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Ref: MUTINY REVIEW

Dear Licensing Committee

Re: Review of the premises licence for Mutiny in the Park, King George V Playing Field.

This representation is made on behalf of the director for Public Health at Portsmouth City Council in his role as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and concerns the licensing objectives

- The Protection of Children from harm
- The Prevention of Crime and disorder

The Police are asking that the event is limited to those who are over 18, after last year's event was accessed by individuals as young as 13 - this was attributed to flaws in the organiser's admission and ticketing system, whereby young people were allowed on site with a 'responsible adult'

This system has actually led to an increase in risk where young people are actively seeking out people in the adult queue to get them inside the event, equally this year some parents were bringing young people to the site and leaving them there unsupervised. In one instance a vulnerable 14 year old girl was sexually assaulted by an adult after she was left onsite with her 13 year old sister by her parent. This was only one of several incidents relating to young people on site, all of which are recorded in the review provided by the Police Licensing Unit.

Section 182 Guidance

2.22 The protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm. This includes not only protecting children from the harms associated directly with alcohol consumption but also wider harms

In addition to these incidents there were clear signs of drug use in and around the site - disposed drug 'baggies', nitrous oxide canisters and assorted paraphernalia were prevalent on the floors of the tents and marquees. As well as obvious and visible intoxication in customers over 18, despite the organiser's search policy executed under a heightened terror threat response

After the event in 2017 the Public Health team were contacted by a member of the alcohol specialist nurse service (ASNS) at Queen Alexander Hospital (QA) as they had concerns over the large amount of A&E admissions related to the event and reports of children as young as 12 intoxicated outside of the site. Public Health asked QA for more clarity and or data on the event in order to better understand the impact it was having.

The data they provided is limited to alcohol intoxication and recreational drug use only - as you can imagine a weekend in A&E varies greatly and can be affected by multiple external factors creating a huge swathe of admissions from any number of complaints.

- We asked for a comparative weekend, and QA provided the numbers of admissions over the first weekend in July (multiple events', pay day and clement weather)
- As you can see in the table below, alcohol intoxication was higher on the July weekend (12 vs 8) but recreational drug use was substantially increased on the Mutiny weekend (15 vs 4) this supports the previous data we received from QA and shows a clear spike in drug activity and consequentially admissions to hospital on the Mutiny weekend

| | Alcohol intoxication | Recreational drug use |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 27.05.17 | 3 | 4 |
| 28.05.17 | 3 | 8 |
| 29.05.17 | 2 | 3 |
| | | |
| | Alcohol intoxication | Recreational drug use |
| 01.07.17 | 6 | 0 |
| 02.07.17 | 3 | 3 |
| 03.07.17 | 3 | 1 |

The raw data that QA provided shows that six of the attendances relating to Mutiny were by people under the age of 18. This included two 15 year olds - both attributed to recreational drug use. This data is attached as a PDF to this representation and is anonymised but unfiltered to assure transparency. The premises license holders have been provided with this data following this year's event.

Section 182 Guidance

2.23 Conditions relating to the access of children where alcohol is sold and which are appropriate to protect them from harm should be carefully considered.

Moreover, conditions restricting the access of children to premises should be strongly considered in circumstances where:

- **It is known that unaccompanied children have been allowed access;**
- **There is a known association with drug taking or dealing**

Whilst the number of incidents is relatively small in comparison to overall attendance, this type of issue if encountered in a licensed premises would lead to serious repercussions for the Designated Premises Supervisor and premises licence holder respectively.

In this instance it is recognised that incidents have occurred under the current systems put in place by the organiser, we would expect these procedures to evolve and adapt to prevent further incidents but given that this is the third year the event has taken place in Portsmouth and the procedures have not changed or in this case prevented the entry and subsequent harm to young people, it suggests that under 18s cannot be effectively managed or safe guarded whilst on site.

The Director of Public Health acknowledges the worth of staging events in the City that generate income and place Portsmouth on the map for the right reasons, the Public Health team has worked closely with the event organisers and the Police since the first event was held in Victoria Park around the subject of minimum age for entry. In 2014 a representation was made by Public Health around concerns of age appropriateness for children as young as 14 attending, fears were assuaged by the event organiser at the time and a compromise of 16 year olds being allowed access when accompanied by a responsible adult was agreed alongside other additional measures.

2014 Representation by Public Health regarding Mutiny festival

'Admission of over 14's with a responsible adult'

It is not made clear in the documentation provided who or what a 'responsible adult' is. This leaves responsibility for minors to siblings, peers or even other event goers as well as parents who are potentially intoxicated. It also creates a danger of 'Proxy Sales' of alcohol from inebriated, sympathetic event goers. Clearly the event is not aimed at families and therefore it is unlikely that the under eighteens would be accompanied by parents.

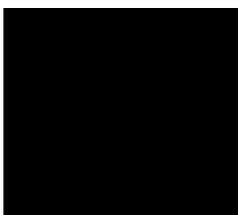
We now find ourselves in a similar position to 2014 with concerns raised then being sadly brought to fruition at the 2017 event as detailed in the Police representation, the onus is therefore on the event organiser to show how they can avoid this in future years.

In that respect they need a plan that:

- Ensures that vulnerable young people are not put into a situation where they run a significant risk of violence or sexual assault
- That there is an improved process for ensuring that young people are not exposed to the sale or consumption of recreational drugs
- That they work with the hospital and ambulance services to ensure they have a joint plan for reducing the numbers presenting to A&E and that they have appropriate support on site for people who may be using recreational drugs at the event.

We would ask that the committee insure that this plan is in place and that they are satisfied that the risk to young people and children is mitigated or removed completely before another event is held under the current licence

Yours sincerely



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On behalf of Dr Jason Horsley Director of Public Health at Portsmouth City Council

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