



Licensing Sub-Committee

Date: Tuesday, 18 June 2024
Time: 1.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)
Derek Beer, Louise Bown and David Shortell

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

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Meeting Contact 01305 224877 john.miles@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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Representation number 1 in Appendix 5

Hi Kathryn,

Hope you're well. I've already sent confirmation to you that [REDACTED] will be speaking on my behalf on June 18th as I am out of the country.

However I would like to re-iterate that I believe the granting of this licence will represent a clear and present danger to public safety and I am sure the committee will have safety – especially that of children, hundreds of whom frequent the events currently held - uppermost in their minds.

At these events children regularly run out of the insecure field at the back of the pub and into the village where there is a duck pond to which they are obviously attracted.

There was a near miss recently with a child running into the road from an event and while I know the committee would not want to feel responsible for any child being hurt - or worse - the question has to be asked who WOULD be responsible if a tragedy occurred because of the increased number of events and the public dangers that come with them?

What protections will the Springhead Pub, Blue Welly and the licencing committee put in place to prevent children or villagers being hurt?

What protections would be put in place to ensure that the emergency services could access the village when the one and only road is blocked by queuing traffic.

Someone having a heart attack or a stroke could not be accessed by paramedics. Fire engines would not be able to access a house fire.

Its shame members of the committee couldn't see Sutton Poyntz on those days where huge events like the Sausage Festival are being held. They would see the situation I'm describing.

Also this application for a new licence does not replace the one Blue welly events currently holds for events within the pub grounds. And if it is granted it means there would be TWO licences for the same field and this could HUGELY increase the number of events by each licence holder.

And while many villagers have effectively been "lobbied" by pub tenants [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from the Springhead pub who are assuring people that nothing will change from the present licence, the committee (and villagers) cannot take this at face value. Why would Blue Welly want a new licence if nothing was going to change? It is a separate business and it exists to make money. And as a business it wants to generate as much income as possible. Hence the application for a new licence.

And the assurances that “ nothing is going to change” have already been contradicted by [REDACTED] themselves who have admitted they are getting more and more inquiries for weddings.

And while not covered under the application it must be noted that if this licence is granted it would turn a small residential village into a wedding and events venue which would of huge detriment to this small community. And I know already from talking to concerned people that the crime and public nuisance element that would go with a hugely increased number of events (many of these people live alone and have already been frightened by incidents during past events) is affecting their mental health. It has to be a public and moral duty to take responsibility for that.

In addition this new application makes no reference to the number of events that can take place between March and September. If granted would give Blue Welly an additional 179 days a year to run daily events if it so wished . And all that is on top of the events already allowed under the current licence. Steve from Blue Welly says he wants this new licence to “ take more control” of events. What does that mean? He already has control of Blue Welly events . And his wife as tenant of the pub has control over the Punch Tavern events.

This is not about control its about generating revenue at the expense of public safety.

And while I support the village pub it cannot be at the expense of public safety or people’s mental health.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Representation number 4 in Appendix 5

Dear Sir/Madam

In addition to my original e mail I wish to add the following .

I have a good relationship with [REDACTED].

I attend occasional events at the premises and helped out with car parking and directing attendees to last years Sausage & Cider festival.

As stated in my original e mail I enjoy having a pub in the village and do accept that living in close proximity I must tolerate some noise and disruption. Which I feel is at its maximum level.

I have no issue with the live or recorded music played at events/weddings.

I do however currently experience the following after events/comedynights/sport screenings and other busy nights in the grounds.

Pub glasses tossed in my and adjacent garden or left on wall this is generally in the late afternoon early evening when guests are having a walk round village.

Other problems start when events are finishing when alcohol fuelled groups are leaving the premises and hanging around in the village trying to get taxis . Loud obscene language is often heard , have seen people urinating on cars, fighting and on occasion throwing planters into river/pond.

I do have concerns when events are on regarding emergency vehicle access to my address and others that are past the Springhead as it can be congested with either pedestrians and or vehicles .

The above is a brief description of what I currently tolerate.

As stated I support the occasional large event and think as residents we are aware of what is taking place and can make arrangements to suit.

However the application for a licence for everyday 10am to 11pm in addition to the existing licence fills me with dread and is one I cannot support in its current form.

My experience of public nuisance/antisocial behaviour and crime & disorder would no doubt increase.

The field was in use last Saturday for Skafest with camping on site .

Query Is this what it would become more of a camp/festival site if an annual licence is granted? Pop up bars or more permanent structures ? Catering ? Toilets ? With the pub & grounds etc also open operating separately .

I want to support local business but cannot support this wide ranging application in its current format.

Yours Sincerely

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Representation number 11 in Appendix 5

Hi Kathryn,

As advised in my email confirming my attendance to the licensing hearing on the 9th of June 2024 attached are my additional comments to my original objection which I will read out.

As stated I want to make it clear that I want our village pub the Spring Head to be successful, and I personally am a great supporter of the pub.

I also want to make it clear that I support them with the current level of events held within the pub grounds such as the Ska festival, the Sausage festival, and Weddings all run under their existing licence held by Blue Welly events. And I expect that this is a great way for the pub to generate additional revenue, outside of their tenancy with Punch Taverns.

I would also like to support the use of the field adjoining the pub as an alternative location for some of these current events but within the 28 day licence I believe they currently hold.

HOWEVER, I would like to raise the following objection's to the application being discussed.

IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD That this new application for a license, does not replace the one Blue Welly events currently hold, for events within the pub grounds.

This is an additional licence for additional events, and while we are currently being offered assurances from the Springhead pub, not Blue Welly events that nothing will change, the purpose of any new business is to make money.

The new licence application does not make any reference to the annual number of events that can take place other than that, 4 ticketed events covering numbers between 300 and 1000 people, will be allowed annually, Between the 1st of March and the 28th of September. This new licence would then be allowing Blue Welly approximately 179 additional days a year left to run a daily event should they choose. This is In addition to the events allowed under the current licenses within the pub grounds.

While the pub (not Blue Welly events) have stated that they do not wish to increase the number of events currently held they have also contradicted this in their statement to the village, saying that they are being asked to hold many more weddings.

I would like to see within the licence an agreement to an exact number of events being allowed, across the existing location at the rear of the pub and the field adjoining.

A BIG concern is that Blue Welly events has a separate Director and is an entirely separate business to the licensee of the pub, but the Pub have stated that should they (Blue Welly) cease to lease the field in the future they would want to terminate the licence, however what controls do the council have should they cease to lease the Spring Head Pub? Once we have then given permission to have an events business operating from the field adjacent to the pub for the entire period between the 1st of March and the 29th of September, and the new Pub tenants permission to operate a separate events business subject to a new licence application.

There MUST therefore be a clause within what ever permission is agreed that only the Pub tenants can operate events in the field adjacent should they lease this field. In addition, that the field lease holder cannot operate an events business solely in this field.

I would also like to understand how these events held in the field will be catered for? Will they be allowed permanent structures such as catering facilities, toilets and bars? I would like to suggest that any such facilities can only be allowed for an agreed number of events and that they would be removed between events.

What requirement will be made for Blue Welly events to clear up any mess caused within the village after an event?

While I understand that travel and access, to and from this field do not form part of this application it must be considered under public safety prior to the licence agreement being reached, and not when it's too late to save a life as an ambulance could not get access to a patient.

With regards to protection of children, what protection will be put in place to restrict young people running into the road in an un gated open field, when an abnormal level of traffic will be in the road?

While again apparently not covered under the application what impact will this events business have on a small and relatively peaceful community, with no restrictions on type or number of events being allowed.

Surely the number of events needs to be agreed prior to any new licence being issued, and restricted to an agreed much lower number of days.

What I would support if the current licence isn't working due to numbers, is an extension of numbers of people for the 4 ticketed events currently held, but with no addition to the number of days being allowed for other events to operate.

In conclusion it must be understood that Blue Welly events is an entirely separate business to the Spring head Pub and as a business owner myself I see they need to generate as much income as possible.

So I support our pub and the current level of external events operated by Blue Welly, but granting an additional permanent licence with very few conditions would be absolutely the wrong and detrimental decision for the community and surrounding area as a whole.

Kind Regards

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Representation number 3 in Appendix 6

Dear Licensing

With regard to the application for Blue Wellie Events, I am afraid I cannot attend the hearing.

However, I would like it to be recorded that I am wholly in favour of this application and would urge the committee to support this excellent business and the hard working owners. This enterprise adds value to the community and provides valued services to local patrons and customers.

Many thanks

Yours faithfully

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