

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 rambles, 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access onto the site, is not a suitable location for a large and growing music festival and the licence should be withdrawn.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]>
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:

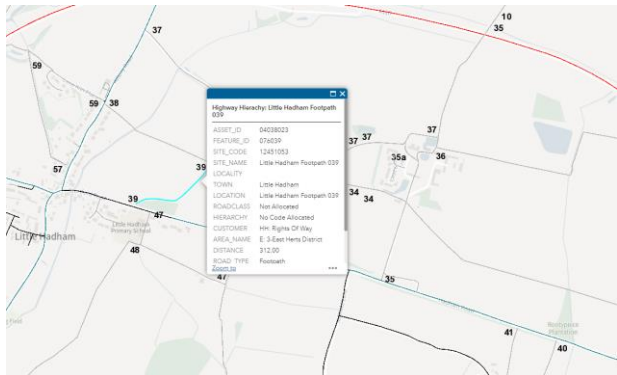
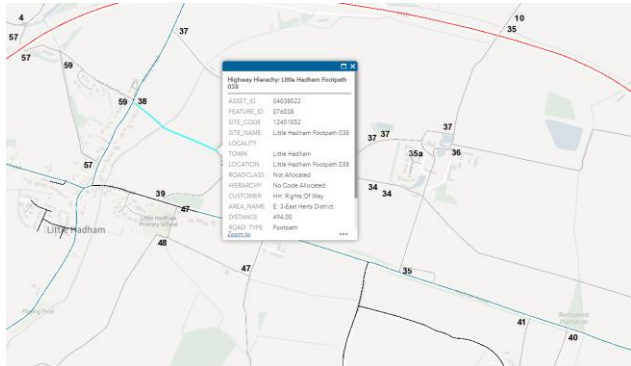
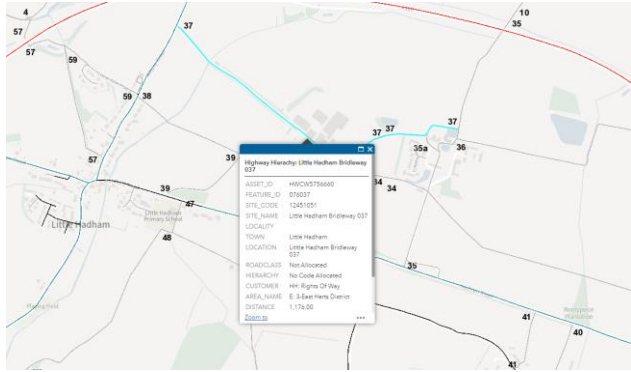
From: Andrew Crosby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 3:59 PM
To: Jai <[REDACTED]>; Alex Hutchinson <[REDACTED]>
Cc: NM East <[REDACTED]>; Tommy Clee <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Wannasee, Stone Valley South & Sign of the Times - Minutes of SAG Debrief

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