

**Subject: Representation Against Premises Licence Application Ref No. 061564
– Dunkeswell Raceway**

I would like to make the following representation in relation to Premises Licence Application Ref No. 061564 for Dunkeswell Raceway.

Summary

As a resident of Sheldon I, like the majority of people who live in the village accept the Raceway as a “neighbour” and would like to get along with them in a neighbourly way. I opposed their recent planning applications to extend racing activities on the grounds that “enough was enough”; and yes, I have campaigned along with many others in Sheldon to simply force them to adhere to their legally binding commitments under the s106. That said I accept the merits of this application and respect its motives, specifically celebrating 60 years of karting at Dunkeswell.

I am pleased to hear that you understand and respect the notice to celebrate 60 years of karting at Dunkeswell Raceway. As neighbours, we welcome you to celebrate with us as the event is open to all to enjoy. As you are aware from the recent hearing, the new owner of Dunkeswell would like to improve and develop the business at the raceway to ensure its continued success during the unprecedented climate all hospitality, leisure and tourism businesses are experiencing.

We would like to address your concerns relating to the event and reassure you that we intend to run an event that respects the local residents as best as possible.

I am therefore not objecting to the licence application in principle. I would however ask that the Council recognize the impact this event/licence will have upon local communities if approved in full and I request that approval is given only with the following conditions:

- the Council recognize the issues local communities have had with the Raceway concerning noise intrusion and impose restrictions as outlined below on the permitted hours for **outside** music [Grounds of public nuisance];*
- enhanced traffic management processes as suggested below are introduced that recognize the remote location and the parlous state of local roads [Grounds of public safety];*

Thank you for your suggestion, this is already in motion to reduce the effect on the local area. The raceway is working with the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) to ensure the event is run smoothly and to a high standard. While this is a first-time event, robust contingency plans and on-site monitoring will ensure any issues are quickly addressed to the best of our ability. As a result, we plan to monitor the traffic during the event to assist where possible and we have plans for a thorough debrief after the event to highlight any potential issues which can be improved in the future.

- the applicant is made fully aware that this licence is granted as a one-off permission and does not set a precedent for further similar and/or recurring events [Grounds of public nuisance].*

We would like to consider hosting this event again, whether this is annually or at significant milestones of Dunkeswell raceway. Feedback will be considered after the event before a decision would be made. But if the council advises that the consideration to make it a recurring event will prohibit the license being approved for this year, then we will respectfully take that on board.

Noise intrusion

EDDC’s own Planning Committee acknowledge that Sheldon and other local communities already suffer immense noise intrusion from the activities of the Raceway. This includes extremely noisy two-stroke race kart events taking place on thirty-three days a year. My concerns therefore relate to

the imposition of further noise intrusion. As such, allowing indoor music would be less of a problem. What I would like to see controlled is the impact of outdoor music.

We would like to confirm that this is not a two-stroke race kart event but instead a car and music festival. We are working with an Acoustic Specialist Consultant (Clarke Saunders) to create a clear noise management plan which we will implement at the event. We will work closely with the production company (Bright Blue Light) who have significant experience working on local and national events across the UK and experience in adhering to a noise management plan.

It is important to note that the licensing application for the upcoming Smeatharpe Monster Truck event is not seeking outdoor music approval. So I must question why the event at Dunkeswell, which has the potential to impact negatively on far more local residents, should be permitted to broadcast outdoor music.

I am not familiar with the Smeatharpe Monster Truck event however, it appears on their website that they are advertising live music as part of the event. Our event is smaller, it's a one day event which is limited to a max of 3,000 attendees and the vehicles we are attracting are cars.

I ask that a condition is imposed prohibiting the use of outside music.

Respectfully, we believe this condition is unfair to our license application as we do not have the space to host music indoors for this number of people safely. We understand concerns regarding outdoor music and its potential impact. However, outdoor music forms a core part of this event. To address this, we propose strict controls including noise monitoring, and adherence to an agreed noise management plan.

Traffic and Rural Infrastructure

EDDC's own Local Plan 2020-40 states (6.115) that "there is no further significant stress placed on the parish's road system or compromising of the peaceful rural nature of the area". The Committee can be in no doubt that this event would contravene that policy.

It is not the event's intention to put significant stress on the Parish's road system. The major routes to Exeter, Taunton and Honiton in and out of the Raceway do not pass through Sheldon and if necessary we can look into signs that discourage event traffic from passing through. Our traffic management plan aims to direct all traffic onto the main roads without causing issues to local residents.

The local road network, in particular the key access roads from Honiton and Hemyock, are already hugely pressurised. Those roads are dark and driving conditions are challenging even in daylight. They are narrow and rural in nature, with limited capacity to easily accommodate the increased traffic volume this event will entail. A recent road survey carried out in Dunkeswell demonstrated this.

Devon has a large number of challenging roads that are narrow and rural in nature, our own personal experience with these roads will help us recognise these challenges and take the impact into consideration in our traffic management plan. The traffic volume will be managed as best as possible following advice from the SAG.

The roads are already subject to severe ongoing degradation. This increase in traffic volume could be catastrophic and lead to serious injuries, or even worse, if not properly and effectively controlled and managed. These measures should include at least a fully detailed traffic dispersal plan, properly marshalled until several hours after the event concludes, and fully signposted. Additionally, one must not ignore the lack of availability of public transport to and from the site.

A lack of available public transport is recognised in our traffic management plan. As it is a car show, it is anticipated that a large portion of our target market will likely be non-drinkers and will want to drive to the event. We have ample parking available to us from the airfield and we would like to put in additional options for transport in the way of shuttle buses after dark to key areas such as Honiton train station for those who require it. We assure you that we will be guided and follow advice from the SAG to minimise the impact of traffic from the event.

Precedent and Intensification of Use

*No event of this scale and nature has ever previously been held at this site and whilst I recognize the right to hold a singular, commemorative event **it should be established that this is a one-off event.*** We trust the measures outlined above demonstrate our commitment to delivering a well-managed event that minimises impact on local residents, and we remain fully committed to working with the Council and SAG to ensure all requirements are met.

Thank you for your time.