

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.

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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

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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

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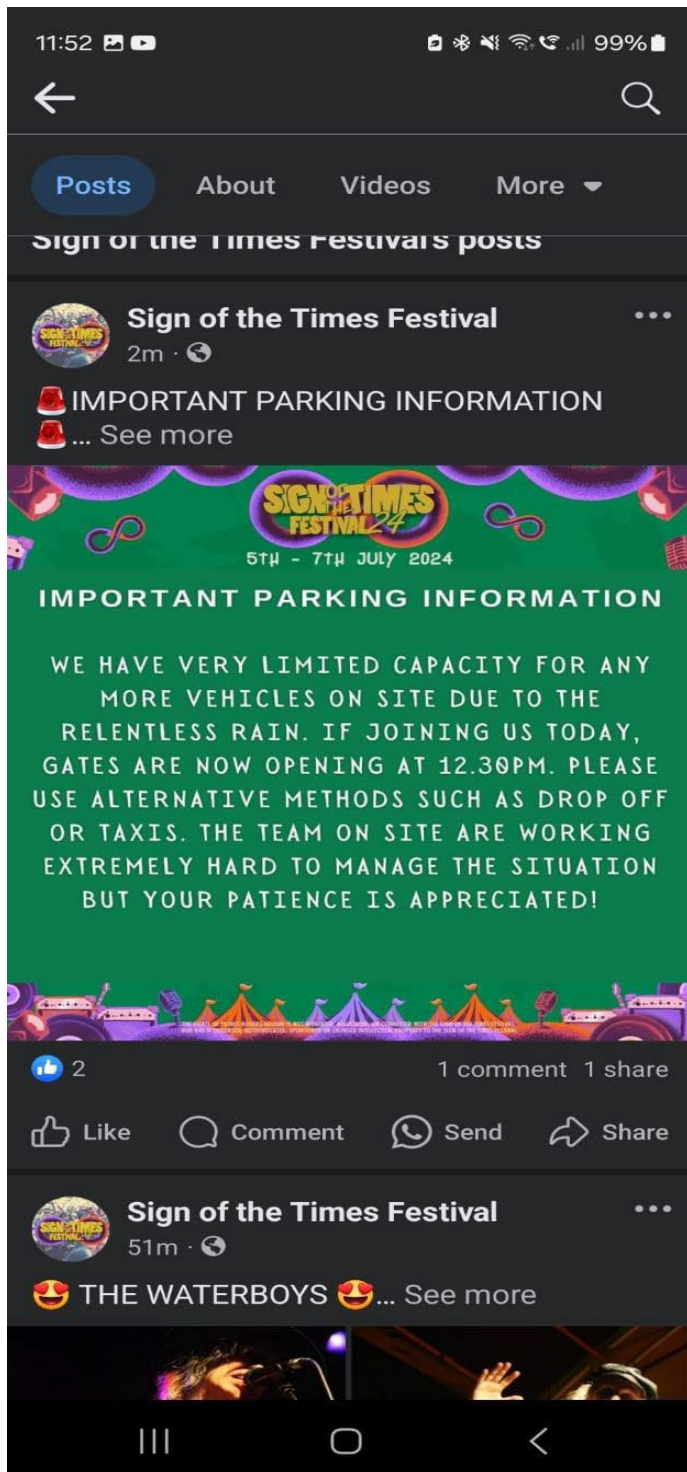
KP/3 – LH Albury Road (from Albury towards Hadham lights) – verges of the roads filling up, Saturday 6th July at 17:47. Objective – public safety & public nuisance.

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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).

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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

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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.

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Signed by: Miss Kristina Putzova

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristina Putzova". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Date: 11th February 2025