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Clerk to Pickmere Parish Council
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14 November 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Objection to application for time limited premises licence at Cheshire Agricultural Society Showground, Flittogate Lane, Tabley, WA16 0HJ

Please find attached the objections of this Parish Council to the above licence application. I trust that these objections will be taken into account.

In addition to those objections, the Parish Council has grave concerns about the process by which licence applications are publicised in and made available for inspection by the local community. These concerns are separate to the Council's objections to this particular application but should nevertheless be considered by your Council. These concerns are as follows:

- 1 The Parish Council is most concerned at the inadequate provision for public notification and consultation on applications for premises and other licences. The provision for advertising such applications may accord with statute, but it is totally unfit for purpose. There is absolutely no reason why, at the least, parish councils should not be notified when licence applications affecting them are submitted. This is the case in your Council's dealing with planning applications and could easily be applied to licence applications, particularly bearing in mind how few such applications are submitted in any particular area. In addition there should be a means for the application documents to be viewed on-line. Without such a system there is effectively no real public consultation.
- 2 In the case of this particular application it has proved difficult to persuade officers of your council to make available a copy of the licence application for inspection. The time constraints imposed by your council for the receipt of representations when set against the dates of Parish Council meetings meant that Cheshire East

Council officers had to be somewhat forcefully persuaded to make the document available in an appropriate timescale so that comment could be made by this Council. It also seems ludicrous that while the licence documents are held in Crewe at the Municipal Buildings, they had to be sent to either Delamere House in Crewe, or the Municipal Buildings in Macclesfield before they could be inspected, introducing a further delay.

- 3 Further, the provision for inspection was totally inadequate – the voluminous documents could only be viewed in poor quality on a computer screen, without the ability to take copies, and with a viewing period limited to 30 minutes after which the councillor who was viewing them was evicted from the office and told to make a further appointment if he wished to continue his viewing (which could not be completed within the 30 minute session allowed).

The Parish Council cannot understand:

- why the documents cannot immediately be made available for inspection at the Licensing Office;
- why an appointment must be made to view the comments (this does not apply to planning applications – which are in any case viewable by the general public on-line); and
- why there is a strictly imposed limit of 30 minutes on the period allowed for inspection, even when there is no competing claim on the room or access to the same documents.

The Parish Council requests Cheshire East Council to reconsider the arrangements it makes for the publicity given to licence applications bearing these comments in mind.

Yours faithfully

Jack Steel
Clerk to Pickmere Parish Council

c.c. Kath O'Dwyer – Acting Chief Executive – CEC
Frank Jordan – Executive Director of Place – CEC
Paul Bayley – Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services – CEC
Councillor K Parkinson – CEC
Chief Inspector Jez Taylor – Cheshire Police
Mr A Ford - Chair of Trustee group, Cheshire Agricultural Society



PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTION TO APPLICATION BY SAM JOHNSON AND BEN KENNERLEY FOR A TIME LIMITED PREMISES LICENCE FOR THE CHESHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOWGROUND, FLITTOGATE LANE, TABLEY, WA16 0HJ.

- 1 This objection is submitted on behalf of Pickmere Parish Council. Part of the Cheshire Showground falls within Pickmere Parish, and a number of residents of Pickmere Parish live close to, and are significantly and often detrimentally impacted by events taking place on, the Showground.
- 2 This objection is being copied to Cheshire East Council's Licensing Department, its Acting Chief Executive, its Executive Director of Place, its Director of Environment, and also to Cllr K Parkinson, as well as to Cheshire Police and managers of the Cheshire Showground.

OBJECTIONS TO THE APPLICATION

- 3 This Council has the following objections to the application in respect of the Cheshire Showground.

The prevention of public nuisance

- 4 The application proposes, in extreme summary, the following:
 - Various entertainment activities as follows potentially over three weekends in July 2020;
 - Showing of films until 2.00 a.m.
 - Live music until 1.30 a.m.
 - Recorded music throughout 24 hours on Saturdays and Sundays
 - Sale of alcohol and food into the early hours
 - Opening hours of the event 24 hours Saturdays and Sundays.
- 5 **One key element of the proposals is that during the 3 week period applied for, music will be broadcast from the site potentially from 1430 on Fridays continuously until 1400 on Mondays – a total of 71.5 continuous hours – affecting residents' sleep patterns and their normal reasonable living conditions.**
- 6 These activities will inevitably cause extreme public nuisance to local residents both through the noise generated by the activities themselves (e.g. the broadcast across the site of music through the night) and also the nuisance that will inevitably be generated by the movement of vehicles either delivering or taking away the very large volume of event structures and other goods and personnel required to establish the event, and by

the vehicles of participants of the proposed event arriving and leaving by the public roads surrounding the extensive Cheshire Showground site throughout the day but also possibly throughout the night as well. The application states that event participants, once entering the site will not be able to leave but this is not understood. There is no indication of how such persons will be housed if they are on-site throughout the relevant weekend, or how they will be prevented from leaving the site at all hours of the day or night.

- 7 Further, the holding of a large-scale event on the site, in particular if operating outside normal daytime hours, is likely not only to cause nuisance to local residents but also risks harm to health, resulting from:
 - worry before the event about how it will turn out and how well it will be managed (based on residents' experience of other large events on the site);
 - when in operation the stress of accommodating and dealing with the very much increased traffic (and resultant noise and air pollution) caused by event vehicles and visitors' cars;
 - disturbed sleep patterns as a result of the activities referred to above;
 - potential harm from off-site incidents of lawlessness outside the direct control of the event organisers, as has occurred with at least two such events earlier this year.
- 8 The local community has significant experience of large events being held at the Showground. The Cheshire Show itself generates noise and disturbance to local residents arising from traffic generation, the generation of on-site noise from music, PA systems etc. However that event is generally well controlled by event staff and the police and local authority personnel are also involved in its management. Importantly, that event only operates at reasonable hours of the day.
- 9 However recent events held at the Showground have generated noise and nuisance to the detriment of the reasonable living environment of local residents. In particular three events have caused problems –
 - Truckfest,
 - a religious event organised by a pastor from the Traveller community, which attracted many hundreds of people, and also
 - an event for bikers.
- 10 Each of these extensive events caused problems on-site (through noise disturbance) and off-site – through excessive traffic on local narrow country lanes, the coming and going of event participants, and their causing problems of offence, vandalism and violence outside the site.
- 11 In these cases, there seemed to be a marked lack of acceptance of responsibility on the part of the Showground management for incidents that happened off-site but emanating from event participants, and also certainly in the case of the travellers event, a marked lack of consultation by the event organisers and the Showground management with the Police and with Cheshire East Council.

- 12 The Parish Council therefore fears that the proposed event subject of the current licence application will lead to the same sort of problems in the local community. It seems possible that the event organisers are looking to establish some form of event similar to the Creamfields festival, held annually in the south Warrington area (see photo). This clearly has very substantial impacts on the local environment through the generation of noise, traffic on local roads, and other factors.
- 13 The experience of the licence applicants in seeking to organise and manage such an event is not clear. However, the Parish Council has severe doubts that they have sufficient such expertise and experience to organise and manage such a large potential event without causing considerable nuisance and more severe problems in the local community.



- 14 The current application for a licence is unclear as to the proposed scale of the proposed event – a figure of 9999 attendees is mentioned, but it is not clear whether this is a limit or simply a vague guess as to the scale of participants. In any case the event will be large and have large-scale effects both on and off-site. The Parish Council therefore believes that the licence should not be granted.

Public Safety

- 15 The comments made above make reference to elements of public safety, in terms of the generation of substantial amounts of vehicular traffic on local narrow country lanes which are well used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders, the possibility of threats to public safety outside the Showground site (as occurred with two of the events referred to above), and indeed the threat of drug use and the concomitant threat to the health of event participants, as may be evidenced by the experience of the Creamfields festival. The event site is surrounded on three sides by narrow country lanes. The Cheshire Show

generates very large volumes of traffic but this is generally well managed through the efforts of the Showground, Cheshire East Council and local police. There is no guarantee that an equivalent police resource will be invested in managing this event, indeed there is no evidence from the application that the proposed organisers and licence applicants have already consulted the police, or indeed any other relevant bodies (Cheshire East Environmental Health, Environment Agency) about how the event will be managed.

Prevention of crime and disorder

- 16 Again the comments made above refer to this aspect – with direct evidence from Pickmere residents of personal threats and crime carried out off-site by event participants at the travellers event and also the bikers event – these occurrences involving the use of offensive and dangerous weapons. Again at the least there needs to be heavy police involvement in the management of the event, without which no licence should be granted.

The protection of children from harm

- 17 An event of the nature apparently proposed will harm children for instance in the broadcast of loud music potentially from 1430 on Fridays continuously until 1400 on Monday – **a total of 71.5 continuous hours** – affecting sleep patterns and normal reasonable living conditions.

CONCLUSIONS

- 18 The Parish Council and local residents fear the worst in relation to this proposed event. The applicants indicate that around 10,000 persons will be attracted, though this may well simply be a guess on their part. However even were this proposed event not to be of that scale, they fear that any substantial event held on the extensive Showground site, and involving the hours of operation proposed, and e.g. the broadcast of music etc during the hours requested, will have such a deleterious impact on the reasonable living conditions and potentially health of members of the local Pickmere community that it should not be permitted.
- 19 It is pertinent to point out that the Cheshire Showground management undertake no consultation with local residents nor the local parish council about its programme of events. Such a process if introduced would enable early discussion of potential Showground events and their implications for the local community.
- 20 **Pickmere Parish Council therefore objects to the grant of a licence for the event proposed. The Council does not seek a variation in the hours ascribed to each of the activities mentioned in the application since it considers that any minor amendment of the hours will not materially reduce the devastating impact a proposed event along the lines indicated would have on its area and its community.**