



Licensing Department
Central Bedfordshire Council

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28/01/2016

Dear Sir or Madame,

RE: Temporary event notice STOCKWELL FARM EGGINGTON 8th to 10th July 2016

On behalf of the Chief Officer of Bedfordshire Police, I wish to make the following representations in relation to stated temporary event at STOCKWELL FARM EGGINGTON, on the basis that allowing this event will undermine the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, promotion of public safety, and the prevention of public nuisance.

Bedfordshire Police have concerns over the lack of planning and organisation of this event, and the impact on the licensing objectives that this will have.

A previous festival for 1200 -1500 people at the same site in September 2014 resulted in three people being arrested on suspicion of possession of controlled drugs with the intent to supply, one person being arrested on suspicion of assaulting event staff and damaging vehicles whilst under the influence of controlled drugs, a person being hospitalised after becoming aggressive after taking controlled drugs, the police being called to deal with rowdy people suspected of taking controlled drugs, and a serious road traffic collision at the site where a person was run over by a van and suffered internal bleeding.

In addition to these incidents, Bedfordshire Police received correspondence from a resident of Eggington, on behalf of other residents of the village, complaining of excessive noise from the sound stage at the event.

All of these incidents occurred at an event that went through a detailed safety advisory group planning process. To date the applicant for this event has made no contact with the safety advisory group or police, except in response to questions about this temporary event application.

The planning in relation to this particular application appears to be worrying limited. On speaking to the applicant via email, no public safety risk assessments appear to be in place. A review of the organiser's website, Twitter, and Facebook pages raise further concerns about

how the event is being managed. Despite stating on the application that there will be only 400 attendees, the website states 'WE WOULD LIKE TO AIM FOR 500-800 PEOPLE TO COME THIS FESTIVAL'. 4.4 thousand people have been 'invited' on the Facebook page, with 887 confirming as 'going'. Whilst Facebook may not be a true representation of actual numbers of attendees, it gives an indication of those that are aware of the event and have the potential to arrive.

The event site itself is situated on an unlit winding road with a national speed limit. The lack of any traffic management plan adds concerns over public safety with regards to the risk of road traffic collisions involving vehicles queuing to attend the site, and people walking in the road.

The website and social media pages also make reference to 'LIVE MUSIC ALL NIGHT LONG', and requests for the booking of acts. This is despite regulated entertainment not being requested on the application. Such music is likely to result in a repeat of the noise nuisance seen by the residents of Eggington during the event in 2014.

There are further concerns over how responsibly the applicant will manage the sale of alcohol, with messages on the Facebook page offering 'A FREE BOTTLE OF RUM OR VODKA AT FESTIVAL' for those that 'liked' the event page, and a challenge of drinking a 'YARD DRINK' in under a minute at the event, to receive a free T Shirt.

In summary, the previous festival at the site in question in 2014 demonstrated the impact on crime, disorder, public safety and nuisance that a well-planned event at this location generated. The applicant for this temporary event has demonstrated very limited planning, shown little consideration of public risk, and has shown a naivety around the responsible management of licensable activities. This is all whilst promoting the event to significantly larger numbers than the 400 attendees requested. All of these factors are likely to result in the undermining of the stated licensing objectives, should this event take place.

Yours Sincerely,

LP MITCHELL

Liam MITCHELL
Licensing Officer