

## **Avebury Parish Council**

**Application for premises licence for the National Trust Estate, Avebury, SN8 1RF (including the Estate Office, Avebury Manor, Avebury Manor Garden, Avebury Manor Parkland, Museum and Racquets Court Store, Dovecote, Circles Café, Great Barn, National Trust 'Farmyard', Education Centre, Shop and Coach House) for plays, films, live music, recorded music, performance of dance and the supply of alcohol and, on one day a year at summer solstice, late night refreshment at the Coach House.**

The Parish Council considered this application at its meeting on 1 March 2016.

The Parish Council objects to the application. It should be refused, or amended to resolve the Parish Council's concerns, or withdrawn so that a process of consultation can take place and proper consideration can be given on the implications of the proposal.

The Parish Council foresees that public nuisance, issues of public safety and crime and disorder could result. In particular, issues of noise, traffic congestion, inconsiderate parking, poor crowd behaviour, litter, conflicts with spiritual observances, bad behaviour consequent on the effects of alcohol and damage to Scheduled Monuments could arise.

The Parish Council has the following concerns:

### **1. Multiple licensable objectives and premises**

The application is not for one building like a cinema or pub. It relates to 12 buildings or parcels of land and six Licensable Objectives, and a late night refreshment licence for the Coach House. The applicant is therefore seeking a single licence for 73 possible combinations of uses and premises. The application form gives very little detail on their nature, and different implications of each of these combinations will arise. A licence should not be granted on the blanket basis the applicant requests.

### **2. Impact on the village**

The 12 National Trust premises for which the licence is sought are in or around the centre of a village. Many residents have their permanent homes in Avebury and it is not reasonable for a blanket licence to be given to the applicant to sell alcohol and to hold licensable events of any size, type and frequency as the applicant might decide. The greater the number of venues for sales of alcohol and licensable events and the greater their frequency, the greater residents will be exposed to public nuisance, issues of public safety and crime and disorder. The same issues will also affect many local employees and a significant proportion of the 250,000 – 300,000 visitors that come to Avebury annually. Some gatherings of visitors in any case already result in informal drumming and other uncontrolled activities. A blanket licence should not be granted.

### **3. Alcohol**

The proposed licence would allow alcohol to be sold and/or consumed at 12 different outlets/sites, both within buildings and out of doors. This is an excessive number of outlets/sites in a small village that already has a licensed pub and shop. The application also covers a large area of the village, much of which is open to the public and is hard or impossible to control. The Parish Council foresees that a blanket licence could expose

Avebury to public nuisance, issues of public safety and crime and disorder. In particular:

- a. A licence to sell alcohol at the Coach House conflicts with the purpose of a licence for Late Night Refreshment at summer solstice. While the Parish Council welcomes the National Trust's policy of selling snacks and non-alcoholic drinks during one night at solstice to reduce inebriation, it objects to an alcohol licence being given. National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd is also currently applying for planning permission on the Coach House, and states in its indicative menu in its Statement of Operation that only soft drinks will be sold. No licence to sell alcohol should therefore be granted. If at a later date the applicant wishes to sell alcohol at the Coach House, new planning and licensing applications should be made.
- b. The sale of alcohol at Avebury Manor Garden, Avebury Manor Parkland and the National Trust's 'Farmyard' is unnecessary if the nearby buildings of Avebury Manor and Circles Café are licensed. Licensing them also increases the number of outlets locally to excessive levels and reduces controls of alcohol sales in the village, especially as Avebury Manor Parkland and the National Trust's 'Farmyard' are large areas of land that are open to the public. Avebury Manor Garden, Avebury Manor Parkland and the National Trust's 'Farmyard' should not be designated as premises for the sale of alcohol and should not be included in a blanket licence. If individual events are planned, a specific application should be made for each event so that the risks and implications of each one can be consulted upon, assessed and suitable conditions imposed.
- c. The sale and/or consumption of alcohol at the Estate Office, Museum and Racquets Court Store, Dovecote, Great Barn and Education Centre would be contrary to the natural uses of these buildings and their basic purposes. They would also increase the number of outlets for alcohol sales to excessive levels. They should not be designated as premises for the sale of alcohol and should not be included in a blanket licence.

A blanket licence for alcohol sales should not be granted.

#### **4. Plays, films, live music, recorded music and performance of dance**

National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd can currently benefit without a licence from Entertainment Exemptions for four of the Licensable Objectives applied for (unamplified live music, plays, films and performance of dance) if audience sizes do not exceed 500. A licence is therefore unnecessary if events are going to attract audiences of less than 500 and a licence should not be granted for these uses.

The applicant can currently benefit without a licence from Entertainment Exemptions for two of the Licensable Objectives (amplified live music and recorded music) on premises licensed to sell alcohol if audience sizes do not exceed 500. A licence is therefore unnecessary if events are going to attract audiences of less than 500 in such venues, and a licence should not therefore be granted. The Parish Council is however concerned that public nuisance, issues of public safety and crime and disorder could result if amplified and/or recorded music will be played inside buildings licensed to sell alcohol and even more concerned if such music is played outside such buildings.

Avebury Manor Garden, Avebury Manor Parkland and the National Trust 'Farmyard' should not be given licences to sell alcohol, and no blanket licence to sell alcohol or hold licensable events should be granted for them. If the applicant wishes to hold a licensable event at these three venues, a specific application should be made for each event so that the risks and implications of each one can be consulted upon, assessed and suitable conditions imposed.

The applicant can currently benefit without a licence from Entertainment Exemptions for one Licensable Objectives (amplified live music) in a workplace that is not licensed to sell alcohol if audience sizes do not exceed 500. Avebury Manor Garden, Avebury Manor Parkland and the National Trust's 'Farmyard' are not, however, primarily workplaces for employment such as offices or factories that contain equipment for work such as desks, communications systems and assembly lines. Instead, the large majority of people occupying these areas are tourists who visit Avebury to take their leisure and arguably get away from work. They should not be considered workplaces and no licence for any amplified live music should be granted. If the applicant wishes to hold a licensable event at these three venues, a specific application should be made for each event so that the risks and implications of each one can be consulted upon, assessed and suitable conditions imposed.

If the applicant is planning to hold events for more than 500 people, the Parish Council has great concern that public nuisance, issues of public safety and crime and disorder could result. The Parish Council is, for example, aware of the huge task of managing and policing summer solstice when the National Trust, in particular, makes much valued but complex and expensive arrangements to cope with about 1,000 to 2,500 people coming to Avebury at midsummer. A blanket licence as requested should certainly not be granted for events of over 500 people. If the applicant intends to hold large events, an application for a specific licence for each event should be made so that the risks and implications of each one can be consulted upon, assessed and suitable conditions imposed.

If, contrary to the Parish Council's representations, a blanket licence is issued in respect of the above Licensable Objectives in this section it should contain a condition that the applicant will consult with the Parish Council on each event and take such action as the Parish Council may request to minimise adverse impacts.

#### **5. Avebury Henge and Stone Circle as a Scheduled Monument**

The plan accompanying the application is inaccurate and/or unclear. A red line shows that the north-west quadrant of Avebury Henge and Stone Circle is included in the area for authorised licensable activities and consumption of alcohol, but a note states that no licensable activities will take place in it. It appears however that the consumption of alcohol would be permitted on it. Direct access to it can also be gained through a field-gate at the rear of the Coach House.

The Henge and Stone Circle is a Scheduled Monument of international importance. It is subject to State controls and is open to the public at all times. It is not appropriate that it should be subject to any risk at all that public nuisance, crime and disorder and issues of public safety could arise. As a Scheduled Monument, it is also inappropriate that any

organisation or individual should hold a licence for Licensable Objectives on this parcel of land.

The Henge and Stone Circle should be totally excluded from any licence for the sale/consumption of alcohol or licensable event. Any plan accompanying an application or consent should be redrawn to exclude it and remove any ambiguity.

**6. The need to prevent damage to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site through public nuisance, crime and disorder and issues of public safety**

The context of the application is that Avebury is an internationally important World Heritage Site. It aims to achieve world class standards for all its visitors, residents, employers and employees. It is essential that the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site is not damaged by negative impacts of licensable activities. The Parish Council requests the Licensing Committee to apply special tests when considering this application and to impose stringent safeguards in conditions in any licence. The following policies are relevant:

- a. The World Heritage Site Management Plan 2015, to which the National Trust is a signatory, is a material planning consideration. Policy 1d states that *'Development which would impact adversely on the WHS, its setting and its attributes of Outstanding Universal Value should not be permitted'*. A blanket licence would intensify the use of buildings and land, and open up the risk of untoward impacts.
- b. The Plan aims to avoid concentrating visitors in the centre of the World Heritage Site by dispersing them to other parts of it. The proposed licence runs counter to this objective.
- c. The vision of the Plan includes the statement *'We will work together to care for and safeguard this special area and provide a tranquil, rural and ecologically diverse setting for it and its archaeology'*. Licensable activities are not a priority in the vision and are not included in it.

**7. Intensification of use and the future**

The application is part of a wider initiative by the applicant to intensify the use of the National Trust's land and buildings to increase income. The Parish Council understands the need for income but foresees that, as pressure for funding increasingly mounts, National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd would have incentives to promote an increasing number of initiatives for commercial reasons. The Parish Council foresees that these will bring corresponding risks of increasing public nuisance, issues of public safety and crime and disorder.

**8. Limited period of consent**

Given the sensitive location of the sites and the complexity of possible interactions, the Parish Council requests that any licence, apart from licences for specific events, is only given for two year periods and that biennial reviews are held by all interested parties.

18 March 2016