

Kate Halsall

From: Howard Cherry
Sent: Monday 22 April 2019 13:03
To: clerk@cranleigh-pc.gov.uk
Cc: Kate Halsall
Subject: Cranleigh Parish Council Objection to Cranleigh Folk Festival License Application
Attachments: 1170 Response to CPC License Objection.pdf

Dear Beverley,

Please see attached 1170's response to the extremely disappointing news that the Parish Council have objected to the license application for the Cranleigh Folk Festival.

A number of the points raised in the objection are inaccurate and we would request Cranleigh Parish Council urgently reconsider its position based on the information in the attached.

I look forward to receiving the Parish Council's response to the points raised at the earliest opportunity.

Kind Regards,

Howard

1170



22nd April 2019

Re: Premise License Application for Cranleigh Folk Festival

Dear Beverley,

As you are aware, the Cranleigh Folk Festival (CFF) is a community event intended to raise much needed funds to restore St Nicolas Church, a landmark feature of our village – which requires investment today of over £250,000. Cranleigh Folk Festival is an innovative way of raising these funds whilst giving back to our community – in a way which brings additional business to our local retailers and provides opportunity for our local organisations and our children to showcase their talents thus building a legacy for the young musicians in our community. CFF is truly a community event in every way.

On behalf of the 1170 trustees, operations team and partners, I would like to express how deeply disappointed we are that the only objection to our license application has come from Cranleigh Parish Council (CPC) who several times in the past have expressed support for the event. We are disappointed that the objection comes despite our inclusion of the Parish Council in several discussions of our plans, without any prior contact or questioning (which we have discussed with you in the past) and that CPC appear to be making again uninformed decisions not based on the facts contained within the license application, but on assumption and social media comments; pre-judging the outcome – both in contravention of the Cranleigh Parish Council Code of Conduct.

Given our previous engagements and the legislated month-long consultation on the license application, we feel it would have been appropriate for the Parish Council to have reached out with their concerns – which could likely have been simply addressed -

especially as CPC appear to have reached their decision on the 25th March, just 4 days into the consultation period. There are several assumptions in CPC's objection, which are inaccurate. The recent formal objection only continues to cement the view that CPC does not support the folk festival, nor the 1170 Charity, nor the desire to raise significant funds to protect our parish assets, nor wish to support and encourage our children and businesses.

I am aware that the CPC planning committee meet soon, and I write to ask that the Parish Council reconsider its position with respect to the application and withdraw the objection at the earliest opportunity, rather than wait until the formal hearing. I would further ask that if CPC feel there are questions which remain unanswered, that these are articulated clearly face to face and that we resolve concerns as quickly as possible whilst working within the appropriate parameters.

There is a saying that "no plan survives first contact" and therefore changes have been made since our last meeting. I have detailed below a response about the key specific points raised within the objection.

1. Regarding CPC councillors wishing to review the Event Management Plan (EMP), which appears to be the greatest of the Parish Council's concerns, firstly, it is not complete and subject to change until it has been approved by the Waverley Borough Council (WBC) Safety Advisory Group (SAG) over the coming months. The SAG is a fully collaborative process and as such we will continue to work with representatives to ensure their concerns are met. Secondly, we have been informed by WBC that we should not share the entire EMP as **under GDPR the Festival EMP is only shared with relevant agencies. Those who are part of the SAG. That is the same for us as the organisers.**

As you are no doubt aware, the SAG regular members are: Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Surrey Ambulance Service, Waverley Borough Council, Surrey County Council. I have not yet had the full list of attendees from Waverley, but other agencies which could in theory attend are Guildford and Waverley PCT, Environment Agency, Highways Agency, Health & Safety Executive, Civil Aviation Authority as such the event cannot proceed unless they are in agreement.

I hope that CPC councillors will see the assurances in this approach (which is required by WBC) and therefore allow the license to be granted, safe in the knowledge that we

have to convince the experts in each field.

2. **Scale of the Event:** I am aware that there is some talk on Social Media that the event will be licensed for up to 20,000 attendees – I can categorically state that this is not the case, nor has it been at any point. Attendance of 20,000 would place CFF as one of the top dozen festivals in the UK on a par with 'Latitude' and 'Bestival'. It is unfortunately clear that the CPC Planning Committee have not read the actual application. I would draw the Parish Council members attention to "Part 3 Operating Schedule". Which clearly states that the license would only permit less than 5,000 attendees. We are only looking for attendance of up to 3,000 per session.
3. **Access to the site:** It again seems CPC councillors have made an assumption as per our initial plan that the access would continue to be a) via the Berkeley Homes building site and b) via Knowle Lane. We are now considering alternatives that we perceive lessen risk following our initial conversations with Surrey Police. Our current plan is still subject to agreement by the WBC SAG. I can also assure the Parish Council that trained security staff and marshals will facilitate the security of general public as they access and leave the site as well as whilst they are in our care.

I hope that the CPC are now better informed and have confidence through the knowledge that the experts of the SAG are working with us to organise a safe and successful event. We have the support of the Schools, the Chamber of Commerce, a large number of Village Associations and Charities. We hope the CPC councillors will join the rest of Cranleigh village and will urgently seek to remove their objection and in the spirit of collaboration and community help us to achieve a really positive event for the benefit of Cranleigh. Our intention is to provide an appropriate, safe, secure, family friendly event, which helps our fundraising needs but in doing so provides benefits to all parts of our local community

Yours faithfully,

Howard Cherry

Howard Cherry
Trustee and License Applicant