

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 • Mrs E Pearson 	<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 from 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's (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.

My own observations echo those above and extend to the following matters. I suggest that whether or not a License Application is accepted each of the following matters needs to be resolved. If a license is to be granted this should be conditional these issues being addressed:

1. **The Applicant should provide and make available a professional Risk Assessment for the use of the Visitor Centre for outdoor performances with alcohol available.**
2. Lighting is inadequate for events after dark. Lighting will be required on all pathways between the event area and the car park. **Provide adequate lighting.**
3. **Prevent access to the pond in front of the Visitor Centre.**

4. **Tidy up the scruffy fencing and tree stumps used for path borders around and near the cricket pitch- hazardous to walk around in the dark or inebriated.**
5. **Tidy up the staff car park at the rear of the visitor centre as this would undoubtedly be used by performers.**
6. **Ask RSPB to consider having performances away from the Visitor Centre in any of the suitable forest clearings- noise control.**
7. **Specify decibel limit for all performances.**
8. **Prohibit traffic associated with performances between Visitor Centre and Forest Corner after 1700hrs or before 0800.**
9. **Work with NSDC and Edwinstowe Parish Council to avoid parking for night time events and also day time festival events spilling onto the village streets causing local disturbance.**
10. **Provision of adequate toilet facilities and temporary barriers to avoid audiences using the Forest to relieve themselves.**
11. **Rectify long-term toilet/sewerage issues at the Visitor Centre.**
12. The area has cement waste pipe litter bins that were installed in the 1970's. These were never adequate and there are not enough of them. A lot more high standard bins enabling recycling are required for day to day activities. The proposed outdoor events will need even more litter facilities. **More recycling and general waste bins.**
13. If a license is to be granted this should be for a trial period of 3 months only to allow all parties to see what (if any) problems arise. **Limit tenure of license for reconsideration after a short period.**
14. **The RSPB and their partners have lost the confidence of Edwinstowe residents that they are fit to operate the Visitor Centre. The Centre has been a great disappointment to locals and visitors alike. Before embarking on new licensed activities the core aims of the Visitor Centre should be successfully addressed. Before any license is granted I propose face to face meetings with responsible persons at RSPB, NCC etc. between village residents and councillors to foster an understanding of each other's concerns and aims.**

A response has been received from Gemma Howarth at RSPB below:

Having considered the representations received RSPB Sales Ltd. proposes the following changes to the licence application;

- Live Music to be changed from 1000-2300 to 1000-2200
- Recorded Music to be changed from 1000-2300 to 1000-2000
- Other activities of a similar nature to be changed from 1000-2300 to 1000-2000
- Alcohol Sales to be changed from 1000-2300 to 1000-2230

I would ask for the following to be taken into consideration when reviewing the application;

- We are aware that some of the time periods included in this application are not aligned with the current planning conditions. However, we will be looking to address this disparity in the future but until such a point we will not operate outside of the provision of our planning permission.
- Most of the frequencies stated per year could be attributed to existing events e.g. 9 days are already allocated to existing festivals which operate in normal opening hours.
- Many of the events are in development and as such numbers for initial attendance are unlikely to exceed 500 attendees.
- Live music will consist of historical musicians and local choirs not commercial bands/artists.
- Plays will consist of partnerships with outdoor theatre companies e.g. Shakespeare's Globe Tour.

- Alcohol sales will be in the form of Sherwood/Medieval/Robin Hood themed/souvenir ales, wines & meads and not the re-sale of commercially available alcoholic beverages.

To further support our licensing objectives, we will:

- Agree to the additional conditions as set out by Nottinghamshire Police (listed below):
 1. A bound and sequentially paginated incident book or electronic record shall be kept to record all instances of disorder, damage to property and personal injury at the premises. This book shall be made available for inspection and copying by the Police or any other authorised person upon request and all such books shall be retained at the premises for at least 12 months.
 2. All staff engaged or to be engaged in the sale of alcohol on the premises shall receive the following training in age restricted sales:
 - a. Induction training which must be completed and documented prior to the sale of alcohol by the staff member.
 - b. Refresher/reinforcement training at intervals of no more than 6 months.
 - c. Training records will be retained at the premises for a minimum period of 12 months and available for inspection upon request by a Police Officer and/or authorised person.
 3. A Challenge 25 scheme shall operate at the premises. Any person who appears to be under 25 years of age shall not be allowed to purchase alcohol unless they produce an acceptable form of photo identification. (e.g. passport, driving licence, Military ID or PASS accredited card).
 4. Challenge 25 notices shall be displayed in prominent positions throughout the premises
- We will work with reputable 3rd party companies for the delivery of events who have experience of working under specified restrictions.
- We will ensure that in addition to appropriate levels of stewarding we will provide signage onsite to advise attendees about expected behaviours when arriving, whilst onsite & on departure.
- All vehicles leaving events will be directed to the North when exiting the Car Park.