



Public Document Pack

James Ellis
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

MEETING : LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
VENUE : COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
DATE : WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2025
TIME : 10.00 AM

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<https://www.youtube.com/user/EastHertsDistrict>

MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillors S Bull, T Deffley and C Redfern

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Peter Mannings
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AGENDA

1. Appointment of Chair

2. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

3. Chair's Announcements

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive any Members' Declarations of Interest.

5. Summary of Procedure (Pages 5 - 7)

A summary of the procedure to be followed during consideration of item 6 is attached.

6. Application to review the premises licence for Sign Of The Times, TL44504 23155, Church End, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire (Review Reference: 25/0459/PL) (Pages 8 - 89)

7. Urgent Business

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration and is not likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

EXTRACT FROM RULES OF PROCEDURE

Note – the full Rules of Procedure can be viewed at:

<https://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=144&J=2>

11. Procedure at a Hearing

11.1 The hearing will proceed in the following order:

- (a) The Chair will elicit any Declarations of Interests.
- (b) The Chair will introduce members of the Hearing Panel.
- (c) The Chair will ask those present to introduce themselves.
- (d) The Chair will ask all parties to the Hearing whether they are happy to proceed with their application or representation.

11.2 The Chair may ask the officer of the Licensing Authority to report:

- (a) any requests from a party to the Hearing for permission for a witness to appear in support of his, her or their representation. Any such requests will be determined by the Hearing Panel; and
- (b) any documentary or other information that a party to the Hearing wishes to present. If there is any such material, the Chair will ask all the other parties to the Hearing whether they consent to it being presented. If they agree, the material will be distributed. If not, this material may not be distributed unless the Chair wishes it to be.

11.3 The Chair may invite the applicant/licensee or his, her or their representative to estimate the time required to present his, her or their case and ask questions of other parties to the hearing. The Chair will then ask the other parties to the hearing whether they will require a longer period to present their representation and question the applicant. The Hearing Panel will determine the maximum period of time allowed for each party to put his, her or their case. This decision will be final.

11.4 The Chair will ask the Officer of the Licensing Authority to summarise the matter under consideration.

11.5 The Members of the Hearing Panel, the applicant, and those making representations may ask questions of the Officer of the Licensing Authority.

11.6 Starting with the applicant or licensee, each party will exercise his, her or their rights within the identified maximum time, as follows:

- (a) each party to present his, her or their case, including responding to any points of which the Licensing Authority has previously given notice, and call any approved witness or witnesses in support of his, her or their case; and

(b) if given permission by the Chair, and only through the Chair, each party may raise questions of any other party or witness/witnesses.

11.7 The applicant/licensee or his, her or their representative will be asked to sum up his, her or their case.

12. Determination of Applications

12.1 In the case of a hearing relating to:

(a) a counter notice following police objection to a temporary event notice; or

(b) a review of premises licences following closure order; the Licensing Authority must make its determination at the conclusion of the hearing.

12.2 In the case of any other hearing, the members of the Hearing Panel may choose to determine the case at the conclusion of the hearing or after the hearing within five working days.

12.3 If determining the case at the hearing, it is for the members of the Hearing Panel to choose whether to retire to consider the case or discuss the case in front of all parties.

12.4 When determining a case, either during the hearing or after, and whether having retired or deliberating in front of the parties, the following shall apply:

(a) Members of the Hearing Panel will determine the case, not Officers or any other parties;

(b) Members of the Hearing Panel will be advised by a Legal Officer;

(c) a Democratic Services Officer will be available to make relevant notes and make a written record of the Panel's decision;

(d) if Members of the Hearing Panel have a question relating to the relevant legislation or the council's policies which the Legal Officer is unable to address, they may seek the advice of an officer of the council's Licensing Team; and

(e) if Members of the Hearing Panel wish to attach conditions to an application under consideration they may seek the views of any or all of the parties before determining the case, especially if the details of the possible condition were not discussed with parties during the hearing and/or members of the Hearing Panel do not feel they have as clear a view as possible of the proposed condition's efficacy, applicability and/or acceptability to any or all of the parties.

12.5 Once the case has been determined, all parties will be advised of the decision and the reasons for it, together with their right of appeal. If determined at the hearing, the Legal Advisor to the Hearing Panel will advise those present of any advice that has been provided during the determination. If determined after the hearing, the notification of the outcome shall make reference to any such legal advice provided.

12.6 A determination may authorise an officer of the Licensing Authority to approve an application subject to conditions to be applied in accordance with the decision made at the hearing.

12.7 Whether determined at the hearing or after, the applicant shall be informed of the decision and rights of appeal in writing within five working days of the hearing.

2. Definitions

2.1 In this document the following definitions apply:

(a) “applicant/licensee” means the person who has made an application for a licence under the 2003 Act or a person who has served notice of a temporary event in accordance with the 2003 Act or a person who is the holder of a licence under the 2003 Act;

(b) “representation” means a submission by a responsible authority or interested party under the 2003 Act, whether made in response to a consultation, by application for review or served in the form of a notice;

(c) “party to a hearing” means a person to whom notice of the hearing has been given in accordance with column 4 of Schedule 1 attached or who is otherwise entitled to speak at a hearing;

(d) “member of the Licensing Authority” means a Member sitting as a member of the Licensing Sub-Committee (hereinafter called a Hearing Panel), or an Officer who has been appointed by the council as a proper officer of the Licensing Authority, to provide any advice that Members require to fulfil their functions whether or not it is asked for on: - questions of law; - questions of mixed law and fact; - matters of practice and procedure; - the range of options available to the Hearing Panel; - any relevant decisions of the courts; - relevant national guidance or local policy; - other issues relevant to the matter before the Hearing Panel; - the appropriate decision making structure to be applied in any case; - assistance on the formulation of reasons and recording decisions; - the questioning of any party to a hearing; or - assistance to any party to clarify evidence and issues

(e) “discussion” means examination by argument and debate

(f) “cross examination” means the examination of a party or witness with a view to querying or questioning his or her evidence.

Agenda Item 6

East Herts Council Report

Licensing Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting: 28th May 2025

Report by: Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health

Report title: Application to review the premises licence for
Sign Of The Times, TL44504 23155, Church
End, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire (Review
Reference: 25/0459/PL)

Ward(s) affected: Little Hadham

Summary

- An application to review the premises licence for; Sign Of The Times, TL44504 23155, Church End, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire, held by Church End Events Ltd (at the time of application), has been received from Councillor Graham McAndrew and Councillor Geoffrey Williamson. Following an application for a review there must be a Licensing Sub-Committee meeting to decide the outcome. This report is to inform the decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

(A) The application for review of the premises licence be decided.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee should determine the application through consideration of the information contained in this report, the review application, and any appendices, combined with submissions made at the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing.

2.0 Background

2.1 Under the Licensing Act 2003 and the council's Statement of Licensing Policy ('the Policy') an application for review of a licence or certificate must be determined.

2.2 Where a valid review application is made there must be a Licensing Sub-Committee hearing to decide that application even where agreement is reached. A Licensing Sub-Committee has the delegated Authority to determine applications for review of Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates. This decision must be made whilst having regard to the Licensing Objectives, the Licensing Authority's own Statement of Licensing Policy and to statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act.

2.3 The Licensing Objectives are:

- Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- Prevention of Public Nuisance; and
- Protection of Children from Harm.

3.0 Reason(s)

3.1 The valid review application was submitted by Councillor Graham McAndrew and Councillor Geoffrey Williamson. The application has been advertised and consulted upon as required by legislation and regulations.

3.2 The review application states that the current operation of the premises undermines two of the Licensing Objectives:

- Public Safety; and
- Prevention of Public Nuisance.

3.3 A copy of the application form for the review is attached as '**APPENDIX A**'. The supplementary documents stated in the application as Appendices 1 and 2 are reproduced at Appendix B and C of this report.

3.4 A copy of the statement provided by a member of the public, detailed as Appendix 1 on the application form, is attached as '**APPENDIX B**'. The video evidence mentioned in this statement has been analysed and the descriptions provided for each video file are accurate. The video evidence will be made available to view at the hearing if necessary.

- 3.5 A copy of the correspondence between the applicant and the Police (Serious Collisions Investigations Unit), detailed as Appendix 2 on the application form, is attached as ‘**APPENDIX C**’.
- 3.6 A redacted copy of the existing premises licence (22/0584/PL) granted on 29.06.2022 showing activities, hours and conditions is attached as ‘**APPENDIX D**’.
- 3.7 The plans attached to the existing premises licence (22/0584/PL) are attached as ‘**APPENDIX E**’.
- 3.8 During the 28-day statutory public consultation period twelve representations were received. Ten representations were in support of the review application, and two representations were in support of the licence. These are detailed in ‘**APPENDIX F**’.
- 3.9 The applicant has stated that they are seeking revocation of the premises licence.
- 3.10 An application to transfer the licence was received by the Licensing Authority on 03.04.2025, two days after the Review application was made. This transfer has been subsequently granted. The new licence holders are TDF Promotions Ltd who will be present at the hearing. There has been no communication of how the new licence holder will manage the premises differently.
- 3.11 The Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) for the licence has remained the same. The DPS is ‘Alex Hutchinson’, who is a director of the previous licence holder, ‘Church End Events Ltd’. There has been no communication of how the DPS will manage the premises differently.

Policy and Guidance

- 3.12 Section 6 of the Policy details definitions of premises and location and operation of premises, differentiating between Town Centre locations and other areas. Under this section of the Policy the operation of ‘Sign Of The Times’ best fits the definition of a festival:

‘An organised event, typically lasting more than one day, featuring all or a combination of licensable activities including performances of live and recorded music. Can involve the audience staying on site.’

- 3.13 The table at 6.9 of the Policy details the council’s approach to hours for

licensed premises of this type that fall under this location.

Notwithstanding that each application is considered on its own merits the following hours would normally be granted to this style of premises in this location when valid and relevant representations have been received:

*‘Will generally be allowed licensable activity until **01:00** on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday to Thursday **23:00**, unless the following day is a Bank Holiday or recognised National Holiday.’*

3.14 Section 8 of the Policy deals with the Licensing Objectives:

8.1 The Licensing Authority must carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four Licensing Objectives, each of which has equal importance:

- the prevention of crime and disorder,
- public safety,
- the prevention of public nuisance, and
- the protection of children from harm.

8.2 It is recognised that the Licensing function is only one means of securing the delivery of the above Objectives and should not therefore be seen as a means for solving all local problems. The Licensing Authority will therefore continue to work in partnership with all stakeholders and partners towards the promotion of the Licensing Objectives.

8.3 The Licensing Authority expects applicants to address the Licensing Objectives within their operating schedules, having regard to the nature of the premises, the licensable activities to be provided, operational procedures, and the nature of the location and the needs of local communities. The operating schedule should contain sufficient information to enable the Licensing Authority, responsible authorities and other persons who may be affected by the operation of the licensed premises to assess whether the steps which will be taken to promote the Licensing Objectives are sufficient to mitigate any potential adverse impact.

3.15 The current hours for ‘Sign Of The Times’ are outside of this Policy on one occasion whereby the opening hour on Sundays goes beyond 23:00hrs. This is detailed on the current premises licence attached at **‘APPENDIX D’**.

3.16 Section 182 of the [‘Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003’](#) (herein ‘the Guidance’) issued by the Secretary of state, states at paragraphs 9.37 and 9.38 that:

9.37 As a matter of practice, Licensing authorities should seek to focus the hearing on the steps considered appropriate to promote the particular Licensing objective or Objectives that have given rise to the specific representation and avoid straying into undisputed areas. A responsible Authority or other person may choose to rely on their written representation. They may not add further representations to those disclosed to the applicant prior to the hearing, but they may expand on their existing representation and should be allowed sufficient time to do so, within reasonable and practicable limits.

9.38 In determining the application with a view to promoting the Licensing Objectives in the overall interests of the local community, the Licensing Authority must give appropriate weight to:

- *the steps that are appropriate to promote the Licensing Objectives;*
- *the representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties;*
- *this Guidance;*
- *its own statement of Licensing Policy.*

3.17 In determining the application with a view to promoting the Licensing Objectives in the overall interests of the local community, the Licensing Authority must give appropriate weight to:

- the steps that are appropriate to promote the Licensing Objectives;
- the representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties;
- this Guidance;
- its own statement of Licensing Policy.

3.18 Paragraphs 9.42-9.44 of the Guidance deal with how to determine actions that are appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives.

- 3.19 If members determine to impose conditions to mitigate concerns regarding the suggested undermining of the Licensing Objectives, then Chapter 10 of the Guidance deals with conditions attached to premises licenses. The Guidance should be considered along with the East Herts [‘Pool of Model Conditions’](#).
- 3.20 Chapter 11 of the guidance deals with reviews and paragraphs 11.16 – 11.23 are particularly relevant as it deals with the powers the Licensing Authority must determine the application.
- 3.21 Section 13 of East Herts District Councils Statement of Licensing Policy deals with reviews. Paragraph 13.6 details the options available to the committee. This is detailed under section 4 of this report, Options.

Officer observations

- 3.22 As stated in the Guidance, the Authority’s decision should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives and proportionate to what the review application is intended to achieve.

- 3.23 ‘**APPENDIX A**’ details the following:

‘On the evening of 6th July 2024 a pedestrian heading towards the festival was struck by a car in Albury Road. The casualty later died. This incident is currently under investigation by the police’.

In addition, whilst there were clear failures in the management of the event in 2024, there were also failings in the preparation of the events held at this site in preceding years regarding traffic management plans being both insufficient and delivered late, and then not adhered to’.

- 3.24 ‘**APPENDIX B**’ is the statement from a member of the public, a resident of Little Hadham. This statement details incidents from 5th – 7th July 2024, summarised as follows.

-Traffic movement on site: Evidence: KP12, KP13 and KP14. “The Industrial Estate was turned into a one-way system using Lime Trees as the primary vehicular access route. After a heavy rainfall, Lime Trees was being used by cars and pedestrians. This brought the festival traffic in direct conflict with pedestrians, at serious risk of collision and injury”.

-Parking on site: Evidence: KP/5 and KP/6.

“Despite rain being forecast, no contingency had been made for wet, muddy, and slippery conditions. The dedicated parking for disabled attendees became treacherous.”

-Parking off site: Evidence: KP/1, KP/2, KP/3, KP/4, KP/7, KP/8, KP/9, KP/10, KP/11.

“Festivalgoers parked instead in Albury Road. A collision on this stretch of road between a car and a pedestrian on the Saturday evening (which later proved fatal for the pedestrian) required the emergency services to close the road for several hours.”

- 3.25 ‘**APPENDIX C**’ states the pedestrian involved in the fatal collision was a prospective festival attendee: “The collision occurred on 6th July 2024 at approximately 20.30hrs at the location of where the road passes over the new bypass on Albury Road, Much Hadham. The pedestrians were residents walking to the festival and the vehicle involved was passing through (not a festival goer).”
- 3.26 The evidence provided by the applicant on behalf of the member of public is strong. They have included a serious incident resulting in a loss of life, however the investigation by the police is yet to be concluded. They have evidenced an extensive number of concerns at the premises and in the immediate vicinity, consisting of failings to uphold the Licensing Objectives of: Prevention of a Public Nuisance & Promotion of Public Safety through lack of planning.
- 3.27 ‘**APPENDIX F**’ details the representations received during the consultation period. One representation received was from the Highways Authority at Hertfordshire County Council in support of the review application. The points raised in many of the representations are related to traffic and highways. A summary of the representation from the Highways Authority is below:
- The event organiser has failed to comply with the following Licensing conditions:
 - Event Management Plan submitted 3 months prior did not include suitable traffic management plans to address previous years concerns around safely managing traffic (pedestrians and motorists).
 - The event organiser has failed to provide suitable traffic management plans that address previous concerns within the timeframes stipulated within the conditions of the licence.

- The event organiser has failed to provide adequate traffic management on site.
- The event organiser has failed to suitably manage traffic associated with the event on the public highway.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to the limited ingress/egress points.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to the unsuitable and narrow ingress/egress points available.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to the impact the event has on the business park.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to the impact it has on the surrounding road network.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to proximity of public rights of way that are inevitably impacted by the event.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to the limited alternative parking available in the case of bad weather which has as detrimental impact on the public highway.

3.28 There were nine further representations in support of the review application. Please see a summary of the points raised across these representations detailed below:

- Serious concerns about Public Safety including Unsafe access into a working industrial estate with HGV movements alongside festival cars and motorhomes, residents, and people on foot.
- The unlit rural roads around the site are unsuitable for large volumes of traffic and people.
- No apparent plan for dealing with the chaos caused by the site becoming impassable due to deep mud which closed the on-site car parks and trapped many cars.
- Failure to comply with Licensing conditions.
- Failure to provide suitable traffic management plans.
- The event organiser does not appear to fully recognise or understand the complexities of the site and the traffic management requirements needed to manage it.
- Considerable disruption to the residents in Albury Road and surrounding roads in Little Hadham.
- No provisions made for disabled people.
- Poor signage and lighting.

3.29 There were two representations against the review application detailed on '**APPENDIX F**'. Please see a summary of these detailed below:

- Traffic was not unduly affected by the festival.
- Level of noise produced by traffic was comparable to the noise on nights where the M11 or A120 bypass are closed.
- Some noise pollution from festival stages; ‘significantly less than overflying aircraft’.

4.0 Options

4.1 The actions open to the Licensing Sub-Committee are:

- Modify the conditions of the premises licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition);
- Exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;
- Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding 3 months;
- Revoke the licence;
- Remove the designated premises supervisor (DPS);
- Make no changes to the licence.

4.2 The Licensing Sub-Committee should consider if they believe the applicant has provided sufficient evidence that the premises undermines the Licensing Objectives. This evidence should be balanced against the evidence given by the premises licence holder.

4.3 The Sub-Committee should consider whether the new licence holders continued operation of the licensed premises would be likely to fail to promote one or more of the Licensing Objectives having considered the evidence presented and all submissions. The Sub-Committee should consider that the Designated Premises Supervisor has remained the same following the transfer of the premises licence.

4.4 If the Sub-Committee determine the evidence to show that the premises has undermined any of the Licensing Objectives then guidance requires that the minimum steps needed to mitigate the issues should be the steps that are taken by the Authority. If, however, members feel the premises does not undermine the Licensing Objectives then no changes are required to the licence.

4.5 If considering making changes to the conditions on the premises licence, whether by adding, deleting, or amending conditions, members should decide whether these conditions would in fact mitigate the concerns raised on the balance of evidence provided. The failure of the licence

holder and DPS to comply with the conditions on the current premises licence is a valid consideration when deciding if changing conditions is an appropriate action.

- 4.6 The formatting of the conditions on the premises licence are not legible. It is recommended that any changes to the conditions, whether by adding, deleting, or amending conditions, must be formatted to be enforceable. They need to be clear, unambiguous, and free from subjective terms. If a condition cannot be enforced, then it should not be placed on any granted licence.
- 4.7 It is open to members to make changes to the premises licence. This could include limiting the hours of operation and/or excluding licensable activities from the scope of the licence. Clear justification for such steps would need to be given.
- 4.8 If taking the options described in points 4.5 to 4.7 do not mitigate members' concerns regarding the promotion of the Licensing Objectives, then the Sub-Committee can make the decision to temporarily suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months. This licence is utilised for specific events throughout the year, should any proposed event come after the three-month suspension period then this option would be redundant. Justification for any suspension of the licence would need to be evidenced. Suspension can be independent of other options taken, or be taken concurrently with the changing of conditions, for example. This option could mitigate concerns temporarily; however, should not be used as a punitive measure, and clear justification would need to be given as to how this step would mitigate members' concerns beyond the three-month suspension considering the event-based nature of the licence.
- 4.9 If taking the options described in points 4.5 to 4.8 do not mitigate members' concerns regarding the promotion of the Licensing Objectives, then the Sub-Committee can make the decision to revoke the licence.
- 4.10 When the Licensing Sub-Committee gives its decision to those in attendance it should be made clear to all parties how much weight has been attached to each submission and what evidence members have relied upon when reaching their decision.
- 4.11 The comments, observations and suggestions contained within the body of this report and associated appendices do not fetter the Sub-

Committee's discretion to reach the decision they believe is most appropriate when considering all the merits of the individual case.

- 4.12 As stated in the Guidance, the council's decision should be evidence based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 A decision on the application must be made and any decision made can be appealed at the Magistrate's Court. Therefore, the Licensing Sub-Committee should ensure that when giving their decision on the application they give clear reasons on how and why they have made their decision. In doing so, the council's ability to defend its decision is strengthened and the risk of its decision being over-turned on appeal is lessened, although, of course, this risk can never be entirely removed.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 As with any application for a new premise licence, variation of a premise licence or review of a premise licence there is a 28-day public consultation.
- 6.2 The 28-day public consultation commenced 1st April 2025 and the application was advertised correctly.

Community Safety

- 6.3 The report focuses on two of the four Licensing Objectives, Public Safety and Prevention of Public Nuisance therefore Community Safety will be considered when determining the application.

Data Protection

- 6.4 Where the appendices have shown personal data, this has been redacted.

Equalities

- 6.5 Consideration has made to the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty in this report and will be considered during the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.6 Not applicable to this report.

Financial

- 6.7 There will be a cost to the Authority in holding the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing; this will be covered by the existing budget. There would be a cost if the decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee is appealed to the Magistrates Court and the Authority chooses to defend that appeal.

Health and Safety

- 6.8 None arising directly from this report.

Human Resources

- 6.9 None arising directly from this report.

Human Rights

- 6.10 As with all applications and Council functions, the Human Rights Act 1998 has been considered in this report and will be considered during the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing.

Legal

- 6.11 All statutory requirements have been considered in preparing this report.

Specific Wards

- 6.12 Yes – Little Hadham.

7.0 Background papers, appendices, and other relevant material

- 7.1 Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (February 2025) -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-Licensing-act-2003>
- 7.2 East Herts Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026

<https://cdn-eastherts.onwebcurl.com/s3fs-public/2022-03/Statement%20of%20Licensing%20Policy%202021-26%20Mar%2022.pdf>

- 7.3 East Herts Pool of Model Conditions 2021
<https://eastherts.fra1.digitaloceanspaces.com/s3fs-public/2021-08/Pool%20of%20Model%20Conditions%202021%20%28accessible%29.pdf>
- 7.4 **Appendix ‘A’** – Review Application
- 7.5 **Appendix ‘B’** – Public Statement
- 7.6 **Appendix ‘C’** – Police Correspondence
- 7.7 **Appendix ‘D’** – Sign Of The Times Premises Licence
- 7.8 **Appendix ‘E’** – Plans
- 7.9 **Appendix ‘F’** – Representations
- 7.10 Supplementary attachments to Appendix F

Contact Officer

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Report Author

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APPENDIX A - REVIEW APPLICATION

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary.

You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I ..Councillor Graham McAndrew.....
(Insert name of applicant)

apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below (delete as applicable)

Part 1 – Premises or club premises details

Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description Church End, Little Hadham	
Post town Ware	Post code (if known) SG11 2DY

Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known) Church End Events Ltd
--

Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known) 22/0584/PL

Part 2 - Applicant details

I am

Please tick yes

- 1) an interested party (please complete (A) or (B) below)
- a) a person living in the vicinity of the premises ☐
 - b) a body representing persons living in the vicinity of the premises ☒
 - c) a person involved in business in the vicinity of the premises ☐
 - d) a body representing persons involved in business in the vicinity of the premises ☐
- 2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) below) ☐

- 3) a member of the club to which this application relates (please complete (A) ☐ below)

(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in as applicable)

Please tick

Mr ☐

Mrs ☐

Miss ☐

Ms ☐

Other title Cllr
(for example, Rev)

Surname

McAndrew

First names

Graham

Please tick yes

I am 18 years old or over



Current postal address if different from premises address

Wallfields, Pegs Lane

Post town

Hertford

Post Code

SG13 8EQ

Daytime contact telephone number

E-mail address (optional)

graham.mcandrew@hertfordshire.gov.uk

(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT

Name and address
Cllr Geoffrey Williamson
Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8EQ

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)
geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address
Telephone number (if any)
E-mail address (optional)

This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)

Please tick one or more boxes

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1) the prevention of crime and disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) public safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) the prevention of public nuisance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4) the protection of children from harm | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 1)

There were failures in the management of the event in 2024 which led to issues on both public safety and the prevention of public nuisance. These are centred on:

- Conditions on site brought about by the wet conditions
- Problems of parking on site
- Problems caused by parking off site

On the evening of 6th July 2024 a pedestrian heading towards the festival was struck by a car in Albury Road. The casualty later died. This incident is currently under investigation by the police (see Appendix 2). The incident forms part of our call for a review of the licence on the grounds of public safety.

In addition, whilst there were clear failures in the management of the event in 2024, there were also failings in the preparation of the events held at this site in preceding years regarding traffic management plans being both insufficient and delivered late, and then not adhered to.

Therefore in our view the organiser has repeatedly shown an inability to take the safe management of the event seriously and responsibly. To modify the conditions is not a solution as the organiser has consistently demonstrated an inability to keep to them. Temporary suspension of the licence is not an appropriate remedy for an annual event. We therefore submit that the proper remedy is that the licence of the event be revoked.

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application
(please read guidance note 2)

Please see Appendices 1 and 2

Please tick yes

Have you made an application for review relating to this premises before ☐

If yes please state the date of that application

Day Month Year

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

If you have made representations before relating to this premises please state what they were and when you made them

what they were and when you made them



Please tick yes

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate ☐
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected ☐

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 3)

Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent
(See guidance note 4). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature  
.....
Date 31/03/2025
.....
Capacity Local councillors
.....

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 5) Cllr Geoffrey Williamson Wallfields, Pegs Lane, 	
Post town Hertford	Post Code SG13 8EQ
Telephone number (if any)	
If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional) geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk	

Notes for Guidance

1. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
2. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
3. The application form must be signed.
4. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.

5. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

APPENDIX B - PUBLIC STATEMENT

Sign of the Times – Appendix 1

On 5th – 7th July 2024, I, Kristina Putzova was walking around Church End Farm, (location of the Sign of the Times Festival) as well as the surrounding residential streets/public footpaths and bridleways. In relation to the above location, I was present due to being a member of the public in close proximity as well as resident of Little Hadham (Albury Road).

Whilst at the above location I witnessed actions/behaviours where I believe the licence holder contravened the licensing objective of:

- Promote Public Safety
- Prevent Public Nuisance

I would like to provide you with the following observations from my daily walks throughout the duration of the festival as evidence:

Traffic movement on site

The Industrial Estate was turned into a one-way system using the bridleway 037 as the primary vehicular access route – all festival traffic, including cars and HGVs connected to businesses based in the Industrial Estate were being routed east of Hadham Industrial Estate along bridleway 037 and then being rerouted west across open farmland and back onto bridleway 037. After a heavy rainfall on Friday evening and overnight, on Saturday it was observed that the entire avenue of Lime Trees (bridleway 037) was being used by cars and pedestrians, as the 'dead grass' route through farmland and the allocated car park turned to heavy mud and were extremely slippery.

This brought the festival traffic in direct conflict with other users of the bridleway especially pedestrians, dog walkers and horse riders putting these users at serious risk of collision and injury, and therefore created a serious public safety issue.

For evidence see Photos KP12, KP13 and KP14.

In addition regular users of the industrial estate and the parish church were unable to get through due to the festival traffic, thus creating for them a public nuisance.

Parking on site

Despite rain being forecast well in advance of the event, no contingency had been made for wet, muddy and slippery conditions. Festival ticket holders were asked not to bring vehicles on site, but be dropped off or use public transport. However local buses run once per hour on Saturdays, and there is no local bus service on Sundays.

The dedicated parking for disabled attendees became treacherous with slippery mud making it extremely difficult for those with walking difficulties or in wheelchairs to be able to traverse between the parking area and the main festival site.

The conditions increased the risk of injury with concerns of personal safety.

See Photos KP/5 and KP/6.

Parking off site

As a result of the problems of parking on site, many festival-goers parked instead in Albury Road on both on Saturday and Sunday. A collision on this stretch of road between a car and a pedestrian on the Saturday evening (which later proved fatal for the pedestrian) required the emergency services to close the road for several hours. As this is still an open investigation we are unable to comment and any questions should be referred to the police.

On Sunday afternoon cars were yet again parked all the way along Albury Road from the Little Hadham traffic lights to the by-pass bridge (both sides of the road) creating the same conditions. Many of these were blocking the pavement, meaning that pedestrians had no other option than to walk on the road. The pavement was impassable to pedestrians with pushchairs or in wheelchairs.

Additionally, vehicles were double parked on Albury Rd leaving insufficient remaining road width for cars to pass. Some were parked on junctions with side roads.

Sign of the Times – Appendix 1

Some vehicles were parked on pavements causing obstruction and forcing pedestrians into the road, and others parked on the kerb-side causing damage to the verges.

It should be noted that Albury Rd is unlit by street lamps.

Mud from the site was brought onto nearby roads by vehicles exiting the site.

This situation presented grave issues of public safety as well as creating a public nuisance.

See Photos KP/1, KP/2, KP/3, KP/4, KP/7, KP/8, KP/9, KP/10, KP/11



KP/1 – LH entrance to Albury Road (from Albury) – both verges of the road filling up, Saturday 6th July at 17:39. Objective – public safety



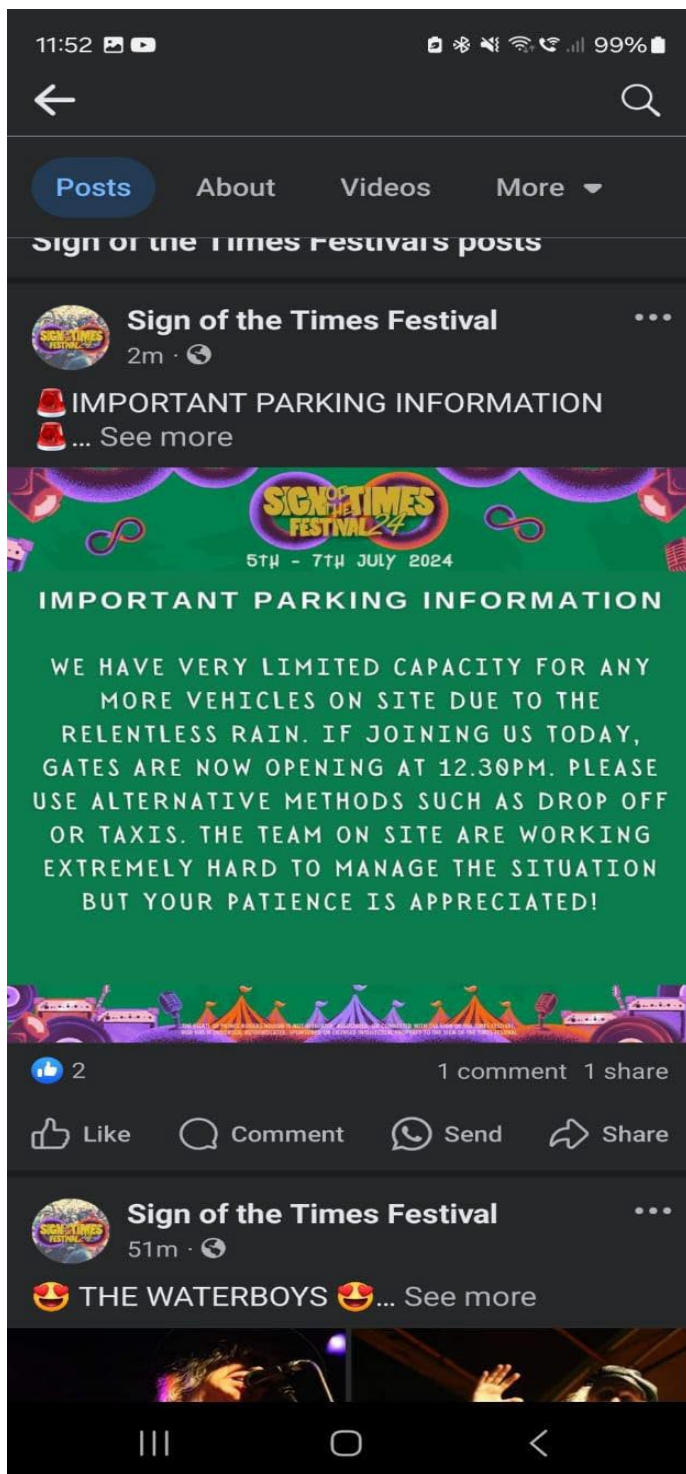
KP/2 – LH Albury Road (from Albury towards Hadham lights) – verges of the roads filling up, Saturday 6th July at 17:46. Objective – public safety



KP/3 – LH Albury Road (from Albury towards Hadham lights) – verges of the roads filling up, Saturday 6th July at 17:47. Objective – public safety & public nuisance.



KP/4 – LH Albury Road (from Albury towards Hadham lights) – verges of the roads filling up, Sunday 7th July at 7:53am. Objective – public nuisance. The above campervan parked on Albury Road overnight due to the fact that organisers informed attendees that due to relentless rain there is limited car parking available (see below exhibit).



KP/5 – Objective – public nuisance/public safety. Social media ‘parking info’ posted by organisers on FB official page on Saturday 6th July informing attendees that due to relentless rain there is limited parking available. Showing - No contingency plan for adverse weather in place. No further updates were provided; therefore, attendees chose to use residential streets and Albury Road specifically (towards the by-pass bridge) to park on both sides of the road. The location has no public transport to transfer festival attendees beyond the nearest town of Bishop’s Stortford



KP/6 – Camp site for campervans (top of the hill) – 7th July at 8:10am. Objective – public safety. Unsafe for festival attendees as the grass was turned into dangerous slippery sludge. More rain followed (throughout the most of Saturday making it extremely dangerous). Vehicles already on-site became stuck. Social media posts/comments available on 'SOTT' official FB page with genuine feedback from attendees complaining of the dangers:

https://www.facebook.com/SignOfTheTimesFestival/?locale=en_GB

Sign of the Times – Appendix 1



KP/7 – LH Albury Road bridge (between Albury and LH) – verges of the roads filling up again, on Sunday 7th July, 13:17 following the previous day/night road traffic accident. Objective – public safety

Sign of the Times – Appendix 1



KP/8 – LH Albury Road bridge (between Albury and LH) – verges of the roads filling up again, on Sunday 7th July, 13:18 following the previous day/night road traffic accident. Objective – public safety



KP/9 – LH Albury Road bridge (between Albury and LH) – verges of the roads filling up again, on Sunday 7th July, 13:18 following the previous day/night road traffic accident. People treating this busy road as a car park, walking into the road without any care. No marshalls / signage available for vehicles coming from Albury warning people of the cars ahead (despite the RTA the night before). No streetlights and mud on the road making it more slippery. Objective – public safety

Sign of the Times – Appendix 1



KP/10 – LH Albury Road bridge (between Albury and LH) – verges of the roads filling up again, on Sunday 7th July, 13:21 following the previous day/night road traffic accident. People treating this busy road as a car park, walking into the road without any care. No marshalls / signage available for vehicles coming from Albury warning people of the cars ahead (despite the RTA the night before). Objective – public safety



KP/11 – LH Albury Road bridge (between Albury and LH) – verges of the roads filling up again, on Sunday 7th July, 16:08 following the previous day/night road traffic accident. People treating this busy road as a car park, walking into the road without any care. No marshalls / signage available for vehicles coming from Albury warning people of the cars ahead (despite the RTA the night before). No streetlight making it dark and even more dangerous. Objective – public safety



KP/12 – what was observed re traffic arrangements - observed during this year's festival that Church End Lane was changed from a two way public road to a single direction road northbound and the festival organisers then forced industrial traffic including HGV vehicles wishing to leave the industrial estate to exit by driving west on bridleway 037 onto Albury Road.

Photo taken on 8th July 16:59 – public footpath at the back of Hadham Hall used as exit route on Monday, which was closed as a footpath for use by cars (throughout the entire weekend) due to the fact that designated route (a field) was unusable (muddy sludge). No contingency plan in place or attempt to make arrangements following heavy rainfall.

Sign of the Times – Appendix 1



KP/13 – 8th July, 17:00. This is the designated entry/exit route (coming off the public footpath) which became unusable (see above exhibit). Objective – public safety



KP/14 – Photo taken on 8th July 17:00 – public footpath at the back of Hadham Hall used as exit route on Monday, which was closed for use by cars (throughout the entire weekend) due to the fact that designated route (a field) was unusable (muddy sludge). No contingency plan in place or attempt to make arrangements following heavy rainfall. Objective - Public safety and public nuisance

Sign of the Times – Appendix 1

VIDEOS (01-07)

Video 1 - 7th July at 16:01

KP/16 – LH Albury Road – verges of the road filling up on both sides – Sunday 7th July at 16:01. The day after RTA. Objective – public safety. Dangerous to road users and public alike. New arrivals on Saturday and Sunday, upon finding the car parks too muddy to navigate, parked in residential areas and along the narrow Albury Road including a 'no overtaking' stretch of road just over the brow of the by-pass bridge. Traffic approaching from Albury would not have expected to encounter parked cars or people walking in the road over the bridge. No signage. This description applies to videos 01 to 07.

Video 2 - 7th July at 16:02

KP/17 – LH Albury Road – verges of the road filling up on both sides – Sunday 7th July at 16:02. Objective – public safety. Dangerous to road users and public alike. No streetlight.

Video 3 - 7th July at 16:03

KP/18 – LH Albury Road – verges of the road filling up on both sides – Sunday 7th July at 16:03. Objective – public safety. Dangerous to road users and public alike. Cars stopping in the middle of the road, people walking into the road.

Video 4 - 7th July at 16:06

KP/19 – LH Albury Road – verges of the road filling up on both sides – Sunday 7th July at 16:06. Objective – public safety. Dangerous to road users and public alike. Showing the extent of the parking on the verges.

Video 5 - 7th July at 16:15

KP/20 – Avenue of Like Trees / bridleway 037– both verges of the bridleway filled with parked cars (no designated car park) – and should this bridleway be used by vehicles? This is being used by festival users as well as public making it dangerous – Sunday 7th July at 16:15. Objective – public safety. Dangerous to road users and public alike. The bridleway became extremely slippery for vehicles and pedestrians due to relentless rain.

Video 6 - 7th July WA019

KP/21 – LH Albury Road – cars double parked – Sunday 7th July afternoon. Objective – public safety. Dangerous to road users and public alike.

Video 7 - 7th July WA20

KP/22 – LH Albury Road – cars double parked – Sunday 7th July afternoon. Objective – public safety. Dangerous to road users and public alike.

Please see enclosed videos 01-07 via WeTransfer.

Sign of the Times – Appendix 1

Signed by: Miss Kristina Putzova

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kristina Putzova". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Date: 11th February 2025

APPENDIX C - POLICE CORRESPONDENCE

Sign of the Times – Appendix 2

From: WALKER, Felicity 643
Sent: 28 March 2025 11:53
To: Graham McAndrew
Cc: HOWSON, Nathan 2934
Subject: FW: Fatality Little Hadham 2024

Good afternoon

Thank you for your email.

I am the officer in the case for the fatal collision that occurred on Albury Road, Much Hadham on the evening of 6th July 2024.
The investigation is still ongoing; therefore, I am fairly limited about what I can tell you.

The collision occurred on 6th July 2024 at approximately 20.30hrs at the location of where the road passes over the new bypass on Albury Road, Much Hadham.

The pedestrians were local residents walking to the festival and the vehicle involved was passing through (not a festival goer) .

There was no other traffic around at the time and no other pedestrians using the road for access to the festival.

There was no issue with lighting at the time

I have copied in the local inspector for the area, who is fully aware of Sign of the Times, and he may be best to assist with the community issues around the event.

Kind Regards

Felicity

DC 643 Felicity Walker
Specialist Operations - Serious Collision Investigation Unit (South)
Joint Protective Services for Bedfordshire Police, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Constabularies

01992 531503
www.eastherts.gov.uk
 East Herts Council, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8EQ

EastHertsDC
 EastHerts
 easthertscouncil



District of East Hertfordshire Premises Licence Licence No: 25/0489/PLT

Licensing Act 2003


Part 1 – Premises Details

POSTAL ADDRESS OF PREMISES, OR IF NONE, ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCE OR DESCRIPTION			
Sign Of The Times		Telephone:	
TL44504 23155, Church End, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire,			
WHERE THE LICENCE IS TIME LIMITED THE DATES			
Not applicable			
THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES			
SALE OF ALCOHOL			
Friday to Sunday	11:00	23:00	
PERFORMANCES OF DANCE			
Friday to Sunday	11:00	23:00	
LIVE MUSIC			
Friday to Sunday	11:00	23:00	
LATE NIGHT REFRESHMENT			
Friday to Sunday	23:00	23:30	
RECORDED MUSIC			
Friday to Sunday	11:00	23:00	
ENTERTAINMENT OF SIMILAR DESCRIPTION			
Friday to Sunday	11:00	23:00	
THE OPENING HOURS OF THE PREMISES			
Friday to Sunday	10:30	23:30	

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WHERE THE LICENCE AUTHORISES SUPPLIES OF ALCOHOL WHETHER THESE ARE ON AND/OR OFF SUPPLIES
Alcohol is supplied for consumption both on and off the Premises

Part 2

NAME, (REGISTERED) ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL (WHERE RELEVANT) OF HOLDER OF PREMISES LICENCE
TDF Promotions Ltd C/O Pr Accounting Services Ltd Raydean House, Western Parade, Great North Road, New Barnet, Barnet, United Kingdom, EN5 1AH 

REGISTERED NUMBER OF HOLDER, FOR EXAMPLE COMPANY NUMBER, CHARITY NUMBER (WHERE APPLICABLE)
16294819

NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES FOR THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL
Mr Alex Hutchinson 

PERSONAL LICENCE NUMBER AND ISSUING AUTHORITY OF PERSONAL LICENCE HELD BY DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES FOR THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL
Personal licence number: 00CMPER02972 Licensing Authority: Sunderland City Council

1. No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence –
 - (a) at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or
 - (b) at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.
2. Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.
3. (1) The responsible person must ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.

(2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises—
 - (a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to—
 - (i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or
 - (ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise);
 - (b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
 - (c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
 - (d) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner;
 - (e) dispensing alcohol directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability).
4. The responsible person must ensure that free potable water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.
5. (1) The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.

(2) The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.

(3) The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either—

- (a) a holographic mark, or
- (b) an ultraviolet feature.

6. The responsible person must ensure that—

- (a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures—
 - (i) beer or cider: ½ pint;
 - (ii) gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and
 - (iii) still wine in a glass: 125 ml;
- (b) these measures are displayed in a menu, price list or other printed material which is available to customers on the premises; and
- (c) where a customer does not in relation to a sale of alcohol specify the quantity of alcohol to be sold, the customer is made aware that these measures are available.

7. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.

For the purposes of this condition -

- (a) “duty” is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979;
- (b) “permitted price” is the price found by applying the formula -

$$P = D + (D \times V)$$

where -

- (i) P is the permitted price,
 - (ii) D is the amount of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol, and
 - (iii) V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol;
- (c) “relevant person” means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence -
- (i) the holder of the premises licence,
 - (ii) the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a licence, or
 - (iii) the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;

- (d) "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and
 - (e) "value added tax" means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994.
8. Where the permitted price would (apart from this paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.
 9. (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the permitted price on a day ("the first day") would be different from the permitted price on the next day ("the second day") as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.

(2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.
 10. Any individual employed on the premises to conduct a security activity (within the meaning of paragraph 2(1)(a) of schedule 2 to the Private Security Industry Act 2001) must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority.

ANNEX 2 – CONDITIONS CONSISTENT WITH THE OPERATING SCHEDULE

1. The Premises Licence is limited to 1 events per year, of a maximum of 3 consecutive day per event.
2. The premises license holder will notify Hertfordshire Constabulary of all the artists performing at the event 28 days before the event takes place. The license holder will notify Hertfordshire Constabulary immediately of any artists booked in the 28 days leading up to the event.
3. The license holder will notify Hertfordshire Constabulary of all contractors and volunteers employed at the event 28 days before the event takes place. This will include registered company name and where possible name, address and date of birth of individual staff.
4. The license holder will notify Hertfordshire Constabulary of all SIA registered staff employed at the event 28 days before the event takes place. Following this Hertfordshire Constabulary must be notified of any changes to SIA staff.
5. Accurate and up to date details of ticket sales to be supplied immediately on request from any of the responsible authorities to allow for event planning.
6. An Event Management Plan (EMP) shall be submitted to the responsible authorities no less than 3 months prior to the start of the event. The EMP must demonstrate that resourcing and infrastructure is based on threat and risk to the event. The latest EMP must be supplied to all responsible authorities 21 days before the event takes place. Following this any changes must be circulated immediately to all responsible authorities.

7. The event management plan shall contain a summary document covering an overview in the following areas –
 - a. Event overview
 - b. Audience profile
 - c. General site overview plan
 - d. Summary description of all areas including temporary structures
 - e. General site safety policy
 - f. Management structure, responsibilities and roles - names of specific personnel, key roles and responsibilities and how the structure of these roles is planned.
 - g. Event control - overview of functioning
 - h. Event Capacities including for temporary structures
 - i. Event timings
 - j. Insurance
 - k. Local Community Considerations
 - l. Build and breakdown plan
 - m. References to appendices detailed below
8. A scaled site plan which shows the location and size of all areas of the event and the site infrastructure as well as showing the immediate surrounding area including ingress and egress for pedestrians, vehicles and crew. As well as emergency evacuation routes and access / egress routes for emergency services. All areas of the event mentioned in the EMP must be detailed on the map. Event risk assessment covering all areas of risk and management of risks to ensure the health and safety of all those on site. A crowd management plan including Capacities and Evacuation times from each area of the site to allow for safe and quick evacuation in the event of an emergency. Emergency protocols and Major Incident Plan covering the following types of emergencies, fire, bomb threat, suspect packages, public disorder / disturbance, structural failure, hazardous substances, person in water, detained person, injury to a person, crime in progress. To also cover the role of the Event Liaison Team (ELT), coded messages, alert levels and procedures for each, partial evacuation procedure, full evacuation procedure, rendezvous points (RVP's), emergency announcements, event stop procedures, crime scene management. Extreme weather procedure and action plan covering all adverse weather conditions, detailing the impact and actions to be taken in each possibility. A Fire safety plan will be submitted in compliance with the advice of Herts Fire and Rescue Traffic management plan covering the management of the traffic on the roads surrounding the event. Management of those attending and leaving the event as well as local residential traffic. Internal site signage for traffic. Car park management and lighting. Expected traffic levels throughout the event. Control measures to be used. Taxis and drop off facilities and operation of this facility. Pedestrian routes and lighting of routes. Management of pedestrian and vehicle crossing points. A Noise management plan will be submitted before the event in line with conditions set by Environmental Health Waste management plan. Medical provisions plan covering details of medical / first aid posts, location and description of facility available. Staffing levels of the facility and process to be used when treating patients. Medical emergency procedure. Security operations and deployment plan covering security management structure, roles and responsibilities, security staff briefings, security control area operations, communication with the ELT, expectations of SIA staff and non SIA staff, perimeter integrity, searching of people within the site, bar security, camping / tent security, car parking security and security incident log. Drugs policy including psychoactive substances. A drugs (including psychoactive substances) policy will be written in consultation with the police, particularly with regard to the definition of "dealing". Where any person is suspected of dealing in drugs, following a search or otherwise, that person will be ejected or refused entry and the person concerned will be detained and police will be contacted prior to ejection. All suspected drugs will be seized and stored safely and securely in sealed evidence bags. A register of all seized drugs will be kept and updated at the time the item is placed

into storage. All seizures will be fully documented and details of the incident including offender details will be supplied to the police at the conclusion of the festival. Weapons policy - A strict zero tolerance policy must be adhered to in relation to any weapons found that are made, used or adapted to cause injury, any such items found to result in ejection or refusal of entry. Entry and Search policy and procedure - detailing the staffing structure and procedural process to be followed at each entry point. Surrender bins to be provided at all entrances prior to the point of search and must be highly visible and clearly marked. Search policy on entry and entry refusal process. Prohibited items to include glass of any kind, weapons, illegal drugs, including psychoactive substances, fireworks, sky lanterns or kites, NO2 canisters, flares, laser pens, open or unsealed vessels of any description. Eviction policy and procedure, including eviction notice. Detailing circumstances under which a person will be evicted, the eviction process, management and recording of the process including onward travel from the festival of the evicted person. Bar management and Alcohol policy including staff management structure and responsibilities, bar staff briefings for the event. The use of challenge 25 protocol, refusals registers and incident logs. A Safeguarding policy and plan to cover both children and vulnerable adults, but especially those under 18's and those who lack capacity through intoxication. To include a lost child procedure. The event will be managed in accordance with the EMP. During the operational phase any deviation from the EMP must be fully documented and rationale recorded at the time. All areas of the event and all documents referred to in the Event Management Plan shall be available for inspection during the event by officers of responsible authorities should they request access or ask to view the documents. An on-site suitable control hub (ELT) will be accessible to police and responsible authorities if at any time it is deemed necessary by the responsible authorities. An external Traffic Management Plan must be submitted no later than 3 months prior to the event and to be completed to the satisfaction of Hertfordshire Highways and Hertfordshire Constabulary. An event log shall be maintained which includes any actions or decisions taken in relation to each event. The premises License holder shall have procedures in place to;

a) Manage the occupancy levels within areas to enable a safe and quick evacuation in the event of an emergency;

and b) Allow the swift access for emergency vehicles.

All public address systems shall be under the control of the premises license holder or their nominated representatives so that emergency broadcast message can override the musical entertainment and can be delivered clearly audibly to all parts of the site. There shall be an area within the licensable area dedicated to dealing with vulnerable children and adults this includes those who are vulnerable through drink and drugs. There shall always be on duty at this location a person nominated as in charge. Staff working in this area shall have access to a radio connecting with the event management. The maximum capacity for each event at any one time is 4999 people; this includes all staff on site. Entry numbers will be monitored and recorded at all times through the use of attendance clickers. Entry numbers to be supplied immediately on request by any police officer. Entry onto the site will not be allowed between 2300 hours and 0600 hours. People under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by a responsible person over the age of 18 years in order to gain entry. A maximum of 3 under 18's to be allowed in with each person over the age of 18 years. The adult (over 18) entering with any person under 18 years is to be informed of their responsibilities with regards to the person under 18 years. Quantity of alcohol permitted to be brought into areas of any event which is outside of the premises footprint for licensing- this will be restricted to 16 cans of lager or cider or ale or premixed drinks, OR 2 litre bottle of cider OR 1 box of wine (2.25litres) or 2 bottles of wine (decanted, OR 75cl of spirits (decanted). All limits are per person and apply to camping areas only, All limits are per person and apply to camping areas only, not external alcohol may be brought into licensed areas. The Designated Premises Supervisor must be actively involved in the running of the event or clearly nominate someone to act on their behalf in the case of illness or injury. The Designated Premises Supervisor must be on site when alcohol is permitted to be sold or supplied or clearly nominate someone to act on their behalf in the case of

illness, injury or required rest time. The nominated person must be a personal licence holder. Each bar will be clearly identifiable by number or name. Only 100% polycarbonate to be used by the public on site, no glass to be permitted in areas open to the public. Each bar will have visible signage (challenge 25/ free water/ weights and measures act/ drinks and price list including abv's). The Premise License Holder shall ensure that all Stewards and Security Industry Authority personnel have received training commensurate to their role, and have been fully briefed prior to the start of the event on the information contained within the EMP documents relevant to their role. All stewards and Security Industry Authority staff shall wear high visibility jackets so that they are easily identifiable except those working in a covert capacity. No staff member while on duty and / or in uniform will consume alcohol or drugs on site or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at any time whilst working. The Premises Licence Holder shall take out Public Liability and Third Party insurance to cover at least £5,000,000.00 (five million pounds) for any one occurrence. The Premises Licence Holder shall provide the Licensing Authority with certified copies of the Policy and Certificates of Insurance, or other acceptable proof of cover, not later than 14 days prior to the start of the event. The Licence holder will be responsible for producing a policy for the inspection of the structures built on his site. This will include a maintenance and inspection programme with his methodology of testing. This will be presented to the relevant authorities not less than three week prior to an event. The Licence holder will be responsible for producing a policy for the inspection of the structures built on his site. This will include a maintenance and inspection programme with his methodology of testing. This will be presented to the relevant authorities not less than three week prior to an event. The fire resistance of all materials that form any part of a means of escape will be certified by a suitably qualified person to satisfy this authority of their fire resistance. In the event of any of the responsible authorities advising the licensing authority that the final version of the Event Management Plan (EMP) does not in their professional view fully satisfy their reasonable requirements to meet the four licensing objectives, the event will not proceed until such time as the reasonable requirements are met and approved by the responsible authority who had previously raised concerns.

9. The Premises are accessible only by Ticket Holders. A suitably sized team of SIA Licenced Security Personnel are deployed within the premises to maintain a safe environment at all times. The Event has clear and comprehensive terms and conditions which set out various measures to maintain a safe environment within the site (including but not limited to Drugs policies, Prohibited items Policies, Search policies etc). A strict search procedure is maintained and applied to any and all persons accessing the site ensuring that no weapons or other items which could cause harm can be brought into the premises. Body Worn CCTV is used 24/7 throughout the licensed period by the Security Team to deter crime and disorder and capture evidence of any persons involved in undesirable activities. At any one time, a minimum of 8 Body Worn Cameras will be deployed. Vetting of staff working at the event minimises the risk of any crimes committed within working environments. The Event has a Security policy which identifies key risks and concerns in relation to Terrorism and identifies suitable control measures to manage this risk as far as is possible. Further information relating to Applicant's control measures in relation to Crime and Disorder can be obtained within the Event Management Plan.
10. A Risk Assessment is produced for the Event, the crowd management of it's attendees and each individual activity by workers, employees or contractors within the premises and other spaces utilised to support the licensable activities taking place. All Control Measures determined by this Risk Assessment are incorporated into an Action Plan which is fully implemented by the Senior Management Team. A competent contractor has been appointed to review all road access and egress from the Premises, a suitable Traffic Management Plan has been produced and full narrative and schematics are contained within Section 10 of the Event Management Plan. A large team of SIA licensed Security Personnel and NVQ trained Safety Stewards are deployed throughout

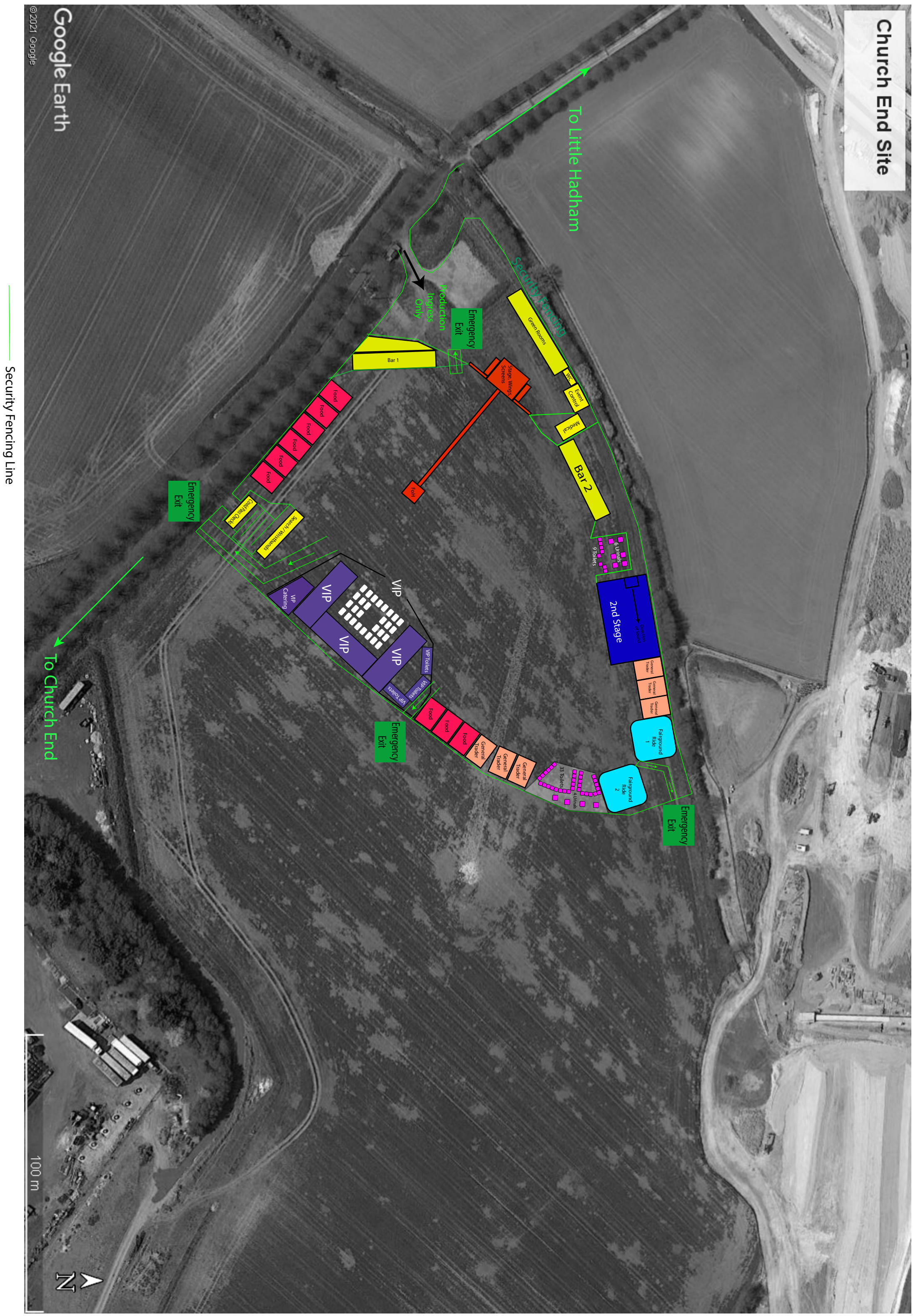
the event, this team is trained, briefed and aware of both the need to identify any hazards which may present a safety risk to any persons and the correct reporting procedure to escalate any concerns for resolution. The capacity of the premises will be set at 4,999 persons; for whom there is more than ample resources on site in relation to safety, crowd management, sanitation, emergency egress etc. All Electrical Installations are installed by a competent person as set out in BS7909 and then further inspected by both the Event Manager and a secondary Competent Person prior to the Premises opening. All Electrical Appliances utilised on site have a current and valid PAT test. Further policies in relation to Public Safety can be found in the Event Management Plan. A competent Medical Contractor has been appointed by the Applicant and will be present throughout all licensable activities to provide medical attention via clinically trained professionals to any persons requiring medical attention. A covid risk assessment must be produced and agreed with Environmental Health 6 weeks prior to the event, until such time as such a document is no longer a legal requirement under the appropriate legislation, demonstrating compliance with the latest government covid guidelines and any related local guidelines at the time of production. This is to be a working document which would be subject to change should government guidelines change within the 6 week period after this has been produced.

11. A competent contractor has been appointed to review all road access and egress from the Premises, a suitable Traffic Management Plan will be produced and full narrative and schematics are contained within the Event Management Plan. These will be finalised and further detail added in conjunction with SAG co-operation. A competent contractor has been appointed to review all risks relating to noise pollution and noise management from the amplified music on site. This contractor has an extensive background and qualification set in relation to Noise Management and Noise Pollution. Their recommendations are set out in the Event Management Plan and have been accepted in full by the Applicant to be implemented throughout the event. Final requirements as directed by conditions attached to the licence will be incorporated in a final Noise Management Plan which will be implemented and monitored throughout licensable times by the same Noise Management contractor. Noise levels to be limited to 65dB LA eq (15min) not less than 1m from the facade of any noise sensitive dwellings, with 70dB LA eq (15min) in the 63Hz and 125Hz octave bands A detailed noise management plan with measures agreed by the local authority no less than 3 weeks prior to the event taking place. The plan must include as a minimum: Detailed site layout plan Event schedule, including timings and details of the music e.g. Live / recorded Identify and risk rate all the noise sources Identification of receptors Prediction of sound levels at relevant locations on and off site Noise monitoring strategy Communication strategy Complaints response procedure Accountability management plan including contact details A list of residences which will need be informed prior to the event, and will be identified as those in locations where a substantial risk of nuisance would be present were monitoring and management not actively mitigating this over the event That the noise monitoring carried out at the event along with any complaint logs etc. are provided to the council no later than 14 days following to close of the event in the form of a post event noise monitoring report. The report should outline the level of compliance with the agreed noise levels, detailed monitoring logs including times, locations and levels as well as any complaints and subsequent alterations to the noise levels The Applicant employs and will utilise throughout and after the event a Cleansing Team who will remove litter and waste from both the Premises and nearby areas utilised by attendees in accessing or egressing the event. The Event operates a "Leave No Trace" Policy and will return the Premises and adjacent areas to exactly the condition prior to Licensable Activities.
12. A "Challenge 25" policy will be operated both by staff involved in the sale of alcohol and by the SIA Licenced Security Personnel throughout the site to prevent persons under the age of 18 from consuming alcohol whether purchased directly or by proxy. A comprehensive policy in relation to the Protection of Children from Harm is set out in Section 6 of the Event Management Plan. At least

one Medical personnel present during licensable activities will hold specific training in Paediatric Pre-Hospital Care. Tickets are available to Over 18s and Under 18s can access the only event only when directly supervised by an accompany Adult aged Over 18 who has accepted the Terms and Conditions directing them to suitably supervise the Child throughout their visit. All staff are briefed on Safeguarding Policies and are made aware of the correct internal Reporting Procedures for any persons at risk. Control Room staff are fully briefed on the external Reporting Procedures for any issue to be escalated to external partners.

ANNEX 3 – CONDITIONS ATTACHED AFTER A HEARING BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY

ANNEX 4 - PLANS





To Little Hadham

Security Fencing

Emergency Exit

Production Ingress Only

Bar 1

Stage, Wings, Screens

WC

Event Control

Medical

Bar 2

6 Urinals
9 Toilets

2nd Stage

General Trader

General Trader

General Trader

Fairground Ride 1

Fairground Ride 2

4 Urinals

33 Toilets

General Trader

General Trader

General Trader

Food

Food

Food

Emergency Exit

VIP

VIP

VIP

VIP

VIP Catering

VIP Toilets

VIP Toilets

VIP Toilets

Food

Food

Food

Food

Food

Food

Search/Wristbands

COVID Pass Check

Emergency Exit

To Church End



100 m

APPENDIX F - REPRESENTATIONS

Representations in support of Review Application - 25/0459/PL

Kristina Putzova – No address given :

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Sign of the Times Licence Review Application

I have no objections to music festivals in principle, but I feel that they need to be held in a suitable location with good access and frequent, reliable public transport to minimise the disruption on the local community. Most importantly they must be safe for both attendees and nearby residents. In my experience, The Sign of the Times festival traffic and parking is not well managed and the ongoing noise disturbance from the stages and the high volumes of commuters parking outside and passing by local houses is intolerable. This was exacerbated by the weather in 2024 which meant festival goers impinged on local residential areas more than ever before. The muddy, steeply sloping festival ground and all the surrounding roads and adjacent bridleways were unsafe for normal local vehicular traffic, local ramblers, dog walkers and horse riders and festival foot traffic, so it was inevitable that an accident would happen.

No contingency for rain put in place (even though the rain was forecast), organisers chose to 'limit' the car park (field) due to relentless rain on Saturday and encouraged people to use different means of getting to the venue, which was not realistic as lots of attendees travelled from miles away (with no public transport available). Bad or non-existent lightning on Albury End Road and on campsite (no proper signage). Car parks needed straw put down to help cars get out instead of getting stuck in the mud (did not happen even though people pleaded for help via official social media (Facebook) SOTT page by which SOTT organisers chose to communicate with attendees). No traffic management on Albury Road which meant cars parked on verges and increased risk (on both Saturday and Sunday), which ended in someone being hit by a car on Saturday evening.

This small village, characterised by rural lanes and with limited single-track access onto the site, is not a suitable location for a large and growing music festival and the licence should be withdrawn.

Please feel free to peruse the festival's official Facebook page for all feedback/comments from last year - https://www.facebook.com/SignOfTheTimesFestival/?locale=en_GB as well as attached***[see below]** some collated feedback from [Skiddle](#) website - a UK-based ticketing company and online events guide that is used by SOTT to sell their tickets. Feel free to browse through the entire Skiddle page of reviews.

The common themes are:

- No provisions made for disabled people (even though SOTT is selling tickets for disabled people and 'proud' itself in being disability friendly – see SOTT official webpage.
- No contingency plan for poor weather – zero planning for adverse weather and the ability to move vehicles in the mud – no attempt to communicate with vehicle owners how they could summon help if their vehicles failed to negotiate the mud. The space being dangerous in the muddy conditions
- Lack of drinking water
- Lack of shower facilities
- Insufficient toilets

- Parking on a slope problematic
- Poor signage and lighting
- Poor organisation
- Drug use
- Returning festival goers – complaining of the same issues with the festival saying SOTT don't seem to learn each year/each year the organisation is poor.

I believe the organiser/licence holder has consistently demonstrated an inability to find solutions and take the safe management of the event seriously and responsibly, and for that reason I believe the only solution is that the licence of the event is revoked.

Thank you for your consideration.

With best wishes,

Kristina Putzova

Little Hadham resident

*Attached 'collated feedback from [Skiddle](#) website' available at hearing upon request [14 pages]:

Mrs Kathryn Mearing – Suffylde, Ford Hill, Little Hadham, Herts, SG11 2AZ

Re: Sign of the Times music festival, Little Hadham

I am writing to support Cllr Graham McAndrew's application to revoke the licence for this festival. I wrote to a number of the statutory stakeholders, including the Police, at the time of the last festival in 2024, outlining my serious concerns about Public Safety. At that time I provided both written and video* evidence to support my specific issues which I summarise as follows:-

- Unsafe access into a working industrial estate with HGV movements alongside festival cars and motorhomes, local residents and people on foot (festival attendees, industrial estate users and local bridleway users).
- Unsafe exit onto Albury Road with inadequate visibility splays and narrowing of the carriageway to single lane for much of Albury Rd up to the Little Hadham traffic lights due to resident's parked cars.
- The unlit rural roads around the site are unsuitable for large volumes of traffic and people.
- The exit from the festival is just over the by-pass bridge with fast approaching traffic from Albury meeting unusual traffic movements around the site representing a higher probability of RTAs.
- There was no apparent plan for dealing with the chaos caused by the site becoming impassable due to deep mud which closed the on-site car parks and trapped many cars that were already in situ.
- The site itself, being a steep slope, was dangerous under foot to those trying to walk down to the stage area.
- Cars arriving and finding themselves unable to access the site parked wherever they could (grass verges, pavements, tight corners of residential streets), causing extreme safety issues on the local roads and a nuisance for locals many of whom could not access their own homes.
- Cars parking on the pavement forced walkers into the live carriageway leading to risk of accidents, especially at night with no lighting and people who had been drinking alcohol on site.

In my view, events that involve hundreds of cars converging on a small village with little public transport and narrow rural unlit roads, are inappropriate on the grounds of Public Safety and Nuisance. Given that the steeply sloping terrain and the extremely limited access points (including through a working industrial estate), are fixed and cannot be changed, I would urge you to remove the licence as I cannot see a way that it can be made safe.

Kind regards,

Mrs K Mearing

**Video supplied can be viewed at hearing upon request.
- It shows the congested parking on the road mentioned above.*

**Tommy Clee – Assistant Network Manager – East Herts, Broxbourne, Three Rivers & Watford |
Network Management | Growth & Environment, Hertfordshire County Council**

Dear Colleagues,

Further to the below request you have received to review the event licence for Sign of the Times, Hertfordshire County Council wish to show their support for this request.

We believe the event organiser has failed to comply with the following licensing conditions:

- Event Management Plan submitted 3 months prior did not include suitable traffic management plans to address previous years concerns around safely managing traffic (pedestrians and motorists). Please see attached email sent to the event organiser on 26/06/2024 in relation to the TM plans. ***[See below]**

Ultimately, we feel the licence should be revoked on the following grounds:

- The event organiser has failed to provide suitable traffic management plans that address previous concerns within the timeframes stipulated within the conditions of the licence.
- The event organiser has failed to provide adequate traffic management on site.
- The event organiser has failed to suitably manage traffic associated with the event on the public highway.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to the limited ingress/egress points.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to the unsuitable and narrow ingress/egress points available.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to the impact the event has on the business park.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to the impact it has on the surrounding road network.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to proximity of public rights of way that are inevitably impacted by the event.
- The location is not suitable for an event of this size due to the limited alternative parking available in the case of bad weather which has as detrimental impact on the public highway.

Hertfordshire County Council have tried over the past couple of years to work with the event organiser to agree suitable traffic management arrangements however we have lost all confidence that the event organiser will actually work to the agreed traffic management plans. The event organiser does not appear to fully recognise or understand the complexities of the site and the traffic management requirements needed to manage it.

Best regards,

Tommy Clee

Assistant Network Manager – East Herts, Broxbourne, Three Rivers & Watford | Network Management |
Growth & Environment
Hertfordshire County Council

*Attached email from 26/06/2024:

“From: Tommy Clee <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 1:49 PM
To: Alex Hutchinson <[REDACTED]>; MINICHIELLO, Sarb 8800 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>
Cc: Safe Events <[REDACTED]>; NM East <[REDACTED]>; Andrew Crosby <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Sign of the Times 5th July - Traffic Management (update from Tommy Clee)

Hi Alex,

The only correspondence I can see prior to the plans which have been submitted today is from Wednesday 19th June enquiring about the use of 4 way lights which appears to be your current proposal, this does not address the issues raised to you following last years event. Furthermore, please see attached email****[See below]** sent to you on Monday informing you that you do not have approval for vehicles to cross the bridleway, as per the previous years this would require a TTRO which has an 8 – 10 week lead time of which you have not applied for.

Considering my comments made to you in March (as per the attached email trail) where it was felt there was a lack of attention to traffic management, this appears to be the case once again considering plans are being shared a mere week before your event.

Therefore, as it stands we cannot give approval to erect any temporary traffic management on the public highways or for vehicles to access the event via Church End.

Best regards,

Tommy Clee”

**Attached email from 24/06/2024:

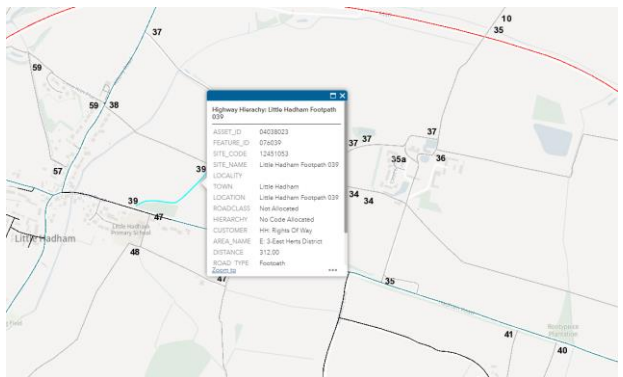
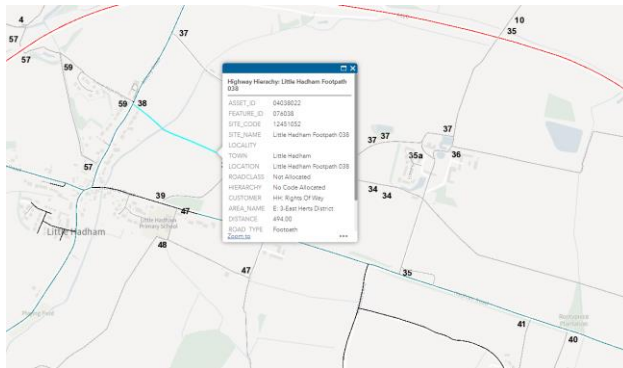
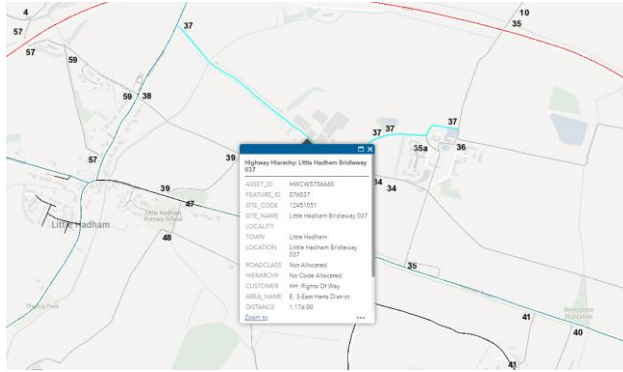
“From: Andrew Crosby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 3:59 PM
To: Jai <[REDACTED]>; Alex Hutchinson <[REDACTED]>
Cc: NM East <[REDACTED]>; Tommy Clee <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Wannasee, Stone Valley South & Sign of the Times - Minutes of SAG Debrief

Hi Jai,

Thanks for your email.

We still haven’t received your traffic management plans and we’re now nearly a week away from the start of your event giving us insufficient time to assess your proposals. As it currently stands, we do not approve the installation of any traffic management on the public highway or any crossing of public rights of way.

Please note you do not have authorisation to cross the following bridleways as no ingress or egress arrangements have been agreed:



Best Regards"

Dr J Small, Barnhurst, Albury Road, Little Hadham, SG11 2DL

Dear Sirs

I wish to make a representation about the Review of a Premises Licence for this event.

There was considerable disruption to the residents in Albury Road and surrounding roads in Little Hadham in 2024 as a result of this festival. Parking in the roads was an issue once the fields were too wet to sustain parking. There was damage to the verges due to the parking and the obvious safety issues for any pedestrians because of parking on both sides of a relatively narrow road.

Members of the security staff were also rude and aggressive to residents when they were trying to access their homes by car.

There was no problem with noise from the festival.

The main issues related to parking and the sheer numbers of cars involved in entering and leaving with relatively reduced access in a small village.

Kind regards

Dr J Small

Albury Road

SG11 2DL

Joanne Beadle – Ragamuffins, East End, Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 0JT

Good morning,

I would like to make a comment in relation to the licensing application 25/0459/PLR Sign of the Times music event.

I live in Furneux Pelham and regularly travel through Albury to Little Hadham. Last year on the weekend of the Sign of the Times event people attending the event decided to park all the way along the edge of the Albury Road up out of Little Hadham towards Albury beyond the 30mph limit and into the 60mph stretch of the road towards the bridge over the new a120 bypass (which has a blind summit). This made it extremely difficult and dangerous for drivers to pass safely from Albury to the Little Hadham traffic lights (and vice versa). This effectively made a long stretch of single lane road with no visibility to see whether a vehicle was coming in the opposite direction and coming from the direction of Albury drivers could pass over the summit of the bridge over the new a120 bypass (60mph) to immediately face a single lane of traffic and possibly a stationary queue of cars waiting to progress into Little Hadham. It was dangerous.

If this Sign of the Times event is to take place again this year please can the organisers be required put barriers or cones all along the initial 60mph section of Albury Road leading out from Little Hadham to Albury so that nobody can park within the 60mph section of road leading up to the bridge over the new a120? I believe this would improve the safety of drivers in the local area during this very busy weekend.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any queries.

Many thanks
Joanne Beadle

Lorraine Winney & Ian Winney - Albury Road, Little Hadham. SG11 2DL

Dear Sir/Madam

We write to express the following objections in order to support the ongoing review of the above licence:

1. (Section B - Public Nuisance; Section C - Public Safety). There is a lack of contingency planning for parking of vehicles within the festival site during prolonged wet weather, which has led to parking of the festival-goers vehicles on the surrounding public road(s), namely Albury Road, and has impacted the lives of residents as well as traffic from local villages particularly during a busy time of year for the farming community.
2. (Section B - Public Nuisance). Local residents were not consulted or properly informed prior to the first event being held in 2022.
3. (Section B - Public Nuisance; Section C - Public Safety) Residents of Church End and business users/patrons of the Church End Industrial Estate experience access difficulties where the only access road is also used as a main entry point to the festival site.
4. (Section C - Public Safety) Traffic around the site is poorly managed, in particular for those travelling southbound on Albury Road from North of the site, where there has never been any signage advising traffic to slow down when approaching the festival site exit.
5. (Section B - Public Nuisance) Waste from the festival, whilst generally properly collected to a central point, has been left on site for a small number of days following - which has encouraged vermin and wildlife.

Yours faithfully

Lorraine & Ian Winney

Sandra Evans – no address given

I object to this licence primarily on the grounds of public safety.

Since the licence was originally granted, the A120 bypass has opened resulting in a 60 mph road now running alongside the festival site. I believe this to be distracting for drivers especially after dark.

Daily festival goers walk along Albury Road to Church End access road. This is an unpaved country road which can be dangerous for pedestrians under normal circumstances and more so if passing drivers are distracted by events taking place in the adjacent fields or if pedestrians have been drinking.

Many visitors decide to park in surrounding roads rather than use the car park because it is quicker to get out or because the fields are wet.

As the festival grows year on year, road congestion on entry and exit worsens, exacerbated by the installation of temporary traffic lights in the village. Albury Road becomes very congested resulting last year in some residents cars being damaged as traffic tries to squeeze through small gaps.

Secondly in regard to the prevention of public nuisance:

During the first festival, the field opposite Highfields was used as a camping field which did cause noise nuisance into the early hours because campers were too near neighbouring houses. I request that should the licence continue, that field should not be designated a camping field.

Sandra Evans

Carole Page - Clerk to Little Hadham Parish Council – Rosemary Cottage, Acorn Street, Hunsdon, Ware, SG12 8PE

The parish council supports the call for a review of the festival's licence due to significant failures in event management during 2024, which jeopardised public safety and resulted in widespread nuisance. These issues stem from systemic inadequacies in planning, risk mitigation, and adherence to licensing conditions, compounded by recurring negligence in previous years. The key concerns that have been identified are:

Hazardous Traffic Management

Despite advance weather forecasts, organisers failed to implement safe contingency plans for wet conditions. The designated traffic route repurposed bridleway 037 as a one-way system, forcing festival traffic, industrial estate users, and pedestrians (including vulnerable groups such as horse riders and wheelchair users) to share dangerously narrow pathways. This created direct conflict between vehicles and pedestrians, escalating collision risks. Furthermore, the diversion of traffic across waterlogged farmland rendered alternative routes unusable, exacerbating congestion and safety hazards. Regular users of the industrial estate and parish church were obstructed, constituting a public nuisance.

The Industrial Estate was turned into a one-way system using the bridleway 037 as the primary vehicular access route – all festival traffic, including cars and HGVs connected to businesses based in the Industrial Estate were being routed east of Hadham Industrial Estate along bridleway 037 and then being rerouted west across open farmland and back onto bridleway 037. After a heavy rainfall on Friday evening and overnight, on Saturday it was observed that the entire avenue of Lime Trees (bridleway 037) was being used by cars and pedestrians, as the 'dead grass' route through farmland and the allocated car park turned to heavy mud and were extremely slippery. This brought the festival traffic in direct conflict with other users of the bridleway especially pedestrians, dog walkers and horse riders putting these users at serious risk of collision and injury and therefore created a serious public safety issue. In addition, regular users of the industrial estate and the parish church were unable to get through due to the festival traffic, thus creating for them a public nuisance.

Inadequate On-Site Parking Provisions

Organisers neglected to address foreseeable challenges posed by adverse weather. Disabled parking areas became perilously muddy, endangering attendees with mobility impairments. Despite advising visitors to avoid driving, insufficient public transport options (including no Sunday services) left many with no viable alternative to on-site parking. The lack of safe walkways or temporary surfacing demonstrated a failure to prioritise attendee welfare.

Despite rain being forecast well in advance of the event, no contingency had been made for wet, muddy and slippery conditions. Festival ticket holders were asked not to bring vehicles on site but be dropped off or use public transport. The dedicated parking for disabled attendees became treacherous with slippery mud. The conditions increased the risk of injury with concerns of personal safety.

Off-Site Parking Endangering Public Safety

Poor on-site arrangements led to widespread illegal parking along Albury Road, a rural route lacking street lighting. On the evening of 6th July 2024, a pedestrian heading towards the festival was struck by a car in Albury Road. The casualty later died. This incident is currently under investigation by the police.

The incident forms part of our call for a review of the licence on the grounds of public safety. Repeated parking violations—including pavement obstructions, double-parking, and damage to verges—forced pedestrians into live traffic lanes. These dangers persisted unabated on both festival days, with mud from the site further compromising road safety.

As a result of the problems of parking on site, many festivalgoers parked instead in Albury Road on both on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday afternoon cars were yet again parked all the way along Albury Road from the Little Hadham traffic lights to the by-pass bridge (both sides of the road) creating the same conditions. Many of these were blocking the pavement, meaning that pedestrians had no other option than to walk on the road. The pavement was impassable to pedestrians with pushchairs or in wheelchairs. Additionally, vehicles were double parked on Albury Rd leaving insufficient remaining road width for cars to pass. Some were parked on junctions with side roads. Albury Rd is unlit by streetlamps.

Historical Failings & Irremediable Negligence

Prior events at this site have exhibited similar shortcomings, notably delayed or insufficient traffic management plans that were routinely disregarded. The organiser's persistent failure to comply with licensing conditions or learn from past mistakes demonstrates a disregard for public safety. Temporary measures or modified conditions are insufficient remedies, as the licensee has repeatedly proven incapable of responsible management.

Conclusion

Given the severity of the 2024 incidents, and a pattern of non-compliance, the Parish Council asserts that revocation of the licence is the only proportionate and responsible course of action. Annual events demand rigorous oversight; this organiser's repeated failures warrant permanent withdrawal of licensure to safeguard the community.

Therefore, in our view the organiser has repeatedly shown an inability to take the safe management of the event seriously and responsibly. To modify the conditions is not a solution as the organiser has consistently demonstrated an inability to keep to them. Temporary suspension of the licence is not an appropriate remedy for an annual event. We therefore submit that the proper remedy is that the licence of the event be revoked.



Little Hadham Parish Council

Tracy & Darren Matthews – no address given

To whom it may concern

I am writing to confirm that sadly we do need to raise our concerns and objections to the above festival licence being renewed.

Whilst the music albeit intrusive, is not too much of a problem, even though it certainly plays on after the permitted time, the logistics around the festival certainly are.

The village of Little Hadham just can't cope with that much traffic. If the weather is factored in and vehicles cannot park in the fields it becomes an even bigger problem. It was absolute chaos last year causing huge disruption to residents.

Our deciding factor in objecting was a fatality occurred as you well know, indirectly linked, but certainly because of the festival, due to the person making his way to the grounds.

We believe the festival should be moved to a bigger, safer venue like Knebworth. This area already has Standon Calling so it is very much catered for.

Yours sincerely

Tracy and Darren Matthews

Sarbjit Minichiello - Police Office, Hale Road, Hertford

Hertfordshire Constabulary is responding to the Premise Licence Review for the Sign of Times Festival TL44504 23155.

Event Details:

- **Festival Name:** Sign of Times
- **Dates:** 20th to 22nd June 2025
- **Capacity:** 4999 persons
- **Includes:** Camping
- **Advertising:** On website and states tickets are selling fast.

As of 30th April 2025, Hertfordshire Constabulary has not received an Event Management Plan (EMP) or Traffic Management Plan (TMP). This is in breach of the following conditions of the premise licence:

- **Condition 6:** An Event Management Plan (EMP) shall be submitted to the responsible authorities no less than three months prior to the event. The EMP must demonstrate that resourcing and infrastructure are based on the threat and risk to the event.
- **Condition 8:** An external Traffic Management Plan (TMP) must be submitted no later than three months prior to the event and completed to the satisfaction of Hertfordshire Highways and Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Current Issues:

- There are historical issues with the timely submission of EMP and TMP.
- Numerous public safety concerns have been raised by Hertfordshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Highways but were not incorporated in the 2024 TMP. There is a lack of confidence they will be incorporated in the TMP going forward.
- The TMP will require a Temporary Road Restriction Order (TTRO) to be in place, which may not be achievable within the current timeframe.

Conclusion: The lack of an EMP and TMP does not enable Hertfordshire Constabulary sufficient time, as a responsible authority, to review the documentation, and it has not been shared with the Safety Advisory Group. Historical issues with regards to TMP do not inspire Hertfordshire Constabulary with confidence, and we support Hertfordshire Highways' concerns.

Representations against Review application - 25/0459/PL

Fiona Corden - Bridge House, The Ash, Little Hadham, SG11 2DG

I am writing in relation to the review of licence for Sign of the Times festival, application 25/0459/PLR. I live in Bridge House, Little Hadham, which is in the middle of the traffic light junction between the A120, Albury Road and The Ford.

Based on the two years I have lived here, I support the continuing license for Sign of the Times festival. I would prefer the landowners to generate a living from their fields rather than covering them in houses, and a temporary festival does that with minimal impact on local residents.

The organisation of traffic management in 2024, in particular the use of temporary traffic lights and one-way road closures on Albury Road at peak times, kept the junction moving throughout the weekend. The volume of traffic meant there was queueing but there was never gridlock, and those traveling in other directions were not unduly delayed. While traffic noise late into the evening is never desirable, the level was comparable to the noise on nights when the M11 or A120 bypass are closed. This is because the festival traffic was moving much slower than diverted traffic and did not contain heavy goods vehicles, which are the biggest noise nuisance.

The major road safety issue in Little Hadham is people speeding through the 30mph zone, particularly those who overtake cars already doing 30mph. While heavy traffic for the four days around the festival is inconvenient, I do not believe it is any less safe than any other day of the year.

From my house, there was some noise pollution from the festival stages, however it was significantly less than we get from overflying aircraft or our neighbour's weekly band practice. Obviously noise pollution will vary drastically with location and wind direction, but at my location it was acceptable.

No event of this scale can run absolutely perfectly, and I am sure there are things that the organisers can tweak to alleviate the new issues that will inevitably arise each year. However, the parts I saw all operated smoothly.

Regards,

Fiona Corden

Bridge House, The Ash

Little Hadham

SG11 2DG

John Shellard - 52 Maze Green Road, Bishops Stortford

Hello,

I wanted to send an email voicing my strong support for the Sign of the Times festival. We go with our friends and family every year and are so grateful to have a local festival we can walk to from Bishops Stortford. Compared to most festivals it is very affordable but still has great acts. Concerts and festivals have become extremely expensive, and that's if you can even get tickets. I understand the concern around last year's festival and the fatality, but neither us nor our friends had any issues (apart from getting a bit wet and muddy), and unless we wrap everyone in cotton wool, accidents will unfortunately happen. However, this should not prevent a great local event for the residents of this area, which many look forward to every year, and which is good for the local economy.

Best regards

John Shellard

3/ 5

Elaine Humpleby

Verified Review

8 July 2024

Amazing bands and sound. This was our third year in a row and each year the organisation is poor. Camping, toilets, food, vip provision lacks consistency and value and the site staff vary from excellent to appalling. This year there was only one camp for all tent campers but accessible campers were also added on slopes with uneven ground. There was not enough space for us all so we were allocated right down by the 'road' area. We expected a vip /accessible section which we paid for and as we got the last 2 years. Nope. Just some posh loos far away from the camp and some showers. The pamper booth was 2 hairdryers on a wooden table outside. The men's posh toilets arrived broken and so were not available even once. The ticket descriptions changed after we bought our tickets. Where the vip camp was last year had been allocated to food vendors. The rain was awful... its the UK so that happens. But the organisers did little to resolve the thick, deep sticky mud in the arena and the camping area. The space was dangerous. No lighting in the attend which is at the bottom of a steep slope. Ankle deep mud. The exits were treacherous. Entry was delayed by 90 minutes on Saturday but nothing had been done to make space safer for us. Overnight huge tractor machines drove up and down through the camp at 5am and around 12pm for well over an hour. They churned up the ground even more. But minimal straw was placed and only on the bridge. Nothing in the quagmire entrance, arena or campsite. Campers tents were 4 metres from the one bank of portaloos, these were emptied late at night and at 8 am rather than when event was in the arena and all people were off the camp area. The stench and noise was awful . Plus people were still moving around in the dark with large vehicles around We paid for vip area again. It was rubbish. Poor drink options, shoddy service, school style burgers and biscuit served for the advertised 'fresh bbq with options'. Bored bar staff one of whom just did not react at all for the first 4 visits to the bar and then did not understand what e were adding for (2 pints of cider) and prices were higher than in the rest of the venue. Day 2 option was better but service not. The advertised 'entertainment'.... a dj deafened us for a couple of hours then packed up and stormed out shouting this was s**t and he was better than this. There was not space provision for the number of VIP tickets sold seats, or tables and less than half the toilets e had last year. The toilets had no sanitiser and the water on the drinks ran out on day one. Hand cream was there but no way to clean hands. A very poor show. Parking was chaos with mixed info put out on social media and stewards totally lacking in consistent information. We went for the early arrival option. We were all send through and around a number of fields then down a slope which became a mud slide to the actual car park 200 metres from wedges we first entered the site before being directed on a hike. It took over an hour for our vehicles to go through and we arrived 5 minutes after when we were alloted on site. In the end we left subah morning unable to cope with the mud. I have a disability and my partner is immunosuppressed. The poor safety, poor organisation and mud meant we did not feel safe. Then we discovered the car park we parked in was the only car park for non live-in campers and day visitors. There was ONE entrance in and out and it was a mid slide. We got stuck as soon as we pulled out of our parking space and had to be pushed out. The staff were super helpful but there were only 2 of them. Again no straw/bark or anything to give a firmer surface. Overall fabulous music.. the acts were brilliant. . Poor organisation. No action about the mud and dangerously slippery slopes. No reply from organisers when we complained by email and the chaos caused by the social media comment on day 2 telling people not to drive to the site. Dangerous huge vehicles driving back and forth. Those who paid extra for the VIP/posh loos space did not get anything worth what they paid. I do not think it was well run. It felt like

not enough had been spent and corners cut by the organisers. We would like a refund on day 3 and our vip ticket but no one replies to emails We will not be going back again

SOTT posted on Saturday morning, not to arrive by car due to the wet weather, suggesting getting dropped off or finding other means of transport. Not really an option for a rural venue. There were many posts on social media about the site not being fit for purpose and lack on contingency plans. I had knee surgery in March and could not risk slipping over on muddy churned up ground. We had to make the difficult decision to stay home. Not good communication from the organisers, lots of people on similar circumstances reacting to the post about not arriving by car, but no response from SOTT

★ 2.5 / 5

Amanda Mitchell
17 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Worst experience ever. No info after a flood of the campsite. No phone number for help. Security know nothing about event queries. No signage. Do not answer email or online enquiries. They take your money and run. Left after one night camping due to catastrophic organisation in face of bad weather. Ignore any queries or complaints or questions about refunds. Skiddle refuses to help too. Had to file a claim in PAYPAL and write to Rip Off Britain. Avoid like the plague. No matter how enticing the lineup don't do it. You will have a miserable experience and no recompense or acknowledgment or apology.

★ 2.5 / 5

Carolyn Westlake *Verified Review*
14 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

No contingency for rain. Bad lighting on Church End Road and on campsite. Car parks needed straw put down to help cars get out instead of getting stuck in mud. No traffic management on Albury End road which meant cars parked on verges and increased risk which ended in someone being hit by car

★ 3 / 5

Adam Botting *Verified Review*
13 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

My impressions on the festival: The main stage and tent were too close together. You had to be very close to the main stage in order to hear it over the tent. There were limited water refill points and they weren't very well sign posted. There was limited choice for food and the prices were relatively expensive. Having different selections for beer at the two bar areas resulted in a lot of footfall though the muddy fields. There were few spots to shelter from the elements. The venue had a tough time with the weather but could have taken more preventative measures with straw on the ground. Despite this the band choice was very good.

★ 2.5 / 5

Gary Scruby Verified Review

11 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

We know the organisers cannot help the rain, and it certainly rained! We had to leave early on Sat as we were unable to risk keep walking up and down the fairly steep hill to the music area as it got wetter and muddier. We're not disabled but are in our 60s and paid extra for posh' loos. However they were located by the 'tent' campsite, meaning a wet, slippery, muddy (and for us, dangerous) trudge down the hill and back up again, plus the posh facilities were so few it was pointless waiting in the queues to use them. Should have been separate posh loos for the 'campervan' area. I can imagine how great it might be on a hot, sunny weekend, but that slippery hill, combined with stupidly slow queues for bags to be searched, made it too stressful and miserable. The parking staff on arrival were lovely, but spending ages queueing in the rain with no 'queue managers' (so others simply pushed in) to then stand in the rain watching bands, then slip over up and down dark muddy hills is not for us. We watched as early as Sat, other vans getting towed out by tractors, that in turn churned up the mud each time they moved, and worried that by Sun/Mon we'd be unable to leave, so made an early exit and reluctantly missed the rest of the festival. Lineup was great but the layout means we'd not risk it again so sorry would not recommend.

★ 1 / 5

Sharon Gorrie Verified Review

10 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Absolutely boring = noise could be loudly heard even though my house opposite fields is fully double glazed. Camper van spend the day and night parked outside the house, road congested and local residents as far as little Hadham village and Albury could not park near our houses, bad security not a sign of any wardens stopping parking in a residential area if there had been need of ambulance or emergency service it would have been disastrous. Poorly run!!!

★ 4.5 / 5

Anita Howroyd Verified Review

10 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Great venue if in the dry but if it rains it's hell. If your disabled and in wheelchair or walking impaired it's a disaster

★ 2.5 / 5

Sarah Kellett Verified Review

9 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Why did we have to pay extra £66 + booking fees for a live in vehicle pass that no one checked. 😡 and why did I hate to pay for one anyway??? No staff on hand to help with flooded exit/entrance in live in vehicle field and security (if that what their role was) who had no clue what was going on. The Big Top was so loud on Sunday it drowned out the main stage! Only 1 drinking water tap in the whole arena - the bar didn't have a water tap - how is that safe if it had been a really hot day? The music was okay and I enjoyed some bands I'd not heard of before. But I won't be going again even if the bands were good. The organisers didn't really have back up plans for the weather and no staff around other than checking you had no booze in your bag!! Not good

Positives 1. On site, Jessica was very helpful 2. Glamping tents in good condition, bedding comfortable, duvets clean and warm. 3. Well maintained loos in arena, well supplied with toilet roll and hand sanitiser right till the end of the festival. 4. Small scale - everything to hand. 5. Good variety of acts, something to please everyone 6. Reasonable variety of food choices. Negatives 1. No phone/internet signal on site 2. Stages too close or Big Top too loud, couldn't hear the main stage at times because of the noise coming from the Big Top. Big Top acts need to end before the Main Stage headliners begin. 3. Bands need to run to time, adjust the schedule if not enough time between bands to get set up properly 4. Once the rain turned the ground to mud, straw needed to be spread over the arena as it was seriously dangerous with many people slipping and falling over. 5. More picnic benches, we were discouraged from taking chairs in, but there was not enough seating inside the arena. 6. Many more toilets and washbasins needed for glamping area. 4 "posh" toilets for that whole area was not enough. They were kept stocked with toilet roll but ran out of paper towels very early on. Sinks had only a trickle of cold water which was hopeless for washing face/brushing teeth. 7. Showers good when working 8. Sinks with hot water needed for washing pots and pans in camping area 9. Extra tea and coffee van 10. Two, very different sized, glamping tents that were offered for the same price. Would have felt ripped off if in one of the smaller tents. Glamping tents were too close to the fence and the narrow path leading to the toilet block meant stepping over a series of guy ropes and a generator, this was dangerous and could have caused a serious accident, particularly at night. 11. Driving off the site after the festival was treacherous as the mud made this very difficult with many cars getting stuck and having to be pushed by other campers. No staff were on hand at this point to help.



3.5 / 5

Michelle Robinson Verified Review

9 July 2024

Disorganisation on entry, took us over an hour to get our wristbands so ended up missing the first act on Friday. A lot of the delays were caused by the searches and people being frisked, whereas understand due to safety issues but this seemed to be more about stopping people taking in their own alcohol. The rain came and was relentless, nothing anyone can do about that, however some measures could have been taken to ease the really muddy areas i.e. some metal gridding or even straw around the toilet areas at both the venue and camping areas, also same around the shower area and entrance/exit of the venue. The food was reasonable however the drinks very overpriced. Only freshwater available was down near the entrance, nothing provided separately at the campsite which was a long exhausting climb up and down a steep hill, then surrounded by mud which makes it very difficult to carry the water and be able to stabilise yourself. We left on Sunday even though we had a weekend ticket as couldn't face the thought of it becoming even more treacherous underfoot and exhausting trying to walk through thick, sticky mud where you slipped or got stuck !!! We also got stuck in our campervan trying to leave, luckily did manage to get off eventually but the exit again thick mud... nobody can help the weather but feel SOTT organisers can take better measures to alleviate how much it affects peoples safely and enjoyment.



Simon Gee Verified Review

9 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

So wet we didn't stay. Stewards were hopeless, signing was totally inadequate. Rain not festival's fault but their response to it for late customers was poor to non-existent.

[REPORT](#)



Derek Carr Verified Review

9 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

We didn't go in. I'm disabled We went to the festival but they wouldn't let us into the disabled camping area because it was full and also blocked off because of the flooding. We didn't go in because where they parked up was too far away so we had to book a hotel. We are just went back home on Saturday because it' was pouring with rain still and it will be terrible there now like Glastonbury conditions. The weather conditions were terrible. A refund is required.



Jackie Brighton Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Needed more security within the arena and campsites - I witnessed a lot of drug use. Needed better preparation for the bad weather. Needed more food stalls in the camping area



Matthew Kosin Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

It rained all weekend and the organisers made absolutely zero effort to make it any less muddy, no straw, no wood-chips, even at the most trodden junctions, just a sea of mud from day one. Also every time you come in from the campsite you get physically frisked and patted down and touched up and have all your bags turned out and even camping chairs in case you try to bring in a can of beer. The food is low grade. The sort of thing you used to get at festivals decades ago. If you're camping there isn't even access to those food stalls until about midday or 1pm when the arena opens. Only one catering van in the campsite. The toilets were fine except the mud you had to wade through to get there. The showers were fine, but only 4 cubicles. Everything stops at 11pm except loud generator and engine noises which seemed to go on until about 2am.

★ 4.5 / 5

Nicola Thomas Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

We had weekend non-camping tickets and we were also here in 2022 (in the sunshine). SOTT is an excellent small festival and I'd like it not to get any bigger. We had a wonderful time, weather aside! But when the sun came out dancing in the mud is a bit more fun. Pros: - Arena loos - well stocked, no queues, thank you! Best I've experienced as a hardened festival goer - Staff - all were excellent and friendly! Hats off to them in rather tricky conditions! - Bar queues - pretty much no queues all weekend, excellent! - Line up - absolutely fantastic, the best yet! - Food - fairly good selection but very limited for gluten free (chips!) - Shut down in thunder storm, good safety protocol and action - Benches - maybe a few more next year as were always full - Great size - arena is easy to move around and get from one stage to another (ignoring the mud) Cons: - W**d smell - everywhere! Nothing being done about it. Was disgusting and had two kids with me. - Bar prices - bit expensive for the choices - Big top music - too loud, clashes badly with main stage - Mud - very little prep and proactive action over the course of the weekend - More shelter - for rain & sun - Loos on the other side too would have been good but small enough area to walk back to the entrance Recycling - can this be provided for / encouraged next year? However, I do love this festival, recommend and will be back.

★ 1 / 5

Adam Welsh Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Appalling - disabled access non-existent, not sufficient planning for the weather, rude staff, really, so unbearable we had to leave.

REPORT

★ 3.5 / 5

Victoria Atkinson Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Music great Food great Shops were all great Bars great Sadly no water in the live in vehicle area, people stuck in mud with no staff to help. No support staff anywhere. Very rude and grumpy security staff. We felt totally abandoned in that top field. 2 music stages too close together so music clashed and was difficult to hear unless you went into the mud bog at the front. So called posh toilets an absolute joke. Filthy and unusable by Saturday morning. Not cleaned or serviced all weekend. No water in the sinks and showers totally disgusting. I'd have come out dirtier than when I went in if I'd dare to use it. I think SOTT need to do a lot more planning for this festival to become a success. We usually go to Latitude but thought we'd try something different. We won't be back.

I completed a lengthy application for accessible camping (which we were granted), including providing medical supporting evidence and lots of emails. My partner and I were sent an email to present on entering the festival, which entitled us to camp in the accessible area. We were told straight away, by security, that this area was full, and we would have to find somewhere else to camp. We were sent on a wild goose chase, involving leaving the site twice and re-entering. No-one had any idea what we should do and where we could pitch our tent. In the end a member of the security team just pointed to a space on the live-in vehicle field. Due to the heavy rain, we pitched our tent as quickly as we could, and didn't take in the fact that we were at the very highest point of the festival site, and it would have been impossible for my partner, who has significant mobility issues, to get down the steep hill or up again. Because of this, we were unable to even consider attempting to get into the arena. Therefore, we stayed in our tent all night, packed everything up in the morning and went home. I have heard at least 4 other people say that they were promised accessible camping, but were informed that it was full on arrival. I have basically paid £180 for sitting in a tent in a field for one night. Without an accessible camping facility, I would not have purchased tickets for my partner and myself; the level of organisation was shambolic - no-one seemed to have any idea what was going on, nor who to ask and how to help us. I will be requesting a full refund.



Linda Myers Verified Review

8 July 2024

I enjoyed the festival but due to the constant rain the site became unbearable. As I was not camping I had to negotiate getting out of the car park each night and by Saturday night it was extremely dangerous cars stuck in mud. I slid into a post so a very expensive festival for me with a dented car. Think the organisers could have attempted to lay something down to help drivers exit. I didn't attend on Sunday as couldn't face the car park situation again.



Paul Howroyd Verified Review

8 July 2024

Great local festival for us, Music was awesome, every band i saw played a thoroughly entertaining set! This was the third year we've been, drink prices were significantly higher this year, and the choice was poor. An event of this size with an older crowd I'd expect a selection of real ales as there have been previous years. It was also disappointing that no provisions had been made for disabled people, despite having been told there would be. One Lady in our group has very restricted mobility and found it near impossible to walk through the sloppy mud from her tent to the arena. Across most of the arena seemed to be a sound clash as the big top stage had the speakers pointing straight out, this meant it was hard to find anywhere uncrowded to sit and listen to the band on the main stage without hearing both. Overall the weekend was very enjoyable, but the organization of the event could be improved.

★ 3.5 / 5

Richard Teall *Verified Review*
8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

The music was great. The facilities for the live in vehicles was woeful. No water tap which meant having to lug the water from the lower field which was no easy feat. No consideration was made for anybody less able. Disposal of toilet waste was not sufficient. Porter loo's had to be used as an alternative which was less than hygienic and upsetting for other people. No forward planning from the event organizers with regards to the poor weather. It was forecast. Walking boards in and out of the venue and around the bar area's. This should have been a consideration to aid movement around the venue.

★ 1 / 5

Jeni Donoghue *Verified Review*
8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Was turned away at the car park due to hazardous muddy conditions, so could not attend

★ 2.5 / 5

Mark Orbell *Verified Review*
8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Access to venue slow and ill thought. No contingency for bad weather. Food poor quality and expensive. The music was fantastic

Review of Sign of the Times

We attended in 2023 and absolutely loved the event, having purchased full weekend camping tickets with live-in vehicle and upgraded toilet/shower access. Didn't hesitate to buy the same package this year, or at least what we thought was the same package. The site modifications for 2024 left us feeling unamused, and that's polite phrasing. All the camper vans were parked on top of "cardiac hill" and the showers & nice toilets were down near the arena entrance, a fair old trek away. Anyone who walked with a stick, had a dodgy back/knee/hip, or breathing issues such as asthma, were instantly faced with a big problem - how many times can I manage that walk and incline each day? Once in the arena, we noticed a marked increase in prices at the bar and food stalls, beyond inflationary expectations. £6:50 for a can of cider that you can get for £1 in any supermarket. £12:50 for a bratwurst hot dog & small tray of chips. Yes, I would recommend this event on the strength of the music variety and quality, but would make it clear to everyone to go with deep pockets and be prepared for a hike. We survived the full weekend and slithered out of the muddy field via an unofficial track to the industrial park. Many others left much earlier, some as early as Saturday morning. The increasing number of gaps in the vehicle and camping fields told the story of a wet weekend that became very hard work. Will we return for Sign of the Times 2025? I doubt it.

★ 3.5 / 5

Alison Niddrie Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

We had heard lots of good things about the festival but it didn't start well, we arrived on Thursday but it took us an hour to be parked, apparently it was not like this the year before. We were in the vehicle field on top of a hill, but the nearest place to get water was down near the arena entrance... a bit of a walk when going up hill carrying water. Like all things when the rain comes and the festival organisers haven't sorted any contingencies it can cause stress. We were in the vehicle field and left Sunday morning as we were told nothing had been organised to pull vehicles out, vans were already skidding their way out at 10am on Sunday morning, adding concern about the field being even more churned up after further rainfall later. The organisers were asking on social media, for the Sunday arrivals to try and find alternative methods of getting to the site rather than by car, but offering no suggestions of where or how. We had paid for posh loos and showers, by Saturday afternoon only one of the ladies' toilets was working and we were being advised to use the arena toilets, as they were better. Some of the mixing for the music wasn't right and often we couldn't hear the singers very well. All staff were exceptionally friendly, however we never saw any medical support around the place and apparently the previous year there was someone continuously cleaning the toilets, but by Sunday morning a lot of the toilets were pretty full. Hopefully they will get back to where they were last year, it was a shame our first experience wasn't great but I appreciate that other festival goers said it was so much better previous years.

★ 3 / 5

Stephen Raher Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Great music let down by poor organisation. Way too few toilets. Chaotic entry into camper van field. Quagmire caused by rain but no advance thinking - ie matting or hay to limit the mud spread. Only 2 bars, one of which served no draught beer and sold cans at £6.50. Very personal frisking on entry and only 2 person entry for anyone with a wristband. Employ more customer facing staff.

★ 1.5 / 5

Ashley Whittaker Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Absolutely awful organisation I'm disabled and it was terrible Toilets broken etc. will not go again

★ 4 / 5

Kim Baines *Verified Review*

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Great music and reasonable ticket price BUT we paid for extra for live in vehicle/campervan and there were no showers in that area at all with what looked like only a handful down by main camping. Also no water point - had to walk down to the main camping area next to the arena (then backup with a full container of water) Chemical toilet disposal completely full on Monday morning so nowhere to empty the van loo for us. Urinals overflowing on Sunday. Searches on entry were ridiculous. Full pat downs, security actually going into handbags and pulling things out. At one point I had forgotten to put my wristband on but no one checked that at all and I got into the venue with no band after being completely frisked and emptying my tiny handbag. Can only assume it was booze they were looking for because the price of it in the arena was extortionate. £33 for a warm bottle of crap wine is not good. £15 for margaritas - I pay less than that in some fancy bars in London to drink it out of a decent glass. Quite telling that the price of margaritas went down on Sunday as I suspect they hadn't sold many. The searches would have been better to be focused on illegal drugs because the amount of w**d being consumed in the arena was unbelievable, made the whole experience quite unpleasant and we moved multiple times to get away from the stench. Such a shame as the music and atmosphere, despite the rain was great.

★ 2.5 / 5

Melanie Shone *Verified Review*

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Poor communication from camping/parking stewards - not clear where to go and where facilities were, stewards weren't present or silent/ didn't know much when asked. Not great first impression. There were no friendly knowledgeable stewards, only security/doorman. Not the same! Comms during event were poor re. Weather - suggested that there was no central help for stuck vehicles. Can't help the rain but organisers could do something about the major heavy tread areas. Didn't seem to be a coherent plan for poor weather, no appreciable attempt to help exit. It just seemed under staffed. Facilities extremely poor. Toilets not maintained sufficiently, too few toilets in the campervan field, single drinking standpipe was too far away - should be at least one in the campervan field. Chemical toilet disposal point was full to overflowing on Saturday. Posh loos had no water or soap or sanitiser and equally poorly serviced, shower drains blocked by grass and mud. It felt like they had been pitched up and left. Other festivals in a similar bracket manage to get these basics sorted- it's not impossible. Acts were good, but sound in the blue tent was far too loud and bled badly into the main arena. Glad we tried it but won't be returning!

★ 3.5 / 5

Michael Currie *Verified Review*

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Poorly organised. Campervan at top of very steep hill. Water at bottom of hill a very long and very hard slog away. Chemical emptying containers taken away and not replaced for over 24 hours. I know it was very wet and muddy but a bit of Straw in entry/exit area would have saved extreme mud.

★ 2.5 / 5

Anthony Dalton Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Signage and lighting poor, stewards and bar staff badly trained, no lights or sanitiser in toilets. In view of heavy rain, virtually no shelter to eat overpriced food and no matting/straw or boards in heavy traffic areas making walking hazardous. Limited choice in the so called "craft beer tent" which also offered no shelter from the weather for overpriced (4 quid for a half) beer in non recyclable plastic glasses which ended up strewn all over the field (no litter pickers) The one efficient part seemed to be the searching and patting down of patrons to ensure there were no drinks smuggled in. The main stage and the big top were too close together so that if the headline act got to a "quiet bit" it was drowned out from the other stage. Took the shine off seeing some of my favourite bands. Have the organisers not been to any other festivals? Needless to say, will not be going again.

★ 2.5 / 5

Roger Arnold Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Whole site is on a slope, motorhome camping is furthest away from the festival site. I wasn't checked for a valid wristband all weekend, security were more interested in forensically searching for alcohol, spoilt the vibe for us. Very limited choice at the bar, no gluten free beer available. Didn't enjoy paying £6.50 for a CAN! of cider. Food was limited, and despite being told gluten intolerance would be catered for, my partner was left with a choice of chips or chips all weekend. When we left the festival there was zero signs or marshals directing us towards the exit. Our group has been to many festivals, small and large in the past but whilst we loved the diversity of the music, sign of the times is not a festival any of us will be returning to.

Review of Sign of the Times

The weather was less than summery this year, 2024 No fault of S of the T. A huge disappointment was lack of water and shower facilities at the live-in vehicle site. Sited at the top of a 200ft hill, it is no surprise that a water supply from the valley would not have sufficient head. Surely the commercial estate next to the site would have adequate supply. Very poor planning. Also, there was no attempt to mitigate the extreme mud at critical points, like areas around portaloos, at the arena entrance and at heavily used crossing points. There was no attempt to communicate with vehicle owners how they could summon help if their vehicles failed to negotiate the mud. Again, there seemed little consideration given to contingency planning. Some security staff were hardly 'happy greeters' at the entrance bag-and-person search area, surprising given this is an event advertised as family-friendly. One local woman complained when her phone fell into the mud while searched, then photographed the security individual involved. Physically forcing her to give up her phone so the photo could be deleted was in my view an act of assault and unjustified aggression. Notwithstanding the rain, overall, this event was the poorest in terms of facilities for the paying punters that I have experienced. In summary, the organisers could do better.

★ 3.5 / 5

Lorraine Harding Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

The bands were great but the organisation was poor. They didn't cater for the wet weather (was forecast to be wet). No loos in the live in vehicle section. Assessable area not very assessable.

★ 1 / 5

Alan Surrey Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

We bought a disabled weekend camping ticket to find when we arrived to be told sorry its full you will have to park with able body parking, as I'm in a wheelchair and the entrance was about a mile away at the bottom of a hill we found it impossible to get about so left, complete waste of time more than sign of the time. Will be seeking a refund.

★ 3 / 5

Helen Floyd Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Not at all disabled friendly if your disability is invisible. They won't help unless you have an Access card which costs £15. They don't tell you that until you have actually bought a ticket. If you buy the ticket the day before you don't have chance to sort that out. Long walk back to the car up a relatively steep hill, then through the campsite which was unlit so the risk of tripping over guide ropes was high. Quite a few people seemed very disoriented. Music good, fair price but organisation and venue '??'. I won't be going again no matter who's playing there.

★ 4 / 5

Emma Shepheard Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Again there were issues with the festival- and they don't seem to learn each year. VIP area was too near marquee so you couldn't hear the main band from there. Total sound clash when both stages were playing. VIP food not nearly up to standard of previous years apart from Saturday. The toilets weren't regularly checked/cleaned and the water ran out frequently, so couldn't wash hand in VIP toilet or dry them as no paper towels. Carboids were taken away half full and then only half of them returned which were full so couldn't empty toilets at the end of the festival. Also no water stand pile up at the top where the camper and were parked meaning a walk up a steep hill with fresh water. No straw/wood chips put down when main stage area, exits and toilet areas became quagmires. There seemed to be no wet weather provision consideration. As the price creeps up, punters expect the provision to keep pace and not decline.

★ 1 / 5

Jason Pedder Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Turned up at 530pm on the Friday to find the disabled camping area was full even though I had bought and applied for the tickets in advance. Because of a severe lung condition causing mobility issues the stewards alternative of a campsite situated up a hill was unsuitable, so had to come home and miss the whole festival. Still waiting to hear from organisers about refund. Shame that they don't welcome disabled people. Unable to give no more than one star on any of categories, but can say the previous festival 2023 was good.



Rosie Mitchell Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

This is the third year we've been to the festival, massively unimpressed, while I appreciate you can't control the weather, nothing was done to try to improve the ground, it was treacherous to walk and drive on. Surely getting some bales of straw would've helped. Only 1 block of toilets in the arena, only 1 entrance. The position of the tent was poor as you could hear music from there when close to the front of the main stage. Disappointing



Corinna Rowe Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

SOTT posted on Saturday morning, not to arrive by car due to the wet weather, suggesting getting dropped off or finding other means of transport. Not really an option for a rural venue. There were many posts on social media about the site not being fit for purpose and lack of contingency plans. I had knee surgery in March and could not risk slipping over on muddy churned up ground. We had to make the difficult decision to stay home. Not good communication from the organisers, lots of people on similar circumstances reacting to the post about not arriving by car, but no response from SOTT



Angela Jones Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

I am a disabled wheelchair user. I can accept that the weather was particularly awful however It was like you didnt cater to accessibilty at all. NO accessible parking, and due to the amount of mud and lack of accessibility I was unable to attend the event on Saturday or Sunday as a wheelchair would not have been able to manoeuver onto the site. Absolute shambles.

★ 2 / 5

Michele Benn Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Our first time. Enjoyed some of the music but the sound in big top wasn't good and it interfered with the main stage. Friendly atmosphere and the main toilets were mostly fine and plenty of them so no queuing but we'd paid £25 each for posh loos which were disgraceful: doors not aligned so didn't lock, no water, soap or paper towels. Ridiculous placement. Too far from top of campsite. Needed several more blocks. Camping facilities inadequate: Rutted, sloping field with big holes, no water, no usable toilets or rubbish bins at top of field. We brought a small tent for 2 of us as information on website advised if we brought a big one we'd be told to take it down...no stewards monitoring this at all. Couples with massive tents. Wish we'd brought ours. No matting on main walkways, mud was hazardous. No clear First Aid station or signposting. Inadequate sheltered areas. Thai curry was delicious and good value. Drinks over-priced. Yoga and Sound bath were a great way to spend a couple of hours relaxing but timing could have been half an hour earlier as last half of Sound bath drowned out by big top music. Overall: Nice friendly atmosphere and some good music but wouldn't recommend this festival to friends given the quality of sound, very poor organisation and management. No-recycling facilities and shocking amount of single use plastic.

★ 2 / 5

Matthew Bartolo Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Dreadful weather that SOTT obviously were not prepared for, no showers with 20 minute walk of the live in vehicle camping, with only one water point over 10 minutes away, coming back up Cardiac hill. Very poor signage, SOTT you got greedy. We will never attend again.

★ 2 / 5

Shaun Nikiel Verified Review

8 July 2024

Review of Sign of the Times

Everything done on the cheap and without proper planning. Rubbish and won't return or recommend.