

The applicant and all representors were asked the following questions:

Additional Details Required from Applicant Listed Below.

Applicant	Additional Details
Gemma Howarth - RSPB	<p>Having considered the controls offered to promote the licensing objectives in the operating schedule, provide specific details about the effect of the licence being granted on the promotion licensing objectives, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevention of crime and disorder, • Public safety, • Prevention of public nuisance, and • The protection of children from harm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How you will control the noise/anti-social behaviour from patrons both entering and leaving the premises • If the council is minded to grant the licence, are there any conditions that you wish to propose to support the licensing objectives?

Additional Details Required from all Representors Listed Below.

Representor	Additional Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr & Mrs Douglas • Mr D Warsop • Cllr J Peck • Mr & Mrs Turner • Ms E Smith • Mrs Burrells • Ashley Sansom • Edwinstowe PC 	<p>Having considered the controls offered to promote the licensing objectives in the operating schedule, please can you provide specific details about the effect of the licence being granted on the licensing objectives, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevention of crime and disorder, • Public safety, • Prevention of public nuisance, and • The protection of children from harm <p>Please detail any conditions that you would like the Licensing Panel to consider attaching to the license if they are minded to grant it.</p>

A response has been received from Ashley Sansom below:

Ashley Sansom

The Application and Licensing Objectives provide little detail about the mechanics of how their “improved visitor offer” will work. They have a tiny café and outdoor seating area which is not well used from what I can see on my daily walks. The provision of a license may improve usage but will not address the poor menu and lack of decent facilities. My assumption is that this is not the main reason for the application and that the RSPB wish to offer and profit from alcohol sales and car park revenue at their numerous existing and planned outdoor events.

Provision of alcohol to groups attending these events has the potential to impact on each of the four objectives in the following ways:

- **Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

The effects of alcohol on groups of people is hard to predict and better minds than mine have addressed this issue as I’m sure the Licensing Committee has. One unknown is the type of audience the RSPB wish to attract to their diverse new offering of entertainment. There is a potential for quiet and well-behaved gatherings to enjoy Shakespeare or poetry readings. Conversely the amphitheatre could host loud amplified musicians. This would attract a different clientele.

Alcohol served to large or medium sized groups can alter the dynamics dramatically. This in turn can cause disorder and as inhibitions are washed away by drinking criminal activities can begin- pickpockets could circulate easily amongst the gathering.

I won’t attempt to list all of the types of disorder and crime that can affect drink fuelled entertainment gatherings. I’ve been to plenty of these myself and they can be great fun. Almost always the gatherings are managed by companies that are well versed in controlling situations that arise when excessive drinking takes place.

One of the problems with the proposed venue is the open access/egress available from all directions. This would make it very difficult to control criminals entering and leaving the arena and indeed managing any disorder that occurs during or in the aftermath of performances.

- **Public Safety**

Once again the sparse detail of what types of performances are proposed makes it difficult to judge the potential for unsafe situations to arise. This venue is intended to be a family orientated day out and hitherto alcohol has been absent. This is a common sense prohibition as inebriated drinkers could spoil a day out during the normal opening hours. If the wrong thing is said to a person who is the worse for drink, a fight could begin very quickly. There is no point in taking this risk.

The special events present a different challenge to protecting the public. Inadequate lighting and poorly defined routes into and out of the Visitor Centre and Car Park could pose a serious risk to persons who have been drinking. The potential for fighting and arguments getting out of hand during certain performances could pose challenges for those managing the events.

- **Public Nuisance**

This is the easiest aspect to predict. Others have commented on the disruption already caused by the new Visitor Centre being placed directly adjacent to homes and our Youth Hostel. When alcohol is added to the mix with late night closures of events, these disturbances will be louder and later than before.

The effect of inebriated concert goers leaving the venue en masse on foot or by vehicle will cause noise and potential danger both on the pavements and small roads of our village.

The chances of adequately controlling the behaviour of an inebriated audience so close to residential premises is a huge challenge and one that I doubt any security company would succeed in. Why take this risk. Conditions 020 and 021 of the original planning application preclude it and it surprises me that the Licensing Application has even reached this stage.

- **The Protection of Children form Harm**

It is an anathema to attempt to introduce a drinking culture to what is simply a venue for a wholesome family day out. Why should parents need to steer their children away from inebriated clientele of the café or move them along from the playground that is directly overlooked by the café and outdoor seating? There is no good reason save that of increasing the Applicant's revenue.

The harm that this does is long-term. Children may have parents who like to drink alcohol. The current lack of a license means that this venue at least, despite the many shortcomings, is a safe haven where they can concentrate on enjoying themselves and not being worried about tensions among the grown-ups whether these happen to be their parents or others within earshot.

Conditions to Consider if a License is Granted

The objections made to the Licensing Application make clear the lack of trust Edwinstowe residents and Council members have in the RSPB (and their partners) stewardship of the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre. The Visitor Centre is a huge expensive building that in fact delivers almost nothing to the visitor, save for a huge gift shop, a tiny café and toilet facilities. There is no attempt to educate visitors about local wildlife or indeed the main reason for most visits- the legend of Robin Hood.

Other objectors have cited the scruffy and unfinished area around the new building. The state of the sewerage system is unsatisfactory as those who live or walk close to the Visitor Centre can testify. There is frequently a pungent smell of human waste. The attempts to rectify this have not so far succeeded.