

NEW LICENCE

GREENMAN FESTIVAL

Application by the Green Man Festival applying for a Licence to increase attendance numbers from 14,999 to 19,999 to include artists and other attenders as well as festival goers.

The panel hearing for the Licence is set for 11 June 2018 in Brecon. The impact statement which was attached to the application is very positive. It suggests an increase of 300 this year but asks for consideration that the increase be managed over several years thereafter.

I do not agree with this report that the biggest impact is traffic. It is a major issue but has been well managed over time with new learning each year. There are other areas of concern which are outlined below.

There is no statutory requirement to consult with local people or the town or community council in the case of this Licence. There is a statutory notice in Glanusk Estate (agreed by the officer that it is difficult for the local community to access) and advertised in the local press.

I understand there are specific areas that can be objected to. Having met with the Licencing Officer and the Fire Officer for the Welsh Fire Brigade I do feel that representation should be made on behalf of Llangatock.

The festival organisers have been in touch with Cllr Rosemarie Harris in Llangynidr but did not think to contact me. It was the Licencing Officer who decided to contact me. Cllr John Morris has not been contacted either. I have made Llangatock Community Council aware of this application.

My view is that there is a case to ask for representation on several grounds which can be considered. These are:-

1. Nuisance
2. Health & Safety
3. Protection of Children and accessibility

On point 1, the consideration should be for those who live higher up, on the Ffywddog and above Crickhowell. The reason being that sound travels up and an increase in numbers just on the basis of an increase of enjoyment and the sounds associated with around 19,000 people will have an impact. There will be an increase of 20% in the numbers so it could be argued a 20% increase in noise levels from people. The Green Man Festival is fantastic for this area and the location is probably one of the best in Europe let alone Wales. The amphitheatre of sound is wonderful for festival goers. For those people who live here increase in the level of sound will have an impact possibly as high as 20%. The report suggests sound can be mitigated from the stage but this will not be the case beyond the stage area.

On point 2, we are already very aware of the impact of these numbers on such a small community. We have accepted, celebrated and welcomed this festival over the period it has been here. The 20% increase will have a major impact on the capacity of services to protect although I understand there is no objection from the police and health care professionals including Welsh Ambulance Service as I understand there are adequate services on site. However, there are concerns about fire cover which

needs to be overcome. The Fire Service are looking at this issue after discussions this afternoon. The main issue is the space provided for campervans and tents and whether this has been increased to an adequate level. It will be important to assess the space available and whether the festival plan has provided adequate spacing between tents and campervans on site. It is important that the Fire Service is satisfied about this aspect of safety. The other consideration is movement from site to town for those staying on site and for others moving across and around the site. Last year we were all shocked by the death of a young man at the Royal Welsh. This site runs alongside the Usk. No accidents have occurred to date but we are looking at an extra 5000 people attending over the next couple of years. It is important to be satisfied potential risks can be mitigated. **The application suggests a steady increase over time but we have no way of knowing the management of this as once approved then numbers are liable to increase without notification to the community.**

On point 3, this is not a concern on the basis of children needing protection but on the basis that this is such a successful family event there are a high proportion of children attending. The concern is a follow on from the above point in respect of safety. It will of course be for family and carers to protect their children but as a community we also need to consider how the breakdown of that protection could filter out of the site into our community. I would ask that the services such as the police have considered safeguarding and are able to provide support if necessary. Additionally, have the festival organisers provided for increased disabled access and accessibility across the site.

It is not my intention to suggest there should be no increase in numbers, just that this increase from 14,999 to 19,999 is not acceptable without giving due respect to the community that surrounds the site.

I feel I have to make representation as the County Councillor for Llangattock. I am drawing your attention to this application and my initial concerns.

Regards
Cllr Jackie Charlton

Cllr Jackie Charlton
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