

## **Update on the Licensing Service: September 2016**

To give the Licensing Committee an update on the work of the Licensing Team.

### **Licensing Activity Festivals**

The Licensing team inspected / carried out prevention visits to 40 festivals/ events during 2015 summer period, attending these events over a large number of weekends and evenings/ early mornings. The team were engaged in ensuring the safety of the public attending and staff working at the events. All events were risk rated to enable the service to prioritise higher risk rated events in 2016. Wiltshire is a popular venue for festivals, by early intervention and positive engagement we are seeking to guide and educate organisers around managing alcohol consumption levels, drug prevention, antisocial behaviour, and wellbeing of all at the event.

Prevention of harm is a key element when planning an event; Licensing Officers are involved in considerable pre event work guiding organisers in managing their own event to lessen the impact on the local community and emergency services of Wiltshire.

### **Events 2016**

Licensing Officers have been actively engaging with organisers for events in 2016, with the most high profile events being Sir Elton John at Longleat in June and Womad in Charlton Park in July.

Following the risk rating of the festivals last year, the Licensing team have targeted its resources and focused on the events that are either high profile, have experienced issues previously or are new to Wiltshire. As with all our engagements with festival organisers and their staff, the focus is on a safe secure and enjoyable event for all, within sensible and responsible parameters. To date Licensing have attended 23 events, several requiring 2 or more visits.

Although the Sir Elton John event at Longleat experienced traffic issues , the organisers are keen to learn from the experience and held a very positive debrief with Licensing and Police traffic team to discuss a way forward.

#### **Womad**

This year's event was a success with over 35,000 attending (the weather was kind after 2015's really damp event) with no significant issues noted by the Licensing or Public Protection Teams that visited the site.

For 2016 there was a new arena layout, to enhance the visitor experience as most are repeat attendees, and the internal traffic management system was updated accordingly.

## Smaller Events

A number of new events this year presented their own challenges both to organisers and the responsible authorities; Wiltshire attracted a diverse range of events from civil war re-enactments, street fayres to 4 days of drum and base music in a rural location. Still planned for this year are carnivals, Christmas markets, Christmas lights switch on and a world record attempt at the largest nativity play.

## Engagement Event

Licensing is planning to hold an engagement event next year for both existing and potential new events to Wiltshire, offering peer learning from well-established events and giving organisers guidance from a number of key organisations and partners.

## **Partnership Working**

This year licensing has been working with Tom Ward Public Health Specialist alcohol and drugs misuse, with an aim to enable WSMS (Wiltshire Substance Misuse Service) to build links with festival organisers (from street fayres, folk festival, mini and large scale events) so far this year the WSMS has attended five events and offered relevant prevention messages, and support to attendees of events. They have been received very positively with good outcomes.

## **Licensing Applications**

To give the Committee an update on the work of the Licensing Team, detailed in the table below are some the Licensing Applications from 1 January – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

Since July 2016 we are now able to offer online payment for Licensing Act 2003 annual fees.

## **Licence Applications Jan – August 2015 & 2016**

Year comparison	2016	2015
Temporary Events Notices	1173	1171
Late Temporary Events Notices	245	259
Licensing Applications ( New /variation/minor variation/Variation of DPS)	566	560
Personal Licences	278	259
Gambling Permits ( Gaming Machines )	28	25

## **Hearings**

This year to date we have held 9 licensing hearings down two on last year for the same period.

## **Licensed Trade Event**

The Licensing team is hosting three trade seminars in September and October offering free advice and guidance to the trade. The event is being run to support the important role businesses have in their local communities whilst highlighting evolving changes and best practices.

The seminars will include speakers from a variety of organisations and partner agencies: National Pub watch, Gambling Commission, Public Health, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service, Child Sexual Exploitation. There will be numerous stands including the immigration service, Trading Standards, Licensing , Pest Control, Street Pastors etc all providing information and answering questions and concerns.

County Hall, Trowbridge	26 September	6pm to 9pm
Five Rivers Campus, Salisbury	13 October	10am to 2pm
Lime Kiln Leisure Centre, Royal Wotton Bassett	28 October	3pm to 6pm

## **Conclusion**

The Licensing function continues to develop within Wiltshire Council. The core activity of supporting the licensing process has shown year on year improvement. There is also now a greater focus on preventing harm, following the movement of the team to work more closely with Public Health.

This emphasis towards Prevention of Harm and the proactive work undertaken by the team is to ensure safe environments for people to enjoying the various Licensable activities across the county.

**The Licensing Committee are asked to note the above update.**

**Linda Holland  
Licensing Manager  
5 September 2016**