

## **23/03530/LPREM: Future Sound Events at Ludlow Castle**

*Andy Boddington 21 December 2023*

### **General comments**

The application for 15 days of events is excessive for a town centre location. This will cause considerable public nuisance.

I have consulted widely on this application on social media and through my newsletter and blog. I have received around 200 responses. Not all residents near the castle are against the application but the large majority are. In contrast, the support across the town is huge with more than nine in ten in favour.

There are mixed views on the benefits to Ludlow's economy. The hospitality sector will benefit. Specialist traders expect lower trade.

There are broader considerations about the social and economic health of the town. Ludlow has an older population. Ludlow North which includes the town centre has the oldest population of all Shropshire Council's divisions. There is strong support for more concerts among the older population (excluding those directly affected by noise). They recognise the need to inject life into the town, especially for younger people. As one succinctly put it, "I don't want to live in an unofficial Saga village".

Balancing the wishes of residents not to be disturbed with the broader wishes and needs of the town is difficult.

The agreement by Future Sounds to reduce the number of events to eight achieves the right balance.

### **The prevention of crime and disorder**

The events in 2023 were well managed and I have no concerns about crime and disorder.

### **Public safety**

The events in 2023 were well managed and I have no concerns about public safety.

### **The prevention of public nuisance**

If the original application for 15 events is approved, this would lead to closure of the Castle, Events Square and Castle Street car park for half the days over the May to September season, allowing for set up and take down time and the planned food festivals. This will be disruptive to commerce and other events in and around the castle.

The castle is within the town centre but also close to residents, especially those that live on Dinham. What is music to the ears in the castle is often a noise nuisance outside. Fifteen events would constitute a public nuisance. Eight events is on the high side but, when the public benefit of the concerts is considered, acceptable.

Future Sound Events has applied for music to continue to 11.00pm. A 10:30pm curfew would create less disturbance for nearby residents.

The noise limits proposed by Public Protection are acceptable.

### **The protection of children from harm**

The events in 2023 were well managed and I have no concerns about public safety.

Thanks Ross

I am acting as a councillor, I am aware of the process and I agree to the statement.

Have a good Christmas and New Year

Best wishes

Andy

**Andy Boddington**

Shropshire Councillor for Ludlow North

