

**MINUTES**

of the

**LICENSING COMMITTEE HEARING**

held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 11am

Present:

Councillor R. Lee (Chair of Hearing)

Councillors H. Clark, D. Clark and A. Davidson

1. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

All Members were reminded to declare any interests where appropriate in any items of business on the meeting's agenda. None were made.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the hearing held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025, were approved as a correct record.

4. **Licensing Act 2003 – Application for a New Premises Licence – Far and Beyond, Hylands Park, Writtle, Chelmsford, CM2 8WQ**

The Committee considered an application for a new premises licence made under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 and had regard to the representations made during the consultation period. These related to the promotion of the below Licensing objectives.

- a) The prevention of crime and disorder
- b) Public safety
- c) The prevention of public nuisance
- d) The protection of children from harm

The Committee were informed that the application had sought permission for recorded music, other regulated entertainment and alcohol sales. The Committee were informed that as detailed at Appendix H of the agenda item, the programming of the event had evolved and the licensable activities and timings as set out below were now sought by the applicant. The Committee also noted that the regulated entertainment end times were the hard curfew and music would finish 15 minutes before those times along with the main stage not operating on the Friday.

**Recorded Music**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 16:00-22:45

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 10:00-22:15

**Other Regulated Entertainment**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 16:00-22:45

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 10:30 – 22:15

**Alcohol Sales**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 16:00 – 22:30

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 10:30 – 22:00

It was noted by the Committee that there were three options namely;

- Grant the application, on the terms and conditions applied for.
- Grant the application, on the terms and conditions applied for, modified to such extent as considered appropriate to promote the licensing objectives.
- Refuse the application in whole or in part.

The below parties attended and took part in the hearing:

- Applicants and their legal representative
- One member of the public

Officers informed the Committee that in response to the application, two representations had been received from local residents and one from a ward Councillor, but not from any of the responsible authorities.

The applicant's legal representative introduced their client's application to the Committee. They informed the Committee that the application was for an event that had been run successfully in other locations, with a law-abiding demographic and would involve two stages, one with live music and another with recorded music. They stated that the event would be very different from previous ones in Hylands Park with an older audience demographic. The main stage would be positioned to face away from Writtle, to assist with noise control and there would be a fenced off area behind the stage to facilitate a walking route throughout the build and break up period of the event. They also stated that there would be no camping at the event, less stages than other festivals in Hylands Park, earlier finish times and shorter artist sets, with 30-minute breaks between performances.

The applicant stated that they had cut back from their original timings, as detailed in Appendix H, which detailed stage timings and that they felt the timings were appropriate for the event and the location. They highlighted the vast experience of their client who had organised and run other large events (with capacities up to 80,000 people) without issues, the specialist contractors that would be used (e.g. for security) which were tried and tested, along with the extensive discussions that had already taken place with the Council and Essex Police in the planning of the event. They highlighted that no objections had been submitted by any responsible authorities and a comprehensive set of conditions (89 in total) had been agreed with Essex Police and the Council's Public Health and Protection Services. They also referred to the requirement for an event management plan to be prepared and approved by the Safety Advisory Group before the event could take place.

In response to the representations that had been submitted, the Committee heard that the location within the park had been chosen by their site manager after surveying the park for the flat topography, extra space for chairs and walkways and no issues with noise nuisance. The specific location would also allow elements of the park to be more accessible and stay open in comparison to other events in different locations of the park. The Committee were also informed about the noise modelling which had been carried out and the extensive noise management plan that would be submitted with the event management plan as detailed in the proposed conditions. The applicant also referred to conditions covering concerns around litter, anti-social behaviour and traffic and stated that the agreed conditions would ensure that local residents' concerns would be mitigated. The applicant also highlighted to the Committee, the benefits to the local economy but accepted that this was an additional point and not one for the Committee to consider, as it did not relate to the promotion of the Licensing objectives.

The Committee heard from a local resident who had objected to the application, who queried the placement of noise sensitive locations on Paradise Road and the sound levels. The applicant confirmed their noise consultant had looked at specific areas on Paradise Road, to decide the locations and that the figures would be below the 65db prescribed limit in those locations.

In response to questions from members of the Committee, the applicant confirmed that they had already held conversations with the Parish Council, were obligated under the conditions to provide information to local residents prior to the event and that they would contact those within a 1 mile radius by letter with information and contact numbers for complaints ahead of the event. They also confirmed that the noise propagation test would be conducted on the day of the event and then used to compare to sound levels throughout the day, but that modelling on sound levels had been carried out already and minute by minute by monitoring to take account of wind changes would take place on the day.

The applicant also clarified to the Committee that they were happy with the 89 agreed conditions, the revised times in Appendix H, to conduct regular litter picking during and after the event and to place staff at roads such as Paradise Road to manage parking for local residents. In response to a further point raised, regarding contacting the Council on the day for any complaints, Licensing officers confirmed that they would be available over the course of the event, in addition to the applicant's complaint line being available as well.

The Committee thanked the attendees and officers for their input and advised that the decision would be made during the deliberation after the meeting. It was noted that due to the remote nature of the meeting, the decision would be circulated to all parties within a few working days via email.

The Committee gave careful consideration to the relevant representations both written and made during the remote hearing.

**RESOLVED** that the Director of Public Places be authorised to grant the application on the terms applied for (including the conditions set out at Appendix G to the report) **SUBJECT** to the following limitations.

## **A. Limitations**

The permitted hours for the licensable activities (as applied for) be adjusted (i.e. cut back) to the times set out in table under 'Regulated Entertainment and Alcohol Sales' which appears at the foot of page 70 in Appendix H to the agenda pack. (This reduction in the hours applied for was offered up by the applicant at the hearing.)

## **B. Reasons for decision**

1). In reaching its decision the Committee gave careful consideration to application (including the proposed conditions) and to the relevant representations both written and made in the course of the remote hearing. The Committee also had regard to the current statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

2). All decisions on licensing applications must be evidence based. Furthermore, in making its determination the Committee was required by law to focus solely on the relevant licensing objectives as set out in the 2003 Act and in particular whether one or more of the licensing objectives would be promoted or undermined if the application were to be granted and the event go ahead. Although the event, if it were to go ahead, would be likely to have a significant beneficial economic impact on the City of Chelmsford (in terms of trade and generating temporary employment etc) these were not factors that the Committee could legitimately take into account.

3) The applicant had provided comprehensive documentation in support of its application and this included 89 proposed conditions which the applicant had consulted on and agreed with (among others) the police and Environment Health. These conditions included the requirements for the applicant to submit to SAG for approval (and then implement) a comprehensive draft Event Management Plan, to include a Traffic and Transport Management Plan and a Litter Management Plan. The Committee was bound to note and give due weight to the fact that none of the responsible authorities (and especially the police and the Council's Environmental Health) had sought to object to the application.

4) It was also clear that there were adequate acoustic measures in place (including orientation of the stages) to ensure that acceptable noise levels were not exceeded.

5) Having regard to the evidence before it, the Committee was satisfied that the if the licence were to be granted the licensing objectives would not be undermined.

6) The Committee did, however, take on board the objectors' concerns regarding litter and parking in nearby residential roads, including Paradise Road and from its own local knowledge and experience was aware that litter and parking could become

issues of concern. The Committee believed that these concerns were capable of being addressed and managed by the conditions attached to the licence which required the applicant to submit to SAG for approval, and when approved implement, (i) a Traffic and Transport Management Plan (with road closures and a parking permit scheme, and (ii) a Litter Management Plan. The Committee would, however, draw the applicant's attention to the Informatives below.

## **C. Informatives**

### **1. Litter**

The Committee would ask that the applicant ensure that the Litter Management Plan referred to in conditions 82 & 83 provides for the regular clearing by stewards during the event (in addition to after the event) of litter deposited on roads located in close proximity to the application premises. These roads to include (for the avoidance of any doubt) Paradise Road, Romans Way, Rectory Road, Lucerne Way, The Priory, Hunts Drive, Hunts Close, Lucerne Road and relevant sections of Margaretting Road.

### **2. Parking**

The Committee would ask that the Traffic and Transport Management Plan (which is to form part of the draft Event Management Plan submitted to SAG for approval pursuant to condition 3) provides for stewards to be present within the area of the residential roads which are to be covered by a parking permit scheme, to ensure, so far as possible, that motorists are way of the restrictions and that there is compliance.

### **3. Engagement with local residents**

The Committee would ask that the applicant/event organisers seek to engage with local residents living in close proximity to the application site (e.g. Paradise Road) 2 weeks or so before commencement of the event, with a view to identifying and assuaging any concerns.

### **4. Appreciation of the Committee**

The Committee thanked the applicant's legal representative (Mr Simon Taylor) for his very detailed and thorough presentation which assisted the Committee in identifying and addressing the key issues. The Committee was also appreciative of the detailed documentation submitted in support of the application, including the 89 proposed conditions.

The meeting closed at 12pm

Chair