

22nd March 2023

Application for licence by Jurassic Fields 2023 – West Bay Fields

Dear [REDACTED]

I'm writing in response to your objection to our Licence application for the use of West Bay Fields for this year's Jurassic Fields Music Festival.

In your letter you have mentioned a few concerns with the event moving to this new location and we have responded to each in turn. We have also attached a site map which shows the plans for the festival and areas surrounding the site.

- **These fields are part of a more extensive area of open fields which are of benefit both to wildlife and the public, as there is a footpath running through them.**
 - The fields are private farmland and not open fields for the public. The footpath is not affected by the event and the right of way will remain running through them for both the build phase and live phase of the event (ie it will be unaffected by the Festival). The first field has been used for a number of years for camping for the event with no shown adverse effects to wildlife. The second field where the arena is using less than 50% of the field. On events such as The Melpash Show the entire field is used so we don't deem it to have any more impact on the wildlife than any other event that uses the farmers land.
- **There has already been a visual and physical restriction placed on the area (presumably in anticipation of change of use) by the erection of barbed wire fences right through the middle of this rare open area.**
 - As an event we only hire the farmland from the owner and had no input into the fence being erected. The rare open area is in fact private farmland and not an open area to the public. Speaking to the Landowner we have been told the fences have been put in place, at their discretion, to continue to allow the right of way through the farmland but protect their livestock from animal attacks and abuse from the public who are trespassing. I believe they have the full backing of the council and the council have even given hard surface material for them to lay along the public right of way free of charge. James Stagg and Russell Goff, Rangers from the Dorset Council worked with the Landowner to ensure that the footpath was built within guidelines.
- **To allow opening up of the area to loud music would be detrimental to the value of this area for quiet enjoyment of the outdoors.**
 - Having run Jurassic Fields Festival for over 10 years we always keep within curfew hours and monitor sound during the event, both onsite and off, to make sure we are within agreed limits. This new site has less impact on the local population than the

old site (Askers Meadow) which is in a built up residential area. The event is only one weekend of the year and the area already experiences loud music from the Fun Fair throughout the summer every day which is approximately 600m away. Our sound systems are specifically designed to channel noise into certain areas on the site to prevent as much noise pollution as possible and this is reviewed each year to see how we can limit this more with evolving technologies.

- **A business who's principle hours of business are late night is not compatible with this location.**
 - Being a local community event our principle hours are for families during the day. We actually see a reduction in footfall around tea-time when families go home. The Fun Fair at West Bay has the same curfew of 11pm and runs concurrently for over 6 weeks of the year through the summer.
- **Where alcohol is involved the possibility of inappropriate behaviour is increased**
 - This is a true fact for any establishment selling alcohol whether it be a village pub, night club or events like The Melplash Show. However, unlike many of the venues selling alcohol, we have numerous staff, stewards and an SIA security team on duty to protect the public and deal with any such issues. We also have a strict wristband system for the serving of alcohol and a challenge 25 policy. In over 10 years of running the event we have not had one incident involving the police or licensing and follow all protocols and guidance. Our alcohol selling durations are similar to other events held on the site.
- **The only parking to this area is a considerable distance from the site and there would be disturbance to local residents by people accessing the sites.**
 - The event has onsite parking as shown in the maps submitted with the application. There is also a taxi drop off and pick up point at the entrance to the new site. It is true some people may decide to walk back to their residence but this is actually through less populated areas than where the current event is held and footfall traffic occurs. The route has been used for a number of years by campers and motorhome owners returning to the campsite from the events location when at Askers Meadow and we have never received complaints about use of this route.
- **There are already several venues in and around Bridport which are used for this type of activity (Askers Meadow, Melplash Showground) and there is absolutely no justification for the infrastructure needed to hold this event in yet another location.**
 - Having been at Askers Meadow for 10 years we have now outgrown the field. The event costs over £250K and the site is too small to accommodate enough people to make the event viable. Last year the event lost £10K as it decided to pull ticket sales due to site capacity - even though we had 1000 people on the waiting list. The land that The Melplash Show is held upon, like these fields, is private land. We have approached The Melplash Show owners but the committee rejected our request to use the land due to their event being 6-8 weeks afterwards. We already use the fields as the campsite and this was the only real viable option to keep the event in the town (which we are passionate about as it supports so many local businesses and artists). We have had numerous meetings in partnership with the landowner and Town Council before coming to this decision.

I hope these responses address your concerns, we would be pleased to discuss any matters further with you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely



Operations Manager & Festival Director