

APPENDIX B

Content of Police Representation (Made by Area Licensing Practitioner – Nicola King)

An application has been received for the grant of a new premises licence in respect of Taunton Winterfest, Taunton Town Centre, Fore Street, East Street, High Street, Corporation Street, Hammet Street and North Street of Taunton. The proposed licensable activities are: live music, recorded music, performance of dance and supply of alcohol. Capacity has been set at 4000 and the licence is for a 25 year period.

On behalf of the Chief Officer of Police we submit our formal representation in respect of this application.

Having considered the application and the details provided and whilst also taking into consideration the promotion of the licensing objectives and Somerset Statement of Licensing Policy, the police are not satisfied that the proposed grant of a premises licence will promote the licensing objectives.

The application has been set at 4,000 persons but existing events which have been held under a separate licence have attracted over 90,000 during a day footfall. No detail has been provided to the police outlining how numbers will be controlled or how persons will be prevented from entering the area identified red on the plans when capacity is reached. This is an open area, with shops, restaurants and bars open to the public making it almost impossible to manage. With no plans to view at this time we are concerned that numbers could be considerably exceeded.

There are no plans available showing the layout of the proposed site – alcohol outlets, stages, main event area, first aid provision, security, fire exits etc. What consideration has been given to Counter Terrorism? No detail has been provided with regards to Crowd Safety, Major Incident, Toilet Provision, Traffic Management Plans, Toilet Provision, Stewards/Security Provision to name but a few.

Without the submission of any associated documentation to allay fears, concerns or identify the management of the event in a public area, we are not able to assess whether the granting of the licence will promote the four licensing objectives.

Unfortunately, no formal consultation has taken place with the Licensing Dept or Event Planning Unit of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary prior to the submission of the application, which has resulted in an objection being raised due to the lack of information/documentation.

Events of this nature require extensive conditions to be attached to the licence to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives. Such conditions need to be robust whilst at the same time be appropriate, relevant, clear, reasonable, and enforceable. These conditions outline in detail how the event organiser will produce an event specific management document known as an Event Safety Management Plan (ESMP). Any such ESMP will include, as a minimum, site plans, stewarding/security plans, eviction plans, crowd management plans, emergency plans, safeguarding plan, medical plan, fire plan, specific safety policies, risk assessments, traffic management plans, possible noise nuisance plans, drug plans/policies, alcohol plan and ingress/egress plan etc. It is the intricate detail contained within these policies/procedures which is paramount in delivering a safe event.

At this time, we do not consider that the applicant has provided adequate detail within their operating schedule to mitigate risk and promote the licensing objectives. 4.6.11 of The Statement of Licensing Policy states: The Authority believes that this risk can be adequately mitigated by the

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submission of an up to date, relevant, detailed and complete operating schedule that is specific to the proposed event on each separate occasion or for a specific period less than permanent – on this occasion we do not believe this has been met especially as this is for a 25 year period.

Whilst we strive to support all local events, unfortunately, on this occasion we are not able to support this application as it is the opinion of the police that the granting of the application will not promote the licensing objectives and will have a detrimental effect upon public safety.