

APPENDIX 3a

From: [Neil Green](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Update following SAG meeting concerning Bury Farm Summer Festival and Fields of Thunder events
Date: 18 September 2023 14:58:38

Dear Emma,

I am writing to update you following the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting that took place on the 30th August. As you were aware, I had requested that the organisers of the events at Bury Farm attend the meeting to provide a de-brief following this years events (specifically; Bury Farm Festival, 15-16 July and Fields of Thunder, 21-23 July) and to discuss the complaints received.

Firstly, to summarise the situation as explained to the SAG by the event organisers;

The weather forecast was very poor for the Bury Farm Festival with heavy rain and strong winds forecast for the whole weekend. Unfortunately the forecast was correct and from the Friday afternoon there was very heavy rain which resulted in the planned entrance/route into the festival becoming extremely wet and muddy. The organisers made a decision on Saturday 15th to use the driveway as an alternate route into/out of the festival site and placed stewards on the 'S' bend entrance to direct customers to the alternative entrance. Although the driveway entrance is narrow they took into consideration that numbers of vehicles would be low (as pre-event ticket sales had been low and the adverse weather would mean very low numbers of 'on the day' ticket sales would be sold).

The weather during the week after the festival continued to be poor and by the 21st July the main entrance had still not dried out. A large proportion of the pre-sales for the Fields of Thunder event were to customers arriving by motorcycle and the organisers were concerned that the muddy condition of the planned entry route would be unsafe for motorcycles and would also be challenging for emergency services to access if an accident had occurred on this route. As with the prior weeks festival, pre-event ticket sales had been low and 'on the day' ticket sales were anticipated to be very low due to the expected wet weather and therefore the comparatively narrow width of the driveway was not anticipated to result in any significant issue.

A Licencing officer visited the site on the 23rd July and from observations of the ground conditions agreed that there was a safety risk for any motorcycles using the original planned entrance route and that given the low numbers onsite felt that the organisers decision to use an alternate route for ingress/egress was justified.

Some complaints related to the amount of additional traffic in local villages as a result of these events. The organisers had employed the AA to provide and install road signage to direct customers along the planned route to the venue. Officers attending the event on the 23rd July noted that this signage was in place and stewards were situated on the 'S' bend for the entrance diversion. Unfortunately it is a common issue for many event organisers that customers will try to follow their Sat-Navs or use their own local area knowledge rather than follow road signage when travelling to an event. We have recommended to the event organisers that they display route instructions prominently on their website and that the importance of following road signage to the event is re-iterated on any instructions/information sent/emailed to ticket holders in advance of the event.

We have also discussed with the organisers the use of temporary trackway during any future events. This would have meant that the planned entrance route could have continued to be used even with the adverse weather conditions. I understand from my discussions that this is something that is readily available and will be considered should future events be planned.

Some complaints about noise were received. I understand that this was mostly in relation to motorcycle noise rather than the regulated entertainment on the site. An Environmental Health Officer visiting on the 21st July observed that the motorcycles appeared to be 'road legal' and therefore would be subject to DVLA requirements on emissions. Had the original planned entrance route been in use the number of motorcycles travelling through the villages would have been much reduced. The use of temporary trackway to keep the main entrance in use in future should help to mitigate this issue.

Lastly I enquired about the promotion of an Oktoberfest event that was listed on their website. The organisers gave their assurance to the SAG that this event would not now be taking place and that reference to it would be removed immediately following our meeting from their website.

My colleagues in licensing have confirmed that it is a condition of their site licence that an Event Management Plan (EMP) must be submitted at least 28 days in advance of a large event (defined as an outdoor non-equine event with more than 1500 persons). The EMP must then be adhered to 'so far as is reasonably practicable'. The nature of large events does require there to be some flexibility so that unexpected events etc... can be dealt with without necessarily breaching licence conditions.

I will be writing to the event organisers to remind them of the recommendations made during the SAG meeting and will be expecting them to demonstrate that they have taken these on board if/when any future events are notified to us.

If you are still have concerns then you may wish to consider calling for a review of the site licence. Further information on when and how this can be done can be found on our website here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/business/business-licences-and-permits/alcohol-and-entertainment-licences/report-a-licensed-premises/request-a-review-of-a-licensed-premises/>

With regard to your complaint about the use of the driveway (as an alternative entrance route/blue light route for these events), this would primarily be a civil matter between yourself and the event organisers and from your email I understand that you are already taking legal advice on this. I did raise the ownership question during the SAG meeting and the event organisers have stated that they did have the necessary rights to use it for these events.

From a health and safety and a licensing perspective we do need to ensure that event access (whether primary or emergency only) is suitable and safe. This would include the risk of it being blocked or otherwise taken out of use by another party. Therefore, given the information that you have provided, should any further event notifications for this venue be received by the Safety Advisory Group then we will ask to see evidence of their rights to use this driveway (if intending to use it in the EMP).

I trust that this information is helpful to you, please do let me know if you have any further concerns.

Kind regards

Neil Green
Environmental Health Team Leader – Commercial (North)
Housing & Regulatory Service
Planning, Growth and Sustainability Directorate
Buckinghamshire Council

01296 585160
neil.green@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8FF