

From: ps
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Councillor Roger Lees <r.lees@sstaffs.gov.uk>
Cc: John Chislett <J.Chislett@sstaffs.gov.uk>;
Subject: Himley Hall Glamping License objections

Councillor Roger Lees

r.lees@sstaffs.gov.uk

In answer to your objections, please find the following information which I hope will reassure you that Himley Hall Glamping will operate in a safe and responsible manner.

With regard to planning permission for a glamping site, this was agreed and we have a licence through Freedom Camping. In addition, we have had a number of site visits and discussions with the council's planning department and addressed any concerns they may have had.

1. Prevention of crime and disorder – The application does not show any details of how 150 people would be allocated into a confined area to prevent crime and disorder.

Sufficient number of door supervisors (if required); plastic cups & bottles used externally; regular glass collections; request photographic identification to control underage drinking; taxi booking service provided; CCTV in place; car park patrol.

The 2-and-a-half-acre garden is contained within 10/12ft walls with a single point of access to the car park

At most events, the guests are invited to attend. they are friends and family. thereby reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour

Where public events are held, they will be ticket only (craft sessions, Santa trail, forest school, mindfulness etc)

We plan to hold charitable events on a quarterly basis, linking in with the dragon boat racing, community organisations, Balls to Cancer, women's refuge, ravens rescue, homeless one are just a few of the charities supported.

We want to be a good neighbour and would be willing to host church/ parish council events if that was something that was thought appropriate.

2. Promotion of public safety – the parking space at the rear of the Lodge are not sufficient and there is no indication of any other parking areas which could result in public safety.

In addition to our own on-site parking, day guests will park off site within the Himley Hall parking area, using the designated pay stations.

Parking is discussed as part of our booking process.

The parking spaces associated with the garden can accommodate 20 vehicles.

Arrangements are being made with the management of Himley Hall & Park to afford up to

an additional 50 paying vehicles to park during each event and exit via the West Lodge car park gate if the park is closed. Carparking will be managed by site staff. On site vehicles will need to be logged in prior to the event with registration and names/contact information.

3. Prevention of public nuisance – 1. Where Live music is being played all music ceases at 11pm (indoors and outside) to prevent nuisance to local residents. 2. The plans do not show any toilets or cloakroom facilities which could result in people urinating in public, committing a crime resulting in disorder.

3.1 - Live music will stop by 11pm to avoid any disruption to the neighbours.

3.2 – Toilet facilities: There are 7 bathrooms within approximately 50' of the barn within the courtyard area and a wheelchair accessible bathroom and toilet being installed shortly and additional toilets are hired in dependent on numbers at a ratio of 1: 30 guests.

4. Protection of children from harm – The application does not have enough training and facilities in place to prevent harm to children.

The owner has over 40 years' experience of working with children and vulnerable community members.

The owner has qualifications in risk assessment, project management and health and safety.

Every event will be risk assessed accordingly

Access to the site is monitored throughout the event (including 24-hour availability of onsite resident owner.)

The BIAAB qualification required to become a personal licence holder is very clear about the need to protect children from harm. by engaging with the hirer during the booking and pre-event planning risks are identified and mitigated.

5. The applicant has stated that they will apply Challenge 25 but they have failed to provide suitable information as to how this will be met, what forms of ID will be acceptable, there is no mention on how they will deal with refusal sales, staff training and proxy sales.

Challenge 25 training for appropriate staff is planned as soon as possible after the application has been approved.

Challenge 25 posters will be on display in the venue. Under our Age Verification Policy, acceptable ID is one that includes the persons photograph, date of birth and a holographic mark and anyone who appears to be under the age of 25 will be required to produce acceptable ID.

A log will be kept of any refusal to sell alcohol, including for those suspected of purchasing alcohol for distribution to minors, anyone who is suspected to be inebriated or anyone who cannot verify their age through the presentation of acceptable ID.

Hirers are made aware of our policy on alcohol consumption. Our team are trained to challenge not only age but apparent inebriation.

Anyone appearing to be inebriated will be refused service and or removed from the premises.

Anyone found to be supplying alcohol to minors will be refused further service and reported to the police.

YN, Chair of Himley Parish Council

In answer to your objections, please find the following information (in blue) which I hope will reassure you that Himley Hall Glamping will operate in a safe and responsible manner.

Prevention of crime and disorder:

There are no toilets on the site, there are public toilets in the park the other side of the wall behind one greenhouse. However, the use of this facility would need the gate between the rear of the Lodge and the Park to be unlocked which would allow trespassers into the Park to vandalise/steal other property.

Toilet facilities: There are 7 bathrooms within approximately 50' of the barn within the courtyard area and additional toilets are hired in dependent on numbers at a ratio of 1: 30 guests.

Please see attached map to show the location of the bathrooms.

Promotion of Public Safety:

Organisation of film showing and music/dance events, is expensive and would need large audiences to pay for the set up.

Where are cars going to park, the parking space at the rear of the Lodge would only accommodate about 15 cars, the Hall grounds are closed at dusk. Parking on Dudley Road would cause traffic chaos, leading to accidents.

A directive was put on the drive at the side of West Lodge by Dudley MBC around 2016 when there were plans to use the site for the World Owl Centre. It stipulated that it was far too dangerous to be used as an exit from the Walled Garden area; it is on a road with a 60mph speed limit and on a slight double bend, so there is virtually no visibility to the east.

The parking spaces associated with the garden can accommodate 20 vehicles.

Arrangements are being made with the management of Himley Hall & Park to afford up to an additional paying 50 vehicles to park during each event and exit via the West Lodge car

park gate. Carparking will be managed by site staff. The vehicles will need to be logged in prior to the event with registration and names/contact information.

The speed limit of the road is 50mph. West Gate is used on a regular basis for events in the park. All residents of the lodge have used the exit to the road safely with no recorded accidents for a number of years. However, we are quite happy to request guests leave to the left only and turn round in the park's main entrance area if they wish to travel in the other direction.

We will work with South Staffordshire council to install signage if considered necessary

Showing of films/music – the events to be held within the Walled Garden and bar area will be private functions (birthday celebrations, wedding receptions, etc) and as a result there will be a limited and identifiable guest list. Entertainments will be booked and paid for by the client with agreement from the site manager.

We do not anticipate showing films, (this may be confused with drive in movies at Himley Hall) the site is too small for the large scale events that the park host.

I do need to make a living but I am not interested in spoiling this beautiful setting

We have been approached by a company who want to hold raves on site..... we have turned them away.

Management live on site; we want to be a part of our new community and for the site to be an asset to the area.

We aim to provide an intimate woodland venue, a safe and welcoming place to be, and a place that families come back to year after year.

We discourage any guests from parking on the public highway and at the 2 events held so far, this has not been an issue as parking is managed by staff.

Prevention of Public Nuisance:

The times requested, all days, 11am to midnight would cause noise nuisance and distress to local residents, keeping them awake at night, giving rise to health implications. 11pm would be a better cut off time.

In response to your concerns, Live music will stop by 11pm to reduce any disruption to the neighbours. A premises licence is a generic document and, as a business, we have to try to address possible eventualities before the event, however we anticipate most events will be happy to have a cut off time of 11pm for music. Only glamping residents/guests can remain on site after midnight (approximately 20).

The area being used is part of a much larger area with trees. How will the operators keep children from abuse with many out-of-sight places.

All children at any event on site will be accompanied by an appropriate adult.

RS

Objection to licensing applications in respect of the new glamping site at the old kitchen garden at himley House.

Prevention of crime and disorder:

Alcohol fuelled anti social behaviour.

Excessive use of alcohol anywhere could lead to crime and disorder, however all on site alcohol sales and consumption will be monitored and managed by site staff

b. Potential for criminality, e.g. sale and consumption of controlled substances.

Anyone suspected of selling or using controlled substances will be removed from site and or reported to the police

Public Safety:

a. Increase in the volume of traffic around Himley Park and surrounding area.

This is not a high-volume business. Special events are not expected to be more than 1 per week between April and October and 1 per month Nov to March. Maximum numbers are limited to 150, with the average being 60-80 guests.

b. Increase in antisocial behaviour in local area.

All guests remain onsite and leave in cars or taxis, not congregating in public spaces.

Public nuisance:

a. Impact of loud music, live or recorded on a daily basis upto and including midnight, on the local resident population.

There will be no live or recorded music on a daily basis, only for pre-booked events. We have listened to objections and agree to reduce the hours when music is played and alcohol is sold to 11pm.

b. Impact on the peace and tranquility of himley park discouraging regular users.

There will be no live recorded music on a daily basis. The venue is a walled, discrete space, attached to but not part of the park. Most park users will be unaware of an event taking place in the garden

c. Impact of additional traffic causing local congestion and degradation of air quality.

There will be no noticeable increase in traffic as we will be only hosting relatively small events compared to the volume of traffic that already accesses Himley Hall.

Staff are trained in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. information required prior to the event identifies who will be sleeping where no children will be left unaccompanied.

I have no intention of hosting events every night. The 3 day hire ensures a maximum of 2 events per week. We anticipate the majority of events will be held during the day and evening events will be managed to mitigate disruption to local residents.

Not all events will involve the sale of alcohol.

DH

Dear Sir / Madam,

In reference to the above subject, I have the following observations,

Prevention of Crime and Disorder --: The drinking hours should be reduced

We have agreed with Sth Staffs council to reduce the licencing hours to 11am to 11pm. Please note the bar will not be open on a daily or even weekly basis but only when pre booked for special events (weddings, special occasions)

Promotion of Public safety --: The outlet to the main road for vehicles is dangerous as the traffic is heavy and quick. It is also a Blind Spot.

West Gate is already used by Himley Hall for the entry and exit of traffic at major events. Events at Himley Hall Glamping are small and well managed by staff. Our traffic will exit from the car park at the rear of the lodge, in the same way that vehicles belonging to residents already exit. We advise our guests (maximum of 20 vehicles on site for any event) to turn left, with the flow of traffic, and seek a safe turning area such as the main entrance at Himley Hall.

We agree that road signs and speed limits could be improved along the whole length of the road that runs parallel with Himley Park between the junction with High Arcal Road towards Sedgley and the Himley crossroads.

Prevention of Public Nuisance --: Noise pollution, the hours for the various activities should be reduced.

We have agreed with Sth Staffs council to reduce the licencing hours to 11am to 11pm. Please note the bar will not be open on a daily or even weekly basis but only when pre booked for special events (weddings, special occasions)

JM

In response to your concerns, please find some information below that may go some way to reassure you that we will operate our business in a responsible and safe manner.

Please accept this email as an objection to the licence request for the glamping site in Himley.

Himley is a small village with a large number of elderly residents.

The increase in visitors to the area will increase the risk of crime, particularly when combined with alcohol and increases in antisocial behaviour.

Apart from a small number of glamping guests (maximum of 20) during the season of April to October, we will be operating events such as small weddings, corporate events, celebrations such as birthday parties and fundraisers. The average number of wedding guests are between 60 and 80. The maximum number of guests for any event is 150. All licenceable activity is managed within the walled garden and away from public areas. All alcohol sales will be managed safely and any clients deemed to be inebriated will be refused alcohol.

This is concerning to our most vulnerable residents as well as those residents with children.

Unlike the larger events run at the Hall, our clients and their guests will not congregate in the gate areas or other public areas as our private car park and gates are managed.

There is already provision for entertainment at Himley Hall as well as other local venues namely the Dudley Arms, country Club, cricket club and Himley House.

Our glampers will be encouraged to support local businesses when the venue does not have an event booked. The bar will not be open if there is no event booked.

The village already suffers from an increase in crime when events are in at Himley. The increase in traffic through the village is always a safety concern, particularly when visitors park and block roads.

None of our guests need to park on local roads as we have a carpark and access to the park's carparking areas. Many of our clients are from the local areas.

The suggestion of live music causes concerns and is a nuisance; particularly on an evening when the sound carries.

The volume of any event at Himley Hall Glamping is unlikely to carry the same volume as that of the highly amplified events at the Cricket Club or Himley Hall, as entertainers are operating in a smaller space, for a smaller audience. The venue is set in a wood and behind high walls, helping to baffle any sound.

Once again we are having to battle to retain the character of our village!

Himley Hall Glamping is aiming to work with the local community to support fundraising, hold local events, build community participation and retain the good character of Himley Hall. All the work we have completed in the past few years has been to enhance the site which we found to be in a dilapidated and neglected state. Our plans to work with Historic England to revive the original historic buildings will only serve to further enhance a Himley treasure for the enjoyment of the community.

CP

Dear Sir,

I would like to raise my objection to the proposed licenses for the Sale of Alcohol & Music both live and recorded at the newly opened Glamping site.

We already suffer from major increased traffic & littering issues on a general day to day basis which are then increased 10fold with every event held at Himley Hall.

This results in residents either having to pickup the usual rubbish left behind or waste many hours sending correspondence to both Dudley & South Staffs Councils to clear the area.

The event organisers never seem interested as are only interested in £'s profit with little interest in local residents.

I fear granting of any of these licenses especially until midnight on every night of the week will add significantly to public nuisance (noise pollution, traffic issues and crime and disorder)

Its only a matter of time before we see a fatal accident on either the A449 or the B4176 around the Himley traffic light junction.

There is already a significant local drink & drugs issue from the amount of debris left behind so for the prevention of crime and disorder these license applications should be dismissed out of hand from the beginning.

The venue will not be serving alcohol every night of the week but only when an event (wedding, special occasion, etc) is pre booked, which would be generally on a Saturdays between April and September.

Himley hall hosts a number of events attracting thousands of people. We would have a maximum capacity of 150 and would expect the average event to be between 60 and 80 people.

We are happy to agree to limiting the selling of alcohol and playing amplified music to 11pm. All non-residents "Glampers" are be required to leave the site in a quiet and orderly fashion by 12 midnight at latest

We have held 2 events this year, one was a promotional event between 11am and 3pm and one was a 50th birthday party. Both had live music, one had a bar and the other did not. We received no complaints of disturbance, drunkenness, litter or anti-social behaviour in the area. In addition we have already turned down bookings for a music night and an 18th birthday party as this is not the direction we want the business to go in for a number of the reasons you state above.

I hope you can bring these issues to a formal dismissal without revisiting as both Himley village & Himley Hall grounds have a Conservation Area status which are beyond reproach.

CH

I am emailing you about the application for the licensing of the Glamping Site at Himley Hall for the provision of Live/Recorded Music and the supply of alcohol between the hours of 11am to midnight everyday of the week.

The venue will not be serving alcohol every night of the week but only when an event (wedding, special occasion, etc) is pre booked, which would be generally on a Saturdays between April and September.

Himley Hall already hosts very large events and allowing another venue within close

Himley hall hosts a number of events attracting thousands of people. We would have a maximum capacity of 150 and would expect the average event to be between 60 and 80 people.

proximity will encounter enormous problems for the small hamlet of Himley with extra traffic, parking and noise issues.

The serving of alcohol till midnight in itself creates anti social behaviour with people leaving the venue in the early hours of the morning creating disturbances at that time with drunken behaviour. This has been most apparent with all the other licensed premises/venues which Himley is swamped with already.

We are happy to agree to limiting the selling of alcohol and playing amplified music to 11pm. All non residents are required to leave the site in a quiet and orderly fashion by 12 midnight at latest

The fact we should be allowed to have quiet enjoyment in our own homes is highly

questionable when another venue is being allowed to apply for this, given the fact there are far too many places selling alcohol, late night music, anti social behaviour we certainly don't need another application for all that's been proposed.

This is not acceptable, and equally not fair that something that was supposedly a "Luxurious Glamping Site", with this application seems to be turning into a site for revellers and with no consideration for Himley village been given.

We have held 2 events this year, one was a promotional event between 11am and 3pm and one was a 50th birthday party. Both had live music, one had a bar and the other did not. We received no complaints of disturbance, drunkenness or anti-social behaviour in the area. In addition we have turned down bookings for a music night and an 18 year old birthday party.

We have always been patient, tolerant and supportive of the many venues here, but this is going one step too far.

I hope due consideration will be given of the above, and look forward to hearing from

JS

I wish to register my strong objection to the application regarding Himley Hall Glamping Site license

As an elderly resident of Himley village I find this totally unacceptable for the following reasons

The license is requested every day from 11am till Midnight. When events are held at Himley Hall I can hear the music etc from my home and while this is acceptable on a few occasions the thought of all day, every day events especially the music would make my retirement totally unbearable

There will be no live or recorded music on a daily basis, only for pre-booked events. We have listened to objections and agree to reduce the hours when music is played and alcohol is sold to 11pm.

The extra traffic and people in this area would make this area congested and would increase the amount of crime and disorder this small village cannot cope with especially when an alcohol license is requested 11am to Midnight every day.

There are sufficient establishments in the area to supply alcohol as required and the effect of all day drinking every day fills me with horror.

The crime rates will soar and the potential for disorder and safety concerns for residents let alone the nuisance it will cause really disturb me.

We have held 2 events this year, one was a promotional event between 11am and 3pm and one was a 50th birthday party until 12pm. Both had live music, one had a bar and the other did not. We received no complaints of disturbance, drunkenness or anti-social behaviour in the area. In addition, we have turned down bookings for a music nights and an 18 year old birthday parties as this is not the direction we want the business to go in for a number of the reasons you state above.

I also worry for the safety of children who might be glamping, in the area or residents of the village.

Once again I repeat that I strongly oppose this license request for the disruption and potentially harmful effects it will bring to our small village and its residents.

LM PLANNING

In answer to your objections, please find the following information which I hope will reassure you that Himley Hall Glamping will operate in a safe and responsible manner.

1. The premises licence runs from April to October (in line with the glamping use of the site)

We anticipate the majority of use of the site will be between April and October. However, we must make allowance for promotional events outside of this period.

2. No more than two events per month to take place with the venue given written notice to the planning and licensing authority of the events.

We would be prepared to agree to up to 4 late night (weddings/parties) events per month between April and October and two events per month between November and March inclusively.

(Need to clarify whether “events” covers all activity on site rather than weddings/ parties? Would need to be more than 1 per month to accommodate Santa Christmas events and other daytime/ early evening family events).

3. No Live or recorded music to be played after 11pm either inside or outside

Live music to be limited to 11pm and recorded music to be limited to indoors only at room volume after 11pm at the bar and immediate surrounding area. The bar will be closed no later than 12 midnight.

High walls around the site significantly reduce noise transmission.

(Monitoring recorded music use beyond the bar at night is difficult, as this may simply be someone using their iPhone in or outside their glamp)

booking conditions specify that people need to consider our neighbours and would be asked to reduce the volume of music after 11pm if necessary

DP

we have informed Sth Staffs Council that we would be quite happy with an 11pm licence for music and the sale of alcohol and assume this will be reflected as/when the license is granted.

DC

Dear sir or Madam,

We strongly object to the Licence application for alcohol and music at Himley Hall Glamping Site on the following grounds.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please see Preamble attached

[REDACTED]

We object for the following reasons -

1, 11am to 12pm is absolutely ridiculous.

Live music will stop by 11pm to reduce any disruption to the neighbours. A premises licence is a generic document and, as a business, we have to try to address possible eventualities before the event, however we anticipate most events will be happy to have a cut off time of 11pm for music. Only glamping residents/guests can remain on site after midnight (approximately 20).

The bar will not be open daily, only for booked events, most of which will be at the weekend.

2. Alcohol easily available is open to abuse, which can cause anti- social behaviour.

This is a Glamping site where customers can if they wish bring and consume their own alcohol, as they might at home. We believe that the addition of a licensed bar will in effect discourage this and allow us to better manage the consumption of alcohol on the site. We must also stress that the bar will not be open on a daily basis and only for pre booked private events (weddings, birthday parties, etc)

3. Music will be a disturbance to Glampers / Campers who want a quiet break and also surrounding residents who don't want to hear loud music all day.

As a Glamping site, customers can of course use personal music players. The business would only supply music if required for a managed/pre booked event, which would cease by 11pm and managed regarding volume. We have held 2 events in May/June this year, both of which had live music, with no complaints from local residents.

4. Alcohol leads to crime and disorder.

Excessive use of alcohol, may lead to crime and disorder, however all alcohol sales and consumption will be monitored and managed by site staff

5. Alcohol may cause safety issues, for example fires and driving offences.

Excessive use of alcohol, may cause safety issues, however all alcohol sales and consumption will be managed and monitored by site staff

If Glampers do want an alcoholic drink, there is a public house within walking distance.

The bar will not be open for glampers. The bar will only be open for pre-booked events when the whole venue is reserved by the client: whole site hire includes all glamping units.

