

1. Representation 1 – Verwood Town Council

Members support this licence application.

2. Representation 2

I wish to appeal against the recent license application made by Moors Valley Country Park.

I represent the local residents of St Leonards, St Ives and Ashley Heath through the Horton Road Action Group (HRAG). We are currently engaged with the parish council on matters concerning the issues of increased traffic, noise, pollution and overall risk to residents and visitors in and around Horton Road. This has recently come to a head after the sad death of a motorcyclist opposite One Stop convenience store on Horton Road.

The HRAG comprises of 140+ members on our Facebook group with over 1000 residents contacted via leaflet drop, of which a some have been in contact directly as they are not on Facebook. We are meeting the parish council on March 27th and there is a specific agenda item to discuss our concerns, with representatives from the police and One Stop invited. We have also started to raise a petition to show the level of concern at the daily issues we see.

Moors Valley Country Park is listed as the 30th most popular visitor attraction in the UK with nearly 900,000 visitors a year. With the new industrial estates along the Horton / Ringwood road and the significant increase in vehicles and full size 44 tonne HNVs, things are getting worse for residents.

Our concern is the additional noise and still more increases in traffic volumes, which are likely to be outside the peak traffic times, and its impact to local residents wellbeing from late night events. We regularly hear the Moor Valley steam train when operating during the day, so cinema and music events in the evening, potentially all year round, is not something we would support.

Horton Road is regularly used as a race track past our houses and Moor Valley entrance, so the thought of up to 4,999 visitors in an evening, being served alcohol isn't going down well amongst residents., and understandably too. We all love Moors Valley and what it give residents and visitors alike, but when is enough enough. After covid lockdown Moor Valley relocated their overflow car park, from a flood plain to a new car park on higher ground. On paper this was a move of existing parking, however the reality is they can now use this on a daily basis whereas the previous areas was never used as cars got stuck in the field.

We are aware of the impact noise has in other localities around Moors valley, such as Verwood, and with the plans for Purple Haze gravel working on the northern edge of Moors Valley, and the noise this could introduce, the peaceful and beautiful area we all enjoy living in will change dramatically if we keep allowing it.

3. Representation 3

I object to the above application on the following grounds:

Ashley Heath is a quiet residential area with a large percentage of elderly residents and this development would disturb the peaceful environment.

No matter how much monitoring and control of audio is used, sound carries a long way especially in the evening air. A constant back ground of music and speech would prevent residents from having quiet enjoyment of their properties.

The many thousands of vehicles departing from Moors Valley Park at the end of a performance at 2300 would cause traffic congestion on Horton Road and Woolbridge Road. It could be past midnight before the roads cleared to allow residents to sleep.

As there is no public transport to Moors Park all visitors would arrive by car and the availability of alcoholic drinks during the day and evening would encourage drunk driving. There are too many accidents caused by over the limit drivers and Moors Valley Park should not be permitted to sell alcohol.

There is no consideration of how wild life would cope with the noise and nuisance of an open air cinema, probably being scared out of their wits. It would be like Guy Fawkes night every evening.

I respectfully request the committee to reject this application

4. Representation 4

As a local resident my wife and i have a strong objection to this application given the huge increase in traffic volumes experienced on Horton rd.due to woolsbridge industrial estate expansion.recent death included.

Rumour has up to 4000 attendees possible and alcohol disturbance!

5. Representation 5

I strongly object to the proposal by Forestry Englad for regulated entertainment. It will be a huge disturbance to the natural wildlife and local residents.

6. Representation 6

I wish to object to the above planning application on the grounds of:

Crime and disorder

How will these event be policed ? 4999 people are a lot to police and I would like to see a strategy report from the police to see how these events will be facilitated especially as all traffic will be entering and exiting from the Horton Road. The drink drive rate will increase on a road which has a poor safety record.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

4999 people will be a public nuisance just by their sheer number. Considerable number of cars, motor bikes, cyclists. The Horton road makes no provision for cyclists. We are a SSI site and no respect will be given to noise and light pollution at night to these animals along with residents. What is the car parking capacity of Moors Valley or are we going to have parking along the Horton Road and traffic jams as 4999 people trying to get in the place at a specific time.

Protection of Children from Harm

Moors Valley is a family entertainment site yet there is no safe place for children to cycle to or from these events, there is no safe place to cross the road to an event.

Moors Valley actively encourages children but you have applied for an alcohol licence.

Public Safety

What happens regarding a major incident? How are the emergency services going to attend with only one entrance and exit and 4999 people running around the place

There is a lack of clarity regarding how many outdoor events will take place, how many music events will be held, is Ashley Heath going to be the next Glastonbury in a few years? How many requests to extend opening hours will be made during a year?

I object on the above grounds, I feel this idea has not been risk assessed, fair consideration has not been given to the location given we are in a SSI site and a village, the consultation period falls outside of the next Parish Council meeting.

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**8. Representation 8 - East Dorset Environment Partnership (EDEP)
In the absence of any information on the impact on biodiversity and proposed mitigation EDEP objects to this application**

The application refers to ticketed outdoor film screenings to be held between 10.00 and 23.00 on any day of the year other than Christmas Day. It states *Amplified recorded music will be played during events for background and atmospheric purposes. For example, walk in music for film screenings or appropriate seasonal songs throughout walking trails*¹. It is understood that it is also intended to illuminate at least one of the trails for evening family events although this has not been mentioned in the application. We note that the recorded music is to be set at (unspecified) pre-determined levels and identified in a Noise Management Plan. Control of noise from the films themselves is not mentioned. The trails that would be lit or have background music have not been specified. The application has only identified noise as a potential nuisance to human receptors (*noise sensitive premises*). The Noise Management Plan has not been included.

The new guidance on strengthened biodiversity duty, introduced by the Environment Act 2021 and the NERC Act (as amended) requires public authorities to have regard to Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), and to consider the action they can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity. At the very least the applicants should demonstrate to the Licensing Authority how they will ensure they undertake the appropriate due diligence and proper consideration of biodiversity in planning any events.

The application's description of the site simply as woodland is incorrect. With the exception of the lakes and Moors River system, it is coniferous plantation over lowland heath with a commitment to substantial further heathland restoration in the 2009 Forest Design Plan as part of FE's Open Habitats Policy. There is no assessment of the impact of either artificial light or noise on biodiversity or how this would be mitigated. Light from headlights would also need to be mitigated. Of particular concern is adverse impact on nightjars, bats and invertebrates and, depending on the location of the events, potential adverse impact of light on the aquatic environment.

Please note that surveys submitted with current Hampshire County Council Planning Application **21/10459** for Purple Haze on the east side MVCP identified an invertebrate assemblage characteristic of lowland heathland of National Importance², at least 10 species of bat, and populations of breeding nightjar, Dartford warbler and woodlark, all of which are qualifying species of the Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area. The potential for in-combination impact in the event that planning consent is granted for that extensive minerals development should be considered.

The maximum capacity of events is 4999. We are concerned about the large numbers of vehicles arriving and departing simultaneously and the impacts (including noise) they will have on residents in St Ives and the local road network.

¹ EDEP emphasis

² A total of **511** invertebrate species were recorded from the site of which **55** (10%) are of recognised conservation status including **6 Nationally Rare**, and **39 Nationally Scarce**.

9. Representation 9

The Management Team at Moors Valley Country Park are to be commended on the way they have developed the site over the last 30 years into one of the most popular leisure destination sites in the whole of the U.K. (Ranked 30th of the top attractions in 2022 with nearly 811k visitors) To continue to develop the attraction, to attract more visitors and hence increase revenue whilst still trying to keep the venue “alive and fresh” must be quite an onus task. One can quite understand therefore the thinking behind the application for a license to play recorded music and films and the additional request for a license to sell alcohol during these times. We also acknowledge the additional revenue that comes into the Hampshire / Dorset area as a result.

However as our family have lived in the area for longer than the Country Park has been in existence, we have many concerns regarding this application. We also accept that until an application for this license is approved it would be counter-productive for the Management team to put too much finite detail and work into the plans, but this means that when commenting on this application we as residents have had to make - either rightly or wrongly- several assumptions.

1. The Park - and its Car park - currently closes at 7pm latest unless there are evening events. The application for this license - both alcohol and films/music – are to operate from 10.00am until 11pm – the indication being that the Park could be open for a further 4 hours per day for 364 days a year, bringing with it **increased volumes of traffic to an already busy area. This will include the arrival of temporary Food and Drink units and the additional Centre staff in preparation for an event.**

2. The application is currently just for films and recorded music, but should a license be granted, this could open the doors for an application for “live” music in the future. These could both cause an issue with **noise pollution as well as light pollution.**

3. Due to the high Car parking charges currently in operation, visitors to the site probably do not stay for the whole day and their arrival and departure from the venue is phased throughout the day - helping with the traffic flow along the roads approaching the site i.e. mainly the Horton Road. Currently the visitors to the attraction arrive by a variety of ways - on foot, cycle, motorbike, private car, bus or coach. One assumes that as some, if not all, of the film showings will be in the evening, the mode of transport will be heavily weighted towards motorbikes, cars and coaches. Unlike the daytime visitors whose arrival is phased, these visitors will mainly be arriving and departing at roughly the same time. This will cause **chaos** on the adjacent roads.

4. The numbers of people attending could total up to 5000 people. Assuming that there are between 2-4 people per vehicle, this could result in an additional 1250-2500 vehicles arriving and departing for a “sell out event”. **How long will it take 2500 vehicles to exit the site** from the one entrance / exit? How will this affect the well being of those residents close to the entrance ?

5. Once at the exit, even if there is a 50:50 split in the direction the traffic leaves, this could result in up to 1250 vehicles travelling on both the road towards Three Legged Cross (TLC) and towards the Ashley Heath Roundabout (AHR). Heavy goods vehicles use the Horton Road throughout all hours of the day and night and this, along with those vehicles making a RH turn towards TLC will add to the **congestion.**

6. Traffic backs up from the AHR roundabout on the Horton Road each day normally when the employees from Woolsbridge Industrial area leave at 4.30pm. What will the traffic queues be like with up to 1250 vehicles? The noise from these queues

late at night will have a **detrimental effect on the air quality** and the **well being and mental health** of the residents whose properties abut the Horton Road .

7. Whilst we hope that many drivers will be sensible about any consumption of **alcohol** at such an event , there will be some people who “ overdo “ their drinking , which , coupled with the potential traffic queues , may cause them to take **unnecessary risks – resulting in further accidents.**

8. If the traffic is queued up towards the AHR , drivers may decide to use Woolsbridge Road as a cut through to the A31. This part of Horton Road is already an **accident black spot – and could possibly become a greater one !**

9. To avoid the high car parking fees we always get visitors to the centre park in **Peveril Close** (no parking restrictions ,only road with street lighting, free parking) and the occupants then either walk or cycle to Moors Valley, **paying scant regard to how they park on the road** -often parking on both sides of the Close , opposite Driveways , and allow children, pets and cycles on to the front gardens of residents. Unless the cost of Car parking is included in the price of the film ticket, more people could park in the Close on an event night and walk to the venue. This could become a major issue with parking and late night noise for the residents, many of whom are pensioners.

10. The Management team state they will clear the site after an event - how will they action this and how will they prevent people/ “ne'er-do-wells” from lingering in the Forest after such an event. The area benefits currently from an **exceptionally low crime rate** - we do not want this changing.

11. There appears to be little regard for the “Dark Skies Policy” in this proposal - rather odd when the site is co –owned by the Forestry Commission. According to recent bat surveys undertaken there are approx 30 different type of bat in the area – some quite rare. How can the authorities justify demanding residents protect the surrounding wildlife and then pay no regard when a financial gain to their organisation is involved.

12. Finally **Horton Road is not “fit for purpose”** to take this number of additional vehicles either in structure or width. There only Street Lighting on the Horton Road at the junctions. The Management team at the centre have implied they have considered the impact their proposal will have on the surrounding area. THIS IS CLEARLY NOT THE CASE AND THEY ARE ONLY CONSIDERING THE POTENTIAL FINANCIAL GAIN TO THEIR CENTRE.

Until a better infrastructure is in place – or additional points of entry/ exit into the Country Park are installed we feel that on the grounds of

- . PUBLIC SAFETY
- . PREVENTING PUBLIC NUISANCE,
- . PREVENTION OF CRIME &DISORDER

this application is **REJECTED**

10. Representation 10

I strongly object to the application for a new premises licence in respect of Moors Valley Country Park.

1. The proposed outdoor cinema is inappropriate in the setting of Moors Valley Country Park. The Country Park is a forest and lakes which are used for exercise and physical activities such as walking, the play trail and Go Ape. The country park is greatly valued by residents and visitor alike for the quiet enjoyment of nature.
2. The noise will ruin the peace and quiet of the country park and disturb the local wildlife.
3. The noise will be a significant nuisance to local residents. Who will be affected will depend on the wind direct at the time of the event. Asking attendees to leave quietly is farcical, the advice can simply be ignored especially if alcohol is involved.
4. The application is for every day of the year except Christmas Day. This is excessive and could potentially ruin the lives of local residents, not to mention the current value of the country park. If the application is granted the number of events should be strictly restricted to no more than 4 events a year.
5. Activities in the country park do not need background music. The forest provides that! Nature does not need background music.
6. There is nothing to stop the venue from holding "Music events" which would also be inappropriate.

11. Representation 11

This idea of concerts and entertainment in the forest was proposed over 10 years ago and was met by total rejection by all the surrounding communities. As a result of this extremely strong feeling from the local communities, parish and local councillors as well as our MP, the Forestry Commission quite rightly withdrew their application. We cannot believe that the forest is again being proposed for such a purpose. It can only be based upon financial greed. If the Forestry Commission cannot make the forest pay other than by resorting to commercial ventures, then they should sell it to those who can make it a success.

Finally, it is essential that forests continue to be a place of quiet contemplation in these times of increasing awareness of mental health issues. These proposals are totally incompatible with your recent development of the wellness trail within the forest.

12. Representation 12

I wish to appeal against the application made by the above. My concern is the noise and traffic impact to local residents from late night events.

Of even greater concern is the addition of the statement " or as determined by the duration of the event".

Recent events, such as music festivals, have had extreme impact on Verwood residents into the early hours of the morning.

This will also impact those in St Leonards and St Ives and Ashley Heath, especially those residing along the Horton Road.

You may be aware there is already a campaign being started by local residents, concerned about the speed and dangerous driving of motorists on the Horton Road. I am concerned that this will just add to the current situation especially with alcohol being introduced.

13. Representation 13

I write to inform you of my concerns regarding the above application.

The request for the license is for 4999 people to attend events at the above venue. I object to this application and my concerns are listed as follows:

Vehicles - There is only one car park in Moors Valley which has its entrance on Horton Road, in the village of Ashley Heath. At 11pm all 4999 people will exit via this one entrance. There will be queues of traffic, people will have consumed alcohol and their tolerance level will be lower as they wait in the queue to leave the venue. This could then cause public disorder were people become frustrated and take it out on each other for example: a car jumps the queue; this could then result in horn beeping or even violence which will be witnessed by all including children. Alcohol will be served so there is a higher chance of people drink drinking, as they won't be able to leave their car behind and get a taxi. Whilst people wait to leave the venue in the long queue, they may need the bathroom, people could then vacate their vehicles to pee in bushes, exposing themselves.

Toilets – There are not enough toilets for this many visitors at one time, making the trees and bushes an alternative toilet.

Noise – I live in Ashley Heath, whilst at home, I can hear the hoot from the steam train and also the announcements by Ringwood Cheetahs when they have their monthly event at the race track. The noise level from an outdoor concert or cinema will most definitely be heard at my property and this will affect my health and wellbeing. People will attend on foot and the private road into Ringwood forest to get to Moors Valley goes directly by my property, the event will attract all different kinds of people including drunk teenagers who will then be existing the forest via this road, which could be a concern for noise and public disorder.

People attending by foot – many people will also attend these events by foot, from Three Legged Cross, Verwood, Ringwood and Ashley Heath, you can't stop people walking around a forest so I am not sure how they would police this. There are signs stating the area is at high risk of fire. People leaving by foot could be a little intoxicated and whilst not thinking could throw cigarette butts causing a forest fire. I would also like to make the point that people will not need to be at the event to listen to the music, as noise travels, they could be anywhere in the forest having a private party, with a disposal barbecue and creating a fire risk as well as a public nuisance.

The Windsor Hall at the BIC in Bournemouth can only hold 4000 people seated, the above events will be bigger than this, these events will not only have a detrimental effect on the people who live in the village that the vehicles drive through, but also on the animals/birds/insects that live in the park.

I have highlighted my concerns and hope that these are considered when you make your decision.

14. Representation 14 - Lesley Haskins Charitable Trust (The Erica Trust)

The Lesley Haskins Charitable Trust (The Erica Trust) owns and manages approximately 60 acres of land, known as Rushmoor Heath, immediately west of Moors Valley Country Park. This land is part of West Moors and Holt Heaths SSSI and comprises internationally important lowland heath (with associated wet woodland) and supports, amongst other specialist heathland species, breeding populations of nightjar.

We have seen the response of EDEP and reiterate every point made.

We are astonished to note that no attempt has been made to make any assessment of the impact of the application on important biodiversity. Apart from our own heathland immediately to the west, the land north, east, and south of the application site also supports heathland, some permanent, some transitory as part of the FE plantation cropping cycle. The potential impact upon nightjars using all these heathland areas is likely to be especially significant bearing in mind that nightjars, as the name suggests, take flight from dusk when they communicate by 'churring', calling and wing clapping – all of which could be obliterated by the noise from this facility thereby affecting establishment of breeding territories. Both nightjars and bats are insectivorous particularly depending upon moths. Lights can draw in insects, especially moths, from over a considerable distance, inevitably depleting the food source over the established bat and nightjar feeding grounds. These, and other potential impacts, must be properly examined and assessed. NET should have an input.

As we believe there is likely to be a significant negative impact on internationally important biodiversity, and no data is presented by the applicant to demonstrate that they have given this matter any consideration whatsoever, The Lesley Haskins Charitable Trust objects strongly to the application.

15. Representation 15 - RSPB

The RSPB's interest in this planning application is as follows:

The potential to adversely impact populations of breeding nightjar, a qualifying species of the Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area.

The RSPB **objects** to this application on the grounds that insufficient environmental information is currently available on which to fully assess the potential impacts of the proposal on breeding nightjar, a qualifying species of the Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area.

Ringwood Forest is functionally-linked to the current Special Protection Area (SPA), and essential to maintain and enhance resilient ecological networks. A review of the UK's terrestrial SPA network was published in 2016, which recommended a boundary review of some existing heathland SPAs, including the Dorset Heathlands SPA. There is strong evidence to extend the SPA boundary to include parts of Ringwood Forest. The recommendations of this review are yet to be implemented.

Nightjar are found throughout Ringwood Forest. A survey carried out by the Hampshire Ornithological Society in 2021 recorded 50 territories on the Hampshire part of

Ringwood Forest, including several pairs within MVCP. Nightjar are most active at dusk when they carry out display flights and communicate via 'churring'. There is no detail in the application to highlight noise or light levels, or when films will be shown. This detail, including the referenced Noise Management Plan, must be made available to assess the potential for it to coincide with nightjar activity. Nightjar are often found using clearings and woodland edge habitat, which might also coincide with a likely area for film screenings, but there is no plan or location map provided to make this assessment (although according to the application checklist on page 19 a plan of the premises has been submitted). No details are given on the frequency of events planned.

The RSPB has contacted FE to request further information and are grateful to them for the information provided. This goes some way to reassuring us that the current plans are not extensive, and that FE will be carrying out an environmental impact assessment prior to any licensable activities taking place. However, it highlights that the licensing process appears to be unfit for purpose. We maintain our concerns that, once a license has been authorised, activities can be carried out without the opportunity for any external scrutiny. There seems to be no legal obligation for future impact assessments, and the license appears to be open ended (no end date specified in Part 3), so any future changes to current plans could be made without any obligation to assess potential impacts. Although FE state that they currently have plans for just one event this year, the terms of the license, as laid out in the application document, could allow them to operate screenings between 10:00-23:00 every day of the year except Christmas Day, with up to 5000 people attending. Clearly activities at this scale would likely see some degree of impact from the number of people, cars, noise and lights associated with such large scale events. The license should be specific to the actual plans so that activities can be clearly assessed.

Whilst I understand that FE have an internal process which would be carried out, I can see no obligation for FE to make this available for consultation ahead of activities taking place. We are keen to understand the licensing process better so that we can work with Dorset Council, FE and others to ensure that licensable activities are fully assessed for environmental impacts. We welcome any information that Dorset Council can provide to assist with this.

We have tried to contact Dorset Council Natural Environment Team (NET) for advice and information regarding this process but were unable to reach anyone on the phone before the consultation deadline. We recommend that the licensing team are in touch with the NET for their perspective (this may already have happened, in which case we will continue to seek advice from NET ourselves).

The RSPB have already responded to Hampshire County Council regarding planning application 21/10459 at Purple Haze near Verwood on the north-east side of MVCP. We objected to that proposal based on similar concerns to those given here. If consent is given for that development, there is potential for in-combination effects on the nightjar population and other biodiversity.

In summary, it appears that no assessment has been made of the potential impacts that this proposal could have on breeding nightjar, or indeed any other biodiversity in the area, as the license application process does not carry this requirement. In the absence of any assessments, it is not possible to conclude no impact on designated sites or priority species. This would be a breach of environmental legislation, and therefore our objection is made on the grounds of 'Prevention of Crime and Disorder'.

The RSPB agree with the concerns raised by the East Dorset Environmental Partnership and the Erica Trust and reiterate our **objection** to this application on the grounds outlined above. We would be willing to discuss these points further, and work with Dorset Council and FE towards a clearer understanding of both the licensing process and the specific proposal.

16. Representation 16

I am writing to oppose the application for a premises licence for Moores Valley Park. Alcohol and children's events do not go hand in hand and it is irresponsible of Moores Valley to organise events geared for children where alcohol consumption is encouraged. Most park users drive to these events as is evident from the enormous car parks. It is irresponsible to encourage alcohol consumption and driving. These two points alone pose a risk to public and child safety.

A carte blanche alcohol licence is inappropriate as it will merely open the flood gates for alcohol to be served every day of the week, with exception of Christmas Day, rather than at special events which I understand is currently the practice.

The use of outdoor music, combined with the serving of alcohol will cause significant public nuisance to local residents.

It would be helpful if Moores Valley Park increased the special licences for specific events and then canvassed local residents about their impact on public nuisance. If access to the park for these special events involved free car parking, that might also reduce the nuisance caused to local residents.

In addition to this I object to the potential impact to wildlife, specifically the local bat population and the effect it could have on these protected species. What studies are they planning to put in place to establish nesting sites near the proposed areas that they plan to light after dusk?

The lack of joined up thinking with the highways agency regarding the one existing entry to the park is likely to result in long queues into and out of the park which could result in aggressive driving, potential crime and public nuisance.

I strongly object to Moores Valley being issued with an alcohol license and hope that the council will suggest that they continue with their current practice of issuing special licenses for specific events.

17. Representation 17

I WISH TO OBJECT TO THE GRANTING OF AN ALCOHOL LICENSE TO FORESTRY ENGLAND FOR THE MOORS VALLEY COUNTRY PARK (MVCP)

Before listing my objections, I would like to question how Dorset Council can make an independent and objective decision on this application when it operates MVCP in collaboration with the applicant and where it derives significant financial gain from the said collaboration.

My objections are as follows:

Public safety/Crime and Disorder. The consumption of alcohol leads to humans doing stupid things. My major concern at MVCP is the increased risk of FIRE which would affect me directly as my house is adjacent to MVCP and surrounded by trees. The park is almost wholly planted with highly combustible pine forest. We have signs out all year round banning fires and barbeques. Provision of alcohol from 10am to 11pm every day is likely to lead to irresponsible behaviour. Look how one disposable barbeque destroyed a massive part of Wareham Forest. In addition to fire risk, there is the added risk of drunkenness causing violent behaviour. MVCP is a family destination. We really don't want it to end up like Bournemouth, which is become a no-go zone with regular instances of violent disorder, sexual abuse and antisocial behaviour. Finally, there is zero provision of public transport to MVCP and so provision of all day drinking, particularly after events is likely to increase the risk of drink-driving.

Prevention of Public Nuisance. The provision of alcohol is presumably required so that MVCP can host night- time events such as outdoor cinema and music. This type of event is likely to cause noise pollution to local residents (we know that noise carries from MVCP because we all hear the steam train whistke clearly, both inside and outside our houses). It is also likely to increase littering and rubbish inside and outside the park.