

**How The Light Gets In Festival**

**APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE**

**HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

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**MH6 – Letters of support**

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19/04/24  
jackbiggs10@gmail.com

Hi Mandy,

Hope this email reaches you. I am just writing to let you know that I have only experienced positive things from how the light gets in and look forward to this year's festival.

I have lived at number 20 Bookers Edge (Newport Street) for over 5 years and have never experienced any issues with noise or problematic behaviour. I Personally think the festival benefits the whole of Cusop and brings money into the area. Although that does bring extra traffic It is no different from when Hay Festival is on.

Anyway best of luck for this year's festival!

Thanks,  
Jack Biggs

17/04/24

finbranson475@gmail.com

**To whom it might concern,**

**I am aware of the current license application for HowTheLightGetsIn Festival and as a resident of Bookers Edge (number 5) I live in very close proximity to the site (directly opposite the Co Op Entrance). I have never experienced any levels of anti social behaviour at all during the festival also.**

**I would like to state that I very much look forward to the event each year and I have not been disturbed by any noise from it over previous years. I am not aware of any road safety issues relating to the festival either, despite the increase in road traffic.**

**Myself and all my local family members and friends all agree that the festival is an enormous asset to the town and we look forward to it each year.**

**I hope this is helpful.**

**Your sincerely Finley Branson**

17/04/24

deb@francisedwards.co.uk

Dear Mandy

I am emailing you once again to offer you the full support of the Hay Cinema bookshop for the upcoming How The Light Gets in Festival 2024.

The Hay Cinema Bookshop is the largest of the Bookshops in Hay on Wye, and arguably the best. We have been located at the Old Cinema since the 1960s. We remain 100% supportive of HTLGI.

Whilst the mainstream Hay Festival is of course of great value to the town it is a decent one mile hike and it remains true that the clientele are actively encouraged to remain on site all day obviously to the detriment of the local businesses. HTLGI has fortunately filled that breach, actively promoting Hay on Wye as a venue and, being significantly closer to Hay on Wye remains very much a part of the town.

The local businesses make much of their profit during festival week, but obviously that will only continue if the clientele actually venture into Hay. We are of course very lucky to have two such interesting and diverse festivals, both of which receive significant attention worldwide.

Where else in our beautiful border country would you be lucky enough to listen to the Orb and (Former) Archbishop Rowan Williams next to the beautiful river Wye, whilst enjoying a delicious meal and sipping a glass of prosecco Should I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards

Deb Clark

Retail Director

Hay Cinema Bookshop

Hay Cinema Bookshop  
Castle Street  
Hay on Wye  
via Hereford  
HR3 5DF

01497 820071

[sales@francisedwards.co.uk](mailto:sales@francisedwards.co.uk)

[www.francisedwards.co.uk](http://www.francisedwards.co.uk)

'Francis Edwards' is part of Hay Cinema Bookshop Ltd.

Registered in England No. 2335573 at the Hay Cinema Bookshop, Castle Street, Hay on Wye, via Hereford, HR3 5DF

**19/04/24**

**paultrees@btinternet.com**

**Good morning,**

**I live at Rivers Edge, Newport Street, Hay on Wye, HR3 5BA, and am literally moments from the Festival Site. I just wanted to say that I have never experienced any nuisance or disruption from the Festival happening, whether in the form of noise, anti social behaviour or any other form of annoyance.**

**In fact, I believe the Festival contributes to the rich cultural diversity of our town, and brings a much welcome economic boost by attracting extra visitors.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Paul Trees**

**20/04/24**

[thehayrunner@gmail.com](mailto:thehayrunner@gmail.com)

I'm writing this to support the festival. As a resident of Millbank we live in close proximity to the festival.

We have no disruption to our lives during the few days it's on. In fact we feel our selves lucky to have such an amazing programme on the door step.

When Hay Festival took up its regular site off Brecon Road, shops and businesses on our side of town suffered.

HTLGI pulls visitors into town ensuring good trade for all. Our lovely town only survives because of visitors.

The organisers go out of their way to make HTLGI assessable to locals, giving affordable discounts on local tickets.

Of course we hear the music, but for 3 days we embrace it and take part.

Yours sincerely

Jo Lord

20/04/24

[sue@hayretreats.com](mailto:sue@hayretreats.com)

Dear Mandy

Thank you for the email you circulated to me and other residents some weeks back. I apologise for not replying sooner.

I am happy to say that I have no concerns to discuss with you, and wanted to write to reassure you on that score. As I think you know, I have a small holiday accommodation business that I run out of the two houses in Mill Bank immediately adjacent to where I live at no 24. Not only have I never received any complaints about noise or antisocial behaviour from any of my guests historically over the period that HTLGI and the main Festival have run, but I have never experienced any issues personally. This is very important to my business, as you might imagine.

I do spend quite a bit of time on site over the weekend that HTLGI runs. I have always been impressed by the friendly atmosphere between everyone. Generally people seem to be in good spirits and it has always felt very relaxed. I am usually there with my son Callum, who suffered a traumatic brain injury seven years ago, and I would not want to spend time there with him if I felt anything might trigger or upset him. Even walking down and back from the site can take ages, in a good way, as everyone wants to stop and chat.

I do understand that residents who have recently moved into the estate opposite the Coop may be affected more than me, and hope that should they have any concerns, that they have been in contact with you directly, as I have always felt you have been extremely approachable and always in problem solving mode. In my opinion, it would be unconstructive if they took their issues to Hay Town Council instead, without giving you the opportunity to resolve things.

I remember the days when HTLGI used to operate out of the Globe, almost directly opposite my house. Of course there was music into the evening. But I always took the view that it was only for one long weekend in the year, and that all those attending would also be bringing their business and money into the town. This injection into the local economy is more needed than ever, to tide over small businesses through the rest

of the year. And since the main Festival migrated to the far edge of town, fewer visitors from that end make it into the town centre.

I think it is a wonderfully stimulating and enjoyable weekend, which complements the main Festival. I have noticed how you make great efforts to include everyone, so that the event can be as enjoyable for locals as for those visiting.

I wish you every success this year and in the years to come.

Kind regards

Sue

**Sue Campbell**

**Hay Retreats**

20/04/24

mel@poetrybookshop.co.uk

Melanie Prince

The Poetry Bookshop

The Pavement

Lion Street

Hay-on-Wye

HR3 5BU

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to register my support for the How the Light Gets in Festival, not only as a business owner in the town but also as a resident of 25 years.

Hay is a vibrant independent town, but it most definitely has a short tourist season due to most of its attractions becoming increasingly more difficult to enjoy in the colder months of the year. As such we find ourselves with a short period of time in which to make a living so, I believe any initiatives that increase the number of visitors to the town such as this festival should be very much encouraged.

The high quality of the performers and world class writers & thinkers that this festival brings to this area, not only attracts large volumes of likeminded cultured visitors. It also improves the town's reputation and offers opportunities for residents to experience diverse cultures and viewpoints something our small town could achieve on its own.

Unlike, other nearby festivals it offers extremely generous discounts which allow locals and students an opportunity to experience this high calibre of artists and performers at an affordable price all on their doorstep. The festival's commitment to offering local businesses opportunities to trade & collaborate with the event is another example of the festival's commitment to supporting the local community.

The type of bookish cultured visitor it attracts is not commonly associated with anti-social behaviour and I have never observed or experienced any problems with vandalism or crime during this festival. I also think that the average age of visitor being much lower than the more established Hay Festival is to be commended and promoted, and very important if the town is to sustain a tourist economy in the future and should be encouraged.

If there is any disruption to our daily lives, I would argue that it is so short lived and completely outweighed by the value of the festival experiences on offer. I am proud to be a vocal supporter of this festival and its sister organisation The Globe, that does so much ALL year round to cater for and support the community of Hay.

Best regards,

Melanie Prince

Co-owner: The Poetry Bookshop

Trustee: Hay2Timbuktu

21/04/24  
david.cerami@gmail.com

Mandy,

We wanted to write with regard to our full support of the How the Light Gets In Festival. We have lived just 100m from The Globe and 400m from the festival itself and have never had any issues with sound or disturbances. We would be extremely sad to see the festival get restricted for any reason as we believe strongly in its value in the community. We hope the council hears our perspective and look forward to a wonderful festival!

Cheers,

David

**David Cerami**

[+1 917.952.5202](tel:+19179525202)

[david.cerami@gmail.com](mailto:david.cerami@gmail.com)

20/04/24

[bernieandlindacrook@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bernieandlindacrook@hotmail.co.uk)

12 Millbank  
Broad Street,  
Hay-on-Wye  
Hereford  
HR3 5DH

Mandy Houghton  
The Globe  
Newport Street  
Hay-on-Wye  
Hereford  
HR3 5BG  
20 April 2024

Dear Mandy

I am writing to express my support for the forthcoming How the Light Gets In Festival. I have lived at the above address, which as you know is very close to the Festival site, since 2016 and have always found the event to be extremely well organised. I have never been affected by noise or been aware of any issues with public disorder or nuisance behaviour connected with this event. My opinion is that the HTLGI Festival brings valuable visitors and revenue to our Town and I am very happy to give it my ongoing support.

Kind regards

Bernard Crook.

20/04/24

[lindacrookatmillbank@gmail.com](mailto:lindacrookatmillbank@gmail.com)

12 Millbank  
Broad Street,  
Hay-on-Wye  
Hereford  
HR3 5DH

Mandy Houghton  
The Globe  
Newport Street  
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Kind regards

Linda Crook.

19/04/24

[gillathay@icloud.com](mailto:gillathay@icloud.com)

Dear Mandy,

This email is to express my support for the How the Light gets in festival. I have lived opposite the Globe for more than ten years and having had a career in the arts I am very pleased to live near and endorse our local arts centre.

This annual festival is important to the town particularly in that it provides a weekend event that caters for young people and has an interesting music focus. Since the festival has moved to the site on the field near the Co-op there is very little noise pollution from either events or festival goers and it seems well organised. This festival also offers local caterers the opportunity to sell food onsite at a reasonable fee which is positive to the local economy.

Hay is a town that relies on its festivals and its bookshops to remain a successful tourist destination and therefore have a healthy economy. Both festivals contribute to this and How the Light Gets in is important in that it is bringing in a younger generation. Many of the festival goers camp near the site and we are never disturbed by any late night rowdiness.

The town does feel very busy during festival time but for most of the population it brings excitement and some very good talks and music to our doorsteps.

Long may it last.

Yours sincerely

Gill

Gill Lloyd  
Riverside  
Newport Street  
Hay on Wye  
HR3 5BG

20/04/24

[jcanoes@icloud.com](mailto:jcanoes@icloud.com)

I went to this festival for the first time in 2023 having never attended before although I have lived in the area for nearly 50 years.

It was beautifully set up, with a lot of locals being given work here and I was so impressed with the smooth running of the Festival and attitude of the staff on duty. They were so helpful and polite. It was clean and well managed.

I live close to the site and can occasionally hear some music but it does not go on late and I have never been troubled by it in any way.

In fact quite the opposite. I believe strongly that these Festivals are a huge asset to the town and to the people who are given opportunities both to work in them and to be a part of such an inspiring and educational event. It can shape the futures of young people and I applaud the organisers for their hard work and attention to detail.

I had the most memorable few days there, as did my children and my grandchildren.

Jane Hughes  
21 Millbank,  
Broad Street.  
HR35DH

19/04/24

[ruthiegilbert5@gmail.com](mailto:ruthiegilbert5@gmail.com)

We are writing this in support of the festival, How the Light Gets In.

I live with my husband Andrew and two young children. We live directly opposite the festival entrance at 3 Bookers Edge and attend the festival every year.

The festival is welcomed to the town, its tourism brings much-needed trade to our local shops and restaurants.

We are from a local farming family, which is on Nantyglassdwr Lane just up the road from the festival. Our family is in support of the festival and all the campsites.

The festival noise levels do not disturb us in any way, it is monitored by the festival and doesn't interrupt our sleep or everyday activities with the children. We appreciate the festival shuts off the music at an appropriate time in the evening.

We also haven't experienced any antisocial behavior outside our home during the festival, I feel confident if this were to happen it would be dealt with quickly by the festival security.

There are always people walking to town from the festival, but we have always been treated with respect by visitors at the festival, it can be busy at times but with the staff welcoming and directing the visitors it has no impact on us as residents living at Bookers Edge.

Looking forward to visiting the site again this year

Kind regards

Ruthie and Andrew Gilbert