

**From:** Councillor Paul Harrison <P.Harrison@sstaffs.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10:26 AM  
**To:** External Email for Licensing <Licensing@sstaffs.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** New Premises License Edward Marsh Centre Kinver/The Big Day Out 25th May

Dear Licensing Team,

I would like to register my formal objection to the above application. Firstly I am concerned that the application would allow for events every weekend which in itself would potentially be a major nuisance issue for local residents. However I also have specific concerns and objections based on public safety, nuisance and protection of children from harm.

#### Public Safety:

As advertised the planned event seeks to attract a significant number (several thousand) attendees. Given the event is being advertised on social media etc. (and the almost non-existent public transport to Kinver) it is inevitable that a large number of attendees will have to travel to the event by car. Whilst there is some limited car parking available on site this is usually fully utilised on Saturdays for other events in the village (football matches, the bowling club, miniature railway, senior citizens club etc.) The proposed date also clashes with the monthly Kinver Market. In addition to this the vehicle access to the Edward Marsh Centre (which is also the only access to houses on Sterrymere Gardens and the Senior Citizens club is single track along most of its length. It also has the river Stour on one side for some of its length and the open water of the Sterrymere on the other. As it is cars often park on the verges/alongside the wider sections of this access road at busy times (e.g. Saturdays). It is inevitable that there will be inconsiderate and potentially dangerous parking given the lack of designated and available parking for the event. This would potentially severely impede emergency service access to houses on Sterrymere Gardens, to the Edward Marsh Centre and the event site as well as to the Senior Citizens Club. Furthermore it seems likely that parking would inevitably occur outside the immediate area of the site potentially causing emergency access problems elsewhere in the village. It should also be noted that the entrance onto the Edward Marsh Centre from the main road is difficult with a difficult turn in coming from Potters Cross direction and limited visibility when pulling out onto the main road from the access road.

The parking problems are also likely to cause safety issues for pedestrians attending the event or indeed other activities in the area. For example, impeding the footpath/verge to the Edward Marsh Centre would push pedestrians either towards the river/Sterrymere or onto the road. Given that this is marketed as a family day out this is particularly an issue for children – either going to the event itself or to the play area on the site and to nearby football pitches for Saturday matches.

#### Nuisance:

In addition to public safety issues the increased traffic and parking issues are very likely to cause a significant nuisance to residents of Kinver. It is worth noting that the access to the site is off the main road through Kinver and is busy, especially on Saturdays. Given the lack of parking there is likely to be significant on-street parking on village roads which are simply not wide enough to take partial obstruction and maintain traffic flow. Access to residents' properties is likely to be impaired.

In addition to the parking/traffic issues there is the obvious issue of noise disturbance from outside music as planned for this event. There are a significant number of properties in Sterrymere Gardens, Mill Brook Meadow and Castle Street that are close to the site. Some residents of The Hyde- who have recently been affected by the nearby Chances Event at Stourton Court and are facing another event there close to this planned event, are also likely to be affected by noise.

Protection of Children from Harm:

Quite apart from questioning as to if the selling of alcoholic drinks is appropriate for an event marketed as a “family festival”, there are the pedestrian safety issues on the access/approach to the site that I have detailed above.

There is a real question as to how the event will be managed to avoid drunken behaviour that may impact on the large numbers of children who one assumes will attend this family event. There is also the question as to if the event will have enough suitable trained staff to handle alcohol sales – both to avoid drunkenness and also to avoid underage drinking. I note that the event is still advertising for bar staff and although the organisers say a Challenge 21 policy will be put in place it is difficult to see how this will happen in practice at a crowded event – especially if staff are overstretched or not trained.

I hope the above is clear, but I am happy to elaborate/clarify if it helps and, of course, I am always happy to discuss. I hope the above comments will be taken into consideration both with respect to the license application and review of the EMP and Sag meeting.

Best wishes,

Paul

**Dr Paul Harrison**

**Councillor**

**South Staffordshire Council**