

Representations received

No.1, Lydart

Please find below the reasons why myself and my husband strongly object to the licensing of the Devauden Festival at the above address. I have attempted to organise our concerns under the headings which I believe are most relevant for consideration under licensing regulations.

We sincerely hope that Monmouthshire County Council see reason and refuse this licensing application. There are other more appropriate venues in the area where this could be held (Chepstow Racecourse, Monmouth Showground, etc.)

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

We feel safety needs to be a huge priority. The venue is large and backs onto forestry land and there are also public footpaths. How can such a large perimeter be controlled over such a long time period. This could lead to gate crashing and also entice drug dealing/drug taking.

We are also concerned that the number of people there and the level of alcohol consumption may lead to burglaries (which we already are victims of) as well as drunkenly disorder.

Public Safety

We have grave concerns regarding the excessive amount of traffic which a festival of this size will generate on these minor roads, which are not at all suitable owing to a very poor road infrastructure, narrow one track lanes, steep hills and an inordinate amount of potholes at the moment. We also experience on a daily basis excessive speeds on the B4293 along with a large amount of traffic. We have sadly been witness to tens of accidents over the last decade, some being fatalities.

The access into the venue is also unsuitable with poor visibility combined with the aforementioned traffic speeds. With an estimated 4999 tickets limit daily for the 3 days, plus any catering vehicles, delivery vehicles and other services needed to be provided that is a lot of transport on a most unsuitable road network. Safety for other road users has to be a priority surely. Monmouthshire County Council promotes this area for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, and I myself walk that road several times a day with dogs, often taking my life into my own hands.

We also question how so much raw sewage will be dealt with in an appropriate and timely fashion. We are aware that Devauden residents complained about the smell of sewage for several days, if not weeks after the last event.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

The event is applying for very long hours of alcohol to be served each day/night along with the venue already having licences for other businesses they have there

already. The event is also applying for very long hours of music to be broadcast. Whilst this might appear to be a rural location, there are in fact many nearby residential properties and given the topography of the land, the sound will carry for miles. We often hear bonfire night or other events travelling up several miles from Monmouth. This event over 3 days and nights will create noise disturbance for residents and also causing fear and harm for animals (both domestic and farm), not to mention the fact that this area boasts wonderful wildlife which will be frightened away at the height of nesting season.

It is bad enough trying to keep our animals calm during bonfire night or New Years Eve, but at least that is only for a few hours for one night. This event will be continuous.

Protection of Children from Harm

We are concerned that owing to the size of the venue and the fact that music and alcohol will be served for such long hours, that this is not a suitable environment for young children. We are also concerned that there are many ways of exiting the site through the forestry land behind (and public footpaths), which could cause children to become lost or in danger.

No.2, Lydart

The festival involves live and recorded music, together with other events, using 5 stages, camping and other facilities, including the supply of alcohol for 8 hours on the Friday; 12 hours on the Saturday and 11.5 hours on the Sunday, with a predicted attendance of c. 5000 people per day. This will inevitably result in completely unacceptable levels of noise and traffic congestion along very narrow lanes causing safety issues and great inconvenience to all road users, particularly those who live in the network of narrow lanes surrounding the festival site. We are also concerned with possible behaviour issues with alcohol being available for such long periods to such a large number of people over the three days.

We understand that the festival has moved sites from Devauden to Penallt due to it having outgrown the original site. While the site at Humble by Nature may be bigger, the local rural road infrastructure in this area is wholly unsuitable for the large volumes of traffic that the festival would inevitably attract. This was less of a problem in Devauden which is on a main road between Monmouth and Chepstow. Furthermore, there are no local shops anywhere in the area, necessitating further travelling between the site and Monmouth for those needing provisions. This means that traffic issues will be ongoing and not limited just to the arrival and departure of festival goers.

We note that complaints about significant noise and site safety concerns were raised with Devauden CC after last year's festival. Noise levels were reported to be too high and continued after the music licence period. The DCC minutes state that some of this feedback came directly from festival volunteers but that the festival organisers

seemed unwilling to engage in discussion about these concerns; this does not bode well for this year's festival.

Penallt and Lydart are small rural communities and, given the huge number of festival goers, large numbers of whom will be camping in fields close to our property, it is totally unacceptable that there has not been any local consultation whatsoever, particularly since festival tickets have been on sale since last November.

We would like to reiterate and record our very strong objections to this licence application