

Contact: Kate Bailey
Email: Kate.Bailey@Westsussex.gov.uk
Address: Directorate of Care, Education and Wellbeing, Department of Public Health, West Sussex County Council, 1st Floor, The Grange, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1QT

Licensing Department
Horsham District Council
Parkside
Chart Way
Horsham
West Sussex,
RH12 1RL

3rd March 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Premises Licence Number: LI/15/0625/PREM

The application above seeks the grant of a premises licence proposed for 3 days in August. It is expected that approximately 10,000 people will attend the event at any one time. This is the first time an event of this size has taken place at Holmbush Farm. The proposed Designated Premises Supervisor has not yet obtained a Personal Licence; currently their application is pending. This causes concern as it suggests that the DPS will not have had any experience of running an event of this size before or of being a Designated Premises Supervisor. West Sussex County Council (Directorate of Care, Education and Wellbeing, Department of Public Health) have considered the Premises Licence Application and believes that approving the licence would undermine the following licensing objectives:

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- In the application there is no difference in closing time and end of alcohol sales. Both end at either 03.00 or 04.00, with no drinking up time for day guests. Public Health are concerned that without this drinking up time, which would enable day guests to gradually make their way to the exits, there is likely to be a mass exodus which will increase the risk of violent crime¹.
- It is proposed that alcohol will be available for sale for 16 hours on the Friday from 11.00-03.00 and 17 hours each on the Saturday and Sunday

from 11.00-04.00. On average it takes approximately 1 hour for the body to break down 1 unit of alcohol. Only a few drinks on a night out can mean alcohol is still in the system the next day². With only a few hours between the proposed stop and start times for alcohol sales, it is likely that a person could still have a significant number of units of alcohol in their bloodstream when they started to drink again, thereby increasing their likelihood of being drunk and therefore the likelihood of their being involved in or vulnerable to alcohol-related antisocial behaviour and crime.

- There is no reference in section M to a search policy for people entering the site. Alcohol and drugs (both illegal and Novel Psychoactive Substances (so-called 'Legal Highs')) could both be brought on to the site, and event organisers would have no control over the consumption of these.
- There is no mention of staff receiving any training in how to refuse sales of alcohol to someone who is drunk.
- It is not clear how many members of staff will be present from Select Security, what their roles will be and how they will prevent crime and disorder.
- The site will be secured with 'temporary fencing' in addition to existing barriers, but we do not know how secure this will be and how many staff will be patrolling this if any. There is potentially a risk of people entering the site via the fence, without having a ticket, or smuggling in drugs and alcohol.

Public Safety

- The site is located within close proximity to the A264, this is a dual carriageway within walking distance. The opening times apply to guests who have daily tickets. Public Health are concerned that people will be leaving the site intoxicated with increased risk of accidents and injuries on and near the road³.

Protection of Children from Harm

- The applicant hasn't provided information on age verification policies or refusing sales. There is also no mention of training for members of staff in asking for ID or refusing to sell alcohol to someone underage. Control measures and procedures proposed by the applicant to prevent sales to under-18s are not sufficient. There is a serious risk that purchases could be made by or for under-18s.

- The event organisers are promoting this as a family event but this appears to be at odds with the licensable activities they are applying for permission for: i.e. in Section K the application requests approval for adult entertainment and also states that it is unable to pre-empt material that may be unsuitable for children.
- It is proposed that alcohol will be available for 16 hours on the Friday from 11.00-03.00 and 17 hours on the Saturday and Sunday from 11.00-04.00. Public Health are concerned that this does not fit with the image of a family event.

Should the premises licence be granted, Public Health would like to suggest that the sale of alcohol be permitted as follows:

11.00hrs to 00.00hrs (midnight) Friday
11.00hrs to 00.00hrs (midnight) Saturday
11.00hrs to 00.00hrs (midnight) Sunday

Should the premises licence be granted, Public Health would like to suggest the following conditions:

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- All alcohol must be purchased inside the event. Guests will not be allowed to bring their own alcohol onto the site. Guests arriving with alcohol will need to surrender this before being allowed access to the site.
- A search policy for drugs and alcohol will be implemented. Anyone found with illegal substances or novel Psychoactive Substances (so-called "Legal highs") will be refused entry to the event.
- A Challenge 25 policy will be in place wherever alcohol is sold. Any person attempting to buy alcohol who appears to be under 25 will be asked for photographic ID as proof of their age.
- Guests who are drunk and disorderly will be refused entry to the event.
- Alcohol will not be served or sold to people who are drunk and/or disorderly.
- Soft drinks shall be available for purchase in all areas selling alcohol, as an alternative to alcoholic drinks.
- Free drinking water shall be available from all areas selling alcohol, and first aid points, and its availability shall be promoted.

The Protection of Children from Harm

- A Challenge 25 policy will be enforced. Anyone, appearing to be under 25, without photo ID proving that they are over 18 will not be served alcohol.
- All staff employed in the sale of alcohol will be fully trained regarding age restricted sales and refusing sales of alcohol to people who are drunk.
- No person under the age of 18 will be allowed into the adult entertainment areas.

- Children will only be able to attend the event if accompanied by a person aged 18 or over.
- Free drinking water shall be available from all areas selling alcohol and first aid points, and its availability shall be promoted.

Given the size of the event, Public Health are disappointed that they have not had contact from the applicant to discuss the application before it was submitted. In summary, Public Health, West Sussex County Council (Directorate of Care, Education and Wellbeing) object to the application presented and recommend that the premises licence be refused.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Kate Bailey

Consultant in Public Health

Public Health & Wellbeing Directorate

On behalf of the Director of Public Health.

¹ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime-and-sexual-offences--2013-14/sty-facts-about-alcohol-related-violence.html>

² <http://www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/853.aspx?CategoryID=87>

³ <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/check-the-facts/effects-on-your-safety/alcohol-related-accidents#risk>