



20th December 2023

Shropshire Council
Licensing Team
Business & Consumer Protection Service
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury SY2 6ND

Dear Sirs,

Application ref: 23/03530/LPREM

I am writing to object to the granting of the above licensing application. Although there is no reference in the application to the type of events proposed the fact that the applicant held a pop concert in Ludlow Castle earlier this year leads me to assume that something similar is planned in this application. My reasons for concern, as set out below, are written with that in mind.

Prevention of Crime & Disorder

- .. Press coverage of pop concerts usually suggests that they are a regular source of drug and alcohol related abuse and the associated misbehaviour;
- .. Crime was certainly a problem earlier this year with vandalism of property around the town;
- .. During the 2023 event for the first time in more than 20 years of living in Ludlow I witnessed a shoplifting offence at a town supermarket;
- .. Ludlow is a town of important historic significance. There is the potential through bad behaviour for considerable damage to be inflicted on buildings of great national importance;

Public safety

- .. Ludlow is a small market town with a population of about 12,000. Any event attracting the numbers suggested will increase the numbers by as much as 80%;
- .. Ludlow town centre was laid down hundreds of years ago. It is not designed for a large number of type of vehicles that are likely to be required to deliver and collect the supporting material;
- .. How will it be possible for the townsfolk and tourists (of whom the town has a very large number each year) to go about their normal business in safety?
- .. What arrangements will be in place to ensure order is kept in public places? There is already considerable pressure on police resources;
- .. I understand that the 2023 event took place over four days. However, a further five days were required for set up and clear up. On that basis the potential 15 event days in this application could require as many as a further 20 days to deliver and remove all the required

paraphernalia; a total of five calendar weeks. This will cause considerable disruption to the day-to-day life of the town;

- .. Ludlow as a small market town of historic significance is not designed to cope with the numbers in this application. Much of the town centre is narrow streets and one-way. It is not designed to cope with the large vehicles that will be needed to deliver (and remove) the artists equipment and all the other paraphernalia that will be required to stage these events;
- .. The application will probably require closure or restriction of town centre parking. This will place considerable strain on the day-to-day activities of the residents and local villagers who rely on the town for their day-to-day activities. There is clearly insufficient parking around the town for the numbers envisaged. It could also be detrimental to general tourism;
- .. Although public transport is generally sufficient for the local population it is unlikely to be able to cope with the numbers envisaged in this application thus putting public safety at risk;

Prevention of Public Nuisance

- .. Concerts of the type proposed often results in a large amount of debris being left behind. This will have a significant environmental impact;
- .. The nature of these events generally results in high sound volumes which has the potential to cause a public nuisance;
- .. What arrangements will be put in place to ensure that the promoters comply with the sound levels mentioned in the application?
- .. In 2009 Jeremy Paxman is recorded as saying "Has there ever been a visitor to Ludlow who hasn't wished they lived there? " The potential public nuisance that this application might cause if successful has the danger to seriously impair that environment;
- .. Although a ruin Ludlow Castle is an important historic monument. There exists the possibility of damage not only to the buildings themselves but to other important historic and listed buildings around the town centre.

Protection of Children from Harm

- .. Alcohol and drug related crime may well cause danger to minors attending the events;
- .. Such abuse may also have a detrimental effect on local children:
- .. One branch of Ludlow Sixth Form College is located just outside the castle entrance. There is the possibility that the students may be vulnerable to bad behaviour by the attendees.

Suggested Additional Conditions

- .. This application appears to have no time limit attached to it so that once granted it will remain available in perpetuity. Were it to be granted then it should be for one year only so that there is the opportunity to review the events of 2024.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Hunt

On 20/12/2023 16:45, Licensing wrote:

Hi Michael,

For us to accept your representations, you need to confirm that you have read our guidance and are aware of our process (that includes your full details will be provided to the applicant and the sub-committee) and that you agree to the statement below:

I fully understand that this representation will be made available to the applicant and included in the Sub Committee's Hearing papers which are publicly accessible documents, and any subsequent appeal court proceedings.

Kind regards

Ross O'Neil
Public Protection Officer – Specialist

On 20/12/2023 16:51, Michael Hunt wrote:

Dear Mr O'Neil,

I can confirm that I have read the council's guidance and that I fully understand that this representation will be made available to the applicant and included in the Sub Committee's Hearing papers which are publicly accessible documents, and any subsequent appeal court proceedings.

I hope that the above will suffice.

Kind regards,

Michael Hunt