



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Sutton Poyntz
Weymouth
Dorset, DT3

Licensing Manager,
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council,
North Quay,
Weymouth DT4 8TA

Ref: SPS 1352

December 2010

Dear Ms King,

Premises Licence - Licensing Act. License application
10/10/01491/LAPRE

The Sutton Poyntz Society objects to the issue of any licence for the provision of Regulated Entertainment or the Sale by Retail of Alcohol for Northdown Farm on the basis that it is a totally inappropriate location for any event that will require such license.

The site lies within the West Dorset AONB and is directly below the Osmington White Horse monument, within the water basin of the Osmington Brook and traversed by several public footpaths and adjacent to the tranquil village of Sutton Poyntz and conservation area. It is the natural beauty, special character and qualities of the area that are the attraction for visitors. Any activity in this area would despoil an area of natural beauty as well as compromise the integrity of the White Horse monument. If one examines the Dorset AONB Management Plan, this proposal seems to us to run contrary to all the AONB policies and objectives.

The area has an agricultural use (and has had for many years) and needless to say is home to significant wildlife within the whole of the AONB and specifically to the Osmington brook area where water voles are one of the species of note. We also understand from contact by the village biodiversity group with the Environment Agency that "otters are known to be active on the Osmington brook" and they are considering building an artificial otter holt to further encourage them. Any significant recreational activity within the area poses a threat to the wildlife across the whole area.

Noise pollution - The playing of amplified music (or Regulated Entertainment (Recorded Music only)) in the open air (or temporary structure) is totally inappropriate adjacent to the village and in a tranquil area of the countryside. The village pub has just been refused permission for the playing of music within a planning application for use of an adjacent marquee.

Rubbish – evidence from the similar area operated by Mr Broach at Osmington, shows how it suffers from rubbish being spread around the area – and not satisfactorily cleared up.

Toilet facilities – the site lies in the valley of the Osmington brook. Any organised occupation of the area is liable to pollute the waterway with foul water.

There are public footpaths running across the proposed site, which would prevent access to the site being controlled in any way. Whilst appreciating that the footpaths must be kept clear for use by all, control of the sale of alcohol would be impossible.

The availability of alcohol provides a direct threat to its access by children.

Access to the site is from a road with an unrestricted speed limit on a hill and would be positively dangerous both to enter and exit the site area. Access would also be available via several footpaths from Sutton Poyntz village with a potential significant increase in obstruction from car parking. Car parking is already a problem area within the village.

The Society assumes that the Fire Service and Local police force have been consulted.

The Society has not commented upon the request for a drinks licence from 08:00 to 23:00 daily for the year which is obviously totally unreasonable as we believe that this was part of the subterfuge used in obtaining a 3 month license for Eweleaze farm in Osmington.

Whilst understanding the desire for landholders to maximise their revenue from their agricultural holdings, we believe that it must not be by totally compromising the environment enjoyed by all. We do note that this property has only recently changed hands – presumably with this object in view.

The Sutton Poyntz Society objects most strongly to any consideration of a Premises License for this important area of our county. We believe the above points indicate conflict with all the licensing objectives in varying degrees.

Yours sincerely

Secretary, Sutton Poyntz Society