

# CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 at 14:00 via Zoom.**

Present: Councillors E Ashby, R Cornwell and D Freeman.

Also present: A Shanley (Clerk), Des and Diane Ward (members of the public) and Ricky Cohen and Kate Barton (Durham University)

**Cllr L Brown** in the Chair

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Doig.

### **2. To receive any declarations of interest from members**

None received.

### **3. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **4. To receive any public participation comments on the following agenda items.**

Mr and Mrs Ward advised that they were attending the meeting in order to hear discussions on item 5 of the Agenda.

### **5. Discussion with Ricky Cohen and Kate Barton at Durham University regarding the proposed creation of a performance event venue at the Racecourse site for three weeks in June.**

The Chair welcomed both Ricky Cohen and Kate Barton from Durham University to the meeting.

The Chair thanked Ricky and Kate for attending the meeting in order to discuss the proposed events. The Chair advised that she had read about the event in the Palatinate online page but had received no official communication about the event.

Kate began by advising that the University is currently going through a Safety Advisory Group application in order to host the event.

Ricky advised that the racecourse is already licensed as a premises license and the events have been planned in line with the Government's roadmap out of Covid-19.

Kate advised that the intention of this event is to be a place of creativity, culture and performance in the month of June and also to support the creative arts sector which has been decimated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Kate advised that it is hoped that this will provide some live entertainment for students, staff of the University and members of the community in and around Durham.

Kate also advised that it is hoped that this will provide a Covid-19 safe environment as opposed to students attending licensed premises who may not have gone through rigorous procedures as the University is doing at present for this event.

Kate advised that measures such as signage, social distancing, hand sanitisers, test to participate would be in place to make the event as Covid-19 safe as possible.

Kate advised that there is also a really keen focus on managing public nuisance and drunkenness for this event.

Kate advised that she was extremely excited by the programme of performances proposed as part of this event.

Ricky advised that the University is acutely aware of the concerns of the community regarding Covid-19 safety and public nuisance. Ricky advised that this event is permissible under the Government's roadmap out of Covid. Ricky also advised that the numbers being permitted to the event would be much less than the permissible full capacity.

Ricky advised that the event would be limited to up till 8pm on weekdays and 10pm on weekends.

Cllr L Brown asked when the organisers would stop serving food. Ricky advised that this would be stopped at the same time as alcohol is stopped being served. Ricky also advised that the event would be table service/ click and collect only.

Ricky also advised that the food vans would be parked outside the marquee along the pavilion within the event perimeter. Cllr L Brown advised that she was concerned at vans having their vans running and she hoped that the food could stop running at 8pm / 9pm.

Cllr L Brown asked how the marshals would stop people bringing in their own alcohol. Kate advised that bag searches would be undertaken, marshals would be present throughout the event and there would also be staggered exits where no alcohol could be taken from the premises.

Cllr E Ashby asked how late night noise disturbance could be avoided, reminding the Committee that the organisers of Durfest had put a lot of thought into tackling this. Kate advised the event would be operating in very much the same way as Durfest intended to operate. Kate also advised that noise monitoring equipment around the event would be in place to monitor noise levels from the event.

Kate advised that the path coming from the event up to Green Lane would be lit and marshals would be in place to request that all those leaving the event be mindful that they are entering a residential area. Kate also advised that signage would be in place to remind all to be quiet when leaving.

Cllr E Ashby asked if the University could fund some corex signage with the Shhh... messaging included. Ricky agreed that this could happen and he recognised that transient noise in particular is an issue.

Kate also advised that tables were being limited to six only.

Cllr L Brown asked how breaches of Covid-19 rules would be dealt with. Kate advised that bookings would be made through the pass plus service. In booking for a table, students would need to evidence that they had had two negative Covid-19 test results and were also part of the same household. If breaches happen, they would be immediately removed from the event and the incident would be reported to their college and the student would be banned from all extracurricular events.

Cllr E Ashby asked what the waste arrangements are for the event. Ricky advised that the full event would be glass free. All plastics would also be recyclable.

Cllr D Freeman asked if the marquee would include a series of events or just one event per day. Kate confirmed it would be one event per day.

Mrs Diane Ward advised that the Whinney Hill Residents Group is concerned about the issue of noise in the Whinney Hill / Hallgarth Street area. Diane advised that the noise does travel a lot. Diane advised that she is concerned at potentially a 3 week long, 8 hours per day disturbance.

Ricky advised that he understood the concerns and he is keen to ensure that the scheduling is such that there are not continuous music events throughout the day. Kate advised that she would contact Diane as and when the programme is finalised.

Diane also asked if vans would still be in situ serving alcohol after the event. Ricky advised that they would not be. Diane advised that she is concerned at groups hanging around at the event after it is finished. Kate assured Diane that the event would be cleared completely of people.

Diane asked if the police would be able to put on further officers during the event. Ricky advised that the Safety Advisory Group also included the police who would be considering the application. Ricky also advised that he would not be able to confirm the police numbers at or around the time of the event.

Diane asked if the Community Response Team from Durham University would be increased in numbers to assist with the event. Ricky advised that he would look into this and report back to Diane.

Cllr R Cornwell asked if the plan for the event is flexible enough to be amended during the event if an issue comes up. Kate confirmed that this is flexible enough for this.

Cllr E Ashby asked that this event also be promoted to allow for non-student residents to be able to attend. Kate advised that this is intended as part of the marketing plan for the event.

## **6. Progressing the best run licensed premises in Durham City award**

Members **agreed** that this competition should be launched after 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 when all premises would be re-opened to the public.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting.

Signed,



**Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council Licensing Committee**