

LicensingTeamB

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 December 2021 16:47
To: LicensingTeamB
Subject: Comment on Application by Stonegate Pub Company Limited

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Categories: FOR DRINK TEAM

Re: Application by Stonegate Pub Company Limited for a premises licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 at Rendezvous, 49 St Thomas Street, Weymouth

I would like to make an objection to the granting of the above application in its current form on the basis of preventing a public nuisance by excessive noise. My prime concern is the apparent open nature of the licence and the unpredictability this will create for the organisers of other events in the immediate area that are likely to be affected. One in particular is the Wessex Folk Festival, a long-established, free event held on the weekend after the May Bank Holiday every year. This is an event of great value to the local community that provides enjoyment for residents and attracts visitors whose spending benefits local businesses. Having a traditional, fixed date each year prevents the Festival from clashing with other events in the local and national folk music calendar and allows visitors to guarantee their accommodation by booking well in advance.

The Festival runs between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm on the Saturday and Sunday and would be adversely affected by noise nuisance from any entertainment event taking place outside the Rendezvous. The Folk Festival has a music stage on the harbourside immediately opposite the Rendezvous. The music is mainly acoustic and is amplified at much lower volume levels than the performances typically staged by the Rendezvous. The festival site also features morris dance groups, who perform to music that is not amplified at all. The proximity of the Rendezvous stage would result in the Folk Festival music being completely overwhelmed.

As an annual event involving many musicians and dancers from around the country as well as numerous local traders, the Folk Festival takes many months to organise. The threat of the event being spoiled for performers and visitors alike would make it all but impossible to plan, especially if a competing event could be announced with only six weeks' notice. The Festival is run by volunteers and has no commercial funding so it would not be able to continue under such uncertainty.

I hope you will protect the existence of this popular event when considering this application and whether the noise nuisance could have similar consequences for any other valuable community events.

