

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk: Rob Sage

26th March 2018

The Licensing Authority
South Somerset District Council
Brympton Way
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 2HT

Dear Sirs,

Field Trip Music Festival, Gilcombe Farm, Bruton

Further to the application for a premises licence to run the Field Trip Music Festival at Gilcombe Farm from Friday 27th to Monday 30th July 2018, Batcombe Parish Council would like to note the severe disturbance caused to the residents of Batcombe parish by successive music festivals at Gilcombe Farm over the summer of 2017. While the majority of complaints concerned the Shindig Festival in May when the noise levels were excessively high, complaints were also received in connection with the Farm Fest and Field Trip festivals.

The level of noise not only impacts local residents, who are unable to sleep with windows open in the warmest part of the year, but also local businesses. This is a particular concern for the campsite at Batcombe Vale, whose residents don't have windows to close and who have come to the countryside for peace and quiet, not to hear loud music until the early hours of the morning.

Prevention of Public Nuisance.

The Parish Council feels that the number of hours that live and recorded music can be played should be reduced. The Council feels that it is unnecessary and unacceptable to be playing loud music until 4.00am in the morning in a rural setting characterised by peace and quiet. The Council asks that no music should be played later than 2.00am and before that only at levels that will not disturb residents and visitors to the parish. The Parish Council is grateful that the hours that music at the Shindig Weekender can be played until have been pulled back from 4.00am to 2.00am and asks that the same modification of the conditions is applied to the premises licence for the Field Trip Festival.

The Parish Council notes that the premises licence for the Jubilee Hall in Batcombe only allows the Hall to be open for events until 1.00am on Friday and Saturday nights (Saturday and Sunday mornings) and on other nights only until midnight. In addition the noise emitted from the Hall can exceed 43 decibels expressed as a 5 minute Laeq before 11.00pm and 37 decibels after 11.00pm. The Parish Council feels that the conditions imposed upon events at Gilcombe Farm should have similar restrictions, especially given that there are now more late night events at Gilcombe Farm – the Parish Council has been informed that there will be yet another music festival at Gilcombe Farm on the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

The Parish Council has conducted a survey of licensing authorities in our region and the responses received indicate that the vast majority of licenses for music festivals limit the playing of live and recorded music to before 2.00am. There also does not appear to be any other location with more than one music festival. A summary of the responses is included below.

The Parish Council also notes that while the previous Field Trip festival was held over the August Bank Holiday weekend, this year the festival is being held on a normal weekend and so the Monday morning will be the start of a normal working week for many of our residents – it would therefore be reasonable to further reduce the hours which music can be played until on this working morning.

The Parish Council is concerned that the monitoring of noise and the response to complaints did not prove effective at the 2017 Shindig Weekender. The Council feels that the response to noise issues has to be immediate and effective and not wait until the next day.

While the noise issues from the 2017 Field Trip Festival were not as great as those from the Shindig Weekender, complaints were also received about the use of laser light displays at the Field Trip Festival. Concerns were raised about the impact of these displays on livestock and wildlife in the area, and the Parish Council asks that laser light displays should not be allowed in a rural setting where livestock are likely to be spooked by such a display.

In conclusion, Batcombe Parish Council asks that the conditions imposed on the Field Trip Festival are sufficient to allow its residents and visitors to enjoy a peaceful and quiet July weekend without disturbance.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Sage

Rob Sage
Clerk to Batcombe Parish Council

The responses regarding music festivals received from the various licensing authorities contacted:

East Devon DC

They have two festivals. One is for 4 days over a weekend in August. Latest music in one tent is 3.00am with a silent disco until 5.00am. The Sidmouth Folk Festival lasts for a week in August and has a marquee with a 1.30am music licence, 2.30am alcohol and 4.00am late night refreshment licence for each night.

Mendip DC

Just an acknowledgement of a Freedom of Information Request. No further response.

North Dorset DC

Automated reply to e-mail. No further response.

Sedgemoor DC

Most festivals are covered by Temporary Event Notices (TENS). They have one festival in the Wedmore area which is licensed to play music 24 hours a day over a weekend, but

which is controlled through the Event Management Plan. They also some Harvest Home licences with music finishing at 1.00am.

Taunton Deane BC

One music festival – music ends at midnight.

South Somerset DC

Details of 11 licences given, but not all appear to be music festivals – some are licences for venues: Piers Simon Appeal (music ends at midnight); Yeovil Showground (midnight); Party by the Parrett (3 days – 12.30am); Kingsbury May Festival (1.00am); Lowland Games (4 days – 1.00am); Wincanton Racecourse (4.00am – this is a licence for the racecourse rather than for a specific festival); Green Scythe Fair (2 days – 10.30pm); Monacute House (midnight or 1.00am on some occasions); Pageant Templecombe (2 days – 10.00pm); The Meadow, Parrett House, Martock (5 days – 11.00am first day, then 2.00am next three days, midnight on last day); Netherham Farm, Langport (4 days – 12.30am, 2 x 1.00am, 4.30pm); .

West Dorset DC

Same contact e-mail as for North Dorset DC Licensing.

Wiltshire Council

The majority of festivals are covered by TENS. There are six festivals of two days or longer covered by premises licences: Vintage Nostalgia (3 days – latest time licensed for music – midnight); WOMAD (4 days – 2.00am on three days, midnight on the first); Once Upon a Time in the West (3 days – 2.30am on two days, midnight on the first); Hinton Festival (2 days – 1.00am); Chalke Valley (2 days – 11.00pm); and Boondocks (2 days – midnight).