

APPENDIX 3

New Premises Licence Application - Lower Park Farm, Whistley Road, Potterne

A previous application (WK/202023621) for a continuous licence on the same site for the Devizes Scooter Rally in 2021 was withdrawn and rearranged to take place in nearby Rowde, but that was suddenly cancelled with ticket holders offered the option to transfer to a Rally in 2022 which promised to be a much bigger event - hence this current application.

At its Meeting on Wednesday 2 February 2022 Potterne Parish Council noted that, although this was ostensibly an application for one weekend during the year, it was very likely that (as with the previous application) the applicant was looking for a continuous (i.e. permanent) licence. It was noted that another site within the Parish a mile from this site already has a continuous licence. The Council also noted that according to the Devizes Scooter Rally 2022 Facebook page the following activities were planned:

- live bands + DJs over the weekend
- Fully licensed Rally Bar plus a rum bar and a gin bar
- "Family Friendly Event with fun and games for the younger ones"
- Camper Vans & caravans need to book in advance
- Ride Out - Saturday @ 13.00

After discussion the Council **[unanimously] opposed** this Application on the following grounds (not necessarily listed in order of priority):-

1. Public Safety: Irrespective of any efforts by the organisers to the contrary, many of the attendees (especially those travelling from the South) will access the event via the Potterne end of Whistley Road - indeed they would have a legal entitlement to do so. Whistley Road is a notoriously narrow road, the scene of accidents and frequent blockages, and camper vans and caravans simply would not get through. Apart from the obvious danger and inconvenience to the residents and their property and to pedestrians and other road users there would be a major risk that access for emergency vehicles would be blocked.

The proposed site is low-lying and therefore dependent on fine weather. It was felt that any significant rainfall would make the site muddy, and the resultant hold-ups in traffic accessing and exiting the site would cause yet further disruption in Whistley Road.

At a previous Rally, held nearby in Rowde in 2018, about 200 scooters from all over the country were reported to have taken part, but the 2022 event is expected to be much bigger: the safety of the traffic implications for Whistley Road and surrounding area was of great concern to the Council, particularly given the planned Ride Out on the Saturday.

Prevention of public nuisance: as mentioned, the proposed site is on low-lying land at the edge of Potterne village and within only a few hundred yards of the dense housing of Caen Hill, Devizes. Any noise will travel over an extremely wide area, and will affect a large number of people in what would otherwise be a peaceful part of rural Wiltshire. The licence (if granted) would allow live music to be performed for a total of 14 hours (6pm-11pm on the Friday and 2pm-11pm on the Saturday) and recorded music to be played for a total of 19 hours (2pm-11pm on the Friday and 1pm-11pm on the Saturday).

Whilst the organisers of the event may argue that the permission they have requested is far wider than what they will actually use, this application is likely to become one for a continuous licence enabling the organisers of subsequent events to make maximum use of the full scope of the licence.

It is appreciated that the only reason a licence is required for such hours is because the audience exceeds 500 (over 300 have already indicated they will attend and very many more are expected) but the Council felt that any loud music, but particularly for such periods of time, would constitute a serious and sustained disturbance and public nuisance to many people over a wide area.

It was also felt that the addition traffic and possible number of attendees would of themselves constitute a public nuisance.

Prevention of crime and disorder: according to the Application it is proposed to sell alcohol for 12 hours on each of the Friday and Saturday (12pm-midnight). As mentioned above there will be 3 bars, and doubtless a number of attendees will bring their own alcohol. The Council was very concerned at the potential for crime and/or disorder resulting from events of this type in what is normally a quiet and law-abiding area - particularly given such availability of alcohol.

Protection of children from harm: because it is being advertised as a “Family Friendly Event” with children obviously welcome and encouraged, the Council was concerned that children, both those attending the event and also those living/staying locally, will be exposed to the risks mentioned above.

The Council were firmly of the view that the proposed site is wholly unsuitable for any event other than perhaps a small village-fete type event.

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