

Licensing Authority
Shared EH & Licensing Service
Mole Valley & Tandridge District Councils

Your Ref:
Our Ref: Master Park Reps
E-mail: Aneurin.Hughes@molevalley.gov.uk
AHughes1@tandridge.gov.uk

14th October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Licensing Act 2003

Premises Licence Variation – Master Park, Oxted Beer Festival, Church Lane, Oxted RH8 9WE

Further to the recent application to Vary the Premises Licence for the above-named premises I would advise that I, Aneurin Hughes, Senior Licensing Officer for Mole Valley and Tandridge District Councils, hereby give notice as the Licensing Authority acting as a Responsible Authority, that I make the following representations in respect of the above application which I feel are proportionate and necessary to this application.

This representation relates to: -

1. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
2. Public Safety
3. Prevention of Public Nuisance
4. Protection of Children from Harm

I do note that the premises is currently licensed in a limited capacity. The details of which are: -

- Sale of Alcohol (for consumption on and off the premises) 11:00 – 23:00hrs;
- Regulated Entertainment (Plays/Films/Indoor Sporting Events/Live Music/Recorded Music/Performance of Dance and entertainment of a similar description) 11:00 – 23:00hrs;
- Opening Times – currently stated on their licence as Mon – Sun 00:01 – 00:00)
- There will be a limit of 6,000 attendees at any given time.

This application to vary the premises licence significantly increases the number of attendees for these activities as follows: -

- Increase the number of attendees to 9,999 at any given time.

For such an increase in the numbers allowed to attend the site at any given time, the application is for a 67% increase, I would have expected the Operating Schedule (Section M of the application form) to detail what the applicant proposes to do to uphold the four licensing objectives. The fact that this has remained limited devoid of detail as to how they propose to promote the four licensing objectives is not conducive to

a successful application and could cast doubt on the competency of the applicant in being able to ensure a safe event.

During the statutory consultation period, the applicant has reduced the proposed increase to 8,000 attendees following their notification of representations against their application. This still represents a significant increase (34%) in the number of attendees that has been inadequately addressed in their operating schedule. No information has been provided in relation to how this figure has been calculated, nor in ascertaining the safe capacity of the venue in light of the plans attached to the existing premises licence with the stages, concession stands etc all in situ. How was a capacity of 9,999 initially calculated as a safe and suitable number? This number was quickly reduced to 8,000 upon receipt of objections against the application – again, how has this been calculated as a safe and suitable number? The applicant has not provided anything to support this number as being appropriate to the site venue.

As a Responsible Authority, my objection to the application is based on the fact that the existing conditions attached to the licence do not adequately promote the licensing objectives and with such an increase applied for the operating schedule is completely inadequate. There appears to have been no thought gone into the submission of this application, on its possible impact on any of the Responsible Authorities and more importantly, the residents in the surrounding area. There would appear to be little regard to the applicants' responsibilities for promoting the four licensing objectives whilst conducting licensable activities and the Licensing Authority, acting as a Responsible Authority, cannot assess the application sufficiently.

Furthermore, following the Manchester Arena incident a few years ago, and subsequent review of terrorism measures there is nothing considered within the application on how the applicant will ensure the safety of the increased number of the public, performers and traders at their event. It is important to note that every site, venue or event is different, so mitigations identified as proportionate and suitable for one may not be for another, however, no mitigations have been provided.

The Licensing Authority believes that the representations set out above are relevant to this application, having considered the individual style, character and location of the premises and taking into account the details supplied by the applicant in their application form. The Licensing Authority consider that the application in its current format should be refused. This is necessary in regard to promoting all four licensing objectives.

Tandridge District Council's Licensing Authority reserve the right to add further comment in respect of the application should further information become available.

Should you have any enquiries in relation to the above representation please contact me as detailed above.

Regards,



ANEURIN HUGHES
SENIOR LICENSING OFFICER