



Licensing Sub-Committee

Date: Monday, 16 September 2019
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Committee Room 1, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset

Membership: (Quorum 3)
Councillors Les Fry, Emma Parker and David Taylor

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1UZ (Sat Nav DT1 1EE)

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A G E N D A

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4 OBJECTION TO TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICE FOR SIKUTA FESTIVAL, WIMBORNE

3 - 4

To consider a report of the Team Leader, Licensing on an application for a temporary event notice.

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11

WITNESS STATEMENT

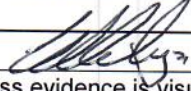
CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of: **Gareth Gosling**

Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: **Dorset Police Alcohol Licensing Sergeant**

This statement (consisting of2..... page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it, which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: 

Date: **11th September 2019**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I am a Police Sergeant with Dorset Police currently stationed at Bournemouth Police Station and I have the responsibility of Supervising the Dorset Alcohol Licensing Department, known also as the Drug & Alcohol Harm Prevention Team. I have held this position for 18 months.

I make this statement in relation to a Temporary Event Notice served on Dorset County Council by Danielle Case of 92 Iford Lane, Bournemouth, Dorset for the use of the 'Showground', Merley Hall farm, BH21 3DN. The Notice informs the Council of an event utilising the 20-acre field for a music event including a paid bar, regulated DJ entertainment until 0200hrs and food provision.

Due to the hours of operation proposed, Dorset Police had concerns that the nature of the event, being one that will ordinarily attract a young demographic and which would also require higher levels of control, security and welfare provision. Dorset Police made several attempts to contact the premises user with no success and an objection was then served within the statutory timescales due to concerns that Dorset Police had that the licensing objectives of Prevention of Crime & Disorder and Public Safety would not be promoted.

A short time following the objection being notified to the premises user, contact was received from a parent of the premises user. The premises user was subsequently able to provide Dorset Police, via telephone, and later in an email, with further details of the proposed event and the infrastructure that would be present to support such an event.

In some respects, it was reassuring that some of the key areas involved in planning an event had been considered, however, the lack of experience on the part of the organiser was clear in that no detail was provided that would reassure Dorset Police that key areas such as security, medical, welfare, dispersal, 'Challenge 25' and Traffic Management had been fully assessed in advance of the event.

I do not wish to comment on each area of the document submitted by Sikuta, the trading name of the events company set up by the premises user, however, I will comment on one particular area concern which I consider demonstrates the lack of experience and suitability for this organiser to host an event on this scale.

A representative of the event has since informed Dorset Police that they intend to have 3 x SIA accredited Security staff. This is woefully low given the nature of this event and whilst it is not our place to advise on how security staff will be deployed at the event, the organiser have advised that security will be conducting 'bag checks and pat downs' on entry for the 450 guests.

Signature: 

Signature witnessed by:

2006/07 (1)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: **Gareth Gosling**

The organiser has overlooked how they will be able to conduct this role with 3 x SIA given that their responsibilities would also be expected to extend to securing perimeters, manage disorder, identify welfare issues and deal with supporting event organisers with safe egress in the event of an emergency situation amongst other roles.

This type of detail would usually expect to be dealt with during a Safety Advisory Group meeting. This event, as detailed by the Licensing Authority in its report, has not been subject to the support of the SAG, which would have provided support and guidance to the organiser.

A further concern regarding Public Safety is that the organiser has not provided any detail or confirmation that there is adequate public liability insurance in place for this event.

This event is essentially an event that is being marketed along the same principles as a 'Rave', given that the location of the event is deliberately withheld from customers until 24-hours prior to the event and the theme of the entertainment being that of a certain genres of music. Furthermore, the event is marketed towards persons aged 16 years and above with limited capacity to control areas of concern such as proxy-sales and excessive consumption of alcohol.

As this is not being marketed as a family-friendly event, there are further concerns with regards to the camping provision that we are advised will form part of this event. Whilst this activity is not regulated under the Licensing Act, it forms a part of this event and there are concerns that this event would be subject to increased risks surrounding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and County Lines Drug Dealing given the demographic of the attendees.

I would therefore kindly invite the Sub-Committee to reject this Temporary Event Notice in the form submitted by the applicant on the basis that the operating schedule relating to the event, including the operating hours, times for late night refreshment and alcohol availability are incapable of being provided in a safe environment which promotes the licensing objectives.

Signature:



Signature witnessed by:

2006/07 (1)