kept as far away from properties as possible.

Mr Chegwyn concluded that, although no extra conditions could be attached to the Community Centre Premises Licence, he was happy for all the restrictions discussed and outlined in the report to be included in his licence. He understood a review of the licence may be undertaken should he be in any breach of his conditions.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate in camera.

In her closing remarks, the Chairman stated that in reaching its decision, the Sub-Committee had given careful consideration to all the issues raised regarding the application, including those set out in the report and matters raised during the hearing.

RESOLVED:

That the application be granted, subject to:

Mandatory Conditions

Under the Licensing Act 2003, the following conditions must be imposed on the Premises Licence:-

1. No supply of alcohol may be made under the Premises Licence (a) at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or (b) at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.

2. Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

3. Where individuals are required on premises to carry out security activities, they must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority.

Other Conditions

Operating Hours

1. The hours the premises may be used for regulated entertainment shall be:

Live music, recorded music and anything of a similar description;
Provision of facilities for making music and anything of a similar description;

- | | | |
|------|------------------|--------------|
| (i) | Thursday | 1800 to 2300 |
| (ii) | Friday to Sunday | 1300 to 2300 |

2. The hours the premises may be used the provision of late night refreshment shall be:

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| (i) | Thursday to Sunday | 2300 to 0000 |
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3. The hours the premises may be used for the sale of alcohol shall be:

Consumption ON the premises only:

- | | | |
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| (i) | Thursday | 1800 to 2300 |
| (ii) | Friday to Sunday | 1200 to 2300 |
| (iii) | The sale of alcohol may continue for artistes, staff and guests until 0000 | |

All Licensing Objectives

1. This licence shall only have effect on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the first weekend in August each year.
2. The licence holder shall produce and submit an Event Management Plan (EMP), including a Noise Management Plan and a Traffic Management Plan to the Licensing Authority for its approval no later than 28 days before the start of the event.
3. No regulated entertainment shall take place unless and until the three plans have been approved.

Crime and Disorder

1. The licence holder shall provide 24 hours security by SIA licensed personnel.
2. The premises shall be secured by perimeter fencing.
3. Entrance to the event shall be by ticket only.

Public Safety

1. Risk assessments are to be provided to the Licensing Authority, with the EMP, no later than 28 days before the start of the event.
2. There shall be 24 hour first aid cover, including paramedic cover.
3. The licence holder shall arrange for access roads to be swept clear of mud during and after the event if required by the Licensing Authority.
4. There shall be no more than 3,000 people on site at any one time.
5. The EMP should include appropriate provisions dealing with the following provisions:
 - Details of expected numbers
 - An Emergency Plan
 - Details of escape routes, signage and numbers of exits to cope with expected numbers
 - Management plan for main site and camp site
 - Details of fire warning
 - Details of emergency lighting
 - Details of numbers of staff and their training
 - Number and locations of fire extinguishers
 - Method of calling the fire service
 - Risk assessment covering fire risks

Public Nuisance

1. Whilst music is being played as part of regulated entertainment, the licensee or appointed member of staff shall check periodically that noise levels are acceptable. Such monitoring shall be carried out at the boundary of the premises to ensure that local residents are not likely to be disturbed.

2. No alcohol shall be taken off the premises.

3. The provisions of the approved Event Management Plan, Noise Management Plan and the Traffic Management Plan, shall be complied with at all times.

4. The licence holder shall ensure that all litter is removed from the site and surrounding ditches.

5. The licence holder shall provide a dedicated telephone line and advertise the number appropriately.

Protection of Children

1. The premises shall adopt and implement the Hampshire Constabulary's Challenge 21 Scheme.

2. All children shall be issued with wristbands with contact details.

3. Unaccompanied children shall not be allowed to enter or leave the premises.

4. There shall be no bouncy castles, bungee jumping or similar attractions at the premises.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 11.15am.

Chairman