

EAST HERTS LICENSING AUTHORITY
Licensing Act 2003

REPRESENTATION FORM FROM RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

Responsible Authority (please delete as applicable):

Police – Hertfordshire Constabulary

Your Name	
Job Title	Licensing Officer
Postal and email address	Hertford Police Station
Contact telephone number	

Name of the premises you are making a representation about	Waterbridge 2021
Address of the premises you are making a representation about	Frogmore Hill, Watton-At-Stone, Hertford, SG14 3RR

Which of the four licensing Objectives does your representation relate to?	Yes Or No	<i>Please detail the evidence supporting your representation. Or the reason for your representation. Please use separate sheets if necessary</i>
To prevent crime and disorder/Public Safety/To prevent public nuisance	YES	Please see Appendix
Suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy your representation or other suggestions you would like the Licensing Sub Committee to take into account. Please use separate sheets where necessary and refer to checklist.	There would need to be a significant reduction in the number of people attending the events and the number of events being held. The information about the types of events being held would need to be more specific so the application can be properly assessed around risks.	

Signed:

Date: 26.11.2020

Please return this form along with any additional sheets to: East Herts Licensing Authority, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, Herts SG13 8EQ or email to community.protection@eastherts.gov.uk

This form must be returned within the Statutory Period. For more details please check with the Community Protection Section Unit on 01279 655261

**HERTFORDSHIRE****CONSTABULARY**

The governing principles of the Licensing Act are the four Licensing Objectives. All organisations and individuals involved in the running of Licensed Premises, must do so with a view to promoting these Objectives:

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
Public Safety
The Prevention of Public Nuisance
The Protection of Children from Harm

This representation is made by Hertfordshire Constabulary in relation to the time limited Premise Licence Application to cover the period between 1st January 2021 and 2nd January 2022 for a field named Waterbridge located off Frogmore Hill, Walkern. The applicant, Tom Wilkes has applied to licence every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1000 hours to 2300 hours each day for music, alcohol and other entertainment including, dance, plays and films.

Tom Wilkes already holds a premise licence for this location, licensing him to hold 3 camping festivals each year, consisting of 3 days and 3 nights each with a capacity of up to 4950 people.

The location is in a rural area, it is accessed via Frogmore Hill, a single track lane with few passing places, about 700 metres long to the start of the site area from the A602. Alternatively it accessed via Walkern Road, again another lane that links to the village of Watton at Stone, approximately 1500 metres away. The lanes have no street lighting. There are residential properties within the immediate area also accessed off Frogmore Hill and Walkern Road.

Tom Wiles has stated in his application that the intention behind this application is to enable him to hold a number of COVID safe events throughout 2021. It states each of the events will host up to 1500 people and will be summer based, it does not state how many events will be held. As stated the licence applied for is to licence every weekend for a year.

It is believed that if it this application was granted the licensing objectives around public safety, prevention of public nuisance and prevention of crime and disorder would be undermined for the reasons detailed below.

Any event held at this location has an impact on those living in the area, the three festivals currently held there have an impact due to traffic, noise and litter. There is an increase in traffic coming to the location on single track roads, the events create a level of noise not just at unsociable hours but throughout the day, and there have been concerns raised previously about litter being left on the surrounding roads as a result of the events. Adding numerous other events to the three already held there will cause a regular and constant nuisance to the community in the area making this impact unreasonable. There have been residents in the past who have complained about the events taking place.

The event management plan supplied with the application states there is no need for a TTRO for the planned events and the traffic management plan is minimal as can be seen by the below screen shot taken from page 25 of the EMP.

B. Traffic management plan

We do not envision having to implement a TTRO as many events with similar and higher capacity have worked incredibly well at the same site. We will, however, be providing plenty of information prior to the event on how to get to/from the site, PUDO instructions and car parking information.

Customers will be informed prior to the event on the preferred route into site, so as to reduce two-way traffic on the single-track roads as much as possible. All traffic leaving the event after the event will be directed to use one point of exit only.

Emergency access routes will be distributed to all emergency services and SAG members on an event-by-event basis.

As stated the location is accessed via single track lanes, the increase in traffic and lack of TTRO (which would make the roads one way only) will mean conflict between vehicles travelling in opposite directions on single track roads. This issue is something that has been discussed at length with Tom Wilkes in the past due to concerns around his current events. Making the lanes one way does however cause a significant diversion for residents out through the village of Watton at Stone.

The events currently held at the location are held over a number of days and the majority of attendees' camp on site. This reduces the traffic impact as people arrive over a more spread out period of time. The new planned events will not have camping. They are day / evening only events meaning that the majority of people will arrive and leave at the same. This massively increases the traffic concerns and the impact of traffic on the community.

In 2018 the first and only single day event was held at the location under the current licence, approximately 2000 people were at the event. Police were in attendance during the evening and witnessed total chaos at the end of the event as people tried to leave. Taxi numbers were insufficient, they were reluctant to pick up patrons due to the lack of traffic management, meaning people decided to walk home or walk to the top of lane to meet taxis/lifts. This resulted in a very dangerous situation where people were walking on single track, unlit lanes. As a result of this event Tom Wilkes was advised not to hold single day events under his current licence which he agreed. Dispersal from the event was highlighted to Tom Wilkes as a major concern yet in this new application for single day events his EMP makes no mention of how he intends to manage the dispersal of 1500 people from the site late at night. This is because this dangerous situation has no financially viable solutions.

People walking down unlit lanes is not only dangerous but also puts them at risk of being victims of crime. These people are likely to be under the influence of alcohol in addition to being in dark and isolated locations and as a result are very vulnerable. Having regular events where this is an issue will give notable opportunities to those wishing to exploit vulnerabilities.

The areas of risk highlighted above are not identified within the event risk assessment that has been supplied. The risk assessment instead focuses purely on how the event will be safe with regards to COVID 19. Of further concern the EMP does not state that they will have a person allocated as an Event Safety Officer, although within the other role descriptions an Event Safety Officer is mentioned as being reported to.

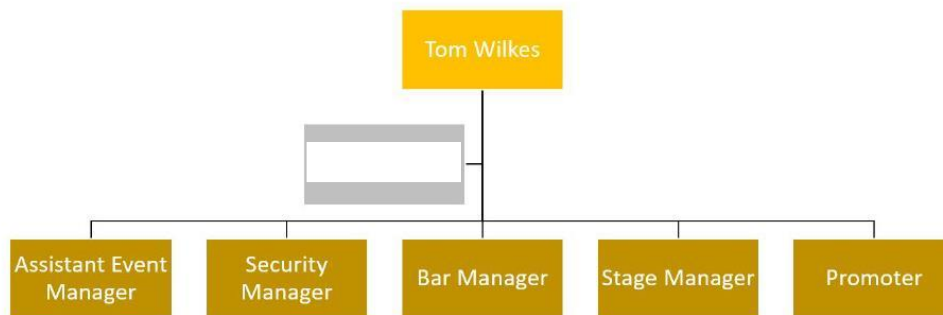
Screen shot taken from page 13 of the EMP listing the key personnel.

Management structure

Key Personnel

Contact Name	Role	Contact Number	Contact Email
	Site/Production Manager		
	Event Manager & Operations		
tbc	Security Manager		
	Technical Manager		

Later in the EMP on page 17 the following diagram is used to show the 'Event Management Approach'. This doesn't follow the list of key roles listed above.



The first paragraph in the extreme weather procedure on page 36 (screen shot below) seems to indicate that the event is taking place undercover, which is contrary to what has previously been stated.

H. Extreme weather procedure and action plan

The event is outdoors, but takes place undercover. Our customers are asked to be prepared for inclement weather via Facebook and Twitter, meaning a real-time update can be sent to them. We are able to advise them to dress appropriately for conditions, such as wet or muddy weather (wear waterproofs, wellington boots etc).

There are clearly errors and a lack of detail within the EMP document which cause concern and need rectifying. In addition to the points already mentioned, there is a lack of information with regards to lighting at the event, the estimated numbers of cars is below what would be expected of an event with 1500 people attending (estimated to be 350 by Tom Wilkes but Police estimate it would be nearer 600 cars), the car park and site maps shown on pages 52 and 53 are not clear. It is

difficult to see where the car parks are in relation to the event site. They do not show the site as a whole and how the organisers plan to get vehicles onto the site and what the emergency access routes would be. Overall the majority of the EMP is fairly generic information, it is lacking the required detail and information to ensure the safe running of the event.

Tom Wilkes has stated he intends to hold a variety of differing events at the location, stating they will be a mix of open air cinema, comedy, music and family based events as well as over 18s only events – which is only mentioned later in the application under sec 18(e). This is a very wide description giving us no indication as to exactly what will be held on each occasion. The type of event changes the risk areas significantly. It is also unclear why he states summer months yet applies to licence the whole year.

Tom Wilkes indicates in the application that he would use the new licence if he is unable to hold the festivals he is already licenced for due to COVID. There is however no reason why he could not hold both once licenced to do so. Police are aware that he has indicated to Environmental Health Colleagues that he will in fact be holding his Wilkestock Event in September should the COVID restrictions allow him to.

Police have worked closely with Tom Wilkes over the past 5 years in relation to the events he currently hosts at the location. Conditions were placed on the licence he currently holds to try to guide him in relation to the areas he needed to cover as part of his EMP and risk assessment. One condition is to ensure the EMP for each event is supplied 3 months before each event. Tom Wilkes regularly has to be chased for the EMP's, he also has to be reminded about submitting the SAG notification for each event. [redacted], the East Herts Licensing officer, has found that the EMP's provided often lack the necessary information and so meetings have to be held to ensure these issues are rectified before the event. Often [redacted] has found that she has to chase Tom Wilkes for the information and even when it is supplied information is still missing. As a result of this constant requirement of Police to identify and rectify issues, the Police have a lack of faith in the safe running of these events. The additional work created by running regular and ever changing events is something the Police do not feel the organisers will keep on top of. As a result there is a risk to public safety.

In summary, the location is not suitable for single day events as they result in a public safety issue of patrons walking away from the site on unlit lanes late at night. They are then also vulnerable to being victims of crime. Having events at this location on a regular basis will cause a repetitive nuisance to local residents due to the noise, litter and additional traffic. There are strong concerns that the organisers of these events will not manage these issues effectively without significant input from the Police which cannot be guaranteed resulting in a risk to public safety. Hertfordshire Constabulary's submission is that this application for a premises license is rejected.

Report completed by Police Sergeant
Licensing Officer,

Licensing Sergeant for East Herts and Police