

## HOWTHELIGHTGETS IN SUMMARY OF APPLICANTS SUBMISSIONS

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1. This brief submission is aimed at assisting the Herefordshire Council Licensing Sub Committee, Officers and local residents who are party to above matter. In essence it summarises the submissions that the applicant will make to the Licensing Sub Committee on Wednesday 19 April.
  
2. The application is supported by a statement from Mandy Houghton (with appendices MH 1 – MH5).
  
3. **Council Licensing Act 2003 Policy**  
The Licensing Authority Policy (**Page 2**) recognises that the licensed entertainment business sector and community licensed facilities in Herefordshire contribute to the local economy and social infrastructure, HowTheLightGetsIn will make a significant contribution to the local economy (see the Economic Impact Assessment **paras 20 – 27** of the statement of Mandy Houghton and **MH2**). The Policy also acknowledges the need to strike the right balance between the needs of business and of local residents (**Forward by Chair of Licensing Committee**).
  
4. **HowTheLightGetsIn**  
HowTheLightGetsIn has a unique identity as a philosophy and music festival (**paras 6 - 16** of the statement of Mandy Houghton and **MH1**), providing significant benefit to the local community (**MH2**). It was founded in 2008 and has taken place in Hay since 2009, and from its current location since 2018. Historically the end time of the festival was 0200 but this was voluntarily reduced back to 0100 in 2022.
  
5. **Pre-Application – and on-going - consultation**  
Significant pre application consultation has been carried out with the licensing authority and responsible authorities (**paras 46 – 50** of the statement of Mandy Houghton). No adverse comments or suggested amendments to the operating schedule were received. A residents engagement letter was sent to all residents in the local area (Appendix 7 to **MH4**) in advance of submitting the application. Further consultation will be undertaken with the residents in advance of the event (Appendix 8 to **MH4**)
  
6. **The Application**  
The application is for a time limited licence from Friday 26 May 2023 to Monday 29 May 2023 (**para 5 on page 13** of the Report).

## **7. Operating Schedule**

The Application is supported by a substantial schedule for conditions (**pages 34 – 47** of the Report). In the course of the statutory consultation process none of the responsible authorities sought to add to or amend the draft operating schedule.

## **8. Event Management Plan (EMP) and Noise Management Plan (NMP)**

The EMP (**MH3**) is a significant and substantial document to which are attached a number of appendices setting out specific policies which include, amongst others the NMP (**MH4**). Both the EMP and NMP are living documents which will be the subject of on-going scrutiny by the Councils Safety Advisory Group, up to and during the event.

## **9. Responsible authorities**

The responsible authorities were part of the (significant) pre application and statutory consultation. The Committee will be familiar with **para 9.12** of the **Revised National Guidance dated December 2022** which states that “each responsible authority will be an expert in their respective field and in some cases, it is likely that a particular responsible authority will be the licensing authority’s main source of advice in relation to a particular licensing objective”. It is of significance that none of the responsible authorities, and in particular the Police and EHO, have not made representations to the application.

## **10. Representations**

There are 7 representations in support of the application. 5 of these are from local residents and one is from a local business (**pages 61 – 63** of the Report). There is a further representation in support of the application from Cusop Parish Council (**page 64** of the Report) in support of the application. There are 4 representations from local residents opposing the application (**pages 47 – 58** of the Report). The concerns of those residents who oppose the application are addressed in the statement of Mandy Houghton (**paras 54 – 55**) and in the response from Calvin Hanks (**MH5**).

## **Summary**

- HowTheLightGetsIn a unique festival
- The licence is time limited to 3 nights/4 days
- There is significant positive benefit to the local community
- There are no representations from the responsible authorities
- The application is supported by the local community and the Cusop Parish Council
- The application is supported by a substantial schedule of conditions
- The EMP and NMP will be the subject of on-going scrutiny by the SAG