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Cambridgeshire
PE29 6GB

Re; Application to Vary a Premises Licence by Lodestar Events Ltd

24th October 2025

Dear sirs,

I write on behalf of my client Lodestar Events Ltd in relation to their recent application to vary the premises licence.

Thank you for your comments submitted during consultation, these are always useful. We appreciate that there is very limited information given within the legal notices and for that reason I would like to explain the application in a little more depth.

The director of Lodestar Events has been holding events at this location for 20 years.

To date, there have been over 25 events held there both licensed and unlicensed, ranging from commercial hires to weddings. There has also been a four day annual music festival which ran for 6 years. Attendances ranging from just a few hundred to 5,000 people. Most notable were the Lodestar Festival events which were family orientated music events held without complaint from 2009 to 2015 which catered for 5,000 people per day over the 4 day period.

The applicants experience in holding events at this location is exceptional and their attention to detail extremely thorough. Over the many years of running events at this site, the applicant held monthly meetings with the local authority. This was to plan ahead and the review previous events. As time progressed, the manner in which events were run was to such satisfaction of the authorities that those meeting lessened to almost a single annual meeting. Part of the success of the running of these events was that each new event learned from the past and adapted to suit, and without complaint.

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This full variation application has been discussed over the last several months in great detail with the relevant authorities. As such, event management plans, major incident plans, traffic management plans, fire safety plans and the like were compiled and updated from previous events and presented to the relevant authorities for open discussion. The applicant then attended a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting with Police licensing, Environmental health, Cambridge County Highways, Cambs Fire & Rescue Service and East of England Ambulance Service. During the meeting the plans for the amendment were discussed and requirements laid out by those attending. The applicant already had everything in hand and to that end, this application has received no objections from the responsible authorities.

It is no doubt in part to the very thorough amendments to the operating schedule which I have copied below for your information. If this licence were granted, the operating schedule must be adhered to.

Most of the events to be held will be corporate with between 500-2,500 people attending, some private events and likely weddings of up to 200 guests. The current premises licence allows for 28 events to take place between the 1st of December and the 10th of January, a 41 day period with no limit on the number of days that each event lasts for. The amendment ensures that no more than 28 days each year can be used to hold events at the location, therefore reducing the number of days used and spreading them across the year.

Turning to your letters of representation, I will deal with both in this letter for complete transparency for all as I feel some further explanation is required.

1. To state that events could run for ...'3 out of 4 weeks every month...' is simply not possible under this variation. Even if the applicant held one event over a weekend, they could still not amount to 3 weekends every month.
2. 'Will have too much of a negative effect on the area' – as stated previously the applicant has held in excess of 30 events over the last 20 years. Under his stewardship there has been one complaint that was not substantiated.
3. '...Mr Durrant who owns the site has parties for 5,000 people in December. This makes our lives hell with noise and traffic issues...' Events run by Lodestar Events Ltd have not received any complaints. In December 2024 an event was held hosting in excess of 2,500 people. A traffic management plan was reorganised with the installation of a 300m

stretch of road and a one way system, approximately 2,800 people were bussed in and out of the event and there were approximately 150 cars.

After the event, the local authority made contact to ask if the event had taken place, it was quite clear they, along with many residents were not even aware of it taking place. There was no reported issue with traffic in the area.

4. ‘...the fact he also wants to extend the time to 1.30 is an insult. By the time people leave and traffic dies down it will be 4-5...’

Licensing law states that any licensee that wishes to play recorded music between 11pm and 5am must have a licence to do so. Within the industry it is commonplace to have a ‘winding down’ period. The reality is that smaller events such as weddings etc may well go on after midnight, but as per the new condition, licensed music must be reduced in volume from 2300 hours. This also assists enormously with the ‘wind down’ period. The event in December 2024 – 3,500 people in attendance and the traffic was cleared in 15 minutes.

5. ‘.we can hear every single word that is said on his microphones while in bed...’

Please note conditions 21 and 22,

21. A nominated person will be responsible for regular auditory monitoring at specific sites along the perimeter of the site to ensure that noise from the amplified noise remains at an acceptable level and to record the times and findings of such monitoring. Bass frequency will be reduced at 2300 and overall sound levels reduced at midnight as the evening winds down

22. If during this monitoring process noise levels are found to be unacceptable (i.e. likely to be considered too loud if heard by people living nearby while in their homes with the windows and doors closed) then the DJ will be asked to turn down the volume/base as applicable. This will also be recorded.

It has always been standard practice for my client to monitor sound levels and is included in far more detail within the relevant risk assessments and is conducted by an environmental noise consultant. To date, the levels recorded have not given rise to any concerns, and the applicant themselves have not received any complaints. These levels, as per the event management plans are recorded each time they are taken for evidential purposes.

6. ‘..this road/area simply isn’t suitable...’ As stated, the applicant has held over 30 previous events at this site over the last 20 years. It was suitable to be passed as such 20 years ago, and even with change in regulations and expectations, the applicant has kept up to date and ensured that safety is paramount. The relatively recent addition of the new access road being laid bears evidence of this, as its implementation proved.

I would be more than happy to receive and look into any specific complaints you have regarding events that have taken place. My client is unaware of any substantiated complaint and has a proven track record of dealing with any such issues to mitigate any concerns.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me should you wish to have any further information or discuss any specific points. Equally, if this additional information provided you with enough confidence to withdraw, please inform the local authority as soon as possible.

Many thanks and kind regards

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1. This licence shall permit events/licensable activities on any date, to a maximum of 28 days in a calendar year.

2. In relation to the number of persons expected to attend each event, the licensee will abide by the following times frames to notify the licensing authority of that event;

- Less than 500 persons, the licensee shall submit an event notice to the council no later than 10 working days before the event.
- Between 500 to 2,500 persons, the licensee shall submit an event notice to the council to allow sufficient time to attend a meeting of the safety advisory group which shall occur no later than no later than 4 weeks before the date of the event. (note condition 3 below)
- Between 2,501 to 5,000 persons, the licensee shall submit an event notice to the council to allow sufficient time to attend a meeting of the safety advisory group which shall occur no later than no later than 6 weeks before the date of the event. (note condition 3 below)

3. Where an event is for 500 persons or more a draft working document Event Management Plan (EMP) must be submitted no later than 14 days prior to presenting the plan at the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting mentioned in condition 2.

4. Final EMPs agreed by the SAG must be approved in writing by the Licensing Authority no less than 7 days before the event relying upon it.

5. Any event subject of an agreed EMP must be run in accordance with that agreed EMP. The failure to comply with any part of the content of the EMP will be considered breach of a licence condition.

6. In relation to events with an attendance of 500 or more, where any conditions numbered from 7 to 23 below are deemed to run contrary to the contents of an EMP, the wording in the EMP shall override and applicable condition.

7. The Challenge 25 policy will be adopted to prevent sales of alcohol being made to underage persons. Only approved photo ID will be accepted as proof of age.

8. Prior to each event taking place, consultation with a security company will take place to determine the number door staff required to control the event.

9. Only Security Industry Approved (SIA) registered door staff will be employed to work at any event.

10. A zero tolerance policy will be taken with regard to illegal drugs. Any illegal drugs found on the premises or any confiscated items suspected of being illegal drugs will be deposited in a secure locked deposit box and Cambridgeshire Constabulary shall be notified via 101/online reporting to arrange for the drugs to be collected or delivered to an appropriate Police Station.

11. A member of staff will be given responsibility for recording any incidents involving crime

or disorder, logging the time and nature of any incidents, including any action taken. In the case of a serious incident, the police will be called via the 999 emergency number, if an incident is deemed not to warrant immediate emergency action, then police will be notified via the 101 non-emergency number and details relating to the incident will be properly recorded and made available to the police or any authorised officer if required.

12. All escape routes and exits will be clearly signed and illuminated and kept free from any obstructions. All exit panels will close with Velcro and are easily opened.

13. Staff will be trained how to evacuate people from the premises in the event of fire.

14. All hangings, curtains and temporary decorations will be maintained in flame retardant material.

15. Adequate lighting will be in place outside the premises during the hours of darkness when any licensable activity is taking place on the premises.

16. Regular contact with local residents will take place to advise of forthcoming events and to provide a contact telephone number for any concerns/suggestions to be raised either before or during events.

17. No explosives, pyrotechnics and fireworks of a similar nature that may cause disturbance to surrounding areas will be permitted. Performance based pyrotechnics must be approved by the Council's environmental health authority.

18. Staff shall take reasonable steps to ensure that customers do not take partly consumed alcoholic products or drinking receptacles away from the premises.

19. Clear and legible notices will be prominently displayed at all exits, re-requesting customers to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and area quietly.

20. Between the hours of 00:00 and 00:30, amplified music noise levels will be reduced to start 'winding down' towards the end of the event.

21. A nominated person will be responsible for regular auditory monitoring at specific sites along the perimeter of the site to ensure that noise from the amplified noise remains at an acceptable level and to record the times and findings of such monitoring. Bass frequency will be reduced at 2300 and overall sound levels reduced at midnight as the evening winds down

22. If during this monitoring process noise levels are found to be unacceptable (i.e. likely to be considered too loud if heard by people living nearby while in their homes with the windows and doors closed) then the DJ will be asked to turn down the volume/base as applicable. This will also be recorded.

23. Receptacles for waste will be emptied regularly to minimise nuisance smells. Emptying times will be controlled to minimise noise disturbance to neighbouring residential properties.

24. The maximum number of persons permitted on the premises will not exceed 4,999 (not including staff and performers).