



Licensing Sub-Committee

Date: Wednesday, 5 June 2024
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)
Derek Beer, Emma Parker and Claudia Webb

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact 01305 224877 john.miles@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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Supplementary Information: Email from Trustee of The Erica Trust (adjoining heathland landowner) Chairman of EDEP. Clarifying position on Licence Application for Moors Valley Country Park.

We understand that the above application is going to be considered on Wednesday 5th June. This application has been the subject of some discussion between the various parties since it was originally submitted. Therefore, we thought it might be helpful if we were to clarify our position as of Wednesday. It is based on the fact that the so called 'forest' at Moors Valley retains much heathland in permanent open spaces and rides as well as in temporary clear fell areas. This makes the location both most unusual and sensitive.

We believe that the informally stated intention of Forest England is to only hold a Halloween event, with lights, but without music this year. This is not objectionable as it is unlikely to have any significant impact on important local wildlife including bats (which will be going into hibernation) and nightjars (which will have departed for Africa). However, if the application is approved as it is currently worded, Forestry England will have carte blanche to hold events at any time of year with lights and music (including from an outdoor cinema screen) and these would have a significant impact on such important wildlife. Changes in staffing at FE could easily result in such a change of thinking, and FE have not yet produced any EIA to inform any such potential change of thinking.

Could we therefore please ask that either -

Consideration of the application is deferred until FE are able to modify their application to reflect their much reduced and specific declared intent or

Any approval should be subject to conditions which preclude events being held outside of the winter season and which are accompanied by music.

We should be most grateful if this communication could be read to members before they consider this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Trustee of The Erica Trust (adjoining heathland landowner), Chairman of EDEP.

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