

REPRESENTATIONS LIST

Application No: 052165

Application Date: 21 June 2021

Licence Type: Premises Licence WITH Alcohol

Licence No: N/A

Application Type: New Application

Premises: Hawkfest
Hills Farm, Whitford Road, Kilmington, AXMINSTER, Devon, EX13 7NS.

Applicant: Steven Belford Littley

Person making Representation: Mrs Quincey

Representation Accepted: Representation has been accepted

Reason:

Details:

We would like to make a representation regarding the licensing application number 052165 for Hills Farm Kilmington EX13 7NS. We would like to make it clear that we do not object to events at Hills Farm per se; B&B, daytime outdoor horse events, weddings and indoor evening events etc occur with only occasional disturbance, however we do object to this application based on the following concerns:

1. Licensing application accuracy & fairness

a. EDDC Environmental Health are committed to achieving a consistent and fair approach; this application has been made without community consultation and at short notice despite its scale (larger than the village), length (3 days) and potential impact. As tickets for the event are already on sale on the vendors website this application seems unreasonable and a "fait accompli";

b. Hills Farm website states it has indoor capacity for 80 people in a conference suite and 200 in a function suite. The application is for an indoor event of 1000 people so it is clear that this cannot be accommodated in existing indoor accommodation. Past events for this festival elsewhere occurred with outdoor stages and marquees (as documented on the festival website) - this not what is applied for;

2. Promotion of public safety

a. Vehicle access through the village. Large scale additional vehicle movements represent a risk at A35 "blackspot" junctions into the village and the likelihood of queues impacting residents and existing commercial & farm traffic on the Whitford Road, residents walking within the village and cyclists on the national cycle route. Possible mud from vehicles off the fields also represents a public road safety issue;

b. Pollution of watercourses. Dirty run-off from an event of this size and exiting vehicles could cause significant environmental damage;

c. Waste generated by 1000 people consuming alcohol and food for 3 days and from their pets. It is likely, unless specific provision is provided on-site, that festival goers will walk dogs off site and foul local lanes & paths; this is already a problem in the village. Similarly we are not aware of provision to handle chemical toilet waste from campers at this site;

d. 1000 people for 3 days will require a significant water supply and waste infrastructure. As this event is larger than the population of Kilmington the existing water & waste infrastructure is unlikely to meet demand;

3. Prevention of a public nuisance

a. There are no plans showing the extent, placing and direction facing of elements of the festival e.g. camping, toilets, stages, concessionary stands etc. Without such information it is impossible to assess public nuisance. The most likely siting (due to road access) is in the fields to the north of the farm which are closer to the village and very close to some residents, some of which are elderly;

b. Noise. The applied-for hours of operation are three days, 10am to 2am. The event date is set for for a bank holiday weekend in August when residents & holiday visitors will wish to enjoy the amenity of their gardens and the village. Hot weather could mean residents will also need to have windows open at night to stay cool.

Low frequency noise and bass beat is thus very likely to be a nuisance as the background noise level in Kilmington, especially at night, is very low.

We reference experience with the much more distant Yarty party annual event which occurs on one summer evening a year; it is clearly audible and causes some disturbance.

We also refer to EDDC Environmental Health policies 'these will help ensure that public nuisance does not occur and that neighbours are not disturbed throughout the night by music which is to be played outside or in a marquee. The policies are as follows:

- Live music must finish by 23.00

- Recorded amplified music must be turned down between 23.00 and midnight

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- After midnight, background music is permitted but must not be audible beyond the site boundary

This application does not meet EDDC Environmental Health policies and given it is over 3 days, gives residents no respite and as such is unreasonable. Such an event is not compatible so close to a very quiet country village in an AONB and will cause prolonged public nuisance and disturb sleep;

c. Light pollution. Kilmington has no street lights and has strict planning requirements as it is a dark village. This event will cause light pollution and disturb local wildlife including protected species such as bats and owls.

Evidence:

Suggestion:

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Person making Representation: Mr QUINCEY

Representation Accepted: Representation has been accepted

Reason:

Details:

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This application does not meet EDDC Environmental Health policies and given it is over 3 days, gives residents no respite and as such is unreasonable. Such an event is not compatible so close to a very quiet country village in an AONB and will cause prolonged public nuisance and disturb sleep;

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Evidence:

Suggestion:

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Hills Farm, Whitford Road, Kilmington, AXMINSTER, Devon, EX13 7NS.

Person making Representation: Kilmington Parish Council
C/O Adrian Jenkins, Clerk to Kilmington Parish,

Representation Accepted: Representation has been accepted

Reason:

Details:

Representation regarding: Reference 052165 Hills Farm, Whitford Road, Kilmington, Axminster EX13 7NS

Kilmington Parish Council has resolved to register the following comments regarding this application.

1. The Performance of Live and Recorded Music - Prevention of public nuisance

Licence Application Information
Performance of Live and Recorded music 'Indoors':
Friday 10am to 2am Saturday
Saturday 10am to 2am Sunday
Sunday 10am to 2am Monday

Observations / comments

Hills Farm is located on the edge of Kilmington Village with residential properties close by. Therefore music performed over the three days will disturb residents and create a nuisance.

The main stage is in a 'Big Top' tent. We would not consider this 'indoors' as described. The sound of the music performed in a tent will be less contained than performances within a permanent substantial building and will therefore travel further.

In particular residents are concerned that, if loud music is performed in a tent late at night and in the early morning hours for the three days, this will create a nuisance and disturb sleep. This would be unreasonable and unacceptable.

Changes that will help address residents' concerns

We suggest that, at a minimum, the published Environmental Health policies and times should be enforced. This will reduce the nuisance. (<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-wellbeing/noise/noise-guidance-and-advice/guidance-and-advice-for-applicants-for-temporary-event-notice/>):

'Our team applies policies to achieve a consistent and fair approach based on our experiences of events taking place in the community. These will help ensure that public nuisance does not occur and that neighbours are not disturbed throughout the night by music which is to be played outside or in a marquee.

The policies are as follows:

" Live music must finish by 23.00

" Recorded amplified music must be turned down between 23.00 and midnight

" After midnight, background music is permitted but must not be audible beyond the site boundary

For all events the applicant should monitor the area throughout the event to ensure that loud music is not clearly audible off site and is not disturbing local residents'.

2. Vehicle Movements and Routing

Prevention of public nuisance / Promotion of public safety / Protection of children from harm

Licence Application Information

Event Access: Vehicle routing, signage, pedestrian safety.

Organisers are making available 1000 adult tickets. Add to this audience, 15+ performers, staff and contractors vehicles.

Additional vehicles through the village could total maybe 300 / 400 coming and going, including caravans, motorhomes, vans and trucks.

Observations / comments

The A35 through Kilmington has a 50mph limit and is an 'accident black spot'. There is no pedestrian crossing for the bus stop or local shops. In addition this year through tourist traffic is now much greater. Kilmington Crossroads is always particularly busy as it provides access to the popular Millers Farm Shop and a route to Whitford, Musbury, Colyton and Seaton. This event is over a busy Bank Holiday and can only add to the traffic hazard.

Whitford Road The Festival site is on Whitford Road which is narrow in places with high banks, has no pavements or street lighting. It has a 30mph limit. Residents use the road as pedestrian access to the village hall, recreation field and two churches which are all located on Whitford Road. The road is also part of the Route33 National Cycle Route and is frequently used by HGVs visiting the industrial and concrete works at the quarry. Festival goers will use it for access to shops and public transport. Increased traffic will cause a nuisance and drivers unfamiliar with the road will increase the danger to pedestrians and cyclists

Other village roads: The Hill, George Lane and The Street Access from the A35 to Whitford Road is possible using The Hill or George Lane junctions and The Street. These roads are used as 'cut throughs' particularly when traffic backs up along the A35 from Kilmington Crossroads. These routes take traffic through narrow village residential roads, which have no pavements or street lighting. Additional vehicles, particularly caravans and motorhomes will cause a nuisance and drivers unfamiliar with the route will increase the danger to pedestrians and cyclists.

Changes that will help address residents' concerns

Routing Vehicles To reduce nuisance and improve safety for residents and their children, Festival vehicles

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should be directed from A35 to only use Whitford Road as site access. This would avoid additional traffic on narrow roads through the central residential area of the village thereby avoiding some nuisance and improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Organisers have kindly offered to send directions and a map with Festival tickets.

A35 Please provide clear 'Direction' and 'No Access' signage on the appropriate A35 junctions to direct vehicles to the Festival only via The Whitford Road. This would avoid additional traffic on narrow roads through the central residential area of the village thereby avoiding some nuisance and improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

A35 A temporary A35 speed limit reduction from 50mph to 30mph through the village should be introduced over the weekend. This would improve safety around the busy Kilmington Cross junction by slowing through vehicles giving cars, vans and caravans more time to enter and exit Whitford Road. It would also improve safety for residential and Festival pedestrians crossing the A35 to the farm shop and café.

Whitford Road A temporary speed limit reduction from 30mph to 20mph should be introduced over the weekend. This would slow vehicles on this narrow road which has no pavements or lighting and has high banks in places. This would improve safety for Festival drivers unfamiliar with the road and pedestrians, particularly festival goers on foot who don't know the road and perhaps are unfamiliar with walking on narrow country roads without pavements.

Whitford Road. Please provide clear 'Direction' and 'No Access' signage on the appropriate junctions along Whitford Road to direct vehicles to the Festival only. No Access/No Entry signs at the Junctions of: The Street; the Residential road/Cycle Route 33 towards the quarry; the residential Lane opposite Hills Farm. This would avoid traffic taking alternate routes/wrong turns through residential areas thereby avoiding some nuisance and improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter to ensure it is a safe and successful event for festival goers with minimal nuisance to local residents.

On behalf of Kilmington Parish Council.

Evidence:

Suggestion:

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Person making Representation: Simon Buse

Representation Accepted: Representation has been accepted

Reason:

Details:

19th July 2021

To whom it may concern,

Re: Licence application 052165, Hawkfest, EX13 7NS

As local residents we have grave concerns regarding the above detailed licence application and associated music festival proposal. The concerns are numerous but this representation highlights what we feel are some of the most serious.

1. The proposed location and vehicular access

The proposed site of this music festival is immediately adjacent to the boundary of the small, peaceful and picturesque village of Kilmington. The only vehicular access to the site is immediately through the narrow, winding lanes of Kilmington, all of which intersect with a heavily congested traffic accident black spot along the A35. These lanes have few passing places and simply are not suitable nor safe for the required access for such a large quantity of vehicles.

These lanes are also used by many pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Whitford Road, which would be the main access route for the event, is part of the cycle network and regularly used by cyclists and the significant volume of traffic which would undoubtedly be created by this event will pose a significant safety risk to these vulnerable road users.

As such, ourselves and many other local residents are very concerned about the significant volume of site and visitor traffic before, during and after the event. Knowing the road network as only experienced local residents can, vehicles will certainly congest the entire village as drivers seek alternative routes onto/off the A35 the congestion to access and leave the site. Not only will this cause significant access disruption and inconvenience for local residents but this exceptional volume of traffic have a serious and detrimental environmental and ecological impact on the surrounding area.

The sheer volume of additional traffic entering/exiting the A35 is also of grave concern. The three A35 access roads within Kilmington (Whitford Road, Shute Road and The Hill) all enter a 50mph zone and all are recognised as very dangerous, with the Whitford Road being an accident black spot, sadly including numerous fatalities. During the tourist season the junctions are known to cause congestion on the A35 also with tailbacks often extending in both directions of the A35.

As such, a significant increase in village traffic as a direct result of the festival will undoubtedly also have a huge impact on the congestion of the A35 and greatly increase the risk of more serious accidents and risk to life in the wider area.

It is the congestion on the A35 that will also cause the village to become gridlocked. During the tourist season it can often take individual motorists a number of minutes to enter the A35 from all three exit routes, especially if turning right. This regularly causes congestion at the junctions for local residents leaving the village in cars, so it is absolutely beyond doubt that the significant increase in car usage during the event and numerous facilities vehicles before, during and after, many of which will likely be oversized, will cause absolute gridlock within the village and surrounding areas, not to mention damage to the roadways, verges and residents property as vehicles struggle to manoeuvre in such a confined village setting.

With regard to wording within the application, no allowances have been made for the above situations:-

o The application states that guests will be directed to a holding area off the public highway. Knowing the limited size of the venue, given that there is to be various designated sites for camping etc that will likely utilise the majority of the land space available, I challenge the event organisers to provide details of the capacity of the holding area. Indeed, it is our suspicion that this holding area will not be sufficient for any and all eventualities of many guests arriving at the same time. It is fair to expect in excess of 500 guest vehicle, plus site traffic, and without scheduled arrival times we are very dubious as to the true ability to hold all arrival traffic away from the public highway.

o The application states that there will be no vehicle movement in the camping area when parked. This does not state that guest vehicles will be required to remain on-site during the event (i.e. access the public highway only upon arrival and departure). As such, the concerns regarding congestion in the village and on the A35, plus the safety and ecological concerns, are not limited to just arrival and departure days. Indeed, with the village facilities simply not sufficient to support 1,000+ guests for up to five days many guests will be forced to travel, by car, to the local towns of Axminster and Seaton for supplies, thus creating these many problems for the entire duration of the event (plus before and after for site vehicles).

o The application states that entry and exit will be from an entrance with good visibility in both directions. The entrance to the site will be located just outside of the village boundary and approximately 1/2 mile away from the A35. The organisers have not provided evidence of any thought nor concern for the traffic problems beyond the immediate festival location. Indeed, with the road network as it is we believe the organisers must be responsible and accountable for ALL festival traffic THROUGHOUT the event (i.e. from and to the first and last site vehicle) up to the point it has left the village boundary and surrounding area* by way of STAFFED local traffic only zones within Kilmington and STAFFED traffic management on

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all A35 access points. Only by actively controlling the traffic at STAFFED checkpoints for the whole duration of the event, including before and after, can the organisers minimise the many safety risks and ensure due consideration and minimal impact for the village and surrounding area. Signboards will simply not suffice because with the volume of congestion likely to arise signboards will be ineffective and likely ignored by frustrated guests and site vehicles.

* by "village boundary" we mean the village enter/exit boards on the A35 and by "surrounding area" we mean the A358 at Musbury and A35 at Shute, so as not to shift the problem away from Kilmington and into other surrounding villages.

2. Hygiene and resultant environmental impact

The site in question has never hosted such a sizeable event and has no established facilities to cater for the hygiene of such a vast crowd for such a prolonged period of time.

As previously stated the venue is in very close proximity to residential properties and the village of Kilmington, plus numerous dairy farms and a fresh water source river, and as such the community is very concerned that there is a significant hygiene and environmental risk to the surrounding area and precious habitats.

3. Noise pollution and widespread disturbance and disruption

The venue is not in a rural location. It is in fact in very close proximity to many 100's of households. The villages of Kilmington, Whitford and Shute are known to have an older populations, some of which are vulnerable and rely upon the quiet nature of the villages for a comfortable quality of life.

The sudden and vastly unmanaged influx of 1,000+ guests and staff, not to mention the noise pollution, will undoubtedly have a seriously detrimental effect on the well-being of local residents and due to the close proximity will likely cause distress and disturbance to a great many.

Additionally, the venue sits at an elevated position when compared to all surrounding villages and as such, combined with local geography, residents up to seven miles in distance** from the venue will be subject to significant noise pollution for what appears to be a very extended period of time.

** This fear is supported by the fact that on Friday 16th July 2021 residents of Musbury could hear music from an event at the Axminster show ground; that being the Yarty Party. The Axminster Show ground is at a much lower elevation and a far superior location, so it is absolutely reasonable to assume that an event at Cranberries such as the proposed will have a far worse and unreasonably detrimental effect on many more households.

In addition to private residences there are numerous working farms within close proximity to the proposed venue, two of which are dairy farms that which are likely to have pregnant/calving heifers. The barns are close to the proposed venue and being in such a vulnerable state there is grave concern for the welfare of these animals as they would likely suffer great distress as the result of noise pollution and general disturbance.

4. Criminal activity

With any large scale event there is the risk of criminal activity in the surrounding area; not necessarily conducted by any person attending the event but by criminals freely travelling around and assessing local properties under the cover of the large number of visitors travelling to and from the event on a daily basis.

With the proposed location of this event being so close to the village boundary, and with no street lighting nor police presence, there is a genuine concern amongst local residents that an event such as this will encourage criminal activity in the area; be it during the event or soon afterwards (following evaluation of the area by criminals during the event). The village of Kilmington and surrounding area are normally quiet and peaceful but the attendance of 1,000+ visitors would expose the area to unnecessary and unreasonable safety and security risks.

5. The track record of the venue

Cranberries has been a wedding venue for a number of years, although it operates at a fairly low capacity.

Despite this low capacity however there have been numerous incidents in recent years of guests causing disturbance to local households in early hours of the morning with fireworks, excessively loud music and shouting.

I have personally not reported any incident to the local authority but am aware that concerns have been raised with the applicant directly, however when challenged to account for and control the actions of their guests, the licence applicant, Mr Steven Belford Littley, has repeatedly denied any responsibility for guests staying at the venue. On one occasion the applicant stated that "I'm only in control of what I do" and the community is gravely concerned that this approach and attitude will further exacerbate the disruption and disturbance we will suffer.

With the history of the venue and track record of the licence applicant the community has good reason to be concerned about the hosting of and operating of this excessively large proposed event.

6. General misleading wording within the licence application

a) The applicant states that "We hope to sell approximately 1000 tickets, although previous events

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have never reached that capacity". This suggestion that visitor numbers will be less than 1,000 (one can only assume for the purpose increasingly the likelihood of the application being granted) is a complete fallacy - the event was sold out to maximum capacity before this application was submitted. The applicant would have known this prior to submitting the application and claim otherwise is therefore an untruth.

b) The applicant states that "Hawkwind hold this type of event regularly at various locations, and have had no complaints from the Police, Council or Local Residents". This may be the case but the statement is irrelevant to the application because there is no precedence at this specific location. Never before has such an inappropriate event been proposed nor held at this location so to any claim of previous events not generating complaints is, as stated, irrelevant. To date, the only "Hawkfest" event in the local area was a single night of live music in the small beer garden at The Old Inn in Kilmington in 2019, which was, coincidentally, run at the time by Mr Steven Belford Littlely. Attendance was no more than 100 people, many of which were normal patrons of the establishment, and the music finished at 23:00. To draw any comparison to this small event to a five day music festival is simply not possible and as such a baseless claim and statement. Additionally, the applicant undoubtedly has a significant commercial interest in the success of this event which brings statements such as this into further question.

c) At no point does the application suggest any support nor marshalling will extend beyond the boundary of the festival site. Being in such unusually close proximity to a residential area (i.e. Kilmington) and the likely significant disruption this residential area will suffer I put it to the licencing committee that should the event proceed the organisers have a duty of care that extends beyond the festival site and into the parish of Kilmington, and as such they should be responsible for the actions of all attendees within the parish of Kilmington, up to the border with the A35 for the entire duration of the licence duration by way of posted and staffed traffic restrictions and privately funded security staff conducting routine patrols throughout the parish to ensure social responsibility and compliance, much like they would within the venue boundary. Put simply, it is not fair nor right for this event to put such a burden on the local community.

d) The duration and timings of the event. As outlined in the application the premises will be open for guests from 12:00 Thursday 26th August 2021 to 00:00 Tuesday 31st August. This is FIVE DAYS with FOUR DAYS of alcohol sales. As clearly stated, Cranberries is not located in a rural location - it is on the boundary of a residential area. Even worse are the proposed times - music for 20-hours a day to 2AM, with alcohol sales the same (except Thursday)! These proposed duration and times are simply ridiculous and local residents are very, very concerned about the significant disruption they will cause for a prolonged period of time. Indeed by comparison, the Yarty Party which is being held as I type this representation, in a far more suitable location (Axminster Show ground), is just three days in length and limited to 00:00.

In summary, to operate an event such as the proposed at the location listed is simply irresponsible and deeply inconsiderate. There are far more suitable venues in the local area, such as the Axminster Show ground, and trying to run such an event at the proposed location is bordering on the preposterous.

An event of this nature would have a detrimental effect on a many times more households than guests attending and I question how this can possibly be acceptable.

Lastly, I am sorry for the sheer length of this representation however the community feels very strongly on this matter and vehemently oppose the event proceeding at all.

Sincerely,

Simon and Samantha Buse
John and Jean Thorne

Evidence:

Suggestion:

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Hills Farm, Whitford Road, Kilmington, AXMINSTER, Devon, EX13 7NS.

Person making Representation: Samantha Buse

Representation Accepted: Representation has been accepted

Reason:

Details:

19th July 2021

To whom it may concern,

Re: Licence application 052165, Hawkfest, EX13 7NS

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These lanes are also used by many pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Whitford Road, which would be the main access route for the event, is part of the cycle network and regularly used by cyclists and the significant volume of traffic which would undoubtedly be created by this event will pose a significant safety risk to these vulnerable road users.

As such, ourselves and many other local residents are very concerned about the significant volume of site and visitor traffic before, during and after the event. Knowing the road network as only experienced local residents can, vehicles will certainly congest the entire village as drivers seek alternative routes onto/off the A35 the congestion to access and leave the site. Not only will this cause significant access disruption and inconvenience for local residents but this exceptional volume of traffic have a serious and detrimental environmental and ecological impact on the surrounding area.

The sheer volume of additional traffic entering/exiting the A35 is also of grave concern. The three A35 access roads within Kilmington (Whitford Road, Shute Road and The Hill) all enter a 50mph zone and all are recognised as very dangerous, with the Whitford Road being an accident black spot, sadly including numerous fatalities. During the tourist season the junctions are known to cause congestion on the A35 also with tailbacks often extending in both directions of the A35.

As such, a significant increase in village traffic as a direct result of the festival will undoubtedly also have a huge impact on the congestion of the A35 and greatly increase the risk of more serious accidents and risk to life in the wider area.

It is the congestion on the A35 that will also cause the village to become gridlocked. During the tourist season it can often take individual motorists a number of minutes to enter the A35 from all three exit routes, especially if turning right. This regularly causes congestion at the junctions for local residents leaving the village in cars, so it is absolutely beyond doubt that the significant increase in car usage during the event and numerous facilities vehicles before, during and after, many of which will likely be oversized, will cause absolute gridlock within the village and surrounding areas, not to mention damage to the roadways, verges and residents property as vehicles struggle to manoeuvre in such a confined village setting.

With regard to wording within the application, no allowances have been made for the above situations:-

o The application states that guests will be directed to a holding area off the public highway. Knowing the limited size of the venue, given that there is to be various designated sites for camping etc that will likely utilise the majority of the land space available, I challenge the event organisers to provide details of the capacity of the holding area. Indeed, it is our suspicion that this holding area will not be sufficient for any and all eventualities of many guests arriving at the same time. It is fair to expect in excess of 500 guest vehicle, plus site traffic, and without scheduled arrival times we are very dubious as to the true ability to hold all arrival traffic away from the public highway.

o The application states that there will be no vehicle movement in the camping area when parked. This does not state that guest vehicles will be required to remain on-site during the event (i.e. access the public highway only upon arrival and departure). As such, the concerns regarding congestion in the village and on the A35, plus the safety and ecological concerns, are not limited to just arrival and departure days. Indeed, with the village facilities simply not sufficient to support 1,000+ guests for up to five days many guests will be forced to travel, by car, to the local towns of Axminster and Seaton for supplies, thus creating these many problems for the entire duration of the event (plus before and after for site vehicles).

o The application states that entry and exit will be from an entrance with good visibility in both directions. The entrance to the site will be located just outside of the village boundary and approximately 1/2 mile away from the A35. The organisers have not provided evidence of any thought nor concern for the traffic problems beyond the immediate festival location. Indeed, with the road network as it is we believe the organisers must be responsible and accountable for ALL festival traffic THROUGHOUT the event (i.e. from and to the first and last site vehicle) up to the point it has left the village boundary and surrounding area* by way of STAFFED local traffic only zones within Kilmington and STAFFED traffic management on

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* by "village boundary" we mean the village enter/exit boards on the A35 and by "surrounding area" we mean the A358 at Musbury and A35 at Shute, so as not to shift the problem away from Kilmington and into other surrounding villages.

2. Hygiene and resultant environmental impact

The site in question has never hosted such a sizeable event and has no established facilities to cater for the hygiene of such a vast crowd for such a prolonged period of time.

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Application No: 052165

Premises: Hawkfest

Hills Farm, Whitford Road, Kilmington, AXMINSTER, Devon, EX13 7NS.

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John and Jean Thorne

Evidence:

Suggestion:

Application No: 052165

Premises: Hawkfest

Hills Farm, Whitford Road, Kilmington, AXMINSTER, Devon, EX13 7NS.

Person making Representation: John Thorne

Representation Accepted: Representation has been accepted

Reason:

Details:

19th July 2021

To whom it may concern,

Re: Licence application 052165, Hawkfest, EX13 7NS

As local residents we have grave concerns regarding the above detailed licence application and associated music festival proposal. The concerns are numerous but this representation highlights what we feel are some of the most serious.

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These lanes are also used by many pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Whitford Road, which would be the main access route for the event, is part of the cycle network and regularly used by cyclists and the significant volume of traffic which would undoubtedly be created by this event will pose a significant safety risk to these vulnerable road users.

As such, ourselves and many other local residents are very concerned about the significant volume of site and visitor traffic before, during and after the event. Knowing the road network as only experienced local residents can, vehicles will certainly congest the entire village as drivers seek alternative routes onto/off the A35 the congestion to access and leave the site. Not only will this cause significant access disruption and inconvenience for local residents but this exceptional volume of traffic have a serious and detrimental environmental and ecological impact on the surrounding area.

The sheer volume of additional traffic entering/exiting the A35 is also of grave concern. The three A35 access roads within Kilmington (Whitford Road, Shute Road and The Hill) all enter a 50mph zone and all are recognised as very dangerous, with the Whitford Road being an accident black spot, sadly including numerous fatalities. During the tourist season the junctions are known to cause congestion on the A35 also with tailbacks often extending in both directions of the A35.

As such, a significant increase in village traffic as a direct result of the festival will undoubtedly also have a huge impact on the congestion of the A35 and greatly increase the risk of more serious accidents and risk to life in the wider area.

It is the congestion on the A35 that will also cause the village to become gridlocked. During the tourist season it can often take individual motorists a number of minutes to enter the A35 from all three exit routes, especially if turning right. This regularly causes congestion at the junctions for local residents leaving the village in cars, so it is absolutely beyond doubt that the significant increase in car usage during the event and numerous facilities vehicles before, during and after, many of which will likely be oversized, will cause absolute gridlock within the village and surrounding areas, not to mention damage to the roadways, verges and residents property as vehicles struggle to manoeuvre in such a confined village setting.

With regard to wording within the application, no allowances have been made for the above situations:-

o The application states that guests will be directed to a holding area off the public highway. Knowing the limited size of the venue, given that there is to be various designated sites for camping etc that will likely utilise the majority of the land space available, I challenge the event organisers to provide details of the capacity of the holding area. Indeed, it is our suspicion that this holding area will not be sufficient for any and all eventualities of many guests arriving at the same time. It is fair to expect in excess of 500 guest vehicle, plus site traffic, and without scheduled arrival times we are very dubious as to the true ability to hold all arrival traffic away from the public highway.

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Evidence:

Suggestion:

Application No: 052165

Premises: Hawkfest

Hills Farm, Whitford Road, Kilmington, AXMINSTER, Devon, EX13 7NS.

Person making Representation: Jean Thorne

Representation Accepted: Representation has been accepted

Reason:

Details:

19th July 2021

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