

19th of May 2022

Licensing Unit Burnley Borough Council

<u>Police objection to the application for a Temporary Event Notice at Queens Park</u> <u>on the 4th of June 2022.</u>

Lancashire Constabulary has received a TEN for a live music event in Queens Park, Burnley, on the 4th of June 2022 between the hours of 12:00 and 21:00hrs. The event has been described as an outside live music Manchester cover bands event. The application is made by PERSON A.

The park has a premises licence, PLN0057, the Licence Holder being Burnley Borough Council. It is my understanding that this licence will be used for the live entertainment aspects of this event.

The constabulary is concerned that the Temporary Event Notice will not be subject to any licensing conditions.

Queens Park is as a public park, with an approximate perimeter of 1.2 km with 10 entrances.

Lancashire constabulary objects to the application on the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, Prevention of Public nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm licensing objectives.

The background to this is that there has been dialogue between the applicant, another person called PERSON B and the authorities since January.

The dialogue emphasised the need for relevant plans and risk assessments – none of which were forthcoming and is worrying. In fact, no risk assessments or replies to meaningful questions were given by PERSON B.

The key issue in this is that the TEN for alcohol sales is just one aspect of this event. The lack of any kind of planning or risk assessment raises serious doubts as to the validity of the event and, as such, Burnley Borough Council's Parks Department did not give consent for the park to be used.

A Temporary Event Notice submitted by PERSON B for this event was objected to by PC 2623 Michael Jones on 11th May. This led to a licensing hearing at Burnley Town Hall – in which PERSON B did not attend – as such the TEN was rejected.

Now another TEN application has been submitted for the same event from PERSON A who I believe has worked with PERSON B on other events in the borough.

Although there is an event plan as such, there are still concerns regarding this at the time of writing.

The key issues are that it does not specify explicitly the security arrangements involved that would support the promotion of all four licensing objectives. Also, all that has been submitted is a vague satellite map of Queens Park that does not show where the alcohol tent will be nor any boundaries for the on-sales element or boundary fencing to control the event. Also, a tangible dispersal policy.

At this point, the Parks department have said that permission is not withheld but the event is now capped at 499 persons, a risk assessment to follow and insurance purchased and policy provided.

Parks have given PERSON A a deadline that was midday today to review the event management plan.

We are still unclear what the actual numbers are attending the event as the 499 figure must include all staff and performers – in addition to attendees.

Although there is an event plan, it is my view that this is rather late in the process for something that should have been considered weeks ago to promote the licensing objectives – the key being public safety here. It still does not satisfy all concerns.

Lancashire Constabulary is concerned that the application does not describe provisions fully for a genuinely informed decision to be made.

The Jubilee Bank Holiday is going to be an extremely busy weekend, which will hopefully be enjoyed in the right spirit. However, Lancashire Constabulary is expecting an extremely busy weekend as there are lots of events taking place over East Lancashire – with alcohol consumption. This has the potential for crime and disorder.

We are bracing ourselves to be extremely busy and stretched for four days. What we need from event organisers is responsibility and good planning to mitigate risk for ourselves and the public at large. The lack of timely, tangible planning here has completely undermined this.

We are not objecting to put a spanner in the works – we support good events that benefit the local community. However, there needs to be more responsibility around promoting the licensing objectives.

In view of the above, Lancashire Constabulary objects to the application on the grounds that the lack of planning undermines the licensing objectives – given the amount of time this event has been in the works.

Regards

Sgt 3707 Gary Hennighan

East Division Licensing Officer