

C/26/00777/PRMA - Existence Festival – Objection Representations

Responsible Authorities Representations

Pollution Team (Water) – K Woods

Public Protection Objection – Premises Licence Application

Subject: Representation on Public Safety Grounds – Premises Licence Application

I wish to make a representation in relation to the above Premises Licence application on the grounds of public safety.

At the time of considering this application, insufficient information has been provided to allow Environmental Health to fully assess the suitability and safety of the arrangements proposed for the event. In particular, details relating to the provision and management of the water supply have not been submitted despite requests for this information.

The event potentially proposes the use of a private borehole water supply and or a private distribution system; however, the following information remains outstanding:

- Details of the water supply system and all premises/facilities connected to it.
- Evidence of the treatment processes in place and their operation, monitoring and maintenance.
- Details of storage arrangements, including tank cleaning and inspection schedules.
- Identification of the person responsible for the supply and its management.
- A Water Safety Plan for the supply.
- Event-specific arrangements for the provision, distribution, monitoring and management of drinking water.

Without this information, it is not possible to determine whether adequate controls are in place to ensure that a wholesome and safe water supply will be available throughout the event. Consequently, Environmental Health is unable to properly assess the risk of contamination or the potential impact on the health and safety of attendees, staff, contractors and performers.

Given the anticipated number of persons likely to attend the event, any failure in the management of the water supply could present a significant risk to public health.

In the absence of sufficient information to demonstrate that the proposed arrangements are safe and suitable, Environmental Health objects to the application and recommends that the licence is not granted unless and until satisfactory information is provided and any identified risks have been adequately addressed.

Technical Pollution Team (Noise) – A Paintain

I have reviewed the conditions that were agreed as part of the previous application C/26/00293/PRMA shown in blue below and also the below comments and request for clarification from Shella Asanga at Wiltshire.

Noise Limits

Sound levels at the event will be overseen by an acoustic contractor, in compliance with a suitable Noise Management Plan (NMP) to be reviewed annually. The NMP will be submitted to, and subject to approval by, the Licensing Authority two months before the event each year.

2026 EVENT: The Noise Management Plan V1.0 ('NMP 2026') received on 9th April is approved, subject to the following amendments:

- a. Offsite MNL dB limit at noise sensitive premises (NMP 2026, p.7, s.2.18) at night, 23:00 - 04:00hrs will be 43dB LAeq,15 min
- b. Two weeks in advance of the event Environmental Health will be provided with
 - i. times of all soundchecks and
 - ii. 'worst case, maximum Noise, wind heat map' (NMP 2026, p.20, 'Community Noise dBA Levels') for both day and night periods.

FUTURE EVENTS: Please note, the 2026 event will involve licensed activities over 3 days. Should future events under this License be run over an additional day (music terminating at 23:00hrs), then Offsite MNL dB limits at noise sensitive premises (NMP 2026, p.7, s.2.18) throughout the event for the daytime, 10:00 - 23:00hrs will be 62dB LAeq,15 min.

The Noise Management Plan (NMP) v1.1 (FINAL DRAFT V2.0) prepared by Stainable Festivals still refers to a 04:00 time and there is inconsistency in the offsite MNL after 23:00.

I am unsure where the proposed offsite music noise level (MNL) 43dB LAeq,15 min in the above condition as recommended by Edward Vandyck originated from. I would agree with Shella that the NMP v1.1 does state that a 20dB C-A differential is a

proven method (pg 8, 2.25) so this requires further clarification and discussion with the noise consultant prior to the event.

Therefore, Environmental Health does not approve NMP v1.1 as submitted with the current application and requires an updated NMP to be provided no less than 28 days prior to the event. This will allow sufficient time for further discussion and agreement on the 23:00-02:00 offsite MNL.

Environmental Health would not object to the application, subject to the agreement of the following conditions;

CONDITIONS:

- An event-specific Noise Management Plan (NMP) must be submitted to Cotswold District Council Environmental Health and the Licensing Authority no later than 28 days before the event and must receive written approval from the Licensing Authority prior to the event commencing. Once approved the agreed NMP shall be fully complied with. Continuous noise monitoring shall be undertaken during all periods of amplified music, and records shall be retained and made available to the Licensing Authority upon request.
- Two weeks in advance of the event Environmental Health will be provided with;
 - i. times of all soundchecks and
 - ii. 'worst case, maximum Noise, wind heat map' (NMP 2026, p.20, 'Community Noise dBA Levels') for both day and night periods.
- A post-event report must be submitted to the Local Licensing Authority within 28 days of the event. The report shall include details of noise monitoring undertaken and any complaints received, along with how these were addressed. The report shall include monitoring results, complaints received, actions taken, any exceedances identified, and an assessment of compliance with the approved Noise Management Plan and licence conditions.

Parish

Parish – Long Newton

Formal Objection to Premises License Application

Application Reference: C/26/00777/PRMA Event: Existence Festival Licensing
Authority: Cotswold District Council

Representation under the Licensing Act 2003

I wish to make a **formal representation from Long Newnton Parish Council objecting** to the above premises license application on the grounds that it would undermine the prevention of public nuisance, public safety, the prevention of crime and disorder, and the protection of children from harm.

The application also raises serious concerns in relation to public rights of way, highway safety, and the statutory duty to protect the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Public Rights of Way

Public footpaths directly affected by the site include Monarch's Way, Fosse Way, and Public Right of Way NAS4, which crosses the main site entrance.

To the best of our knowledge, no application has been made to divert or temporarily close these rights of way within the necessary 12 week notice period. In partic NAS4 which links the Fosse way and monarchs way. Therefore all members of the public will need to traverse the festival site to walk this footpath.

The community will lose safe access to its own heritage paths for the duration of the event.

This is not a minor inconvenience – it is the loss of a public amenity and poses a risk to public safety as individuals are forced to navigate the site if they wish to use the footpath.

Granting a license without resolving this creates unacceptable risks to public safety and lawful access.

Noise and Public Nuisance

The application states **amplified live and recorded music until 2am** on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, with music until midnight on Sunday. Although Section M d of the application references levels until 4am.

Levels are declared as 43dB LAeq 15min between 23.00 – 2am, and 62dB LAeq 15min between 10am and 11pm.

Wiltshire district council issued a noise abatement order on the Festival when it was homed at Charlton park, declaring the approved levels as 55dB LAeq 15min until 23.00 hours and 40db LAeq 15 min post 23.00 hours.

Long Newton parish council respectfully request that these reduced levels, as authorised by Wilts council, be enforced by COTSWOLD District Council.

Residents live just 500m from the site, with the site being circumnavigated by 4 villages only 1500m away. (c1800 residents)

The site is open farmland with no natural sound barriers. Noise will travel directly into people's homes. The low frequency bass music associated with such a festival is well known to travel far at night.

Music until 2am is not a 'nuisance' it is a takeover of the nighttime environment.

A Noise Abatement Order was issued by Wiltshire District Council to the Existence Festival organisers on 14 June 2025 at approximately 2:00am while the event was held at Charlton Park, Malmesbury. Unacceptable noise levels were recorded. (see attached notice)

A proposed 2:00am cut-off is wholly unacceptable in a rural setting and would seriously affect residents, rural workers, farm animals, and wildlife.

Dark Skies and the Cotswolds AONB

The site lies within the Cotswolds AONB.

The Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018–2023 encourages local authorities to consider dark skies when determining applications.

The Rural White Paper (2003) recognises light pollution as an increasing intrusion.

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a statutory duty on authorities to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of AONB.

A festival of this genre is normally associated with wide variety of lighting effects, such as high intensity LED lighting, strobe lighting, wash lighting, in addition to the floodlights/security lighting.

The National Planning policy Framework 2018 is clear that the relevant authority needs to review the impact of artificial light in a rural area and intrinsically dark landscape.

The application site is open farmland with surrounding wildlife habitats, small areas of woodland. We respectfully request that a full ecological survey be undertaken.

The application offers no mitigation for damage to the environment, ecological protection, protection of a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or waste management.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The event is billed as a psytrance/electronic dance music festival, **a genre widely documented to be associated with drug and alcohol misuse.**

By comparison, Creamfields Festival 2025 (the same genre) reportedly resulted in 43 arrests and 188 crimes, most drug-related. This was a 50% increase from 2024 (source: BBC)

With music until 2am, the likelihood of alcohol-related disorder, noise from departing attendees and antisocial behaviour affecting nearby homes is high.

There is no clearly visible plan for management of 'errant' festival goers.

The community should not be expected to absorb these risks.

Public Safety and Highway Impact

The festival proposes to funnel all attendees, merchants, performers, and other associated staff through the only access to the site, Crudwell Lane, which is a single-track rural road with no pavements.

The festival site plan has the car park immediately off the road, this will result in arriving cars to be queueing along the single track lane whilst they enter and are marshalled into the car park.

This image clearly shows the narrow lane, and the entrance point to the festival.

The road is regularly used by walkers, cyclists, dog walkers, horse riders.

These vulnerable road uses will be forced into conflict with the festival traffic.



This rural lane is unlit with limited visibility, has no pavement or footpaths and uneven small grass verges.

There is no public transport, so all attendees will arrive by car, campervans, minibuses.

The week before and week after the road will be subject to set up and take down traffic, which will have a significant element of HGV, vans, trailers and small trucks.

An ATC survey on Crudwell Lane in June 2011 recorded approximately 900 vehicle movements per day. Planning application 21/04342/FUL and appeal APP/F1610/W/23/3323640 were refused due to the road's inability to safely accommodate any additional traffic.

The additional vehicle movement for the festival would more than treble this.

Emergency access is via the same single-track road, from a blind corner off the Fosse way. If there were a serious incident, it would be very difficult to safely evacuate the site in a timely manner. (Note: Martyn's Law)

It should be noted that there was a field fire at the festival site, with 4 fire engines in attendance. The fire engines all had to keep leaving the site and travel over a mile along the narrow lanes to fill up with water as there is no water available at the site.

Current weather conditions and camping on farmland pose a significant fire risk.

This poses a serious safety risk to attendees.

There are major public safety concerns with this application. The risks are obvious, foreseeable and unacceptable.

Protection of Children from Harm

Families with **small children live within 500m** of the site

There will be a **Children's nursery directly adjacent to the site**, with children from 2 years of age.

Crudwell pre-school is approximately 1,500 metres from the site on the main access route.

A **children's playing field** is within 1500m from the site and on the main access route.

Crudwell primary school is also nearby.

Safety risks for parents transporting children to their respective educational establishments, the childrens nursery or to the playing fields are of serious concern.

It would be perfectly reasonable to assume that children will be playing outside at the beginning of Sept.

Children would be exposed to excessive noise, potentially offensive language, alcohol and drug use, and unacceptable behaviour associated with an 18+ event.

Music until 2am will cause significant sleep disturbance and impact on wellbeing and daily life.

The application offers no mitigation to protect children in the local community

Commercial impact

There are several commercial businesses to the west of the site on Crudwell Lane that will be impacted by the festival.

Melcourt industries operate off an 'open site' c800m from the festival site. They have 20-30 HGV vehicle movements a day and operate on Saturdays as well as weekdays. There is significant risk of festival traffic conflict with HGVs, both during the festival and for the week before and after for set up/take down. The application offers no plans to corral festival goers; late night egress onto an open hazardous site is both possible and severely dangerous.

Church Farm is home to a number of small businesses who rely on Crudwell lane for access for their customers. Potential conflict with festival goers may result in these businesses

losing trade over the festival period as their customers will not want to put themselves in danger.

The application does not adequately consider the impact on neighbouring commercial premises, including the risks associated with unauthorised access and disruption to business activity.

General Matters

The application is for an annual event, stating it is only for 2026. This needs to be confirmed and should the license be granted enforced that it is for one event only.

The application states 2000 attendees, but is in **the category for up to 5000**, so it is wholly conceivable that this, or any future event would have an attendance up to 5000.

Residents have already witnessed people arriving locally seeking the site, including HGV's arriving on private property with Heras fencing for the previous dates..

It should be noted that **Charlton Park Estate has refused to host** the festival again due to noise and organisational issues.

Long Newton parish council have serious concerns regarding the organisational capability of the applicants which have been raised previously with the head of licensing and regulatory services and this information can be made available upon request.

The organisers were advised at the previous hearing that they must engage with local parish councils. At time of submission no contact has been made with Long Newnton PC.

The Event Management Plan has been requested but has not been made available to the Parish Council.

The traffic management plan has been requested, but has not been made available to the parish council.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, **the application is fundamentally incompatible with the licensing Act 2003**, and conflicts with statutory duties and **should therefore be refused**

It conflicts with all four licensing objectives: Public safety, Prevention of Crime & disorder, Prevention of public nuisance, Protection of children from harm and poses unacceptable impact on the local community

- Four nights of sleep deprivation
- Loss of dark skies
- Impact on a protected species
- Loss of safe access to footpaths
- Emergency access unacceptable
- Unsafe rural road - public safety
- Potentially increased crime and disorder
- Environmental damage
- A complete disruption of rural life

I respectfully request that the Licensing Authority refuse this application in full, or require substantial amendments and enforceable conditions before it can be considered acceptable.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE NOTICE

WHICH WAS SERVED AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN

ON ~~14/06/25~~ AT 02:00 AM BY HAND/POST

SIGNATURE

Wiltshire Council

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990, Section 80

Abatement Notice in respect of Statutory Nuisance

To: Rossario Charalambous
Existence Festival
Charlton Park Estate
Charlton Park
Charlton

TAKE NOTICE pursuant to Section 80(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL 'the council' being satisfied of the existence of a statutory nuisance under Section 79 (1)(g) of that Act at the premises known as Existence Festival, Charlton Park Estate Charlton Park, Charlton within the district of Wiltshire Council arising from amplified live and recorded music at *residential day dwellings at Milborne Village and at monitoring point B.*

HEREBY REQUIRE YOU as the person responsible for the said nuisance to immediately from the service of this Notice, to take such steps to control noise limits in accordance with the attached schedule, and also

HEREBY prohibit the recurrence of the nuisance

This is a notice to which paragraph (2) of regulation 3 of the Statutory Nuisance (Appeals) Regulations 1995 applies and, in the event of an appeal this Notice shall (NOT) be suspended until the appeal has been abandoned or decided by the court, as, in the opinion of the council, the nuisance to which this Notice relates is [injurious to health] [likely to be of a limited duration such that suspension would render the Notice of no practical effect] [such that the expenditure which would be incurred by any person in carrying out works in compliance with this Notice before any appeal has been decided would not be disproportionate to the public benefit to be expected in that period from such compliance]

IF without reasonable excuse you contravene or fail to comply with any requirement of this Notice you will be guilty of an offence under Section 80(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and on summary conviction will be liable to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the Standard Scale, together with a further fine of an amount equal to one-tenth of that level for each day on which the offence continues after conviction. A person who commits an offence on industrial, trade or business premises will be liable on summary conviction to a fine that is unlimited in amount.

The Council may also take proceedings in the High Court for securing the abatement, prohibition or restriction of the nuisance pursuant to Section 81(5). Further, if you fail to execute all or any of the works in accordance with this Notice, the Council has power under Section 81(3) and (4) to execute the works and recover from you the necessary expenditure incurred.

DATED 14/07/25

Signed

Public Protection Services, Environmental Control and Protection Team, Wiltshire Council, Bythesea Road, TROWBRIDGE, Wiltshire BA14 8JN Tel: 0300 456 0100; email: publicprotectionwest@wiltshire.gov.uk Web: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/>

NB The person served with this Notice may appeal against the Notice to a Magistrates' Court within twenty-one days beginning with the date of service of the Notice. See notes on the reverse of this form.

Advice

If you do not understand the contents of this notice or would like to know more about it please contact the local authority. If you would like to receive independent advice about the contents of this notice, your rights and obligations then please contact The Citizens Advice Bureau, Housing Aid Centre, law centre or solicitor. Please be aware that you may qualify for Legal Aid or otherwise free independent advice from a solicitor or legal advisor for up to half an hour.

The Statutory Nuisance (Appeals) Regulations 1995 provide as follows:-

APPEALS UNDER SECTION 80(3) of the ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990 ("the 1990 Act")

2.—(1) The provisions of this regulation apply in relation to an appeal brought by any person under section 80(3) of the 1990 Act (appeals to magistrates) against an abatement notice served upon him by a local authority.

(2) The grounds on which a person served with such a notice may appeal under section 80(3) are any one or more of the following grounds that are appropriate in the circumstances of the particular case—

- (a) that the abatement notice is not justified by section 80 of the 1990 Act (summary proceedings for statutory nuisances);
- (b) that there has been some informality, defect or error in, or in connection with, the abatement notice, or in, or in connection with, any copy of the abatement notice served under section 80A(3) (certain notices in respect of vehicles, machinery or equipment);
- (c) that the authority have refused unreasonably to accept compliance with alternative requirements, or that the requirements of the abatement notice are otherwise unreasonable in character or extent, or are unnecessary;
- (d) that the time, or where more than one time is specified, any of the times, within which the requirements of the abatement notice are to be complied with is not reasonably sufficient for the purpose;
- (e) where the nuisance to which the notice relates—
 - (i) is a nuisance falling within section 79(1)(a), (d), (c), (f) or (g) of the 1990 Act and arises on industrial, trade, or business premises, or
 - (ii) is a nuisance falling within section 79(1)(b) of the 1990 Act and the noise is emitted from a chimney, or
 - (iii) is a nuisance falling within section 79(1)(ga)(1) of the 1990 Act and is noise emitted from or caused by a vehicle, machinery or equipment being used for industrial, trade or business purposes,
- (e) that the best practicable means were used to prevent, or to counteract the effects of, the nuisance;
- (f) that, in the case of a nuisance under section 79(1)(g) or (ga) of the 1990 Act (noise emitted from premises), the requirements imposed by the abatement notice by virtue of section 80(1)(a) of the Act are more onerous than the requirements for the time being in force, in relation to the noise to which the notice relates, of—
 - (i) any notice served under section 60 or 66 of the 1974 Act (control of noise on construction sites and from certain premises), or
 - (ii) any consent given under section 61 or 65 of the 1974 Act (consent for work on construction sites and consent for noise to exceed registered level in a noise abatement zone), or
 - (iii) any determination made under section 67 of the 1974 Act (noise control of new buildings);
- (g) that, in the case of a nuisance under section 79(1)(ga) of the 1990 Act (noise emitted from or caused by vehicles, machinery or equipment), the requirements imposed by the abatement notice by virtue of section 80(1)(a) of the Act are more onerous than the requirements for the time being in force, in relation to the noise to which the notice relates, of any condition of a consent given under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1993 Act (loudspeakers in streets or roads);
- (h) that the abatement notice should have been served on some person instead of the appellant, being—
 - (i) the person responsible for the nuisance, or
 - (ii) the person responsible for the vehicle, machinery or equipment, or
 - (iii) in the case of a nuisance arising from any defect of a structural character, the owner of the premises, or
 - (iv) in the case where the person responsible for the nuisance cannot be found or the nuisance has not yet occurred, the owner or occupier of the premises;
- (i) that the abatement notice might lawfully have been served on some person instead of the appellant being—
 - (i) in the case where the appellant is the owner of the premises, the occupier of the premises, or
 - (ii) in the case where the appellant is the occupier of the premises, the owner of the premises,
- (j) and that it would have been equitable for it to have been so served;
- (j) that the abatement notice might lawfully have been served on some person in addition to the appellant, being—
 - (i) a person also responsible for the nuisance, or
 - (ii) a person who is also owner of the premises, or
 - (iii) a person who is also an occupier of the premises, or
 - (iv) a person who is also the person responsible for the vehicle, machinery or equipment,
- (j) and that it would have been equitable for it to have been so served.

(3) If and so far as an appeal is based on the ground of some informality, defect or error in, or in connection with, the abatement notice, or in, or in connection with, any copy of the notice served under section 80A(3), the court shall dismiss the appeal if it is satisfied that the informality, defect or error was not a material one.

(4) Where the grounds upon which an appeal is brought include a ground specified in paragraph (2)(i) or (j) above, the appellant shall serve a copy of his notice of appeal on any other person referred to, and in the case of any appeal to which these regulations apply he may serve a copy of his notice of appeal on any other person having an estate or interest in the premises, vehicle, machinery or equipment in question.

(5) On the hearing of the appeal the court may—

- (a) quash the abatement notice to which the appeal relates, or
- (b) vary the abatement notice in favour of the appellant in such manner as it thinks fit, or
- (c) dismiss the appeal;

and an abatement notice that is varied under sub-paragraph (b) above shall be final and shall otherwise have effect, as so varied, as if it had been so made by the local authority.

(6) Subject to paragraph (7) below, on the hearing of an appeal the court may make such order as it thinks fit—

- (a) with respect to the person by whom any work is to be executed and the contribution to be made by any person towards the cost of the work, or
- (b) as to the proportions in which any expenses which may become recoverable by the authority under Part III of the 1990 Act are to be borne by the appellant and by any other person.

(7) In exercising its powers under paragraph (6) above the court—

- (a) shall have regard, as between an owner and an occupier, to the terms and conditions, whether contractual or statutory, of any relevant tenancy and to the nature of the works required, and
- (b) shall be satisfied before it imposes any requirement thereunder on any person other than the appellant, that that person has received a copy of the notice of appeal in pursuance of paragraph (4) above.

Suspension of notice

(1) Where—

(a) an appeal is brought against an abatement notice served under section 80 or section 80A of the 1990 Act, and—

(b) either—

(i) compliance with the abatement notice would involve any person in expenditure on the carrying out of works before the hearing of the appeal, or

(ii) in the case of a nuisance under section 79(1)(g) or (ga) of the 1990 Act, the noise to which the abatement notice relates is noise necessarily caused in the course of the performance of some duty imposed by law on the appellant, and

(c) either paragraph (2) does not apply, or it does apply but the requirements of paragraph (3) have not been met,

the abatement notice shall be suspended until the appeal has been abandoned or decided by the court.

(2) This paragraph applies where—

(a) the nuisance to which the abatement notice relates—

(i) is injurious to health, or

(ii) is likely to be of a limited duration such that suspension of the notice would render it of no practical effect, or

(b) the expenditure which would be incurred by any person in the carrying out of works in compliance with the abatement notice before any appeal has been decided would not be disproportionate to the public benefit to be expected in that period from such compliance.

(3) Where paragraph (2) applies the abatement notice—

(a) shall include a statement that paragraph (2) applies, and that as a consequence it shall have effect notwithstanding any appeal to a magistrates' court which has not been decided by the court, and

(b) shall include a statement as to which of the grounds set out in paragraph (2) apply.

Local Magistrates' Courts

You may appeal this notice by contacting a magistrates' court. Contact details of two local courts can be found below:

Swindon Magistrates' Court

Swindon Magistrates' Court
The Law Courts
Islington Street
Swindon
SN1 2HG

Email:

wi-swindonmcadmin@justice.gov.uk

Tel:

[01793 699800](tel:01793 699800)

Salisbury Law Courts

Salisbury Law Courts
Wilton Road
Salisbury
SP2 7EP

Email:

wi-salisburymcadmin@justice.gov.uk

Tel:

[01722 345 200](tel:01722 345 200)

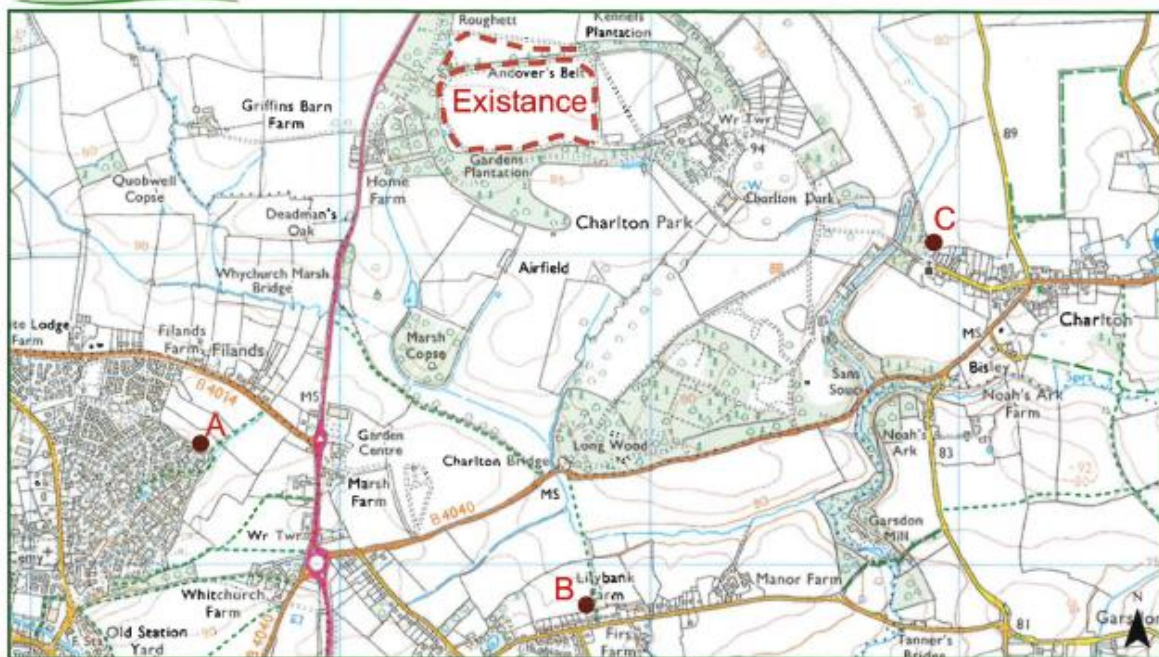
Version	Date	By	Reason
2.4	November 20	BW	Formatting and updated in line with appeal guidance

Schedule to accompany notice served on Existence Festival

- 1) Ensure that the music noise level at any nearby residential premises does not exceed 55dB LAeq 15 mins (+5dB for demonstrable influence of weather conditions) up to 23:00
- 2) Ensure that the music noise level at any nearby residential premises does not exceed 40dB LAeq 15 mins (+5dB for demonstrable influence of weather conditions) between the hours of 23:00 through to 07:00
- 3) Ensure that the difference between the L_{Ceq} and the LAeq does not exceed 20 dB over any 15 minute period.

Wiltshire Council

Existence Festival - Monitoring Locations



05/03/2025
394796E 188739N m
1:13,228

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Parish – Ashley

This is the response of the Ashley Parish Meeting to the second application to license the Existence Festival on a site in the Ashley Parish.

The Parish opposed the first application to hold the Festival in June 2026 and was represented at the Licensing Hearing held on 11 May 2026. After carefully considering the additional conditions placed by the Licensing Committee on the proposed June event which have been taken on board by the new applicant for the Festival proposed to be held in September 2026, the Parish Meeting strongly opposes the current application on the grounds that it will result in significant public nuisance, cause risk to public safety and does not protect children from harm.

The Parish Meeting asks the Licensing committee to take into account the following issues when considering the application.

1. PUBLIC NUISANCE

Residents in the villages of Ashley and Culkerton are concerned that the noise from a four day festival which plays amplified music until the early hours of the morning will cause disturbance to normal sleep patterns and will disrupt normal living. At the hearing of the first application the Committee recognised this public nuisance and brought forward the end time for music from 4am to 2am. It is believed that 2am is still too late for an event over four days.

There is also concern about the impact of the increased traffic flow on local roads and lanes which are unlit and are single carriageway in many places. At this point in time neither Gloucestershire nor Wiltshire Councils have approved a traffic management plan to reduce the impact the extra traffic which is likely to cause major disruption to local residents and other road users.

A public nuisance will also result from the proposed closure of a public right of way which crosses the site. Gloucestershire County Council have not yet approved any redirection of the pathway.

Before any licence is granted the committee is asked to require the applicant to ;-

- * bring forward the time when amplified music ceases each day,
- * ensure all local residents within a 2 km radius of the site are notified of a dedicated, staffed telephone number where concerns about noise levels can be reported to the Acoustic Consultant on-site and prompt action can be taken to reduce noise levels above the limit set within the conditions of the licence,
- * agree a traffic management plan with both Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Councils,

* seek approval of Gloucestershire County Council to any closure or redirection of a public right of way.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY

There is concern that the potential traffic disruption on Crudwell Lane will reduce the ability of emergency vehicles being able to quickly access the festival site or local properties this presents a public safety risk.

Ashley village does not have a mains water supply and 12 properties use a shared borehole which also supplies two farms. It is well evidenced that this borehole supply is very susceptible to any increase in demand for water. The supply has failed twice in recent weeks when the demand from existing users has increased due to weather conditions. In plan for the June festival it was originally planned to use the borehole for the festival goers in addition to existing users. The parish Meeting raised concerns about the risk that the water supply would fail for both the festival site and the local residents leaving them without water for drinking, cooking or sanitation. This would be a major public health risk to both festival goers and residents. The Cotswold District Private Water started a risk assessment of the borehole but this has not been completed as the landowner has still to provide information that is critical to its completion. At the Licensing hearing on 11 May a paper written by Mr Daniel Wilde, the current applicant, which set out the "Festival Promoter Response to Representations". In that paper it was stated in paragraph 6.3 that should there be any concerns with that assessment all festival water requirements would be sourced independently, placing no reliance on the shared borehole whatsoever. It was stated that the the applicant was willing to have this commitment embedded as a enforceable licence condition. On 20 July the festival organisers circulated a note to local Parishes which repeated the commitment that the borehole would not be used.

Before any licence is approved, the committee is asked to:-

* seek confirmation from the emergency services that they are confident that traffic disruption caused by the festival will not adversely impact the response times for emergency vehicles attending calls in the vicinity of the site,

* add a condition to the licence that reflects the festival applicant's commitment that water from the Ashley Marsh borehole will not be used for the festival water supply.

3. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

It will be recognised that the issues raised under the Public Nuisance and Public Safety sections above will greatly impact on children living in the immediate vicinity of the festival site. Issues of sleep deprivation, road safety, and public health

concerns related to lack of a reliable water supply affecting children must be a serious concern when considering the impact of this event.

Parish – Crudwell

C/26/00777/PRMA - Existance Festival – New premises licence application, Land East of Boldridge Farm, Crudwell Lane, Long Newton

Crudwell Parish Council objects to application C/26/00777/PRMA for a new premises licence for Existance Festival at Land East of Boldridge Farm, Crudwell Lane, Long Newton. The site is immediately adjacent to our parish Boundary at the Fosse Way and less than one mile from the larger village.

Whilst the Parish Council is not opposed to festivals per se, it objects to this application on the basis that the proposed event would negatively impact our residents' right to quiet enjoyment, cause undue exposure to public nuisance, compromise public safety and safeguarding. These grounds are further set out below:

1. Loud music after midnight, and particularly until 2am is totally unacceptable in our rural area. Previous experience also indicates that associated festival noise is likely to persist considerably longer. The festival organisers representatives attended the March 2026 Parish Council meeting and while we clearly stated that loud music after midnight was not acceptable in our rural area this was patently ignored. Loud music during the day is also a public nuisance to those nearby, there is a pre-school with an outdoor play area less than one mile from the proposed site and a primary school which both operate on days including Friday and Monday. Excessive noise here would be a distracting nuisance and have issues with regard to the safeguarding of young children.
2. Traffic Management; the Wiltshire part of Tetbury Lane is narrow, effectively single track, sinuous and in very poor condition with large potholes and damaged verges which make passing very difficult. The Parish Council would require that vehicular access is only allowed from the Gloucestershire end of the lane where it is wider and better maintained. We note also the objection from Cotswold Highways regarding access and public safety hazards. The proposed emergency exit to the Fosse Way is adjacent to a blind corner on Crudwell Lane and is not, in our view, adequate for emergency services vehicle access.

3. The close proximity of the site to the Fosse Way has propensity for illegal parking and unauthorised site entry, the site also has a well-used Public Right of Way which connects the Monarch's and Fosse Ways with no published closure notification.
4. Although the Applicant states that there will be good organisation, the Parish Council has reservations about how this will be applied in practice. Previous experience has brought reports of loud music continuing throughout the night, phone numbers for noise complaints not being answered, litter locally, unsocial behaviour including alcohol and drug related instances, traffic chaos and delay. This experience is borne out by Charlton Park Estate's letter stating their reasons for refusal to host the festival this year. Further to the above, the fact that the same festival organisers completely failed to comply with any of the conditions made on granting the previous licence, leading to their abrupt last-minute cancellation of that festival gives us no confidence that this proposed event would be satisfactorily or safely managed.
5. The proposed event represents minimal benefit to our local community which is far outweighed by the adverse effects set out above.

In consideration of the above, Crudwell Parish Council respectfully asks that this application is refused on the grounds that experience suggests there would be insufficient organisation and therefore serious risks to public safety, safeguarding and nuisance.

Parish - Brokenborough

I am instructed to formally object to this Application on behalf of Brokenborough Parish Council which is one of the neighbouring Parishes to the Application site.

We note that the Application is expressed as a year: 3/9/26 to 2/9/27 but is said to be for 4 days i.e. 3rd to 6th September 2026. This application should be dealt with and recorded in any decision as for the 3rd to 6th September 2026.

We have read carefully the response of Ashley Parish Meeting and endorse and fully agree with the points they make. In particular, it is to be noted that considerable work would be necessary to satisfy requirements for control of noise nuisance, a traffic management plan and completely alternative water supply.

Notwithstanding those important points our first position is to oppose the application in its entirety for the grounds stated by the neighbouring 2 Parishes and as set out below.

We do make the point to the Committee that this is a fresh application by a different applicant and should be considered anew, disregarding the decision to grant such a licence this year for this site. We would expect and suggest that before making a decision the Committee should personally inspect the site.

We have also read carefully the representations prepared by Long Newnton Parish Council and associate ourselves and agree with the licensing points they make. In particular, we endorse the representations made regarding Public

Nuisance and Safety in that they specifically relate to our Parish also. We only differ with Long Newnton on their last comment namely that we cannot see in the circumstances in this location how any substantial amendments or enforceable conditions could render the Application acceptable.

Brokenborough Parish Council asks the Licensing Committee to consider the following points of objection.

Public Nuisance

As to the first Licensing Objective the influx of 2000 or more festival goers and the associated extreme noise of this proposed event would impact severely on residents of our Parish- obviously those living off 5 Lanes, the road from Long Newnton to the Charlton Park crossroads on the A 429, but also as far as the village of Brokenborough itself and those living in between. This level of nuisance over an extended period of four nights until the early hours of the morning is wholly unacceptable. It is noted from the Application that permission to "serve refreshments" is sought until 5:00 AM.

This is a peaceful countryside location unsuited to this unwarranted intrusion.

We are aware of the complaints which arose from such an event by the same people when it took place nearby in the Charlton Park Estate and the various socially unacceptable incidents which arose including resulting in the Noise Abatement Notice from Wiltshire Council last Summer --June 2025. It would be ridiculous to effectively invite a repetition, just along the road, this year.

Public Safety

Of equal but more geographically widespread concern is the question of access. Locally along this country lane itself-Crudwell Lane (known as Tetbury Lane from the Crudwell end) - dog walkers, horse riders, walkers and cyclists as well as local

residents including drivers and not least agricultural vehicles will be severely impeded and suffer potential safety issues by this large ingress of traffic. There are few passing places. Beyond the country lane itself access is along narrow country lanes to and from the proposed site as well as through associated relatively small county roads. The setup of such a large event itself would necessitate large vehicles and busy influx of traffic let alone the access of 2000 people to the site.

Further Important Issue

It is understood that the Application site is reliant on a private water supply from a local borehole shared with half of the village of Ashley. This needs to be carefully addressed as it would on that point alone be irresponsible to grant a Premises Licence which may well adversely impact on local residents by the water supply running dry let alone produce real difficulties in terms of adequacy of water in terms of facilities and any potential fire risks arising on site.

Overall Summary of our objection to this Application for a Premises Licence

The nuisance noise disruption and potential danger to local residents and traffic is likely to prove worrying, potentially dangerous and in any event unacceptable.

Residents

J Rowland

I am writing to make a formal representation regarding the Premises Licence application for the proposed music festival scheduled to take place between 3rd and 6th September 2026 on land near Boldridge Farm, Crudwell Lane, Long Newnton. The application proposes amplified music and alcohol sales extending until 04:00 each day.

As a local resident, I wish to raise concerns under the licensing objectives set out in the Licensing Act 2003. In my view, the scale, duration and timing of the proposed event present significant risks to the promotion of these objectives.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

The proposed event involves four consecutive days of amplified music continuing into the early hours (sound travels over long distances) of the morning in a quiet location. In addition to music noise, the event is likely to generate sustained disturbance from crowd activity, campsite noise, generators, and vehicle movements during late-night and early-morning hours. This represents a substantial and

prolonged disturbance for residents across nearby villages. This goes beyond what might reasonably be considered occasional or temporary disruption, and would significantly affect residents' ability to rest and enjoy their homes.

A further concern is the **cumulative impact** arising from another large-scale event proposed locally. A separate Premises Licence application has been submitted for the Runway Festival at Cotswold Airport from 26 to 28 June 2026. These two events would occur within approximately two weeks of one another, exposing local communities to repeated late-night disturbance within a short period. The licensing authority is entitled to consider the combined impact of such events on the wellbeing of residents.

Public Safety

The road network surrounding Long Newton and Crudwell consists largely of narrow rural lanes that are unlit and frequently used by pedestrians, runners, cyclists and horse riders. A significant increase in traffic associated with a large event (before, during and after) raises legitimate safety concerns.

Protecting Children from Harm

Late-night noise (music, vehicle movements, etc) continuing until 04:00 across four nights has the potential to cause repeated sleep disturbance for children and young people.

Repeated sleep disruption over several consecutive nights can have a significant impact on children's wellbeing, particularly during term time when families rely on predictable night-time quiet. This is also a time of year when many school children are revising and have national / end of year exams.

Conclusion

Given the scale of the proposed event, the late operating hours, there is a substantial risk that the licensing objectives — particularly the prevention of public nuisance and the promotion of public safety — would not be adequately upheld. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the licensing authority gives serious consideration to refusing this Premises Licence application.

S Hilson-Hall

I understand that a new licencing application has been made for the above festival, now proposed to be held at the beginning of September. I wish to lodge my objections, and hope that I may be able to do so with this email.

My objections, as a resident of Ashley, are as follows:

- I strongly oppose loud music being played after midnight, particularly on a weekday night. I am not alone in having to work during the week, and loud music into the night will prevent sleep, whether people work or not. This is of particular concern as this festival was served an abatement notice when it was located at Charlton Park, so it is therefore already known that our rural peace is likely be disturbed. In Ashley, we hear festivals which take place at Charlton Park. Boldridge Farm is considerably closer and therefore even if measures are put in place to contain noise levels, we will inevitably be disturbed by the bass which will travel, especially at night. To be noted is that the organisers of any music event held at Westonbirt Arboretum demand that all music to cease by 10.45 pm.
 - Our rural single track lanes are inadequate to cope with heavy traffic/and or vehicles. Our lanes are widely used by cyclists, joggers, hikers, dog walkers and horse riders, and safety of these legitimate country lane users is paramount. Not to mention the disturbance to locals of endless streams of traffic through the hamlet at all hours of the day and night. Our roads simply are not designed for this.
 - I am concerned that there will be an increase in crime, due to numbers of drug or alcohol fuelled party goers who are not respectful of our properties or our countryside. I feel particularly vulnerable being a widow living alone, often out on my with my dogs very early in the morning. I won't feel safe. Not to mention littering and danger and disturbance to our rich and abundant wildlife - deer, hares, rabbits, pheasants, bats, partridge, many species of wild birds, as well as horses in our hamlet and surrounding villages.
 - On a public safety issue, I have concerns for the safety (health and wellbeing) of our villagers should the festival organisers tap into our bore hole for their water supply. This issue has been well documented. Should the organisers address this by shipping in an alternative supply of water, another issue would be the delivery of this supply in large vehicles via our country lanes.
-

H Brabbs

I wish to object to the above referenced Licence Application for the following reasons and in relation to the stated criteria.

Firstly, whilst this matter is outside the criteria, I note the change in name of both the applicant and the applicant's company. This is a change from the previous 2026 Existence Festival application, which in turn changed from the operators of the 2025 Existence Festival at Charlton Park (where a noise abatement notice was issued). Whilst this is hardly against the law, it implies at best a lack of continuity of management and at worst an indication that something odd or even financially dubious is going on. It does not inspire confidence.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

The application refers only to noise control; public nuisance is a wider issue than noise, which is serious enough in itself.

Noise - previous experience of open-air events with amplified music in the vicinity of Ashley have evidenced that noise easily travels across open fields with no muffling effects of topography or vegetation. Previous events at Charlton Park have been very audible and a 2025 event in the same or similar location to this application (not more than 1km distant from Ashley village and even closer to other buildings) resulted in noise of sleep disturbance and deprivation magnitude. Despite all the technology related to noise management I believe that the sleep of the residents of Ashley will be disturbed until 2am on 3 consecutive nights. This is unacceptable and certainly a **public nuisance**.

Traffic - the volume of traffic created by 2000 ticket holders arriving by car and campervan, together with festival workers, contractors etc will severely affect the single-track access lane to the festival . There are few passing places and local people will experience delays and problems when using the lane during set up, attendee arrivals/departures and operation of the festival. This is a **public nuisance**.

Additionally, the verges will be detrimentally affected, especially if weather is wet - who will pay to restore damaged verges?

Local businesses requiring access to the lane will be detrimentally affected, meaning they will suffer delays resulting in extra costs. They may even lose business.

Public Safety

The issue of water supply to the festival has not been addressed in the application. It is clear the use of the Ashley bore hole could result in water resources being depleted to the extent that both the festival goers and many Ashley residents will lose their water supply. In both instances this is a serious sanitation and hygiene risk - imagine no water to flush toilets or wash in? Even drinking water could be a problem. This is a **public safety** issue for both festival goers and local residents.

Should water be brought in by tankers, this would contribute to the **public nuisance** caused by excessive traffic on a country lane. Equally, excessive traffic could cause accidents resulting in injury, another **public safety** issue.

Festivals are renowned for the use of recreational drugs. The application references '*(f) welfare referral pathways for persons in drug-related distress*' which indicates an expectation of drug use and misuse, despite the various stated procedures to be put in place. Physical and mental harm due to drug misuse is a **public safety** issue, bearing in mind that festival goers are members of the general public.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The application references: '*(g) an intelligence-sharing protocol with the police, including active pursuit of any suspected drug supply or dealing activity;*' acknowledging that festivals are the target of drug dealers. If drug dealers are enticed into the local area by the festival, then this could increase drug related **crime and disorder** in the local area beyond the festival itself.

Protection of Children from Harm

Any of the above issues could result in harm to children: for example: sleep deprivation affecting school work and causing mental distress, poor hygiene due to water supply interruption causing health problems, possibly even drug dealers targeting local children.

J A Johnson

I wish to once again object to the above referenced Licence Application for the following reasons and in relation to the stated criteria.

Firstly, whilst this matter is outside the criteria, I note the change in name of both the applicant and the applicant's company. This is a change from the previous 2026 Existence Festival application, which in turn changed from the operators of the 2025 Existence Festival at Charlton Park, where a noise abatement notice was issued against the operators.

Whilst multiple name changes are hardly against the law, this implies a desire by the applicant to mislead and deceive, implying and acknowledging the dubious nature of the proposal.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

The application refers only to noise control; public nuisance is a wider issue than noise, which is serious enough in itself.

Noise - previous experience of open-air events with amplified music in the vicinity of Ashley have evidenced that noise easily travels across open fields with no baffling effects of topography or vegetation. Previous events at Charlton Park have been very audible and a 2025 event in the same or similar location to this application (not more than 1km distant from Ashley village and even closer to other buildings) resulted in noise of sleep disturbance and deprivation magnitude. Despite all the technology related to noise management I believe that the sleep of the residents of Ashley will be disturbed until 2am on 3 consecutive nights. This is unacceptable and certainly a **public nuisance**.

Traffic - the volume of traffic created by 2000 ticket holders arriving by car and campervan, together with festival workers, contractors etc will severely affect the single-track access lane to the festival. There are few passing places and local people will experience delays and problems when using the lane during set up, attendee arrivals/departures and operation of the festival. This is a **public nuisance**.

Additionally, the verges will be detrimentally affected, especially if weather is wet - who will pay to restore damaged verges?

Local businesses requiring access to the lane will be detrimentally affected, meaning they will suffer delays resulting in extra costs. They may even lose business.

Public Safety

The issue of water supply to the festival has not been addressed in the application. It is clear the use of the Ashley bore hole could result in water resources being depleted to the extent that both the festival goers and many Ashley residents will lose their water supply. In both instances this is a serious sanitation and hygiene risk

- imagine no water to flush toilets or wash in? Even drinking water could be a problem. This is a **public safety** issue for both festival goers and local residents.

Should water be brought in by tankers, this would contribute to the **public nuisance** caused by excessive traffic on a country lane. Equally, excessive traffic could cause accidents resulting in injury, another **public safety** issue.

Festivals are renowned for the use of recreational drugs. The application references '*(f) welfare referral pathways for persons in drug-related distress*' which indicates an expectation of drug use and misuse, despite the various stated procedures to be put in place. Physical and mental harm due to drug misuse is a **public safety** issue, bearing in mind that festival goers are members of the general public.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The application references: '*(g) an intelligence-sharing protocol with the police, including active pursuit of any suspected drug supply or dealing activity;*' acknowledging that festivals are the target of drug dealers. If drug dealers are enticed into the local area by the festival, then this could increase drug related **crime and disorder** in the local area beyond the festival itself.

Protection of Children and Wildlife from Harm

Any of the above issues could result in harm to children: for example: sleep deprivation affecting school work and causing mental distress, poor hygiene due to water supply interruption causing health problems, possibly even drug dealers targeting local children.

To summarise, any person or organisation responsible for supporting this proposed activity must ultimately be held responsible by both society and the laws of the land for promoting any of the potential problems outlined herewith, as amply demonstrated by the refusal of Charlton Park to further host this activity following the disgraceful problems caused by them in 2025, albeit at their established venue well used to hosting WOMAD festivals over the decades.

What doesn't work for Lord Suffolk must not be permitted in Ashley especially since the village has no municipal system drainage or water supply, drawing water from a bore hole that could be compromised or destroyed by pollution and over abstraction.

R & K Clark

Objection to Premises License Application - Music Festival, Boldridge Farm, Crudwell Lane, Long Newnton C26/00777/PRMA

I write to object to the premises licence application for a music festival to be held from the 3-6 September 2026 near Boldridge Farm and adjoining land at Ashley. **Unfortunately the application is for a 1 year licence not just this event. This is unacceptable.**

I live and work in the village of Culkerton, a close neighbouring village, approximately 1.25 miles from the proposed site. I make the following objections.

Danger to Livestock – Crime and Disorder

Our CATTLE will be grazing within 1/4 mile of the proposed site. They will be under extreme stress and agitation from the volume of noise from music and people. There will be a danger of disturbance by visitors roaming the area together with the very real possibility of having gates left open and letting the cattle out or injured. **We have grave concerns over the welfare of our cattle due to crime and disorder.**

There is also wildlife to consider that thrive in abundance and have had an extremely harsh summer to contend with.

Public Nuisance

A four-day event with amplified music in open countryside will cause serious and sustained noise disturbance to residents across a wide area. This AONB land is characterised by low noise levels, particularly at night, and sound travels considerable distances in such conditions. Four consecutive nights of disruption is not a minor inconvenience; it represents a material reduction in residents' ability to enjoy their homes.

Vehicle movements to and from the site will generate considerable disturbance, with traffic passing through small villages on single track lanes which have not been designed for this volume of use, at hours when residents would reasonably expect quiet. To say that partygoers can use verges as passing places (in a prior application) is not good enough. The lanes are not in a good state of repair.

Public Safety

The rural lanes around Long Newton, Crudwell, Ashley and Culkerton which will be used are narrow, unlit, and frequently used by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and agricultural vehicles. A substantial increase in traffic with driver fatigue and alcohol consumption are factors that create a clear road safety risk. There is insufficient consideration to emergency access or indeed how medical incidents

involving large crowds in such a remote location would be managed. It is noted that the new emergency exit is to be on the same Crudwell Lane as all vehicle movements. This is not in the interests of public safety in a mass evacuation.

There is a public right of way through the site. How are attendees to be kept onsite so that 'mischief' is kept inside the festival, and indeed, how are the organisers to stop members of the public gaining access and creating public safety issues.

Child Protection

Please can you consider families with young children during your deliberations. 4 nights of loud music will mean disrupted sleep. Children residing locally will be back at school. How on earth are they to perform to the best of their ability when lacking proper sleep. It is well documented that disrupted sleep for children impacts their health and wellbeing. Not only is this event 4 nights but there will be a cumulative effect of 3 events each with 4 nights of disturbed sleep.

What is the plan for protection of vulnerable adults on site.

I would ask that the committee has the backbone to be sensible about this festival and refuse the application.

C & K Hargreaves

I wish to register my objection to this licence application on the grounds set out below, with reference to the licensing objectives.

Before addressing those objectives, I would note that the identity of both the applicant and the applicant's company has changed from the previous 2026 Existence Festival application, which itself differed from the organisation responsible for the 2025 event at Charlton Park. That earlier event resulted in a noise abatement notice being served.

Whilst changing names is not, of itself, improper, the repeated changes inevitably create the impression that there is an attempt to distance the current application from the history of previous events. I believe that is a relevant matter for those considering the credibility of the application.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

In my view, the application focuses heavily on noise mitigation but pays insufficient attention to the broader issue of public nuisance.

Noise

Residents of Ashley have first-hand experience of how sound carries across the surrounding open countryside. There is little in the landscape to prevent amplified music travelling significant distances, particularly during the evening and overnight. Previous events at Charlton Park have been clearly audible within the village, and the 2025 festival held nearby caused serious disturbance to residents, including sleep disruption late into the night.

I am not persuaded that the proposed noise management measures will prevent a repetition of those problems. Music continuing until around 2.00am over three consecutive nights is, in my opinion, incompatible with the reasonable expectation of nearby residents to enjoy uninterrupted sleep. That amounts to a significant public nuisance.

Traffic

The application anticipates around 2,000 attendees together with staff, contractors and suppliers. The access route is via narrow single-track country lanes with very limited passing places. The resulting congestion during the build-up, arrival, operation and departure phases of the festival will inevitably inconvenience local residents and businesses who rely on these roads every day.

There is also a real likelihood of damage to grass verges, particularly if weather conditions are wet. The application does not explain who would be responsible for repairing such damage or compensating those affected. Local businesses may also suffer delays and additional costs simply because access becomes more difficult during the event.

Public Safety

I have significant concerns regarding the proposed water supply.

The application does not satisfactorily explain how sufficient water will be provided without affecting existing local supplies. If the Ashley borehole is to be relied upon, there is a genuine risk that abstraction could reduce supplies available both to local residents and to those attending the festival.

A loss of water would have obvious consequences for sanitation, hygiene and drinking water. The inability to flush toilets, wash or maintain basic hygiene presents a serious public health concern.

If, alternatively, water is delivered by tanker, that would further increase heavy vehicle movements on already unsuitable rural roads, adding both to the public nuisance and to the risk of traffic accidents.

The application also recognises the potential for drug-related incidents by referring to welfare pathways for people experiencing drug-related distress. While I acknowledge that organisers intend to manage these risks, the inclusion of these measures reflects an expectation that illegal drug use will occur. Any resulting medical emergencies or safeguarding issues are clearly matters of public safety.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The application refers to intelligence-sharing arrangements with the police and procedures to identify drug supply and dealing. While such measures are sensible, they also acknowledge that events of this nature can attract criminal activity.

My concern is that drug dealing and associated crime are not necessarily confined to the festival site itself. Bringing large numbers of people into a rural location may increase criminal activity in the surrounding area and have consequences for nearby communities.

Protection of Children from Harm

The issues outlined above have the potential to affect children living locally. Sleep disturbance over several nights can impact wellbeing and school performance. Any interruption to the local water supply would affect families directly. Equally, any increase in drug-related activity in the area inevitably raises safeguarding concerns.

Conclusion

In my opinion, the applicant has not demonstrated that this event can take place without creating unacceptable impacts on the local community.

It is also relevant that Charlton Park, a venue with decades of experience hosting large-scale events including WOMAD, has chosen not to continue hosting this festival following the significant problems associated with the 2025 event. That history should give the licensing authority considerable pause for thought.

Ashley is particularly ill-suited to an event of this scale. It is a small rural community served by narrow lanes and does not benefit from mains drainage or a municipal water supply, relying instead on a local borehole. Those constraints make the village especially vulnerable to the types of impacts identified above.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully ask the licensing authority to refuse this application.

D J Oakley

I would like to formally object to the planning application for Wild Dancing and/or the Existence festival .

I would observe that one reason the event did not take place in June was likely due to ticket sales leading up to the event. I would also like to highlight that the website continued to advertise 24 hour music right the way up until the point of cancellation which was disappointing given the timeframe outlined in their licence.

The main reason for objecting is about interruption of the water supply for the residents of homes supplied with water on the basis of public safety. I believe the council were wrong in deciding to agree the licence in June knowing there was an issue on public health and public safety.

The water infrastructure is fragile with a lack of pump and storage to cater for an extra 2000 people drinking, eating and washing. The bore hole infrastructure would need to be renewed and expanded to cater for such demand.

The event plan that was put in place to monitor the levels and then top up with a bowser was not acceptable. The applicants previously stated that they would bring in water 100% and were happy it was a condition of the licence. I believe it should be a condition of licence particularly when it was on public record the applicant was happy to do it in a written statment/submission. They subsequently decided they would not do it and simply have bowser on standby to top up the holding tank and a helpline to then supply local residents if they ran out during the festival. That was disappointing and it appears the decisions by the applicant have been about least cost to them and lip service.

The water supply failed 3 times in 2025 which was stated by residents at the licence hearing. So far in 2026 there has been a lack of supply and interruption on Monday 22th June and Friday 26th June . Further on 10th of July there was a further interruption caused by an electrical supply fault rather than the bore hole infrastructure. This is evidence that the infrastructure is designed for the needs of the community rather than this type of event as at peak times/use the supply is vulnerable.

There was an assurance on the previous application that proper consultation had occurred in relation to public safety and environmental. Council officials later observed that there had not been consultation with the correct departments in relation to water before the application which was disappointing. I would observe that unless there are specific conditions to licence they will not perform them.

I think that the water issue is not just a public safety issue but a potential nuisance if they proceed knowing there is a very high likelihood of no water or resulting sanitation for the local community.

The other areas I would like to object are noise and vehicular traffic.

Noise - They have a poor track record and I remain unconvinced with the mitigation or the real intention to comply. Granting application will in my view create a nuisance for any homes within 2 mile radius by noise . As previously stated we could hear it from Charlton Park at the last event and it has moved 2 miles closer. Why should we need to collect data from inside our homes at 1 am in the morning to prove the case when realistically there is nothing that can be achieved at that point?

Traffic - its single track road with unsuitable verges for passing places. The plans for "holding traffic" outlined verbally at the licence meeting were impractical. Any holding of traffic simply points peoples mobile navigation devices down alternative routes to access the site and will likely gridlock the area at peak times and in any inclement weather.

My overall objection is the site and infrastructure are unsuitable . There is a danger of a public safety (including sanitation and health) and nuisance. There will also be the usual drug issues associated with this type of festival (crime).

There is next to no benefit to the community and residents for this festival.

N Burton - Melcourt Industries Ltd

Melcourt Industries Ltd wishes to make a formal representation objecting to the above Premises Licence application on the grounds that the applicant has not demonstrated that the licensing objectives relating to **Public Safety** and the **Prevention of Crime and Disorder** will be adequately promoted.

Our objection is not to festivals or outdoor events as a matter of principle. We have an established working relationship with the landowner and recognise the value that well-managed events can bring to the local area. Our concerns arise from our position as a neighbouring industrial business and from our direct experience of the previous application for this event.

Previous Experience

Earlier this year, a premises licence was granted for Existence Festival at the same location.

Following the grant of the licence, Long Newnton Parish Council organised a meeting at Melcourt Industries attended by representatives of the festival, neighbouring Parish Councils, Gloucestershire Highways and Melcourt Industries to discuss how the event would operate safely and promote the licensing objectives.

Following that meeting, the Chair of Long Newnton Parish Council formally wrote to the festival organisers identifying a number of significant operational matters that remained unresolved, including traffic management, emergency access, the management of attendees leaving the site and communication with neighbouring businesses.

Following the postponement of the event, the organisers acknowledged that engagement during the previous application had been insufficient and committed to addressing the outstanding actions identified at the Melcourt meeting.

However, before the postponement, three HGV deliveries transporting Heras fencing had already arrived on site and, despite the commitments made afterwards, Melcourt Industries has received no engagement from the current applicant regarding traffic management, access arrangements or the operational impact of the September application on our business.

This sequence of events has significantly reduced our confidence in the applicant's ability to deliver the event safely and gives rise to our concerns regarding this application.

Public Safety

Melcourt operates an active industrial manufacturing site in close proximity to the proposed festival.

Our operations involve:

- Heavy Goods Vehicle movements;
- Mobile plant;
- Industrial machinery;
- Loading operations; and
- Large open operational areas that are not designed for public access.

Whilst the application refers to security and stewarding, we remain unconvinced that sufficient detail has been provided demonstrating how attendees leaving the managed festival site will be prevented from entering neighbouring commercial

premises, including our own, where there is a foreseeable risk to both members of the public and our employees.

Access to Melcourt Industries

Melcourt relies upon uninterrupted access throughout the working day for commercial vehicles, including regular HGV movements.

Despite our proximity to the site, and the concerns raised during the previous application, we have received no engagement whatsoever from the current applicant regarding traffic management, access arrangements or the operational impact on our business.

Given our involvement in the previous application, we would reasonably have expected early engagement with our business. No such engagement has taken place.

Having reviewed the submitted site layout, we are concerned that no dedicated holding or stacking area appears to have been identified for vehicles awaiting entry to the festival site.

Should vehicles arrive faster than they can be admitted, there is a foreseeable risk of queues extending onto Crudwell Lane, obstructing access to Melcourt Industries and creating conflict with our own HGV movements.

We have seen no evidence within the application demonstrating how arriving vehicles will be managed to prevent this occurring or how uninterrupted access to neighbouring businesses will be maintained throughout the event.

For Melcourt, this is not simply a matter of traffic congestion. It is a matter of maintaining safe access to an operational industrial site and protecting both members of the public and our employees.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Melcourt is an operational industrial site containing valuable equipment, machinery and infrastructure.

The previous application identified concerns regarding attendees leaving the controlled festival environment and entering neighbouring land. Those concerns remain.

We remain unconvinced that the applicant has demonstrated how unauthorised access to neighbouring commercial premises will be prevented throughout the duration of the event.

Confidence in Delivery

The current application states that it largely mirrors the previous proposal, with revised event dates.

Whilst the legal applicant has changed, members of the previous management team remain involved in the organisation and delivery of the festival.

Our concern is therefore one of confidence. The previous licence was granted following assurances that operational matters would be resolved before the event commenced. In practice, significant operational matters remained unresolved immediately prior to the event and it ultimately did not proceed.

We respectfully submit that the Committee should therefore require clear evidence that those previous shortcomings have now been fully addressed before granting a further premises licence

Conclusion

Melcourt Industries does not object to festivals in principle.

However, based upon our direct experience of the previous application, the lack of engagement with our business regarding this application, and our continuing concerns regarding public safety and the protection of our operational site, we remain unconvinced that the applicant has demonstrated that the licensing objectives relating to **Public Safety** and the **Prevention of Crime and Disorder** will be adequately promoted.

We therefore respectfully request that the Licensing Sub-Committee refuses this application.

N Mitchell

I am writing to object against the above licence for propose festival in our village

This is total unacceptable :

- The infrastructure is not suitable for the numbers involved , narrow lanes, horses, runners, walkers, children -----someone will be injured Im sure
- The paths are used on regular basis by walkers including children.....I hate to think what will be left on these paths !

- Real danger of crime4,000 festival goers there are bound to be some on the look out for opportunities for theft
- There will be music until early hours causing real issue for the locals, also light pollution a real issue

This is totally the wrong site for such a festival

A Lodwick

I OBJECT to the application for a license to hold the Existence Festival on James Bell's land on 4-6 September 2026.

I would like to preface the points of my objection by informing the licensing group that we have a very personal interest in this application: my son's wedding is on Saturday 5th September at Holy Trinity Church Long Newton followed by a drinks reception in the garden of Ashley Manor and dinner in an open-sided marquee. The coordinates of these events will indicate the close proximity to the festival site: Church 51.6308 N, 2.1319 W. Ashley 51.65133 N, 2.10051W

This event has been planned for 18 months with significant time, effort and funds already committed to a wedding that brings together family, friends and community using only locally sourced food, flowers, staff and infrastructure. We were very distressed to find the festival organizers immediately posted the new September dates after cancelling the June festival date, with no outreach or consultation with our community. Also, please note, there was no posting of notice of the new application in Ashley or on the Fosse Way or Monarch's Way footpaths, only on Crudwell Lane.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

As a small community of residents mostly 60 plus years old, some of whom are vulnerable, we could easily have festival goers wandering into the village over a number of days. We are particularly concerned the very visible marquee could draw outsiders to us over the quiet lanes or across the surrounding fields in a way which would never happen in normal circumstances. The wedding marquee will be very vulnerable on Friday night and Saturday while we are at the Church.

As will guests' cars.

I ask the licensing group to consider the safety of property and persons in Ashley.

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. The lanes from Holy Trinity Long Newnton to Ashley are very narrow. As is usual at events at the church, parking is along the lane and we anticipate approximately 70 cars will be there for the ceremony of Saturday 5th September. Depending on farming schedules, there is a high probability of large agricultural vehicles using the lane. I do not know if Melcourt has large articulated lorries in and out on Saturdays. Festival traffic will create additional problems although I have not seen the organizers' traffic management plans and they have not shared them in their application or to the community.
2. There remains the ongoing question of the water supply to the festival site. Will the water be supplied by the Ashley borehole thus diminishing or drying up the supply to Ashley village residents, a number of whom are elderly and vulnerable? If water is to be tankered in to supply the site during set-up, festival days and take-down, will the 44 ton articulated water lorries be scheduled into the traffic management plan and will that plan take into consideration the congestion around the church on Saturday? We cannot assess this as no information is provided to the public. Have the organizers filed a Water Sanitation Plan that has been approved?
3. The Athelstan Pilgrim Way footpath crosses the festival site east-west connecting the Fosse Way and Monarch's Way. There are no notices of closure of this footpath. This public footpath is used by the young and old who will have to cross a densely populated site with no protection. Additionally, on Sunday we have a post-wedding scavenger hunt planned which incorporates this footpath in a loop to and from Ashley. The festival puts this planned activity at jeopardy due to the safety of guests crossing the festival site, particularly vulnerable adults and children. The organizers have provided no publicly available plan regarding security on a public footpath.
4. There does not appear to be a properly viable emergency exit route. If the organizers think they are going to use the Fosse Way for their emergency exit they should consider there are often cars parked along it at the top at the junction with Crudwell Lane. That part of the Fosse is regularly used, every day, at all times, by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and dirt bikers.

PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

The noise from the festival will be a public nuisance during the wedding ceremony at Holy Trinity as will the festival traffic in front of the church. The noise from the festival will have an enormous impact on the wedding celebrations in the garden and marquee in Ashley as the seasonal prevailing wind is from the southwest, putting Ashley directly downwind, only a kilometre away from the festival stages across open fields. The decibel levels proscribed in the license are a crude tool to use to anticipate the impact on Ashley. Additionally, having a festival noise complaint telephone number, which may or may not be answered, or an email complaint to the council noise team is completely inadequate prevention of noise nuisance ruining the wedding and disturbing our neighbours and other local residents unduly.

Please note, we have neurodivergent family members with us that weekend, including two under 21, who are particularly vulnerable to unexpected stimuli.

Due to the location of Ashley directly downwind of the festival noise nuisance is a very real problem for our village and we ask the council to respect our community's concerns.

In sum, the date and location of this festival is completely inappropriate with respect to its impact on Ashley. The organizers have not engaged with us in planning the event, going so far as to expend funds, sell tickets and advertise before providing essential information or even gaining their license. They have not provided information of their Event Management Plan, Noise Management Plan or Water Sanitation Plan. This makes it difficult to anticipate and analyze any other potential disadvantages to our community or to work to find solutions to the problems we have identified. This festival provides no community benefit nor financial gain to the local economy and is actually is a drain on council time and financial resources. I urge the licensing officers and and licensing committee to take a proactive rather than reactive approach to protecting our community when assessing this application and serving our best interests.

A Montgomerie

I am a resident of Ashley - GL8 8SU having lived here since 2008. We are very concerned about the re-application for the Existence Festival on the above dates.

We have 8 horses at home and we regularly use the lanes around our property for

hacking our horses. We also have to lead them to our field down the lane to graze them. This is in very close proximity to the proposed Festival. This will cause an immense logistical problem for us as we do this twice a day. As well as the noise stress to them. The traffic on our lanes with farm machinery, deliveries, and residents is busy enough. Entertaining this volume of people is going to cause an enormous amount of increased traffic which is going to be dangerous to us leading our horses to their field and hacking them out.

We also run two Airbnb rooms from our house and we have guests booked in for that weekend who are attending a wedding in the village. Again this is a major clash of a very important local event which has been in the planning for more than two years for this same weekend. An emergency exit route is also of grave concern so close to the village on single track lanes. This is not in any way contributing to this AONB. Its sole purpose is for personal reward and is not benefitting our community in any way. Furthermore the water supply to this village is extremely limited and I cannot see how it will be sustained and supplied to the houses here with the volume of people proposed.

There are many factors and reasons why this festival should not take place this year or in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

K Landale

My objections are as follows:

Crime and Disorder: large festivals have no place being held down narrow country lanes. The rubbish, drug use, anti social behaviour that comes with such festivals has no place in our small community. We will all be affected by the fallout from this.

Public Nuisance: Noise and light pollution in an area of AONB, traffic nuisance, danger to riders, runners, walkers etc. no escape routes when there is an accident for anyone or ability of the law and medical enforcement officers to attend the scene. This landlord has not cleared the site of litter since a small festival he held a few years ago.

Public Safety: As above

Protection of Children: Noise during term time for children, the preschool that is close by, the litter, bad behaviour and drug detritus all will inhibit children being able to go down the public footpaths for a while.

C Berry

I went to visit the site yesterday and made the following observations;

1. Next door on the Long Newton side is a construction site with a lake, and various other things like constructions traffic etc. I suspect this will still be a project in September.
2. The site itself has restricted entry, a barn full of Hay a single dwelling I am not sure what the water supply position is but right now the infrastructure looks at best challenging as does the access.
3. My experience of the run up to the first date looks like the organisation will be challenging and beyond that of those who are seeking to run the festival.
4. The nearby residents with various livestock etc.. will find it difficult.

I believe that based on the run up to the event previously this could be one that results in tragedy.

If you have not done so please visit the site now. Also please consider the lack of coordination up to the date previously.

The only potential venue for such a festival nearby would be the Airport.

This is several thousand young people staying over a couple of nights with various extraneous influences on their Psyche.

I am unsure that the facilities required will be delivered by the organisers. I would be EXTREMELY worried about the safety of those taking part.

It is too many, too remote, too exposed, too unlikely to have facilities, too poorly organised without considering the affect on the near neighbours and livestock etc. I caution you that since the last tragedy around the last Existence situation close to Malmesbury this could result in multiples of this.

Please please please encourage the licensing Members to visit and of course you, the professionals, think about this when visiting the site. It is almost too small to deliver the suitable infrastructure we see at WOMAD and too remote to ensure that any catastrophic occurrence could be coped with.

R Montgomerie

We are very concerned about the re-application for the Existence Festival on the above dates. Entertaining this volume of people is going to cause an enormous amount of increased traffic which is going to be dangerous to us and others in the village with horses.

We also run two Airbnb rooms from our house and we have guests booked in for that weekend who are attending a wedding in the village. Again this is a major clash of a very important local event which has been in the planning for more than two years for this same weekend. An emergency exit route is also of grave concern so close to the village on single track lanes. This is not in any way contributing to this AONB. Its sole purpose is for personal reward and is not benefitting our community in any way. Furthermore the water supply to this village is extremely limited and will limit supply to the houses here with the volume of people proposed.

There are many factors and reasons why this festival should not take place this year or in the future.

V Hilton

I object to the above application by Wild Dancing Ltd.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Unfortunately such proposed gatherings can lead to unacceptable behaviour and high jinks at the site and surrounding areas. Crudwell and Chedglow have recently suffered a mini crime wave of burglaries and vehicle thefts that has left people already feeling vulnerable.

Public Safety

The proposed site is accessed via narrow single track roads that are not in the best

condition. These roads are heavily used by large local agricultural machinery and huge articulated lorries accessing Melcourt which has a significant depot on Crudwell/Tetbury Lane. The lane is well used by horse riders, bikers and pedestrians, young and old and on most days you can witness the near misses they have with said traffic.

The Athelstan Pilgrims Way runs through the festival site. This footpath connects the Fosse Way and Monarchs Way and is well used by the local community, young and old. Although the footpath will remain open anyone using it will perhaps have to navigate exuberant festival goers moving to and fro the site from the car park plus any staff/organisers cars moving around the site.

Water supply to the site is proposed from the Ashley borehole that already struggles to supply those reliant on it at the best of times. If this source runs dry and water tankers have to be supply water to the site this just escalated the road traffic and vehicles having to cross the footpath.

On the Festival site map an emergency site entry and exit is on to the Fosse Way near the Crudwell Lane end. A huge amount of dog owners use this section of the Fosse Way to park up prior to walking the Fosse (and Athelstan Way). It is not uncommon for at least four cars to be parked there restricting the width of access. The Fosse Way is hugely attractive to the 4x4, motorised bikes and modified car users/clubs and use that section on a regular basis and almost all weekends. Unfortunately they are not always considerate when crossing the Crudwell lane and can just shoot out across the lane regardless of traffic using the lane and the lack of visibility around the parked dog walkers cars. On 30th May 2026 one modified car coming off the Fosse unfortunately burst into flames on the highway resulting in numerous emergency vehicles attending, toxic fumes dominating the surrounding area for hours, damage to road surface and severe disruption to local traffic. Picture attached. On the 2026 previous Festival application an emergency site entry and exit was marked on the map directly on to Crudwell lane. Please note if this entry/exit is reinstated into the application it should have (but remains in situ) been stopped up and hedgerow reinstated in the interest of highway safety and visual amenity in accordance with Cotswold District Local Planning Policy, see planning application 10/01872/FUL. See attached photo.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Four nights of performances until 2am, four nights of refreshments being served until 5am, alcohol served till 2am three nights and till 11pm on one night will certainly

create a less than peaceful night's sleep (if at all possible as from experience of last year's Festival held at same location sleep was hard to achieve given level of noise coming from said site) for those living near the site. There is no mention of lasers being used and presume this will not be an option given close proximity of The Cotswold Airport?

Please can the above points be taken into serious consideration when assessing this application.





Mrs C Harris

Protecting children & vulnerable people

Hello,

I am the manager of Crudwell Pre-School which is located on Tetbury Lane in Crudwell. This is less than a mile away from where the festival may be taking place. I have nothing against people having a good time, but my concern is about the safety of the children in my care. The licensing Act 2003 states that children should be protected which I don't think will be possible with the festival potentially being so close.

S Barker

I am emailing to express my objection to the re-application for a Licence for the Existence Festival to now take place in September.

Having sat through various subsequent meetings since the previous CDC licensing meeting, to try to ensure the Festival organisers undertake the various requirements needed, I have seen first hand their lack of intent and/or ability to deliver or engage to fulfil various council requirements or the interests of local residents affected.

They have had repeated lists of requirements, emails, etc., but even now have not undertaken them or entered into discussion with the local Parishes. This list includes: Traffic Management Plan, now made worse by moving the parking field next to single track road and more potential traffic issues. Managing attendees leaving or entering the festival, especially at night, and I have great concern having heard their intentions for removal of potentially vulnerable persons.

I would also now add concerns about the replacement Emergency Exit which is on the Fosse Way, which is not a designated road and just off a dangerous S bend on the single lane road. Can large emergency vehicles safely maneuver the gateway indicated?

I reattach some of my previous objections as they still apply -

With regards to the high increase in volume of traffic, the single track of Crudwell Lane cannot cope. The build and dismantle traffic either side, plus the volume of people attending in cars and camper vans, etc. will be too much in size and volume.

This single-track road is also used by walkers and cyclists, who will be put at further risk than usual, in addition to those using village school, play area, etc. Much of the lane is difficult for passing places, without further damage to the verge.

Another large concern is the fact that the amplified music licence (both live and recorded) is from 10am until 2am each day (midnight on final day). This is far too much and too late, as the noise will travel to the local communities. I understand the same festival last year was served with a public nuisance (or similar) notice. The disruption to multiple nights of sleep and potential stress to local livestock/wildlife is not acceptable.

My other concerns include those of public safety and nuisance, emergency access for the site which could endanger life and damage to the local area and wildlife.

This festival I understand was previously held at Charlton Park, which is established and has the proven facilities as a festival venue. If they have rejected having any further dealings with this festival, there are obvious problems with it. Now moving to farmland, which clearly does not have the experience or capability of hosting such a festival for potentially 5,000 attendees, plus performers and other "staffing", does ring real alarm bells.

I hope my objection and reasons will be taken into account when this application is considered.

Councillor N Ind

As before, my concerns centre around the suitability of this remote rural agricultural field site, which I understand last Friday was on fire.

In addition, whilst this application is in another name, I understand some of the organisers are the same and once again, to date, Long Newnton Parish Council and I have not been contacted with details, despite initial assurances offering to engage and work with us, to address any concerns.

My representations and concerns centre around:

Public Safety

Highways

The festival site is accessed by a single lane track which comes from a single lane connecting Long Newnton with Crudwell. This lane has already been subject to

extensive traffic monitoring reports and daily movements include not only cars, farm vehicles and HGVs but also pedestrians, dog walkers, cyclists & horse riders - this lane is therefore unable to safely accommodate the additional traffic which will be generated by this event. This site is unsustainable with no footpaths, streetlights or public transport.

I understand that 20-30 HGV's access the Melcourt site opposite the proposed festival site each day and they work 6 days per week. This lane has a restriction regarding the access and direction of travel for Melcourt HGVs – in and out along the same section of lane which connects at Church Lane.

I also have concerns regarding access to the festival site in the event of an emergency and use of the Fosse Way, which is now being proposed as the emergency services access point - would a fire engine be able to turn into the field at this point and could an ambulance drive safely to the site?

The site sits in the Cotswold National Landscape (previously the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and has a number of public rights of way in close proximity to the site including – the Monarch's Way, Fosse Way, and Public Right of Way NAS4, which crosses the main site entrance, arrangements should be made in order to maintain lawful access to this public amenity whilst the festival is being set up, taking place and dismantled.

Inadequate Water Supply

There is no mains water supply at the site, only a borehole serving 12 residential properties, which I don't believe would be able to cope with being used for a festival of 2000 people, given that I understand at the start of this month this borehole has failed twice – this is a matter of public health and safety. If water tankers will be required to supply the festival goers and all those working and organising this event on this site, what size HGVs will be required? Will they be as large as the HGV which attempted to deliver the HERAS fencing to the last cancelled festival in June and which I believe ended up parked on the Fosse Way.

Crime & Disorder

I am aware that this event was issued last year with a noise abatement order by Wiltshire Council and I am concerned that there should be no repeat of this situation.

In addition, late night refreshment – being served until 5.00am on all evenings/early mornings with alcohol being served until 2.00am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and 11pm on Sunday evening – this is often linked to alcohol fuelled crime & disorder - and as this is a rural site with the closest local police being based 10

miles away in Cirencester what additional security and public protection measures have been put in place?

Whilst not a licensing consideration I am also concerned about the potential for wildlife crimes (disturbance of protected species) taking place, with loud music and lighting in a dark skies area.

Public Nuisance

This festival will affect the residents of Long Newnton, Ashley, Chedglow and Crudwell the nearest homes are situated approx. 500 metres away and the villages around 1500 metres away, there are approx. 1800 residents, but also there are businesses who are sited at Church Farm, Nursery Farm, Melcourt and local equine businesses who will feel the effect – which will last for around 2 weeks in total with setting up and taking down.

In addition, in early September, you would expect children and families to still be using their gardens and having windows open and they should not be expected to have this lane and their villages overrun by this much traffic, people and noise. I have noted no amplified music between 2am and 11am (except on Friday and Saturday when music will start at 10am) I can see that noise is expected from plays inside and outside from 10am Thursday 3rd September until 4pm on Monday 7th September – 24 hours a day. This is a public nuisance for not only residents, who will be trying to sleep, but animals and wildlife too in this open agricultural rural area. I am concerned how these levels will be controlled, particularly given the previous issues with the festival, only a few miles away last year.

As previously stated, there is no public transport which can serve the site and therefore the staff and attendees – so this site is not at all sustainable - everyone will need to travel by motor vehicle – including cars, motorhomes, lorries & HGVs to set up and support the site.

Public nuisance may also arise because of the adverse effect of artificial light – this site is in the Cotswold National Landscape, where they state - Dark skies are a Special Quality of the Cotswolds. How are these dark skies to be protected?

I reiterate my concerns about suitability of the site and highways - accessing the site not being sustainable, no water mains and no pavement or street lighting with potentially people leaving the site in the early hours of the morning where there is no public transport and all attendees, stallholders, campsite services and organisers having to travel by car or motor vehicle – with the site entrance on a single rural lane. All a public nuisance for the local community.

Protection of Children

Consideration also needs to be given to the proximity of the site to schools and youth clubs and locally Crudwell Pre-School and a children's playing field is within 1500 metres of the site and there is also a Primary school at Crudwell. In addition, there is currently a planning application for a children's nursery directly adjacent to the festival site. How will the festival be fenced to prevent any access and protect local children?

H Williams

I'm writing to notify Cotswold District Council of my objection to the above 'new premises licence' on land near Boldridge Farm GL88RT.

My objection is as follows:

Public safety:

- the location is accessed using narrow rural lanes - a good part of which is single track with no formal passing places. Having a huge increase in traffic can only present huge safety issues for locals and other road users. Being a quiet country lane it is regularly used by families cycling, horse riders, walkers and runners. I use it regularly as part of my running route from Crudwell and even with light local traffic I sometimes have to take evasive action when a vehicle doesn't slow down. The thought of huge amounts of vehicles going to and from the festival over those 5 days (and the week beforehand and afterwards when set up and dismantling will take place) would make my running route a no-go area for me. As a local I shouldn't be made to feel this way.

As well as the festival goers, the large HGVs that will be needed to transport all the equipment to the festival and remove it again afterwards present further safety issues for all other road users - extending the chaos and safety issues for at least a week either side of the festival dates.

Public nuisance:

Long delays in Crudwell and all along the single track lane with queuing to access the festival site. Although traffic is quite light normally, locals do use this route for work, school drop and collection and general access - they will find it very difficult to do this for the duration of the festival and either side of it with all the lorries being used to setup and dismantle the site.

There are no formal passing places along the lane leading to the site from Crudwell - overtime parts of the verges have been worn away to create informal passing places but these are not suitable for lots of traffic or HGVs. Some of these informal passing places have some quite deep edges/potholes - as locals we know which ones we can safely move to, to allow a car to get past - but with increased amounts of traffic and again HGVs (who may not want to move off the road if they're loaded!) - we locals will be forced to move off the road and risk damage to our vehicles (and we know the damage potholes can cause).

Drivers will find themselves having to reverse long distances to allow vehicles to pass - having to do this for one or two vehicles is a pain but what happens when there's a stream of festival traffic and nowhere for them to go? It could cause gridlock, with local drivers being delayed.

The grass verges will then become passing places meaning these will be carved up over prolonged use with both festival goers, HGVs and locals (who are being forced off the road) and made even worse if the ground is wet.

The grass verges towards Long Newnton over the last few years have been planted with wild flower seeds - local residents put up tape fencing and signs asking vehicles to keep off the verges -local drivers hopefully respect this as I'm sure others do too, but it will only take a few to not take any notice to destroy all their hard work.

Obviously there's a level of noise to consider - and I'm sure there will be the right people around to ensure it's within the legal limit - but why so late into the night? There will be local residents having to get up for work, school etc - we're not all on holiday. We'll still, hopefully, have warm evenings, bedroom windows open during the night - not conducive to the best night's sleep with loud music until the early hours.

Littering is a big issue too - who will be responsible for picking up litter from the hedgerows? This could be along the whole length of Crudwell/Tetbury Lane - unfortunately some people do think it's ok to throw their litter out of their car window - we've all seen it happen. I really wish it wasn't an issue but unfortunately it is. Discarded drink cans/food wrappers casually thrown out of car windows - it'll happen.

I'm not against people having fun, I enjoy live music but the location is so ridiculous that I can't even believe it's being entertained as a venue.

I hope you receive enough feedback to ensure this festival has to find a different venue - with better and safer access.

I understand from the previous application, that objections based on public nuisance couldn't involve traffic. I disagree completely on this - excess traffic along a single track road will require locals (ie public) to change their habits during the festival set up, during the event and dismantling - so potentially 2 weeks. Having to change their habits because of the danger and inconvenience of excess traffic on this country lane will be a big nuisance to local people (ie public). No difference to noise levels being a public nuisance.

The idea of a shuttle bus as per the previous application is ridiculous - the lane can hardly fit a small van never mind a bus and I can't see a bus driver being willing to reverse to let a local who uses the lane regularly get past. Again a nuisance to locals (ie public). I'm not sure where this shuttle bus will be taking festival goers in the early hours as trains don't run during the night. I see this as a tick in the box exercise by the applicant to suggest cars along the lane will be minimal - really - what world do they live in?

Here's hoping common sense prevails

J Fenton

Objection to Festival at Long Newnton

Although I support festivals in general I feel there are suitable places where they can be held which this is not. The area where this festival is sited is on a narrow country lane therefore cars always have to pull in to the side to allow a car coming in the opposite direction to pass. With large amount of traffic both prior and during and after a festival this will cause continuous disruption especially for all local people doing school runs and farmers and other commercial traffic not involved in the festival. Also queuing along a narrow road will add to congestion. All vehicles have to turn off the B4014 which in itself has become very busy so there will be queuing there too and it will be noisy for all the residents living close by.

Where the emergency access route exits onto the Fosseway is where many walkers park their cars to walk on the fosseway or along the footpath across the festival ground. There is a sharp bend in the road by the Fosseway at that point which is

dangerous.

Pedestrians which may include children will not feel safe walking through the festival area on the footpath.

In this ANOB area dark skies are important for all the wildlife and residents which a festival will disturb for several days. Noise from the music will also be very disruptive.

The application for a festival such as this is a great worry for the local community, to which I belong, for the many reasons above.

I hope you will give careful consideration to my objections.

P Fenton

It has been drawn to my attention that that you have had an application for a festival in the parish of Long Newton.

I have grave concerns and a few are as follows- Access is on a narrow lane and will have consequences on traffic during build up, break down and for those attending the festival.

In the event of emergency vehicles attending the site there will no doubt be delays in response times getting to the site.

Local water supplies are limited and are sourced from a borehole which services various houses and farms.

Security will need to be tightened up during the period of the festival.

Will the council repair roads/ lanes after the event as there are no passing bays, the Parish council does not have funds to do these repairs.

B & C Ferns

OBJECTION : Music festival near Boldridge Farm, Crudwell Lane, Long Newnton

We are writing for the second time to object formally to this new application **C/26/00777/PRMA**. We live in Ashley, less than a mile away from the northern boundary of the proposed event site.

Firstly, there again appear to have been no planning notices of this event in Ashley village despite it being one of the areas most affected. This is a repeat omission from the application earlier this year. For context we had to suffer a noisy and disruptive late-night event in 2025 on this site, also with no prior notice having been given.

Our objections are summarized below : -

1. PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

The noise generated at the festival will affect residents directly as there is open ground with no natural attenuation between us in Ashley and the event stages. This we know from last year's similar event which went on and on through the early hours. There is also concern about festival goers wandering off site in the early hours as there is open access via the Monarch Way from the festival site over the fields to our village.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY - WATER SUPPLY

We understand the applicant has undertaken not to use the nearby borehole supply on which we in Ashley rely, as we are not on any mains water supply. We are concerned that our supply may nevertheless be tapped in to and interrupted if not enforced, with public health consequences for the community.

3. PUBLIC SAFETY - ROAD ACCESS

Access is via narrow lanes through the adjacent villages which do not have capacity for the anticipated high volume of vehicle traffic. Along with local traffic and farm vehicles they are widely used for horseriding, cycling and walking. Melcourt vehicles are already barred from using the road past the site entrance, so there should be no exception for large lorries serving the festival, eg staging equipment, facilities, water bowsers and regular portaloo change-overs, before, during and after the 4-day festival.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY – FIRE RISK

We are all aware of the sustained dry period and the long-range forecast indicates that this is likely to continue. With the proposed festival dates being a matter of weeks away, there is a real risk of fire emanating from the festival site from, for example, discarded cigarettes, cooking facilities, sparks from electrical equipment. There are no natural fire breaks in this area, being mainly open fields with some wooded areas. This is obviously extremely worrying for all of us, not least because

there was a fire in a field close to if not part of the proposed site on 16/17 July caused by a spark from machinery in an adjoining field. Has this been properly considered in the applicant's planning of the event.

The previous application was withdrawn because too many issues had clearly not been properly considered. This sort of event demands a level of pre-planning and competence not evident hitherto on the applicant's side, and we residents are not prepared to take it on trust that they've improved.

We trust the Council will take into account our strong objections and not disregard our concerns, and therefore refuse the application.

T Gaffney

Existence Festival on Farmland near the Fosse Way, Long Newnton

I understand an application has been made to hold this Festival on 3 - 7 September 2026.

I strongly object to this farmland being used for a Festival as:

1. The access via Crudwell Lane is narrow and wholly unsuitable for the two-way, high volume of people and traffic that will be associated with the Festival.
 - Verges will get damaged
 - There are few passing places along Crudwell Lane
 - There are no pavements which means there are road safety issues for pedestrians who will share the lane with vehicles coming and going
 - Access to Crudwell Lane will have a knock effect on safety and the verges on Church Lane in Long Newnton, a single-track road, which provides access to Crudwell Lane from the West
 - There will be similar issues coming to Crudwell Lane from the East through the village of Crudwell
 2. The volume of the music associated with this type of Festival will be a public nuisance and it is unreasonable for the applicant to have music playing until 2:00am for at least 3 days.
-

M Gaffney

I am a long term resident of Long Newnton and am very familiar with the surrounding roads.

My objections remain the same as the previous application.

Crudwell Lane is a single track road with many blind bends and is totally unsafe for the number of cars the festival will attract. There will be cars queuing to get in and out of the car park adding additional dangers and inconvenience to residents living around the area.

I have encountered many near miss incidents of pedestrians with children walking in the road to the village hall/playground. The situation will be so much more with the additional traffic on weekend days when children are not at school.

Additionally, Crudwell and surrounding villages are rural communities and the noise levels will be very hard to tolerate over the 4 days with such late finish times.

Thank you for considering my objections.

B Holt

I wish to register my concerns on the accessibility of this event.

Why even consider such an event in a area where local roads are not suitable for a significant increase in traffic.

R Warrington

I am writing to express my concern regarding the application for a licence to hold The Existence Festival - a 4-day Psytrance/Electronic dance music festival - on a couple of fields near our house in Long Newnton, within an designated area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB now known as National Landscape area).

I am not against the wish to bring live music to an audience as I am a Trustee of Tetbury Goods Shed Community Arts and Entertainment Centre where live music concerts are put on most weeks, but the issue here is the appropriateness of the proposed venue.

The proposed festival is for 4 days (3 - 7 September 2026 - having been moved from the original dates in June because the organisers could not meet the requirements regarding safe access, footpath management, creating the necessary boundary for the event and generally a lack of management capability). There was also some confusion over the venue because it was being still being advertised as taking place at Charlton Park, Malmesbury, and also on the land adjacent to Boldridge Farm, Long Newnton.

I understand that Charlton Park held a similar, smaller festival last year under the same name and have refused the return. Charlton Park are experienced at holding music festivals, so their decision to refuse the future events organised by this group gives us a clear indication that problems arise! The management may well promise to do the necessary safety, security, licensing requirements but then don't. It seems to me, that the organisers are trying it on, attempting to find a venue which will hold their event, but with a chequered history behind them - they are grasping at straws - the recent evidence of a fire on the land that is ear-marked for the festival that caused significant disruption to the village and highlighted the very restricted access for fire engines, all indicate a disregard for the rules.

I am very concerned with this approach for a licence. There are many reasons why it should not be granted in line with the Licensing Act of 2003:

- Public Nuisance: the Festival is suggesting that as many as 2000 people could attend and the music from 3 stages would go on until 4am. The impact of this would be significant noise pollution, light pollution (it would not be feasible for the music to continue without lighting on the stages and surrounding area causing significant interruption to the AONB Dark Sky policy), and the excess traffic that would result using the roads around the proposed site. The roads, in particular, are just not suitable for the amount of traffic that could be required - plus the lorries, vans and other trucks bringing the equipment, refreshments, water, toilets, etc to the site. The B4014, Church Lane and Crudwell Lane are narrow country roads. There are already large lorries using the roads when accessing Melcourt Industrial/Agricultural site very close to the proposed venue and those lorries have caused the destruction of the verges, caused increasing numbers of pot-holes in the road, and Melcourt have been banned from expanding further. Melcourt will not be closing during the event so the

roads will be very busy. The anticipated traffic from this festival would cause huge disruption not just for the 4-day event, but in the weeks before and after - the setting up and closing down requirements.

- **Crime and Disorder:** It is often the case, that large gatherings of people can cause increased levels of crime and disorder. Pop Festivals have a reputation for drugs and alcohol abuse - in the advertising blurb the organisers say specifically it is NOT a family-friendly event, so there is an expectation that behaviour may not be conducive to a 'pleasant experience' that could be enjoyed by all - is the expectation that behaviour would be anti-social? It sounds like it.
- **Public Safety:** The lanes around the area are just not sufficiently wide and roadworthy to accommodate the numbers of vehicles expected to bring the 2000 attendees, but also the lorries and trucks bringing in and removing the required equipment. The lanes are used by horse-riders, dog-walkers, cyclists and local residents who move between Long Newton and Crudwell, as well as the existing lorries that operate with Melcourt. All these people will be at higher risk of incidents and accidents from the visiting vehicles - many of the cars will not be used to driving on such narrow roadways and the possibility of accidents must increase. The last point relates back to the access - if there was to be an incident requiring emergency vehicles, this would be severely compromised by the narrow lanes and poor access - there is only one road in and out of the site, which is very narrow from both ends (Long Newton and Crudwell) - surely a significant public safety risk factor. We also understand that Wiltshire CC have agreed to Crudwell villages requirement that no festival traffic will be allowed access from that village, so even more pressure on the narrow lanes in Long Newton. How Crudwell will enforce their proposed ban is still to be identified.
- **Protection of children:** the access along from the Crudwell village to the site passes a school, a playing field and a small housing estate. The huge increase in traffic could cause significant risk of child related incidents - and the noise impact could also disrupt the children of the area's sleep patterns.

As noted, the fields in question are within the AONB, but also alongside the Fosse Way, and the area is farmland and also teeming with wildlife. At a time when we are trying to create a peaceful environment to enable the people in the vicinity to enjoy the countryside, this festival would destroy that expectation.

The proposal is not just for a single festival, but an open-ended licence for years to come, and as I have already pointed out Charlton Park (which held other festivals in July) has refused this event to return - why? I would suggest that this is because the

event is not well-run, it has caused concerns for the people in the area, and it increased the likelihood of anti-social behaviour, if not actual criminal behaviour.

I hope these points will be considered by the Committee and the event is not allowed to go ahead.

Andrea Warrington

I live on Church Lane just along from the Church, one of my main concerns is the traffic, the only access is via Crudwell Lane either accessed from the B4014 along Church Lane and then turning right into Crudwell Lane or from the other end of Crudwell Lane from the A429. Church Lane is already used by all the Melcourt Lorries and at peak times we see in excess of 90 lorry movements along Church Lane each day along with the usual tractor and farm traffic associated with a farming community. This lane is also wholly unsuitable for the 18t lorries and it is impossible for two vehicles to pass. See attached photograph! With the addition of festival cars and traffic over a 4 day period it would be extremely dangerous with emergency vehicles unable to access should they be needed.

My second objection is based on the noise and light pollution. We live in an area of outstanding natural beauty which means there are many restrictions on what residents can do whilst living in that area. How then can it be acceptable for a Psytrance/Electronic dance festival to be held in this area? With music playing until 2am, which would be heard for miles around it would cause unacceptable disturbance for residents and also be harmful to local wildlife and pets. Many of our residents work from home or are elderly and disrupted sleep would be unacceptable. Music from our local wedding venue "The Great Tythe Barn" is not allowed to play music until 2 am so why should the festival.

The licencing act 2003 says that the application must promote the following:

Prevention of Crime and Disorder: It is well documented that a festival such as this would include the use of recreational drugs, alcohol and probably more. The irresponsible anti-social behaviour that this would encourage has no place in a small village such as ours.

Prevention of public nuisance: Noise pollution, light pollution and significant traffic noise is not commensurate with an area of outstanding natural beauty. I would also point out that a footpath actually runs through the site and this would be unsafe to

use for families during the festival and during set up and clear up. That cannot be allowed.

Promote public safety: See my notes above of the traffic problems on the lanes leading to the site. The lanes are used daily by dog walkers who have to walk in the road as there are no pavements, horse riders and cyclists also use the lanes which are single track and not able to cope with increased traffic.

Protection of children from harm: One of the routes in to the site passes a nursery, a school and a playing field. The other access Church Lane does not have a pavement for the whole length and residents walk on the road. With the increase in traffic, and the presence of festival goers, walking on the lanes would be very dangerous. The noise of the music until 2 am would also disturb children's sleep.

As you can see the request for a licence does not promote even one of the conditions and would cause severe disruption for Long Newnton and the surrounding villages. It is clear that the festival organisers have absolutely no organisational skills or care for the environment. We also know that their behaviour was unacceptable at Charlton Park, Malmesbury last year and they were not welcome to return, hence trying to find another site. Please ensure this objection is noted in full.



L Moss

I am writing to object to the holding of the proposed Existence Festival 3-7th September 2026.

The licensing act of 2003 states that the application must promote the following statutory objectives

1. Prevention of crime and disorder
2. Prevention of public nuisance
3. Public Safety

4. Prevention of children from harm

I do not believe the above statutory objectives will be met for the following reasons:

- **Crime and disorder** – it is well documented that such large multi day music festivals are associated with higher levels of drug usage, alcohol intake and anti social behaviour.
- **Public nuisance** – significant noise pollution until 2am, light pollution not commensurate with the AONB dark sky policy, significant traffic noise, use of public footpaths, whilst not restricted, will become unviable
- **Public Safety** – significant traffic on a single track rural road is a major safety issue for pedestrians, cyclist, horse riders. Very limited access should there be an emergency
- **Protection of children** – the single track entry road passes a preschool and playing fields. Noise until 2am will result in disrupted sleep, inability to use the public footpaths in a safe manner

The organisers of the previous application (June 2026) failed to deliver against any of the statutory licensing objectives.

There is little confidence that this application (September 2026) will fully meet the statutory licensing objectives.

Additionally the emergency access route is via the Fosse way, and then Crudwell lane. This emergency access is on a blind bend and single-track road. I do not believe this to be suitable as the car park is designated to be the field adjacent to the road, whereby vehicles will queue along Crudwell lane to access the car park, thereby blocking the "emergency access".

J Phelps

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to formally object to the proposed festival commencing September 4th due to its close proximity to farm buildings housing livestock and animal fodder

The proposed event raises significant concerns regarding animal welfare, fire safety and public safety.

I am particularly concerned about the increased fire risk associated with holding a large outdoor event close to livestock buildings. Dry fodder is highly combustible and even a small ignition source such as discarded cigarettes, barbecues, cooking equipment, could have devastating consequences. A fire could spread rapidly threatening the lives of animals and putting nearby residents and emergency services at risk , especially when there could be a shortage of water .

I trust the council will give their concerns careful consideration when determining the application.

C Taper

Grounds for objection

Firstly, it is well documented that such large multi day music festivals are associated with higher levels of drug usage, alcohol intake and anti social behaviour. In addition, there will be significant noise pollution until 2am, light pollution not commensurate with the AONB dark sky policy, significant traffic noise, this is a rural environment, sound carries great distances given the lack of any other sound pollution and the geography of the area being relatively flat, the proposed site is within 650m of our home and will make it difficult to sleep over a prolonged period, the noise from the event will disturb not only ourselves as residents, but also our livestock use of public footpaths, whilst not restricted, will become unviable.

There will be significant traffic on a single track rural road which is a major safety issue for pedestrians, cyclist, horse riders including my daughter who regularly rides in this area..There would be very limited access should there be an emergency, as there was recently when there was a fire on the land.

The single track entry road passes a preschool and playing fields with the proposed event spread over 4 days this is likely to be a road safety issue.

D Bailey

I am writing to object to the potential granting of a Premises Licence on two principal grounds:

PUBLIC SAFETY

The organisers expect the proposed event to attract up to 2000 paying attendees plus crew, staff, performers etc. This and the heavy vehicles that will be involved in setting up and taking down the infrastructure will generate traffic incompatible with the only access, Crudwell Lane. This single track, unclassified road is already in a very poor condition with numerous potholes and deep ruts either side of the carriageway where drivers have to make way for vehicles coming in the opposite direction. The impact of intense traffic threatens public safety and vehicle damage.

PUBLIC NUISANCE

This event, 'Existance', was held at nearby Charlton Park last year. This was a more appropriate location in terms of access with several entry and exit points on A and B roads (A429 and B4040). It nevertheless attracted many complaints regarding the level, character and duration of noise generated and this is believed to be a factor in the need to change venue in 2026. The type of music featured at Existance is described by the organisers as covering the 'full spectrum of psychedelic music, including house, techno and drum & bass'. The deep bass resonance that ensues travels miles, literally. The location proposed in this Application is closer to housing than Charlton Park and will effect residents in Long Newnton, Chedglow and Crudwell until, at best 02:00 a.m.

Thank you for considering this representation. I trust that it and similar objections from concerned residents will result in the licence not being granted.

Major M.H.JK. Green

OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION C/26/00777/PRMW

I write to object to the above application to hold a music festival between 3rd and 7th September in fields a few yards west of the Fosse Way in grid square 9292 on OS Explorer Map Sheet 168. This is a matter of 2,000 yards from my home at the above address. That is less than half the distance from the WOMAD festival in Charlton Park which used to keep me awake into the small hours. The noise generated by the proposed new festival will be ear bending in Crudwell. I therefore object on the grounds of public nuisance because of the noise.

As it happens I am associated with some livery stables in the same grid square as the proposed festival. The disturbance to the horses, some very valuable and some very young, may well be disastrous. I therefore object on the grounds of danger to livestock.

T Roberts

- Crime and disorder
- Crime and Disorder Prevention
- Protecting children & vulnerable people
- Protection of Children
- Public Nuisance Prevention
- Public Safety
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance

Previous festival under the same name was rife with class A B drugs ((known from volunteers/Charlton park staff). , music played well out of hours. Lanes certainly not big enough for this traffic. The similar festival on the same site last year had music going to well after 6am. Final dates are in school term time therefore may well keep children and school teachers awake/disturbed at the start of the new school year This is not the right place for a festival, this is an application for what can only be called a rave

R Tagg

I am writing to you to once again express my concerns about the license application put forward for this festival. I object as a local resident of Long Newnton village on a number of counts.

I am concerned that the amount of extra traffic generated before, during and after the festival will be far too much for narrow roads and a single track lane to cope with. The safety of all users must of course be paramount yet this cannot be ensured with hundreds of extra cars, lorries and other vehicles attempting to pass in both

directions over a concentrated period of time along with the many tractors and HGVs from Melcourt Industries that use these roads daily.

The application is for up to 5000 attendees plus all those associated with working the event. Therefore, any increase from the 2000 projected for this year would be permitted for 5 years with no further consultation. This would be a dangerous amount of people and vehicles to allow along these roads.

The car park will now be in the field off Crudwell Lane so there are bound to be queues along it as vehicles wait for admission to the site. I cannot see how this fails to cause major issues.

The event application includes permission for this to be an annual event, in which case it could continue for the next 5 years with no further consultation even if it proves to be wholly unacceptable. There should be a trial event at the very least whereby an assessment can be done afterwards to determine whether all conditions have been met.

Once again the organisers are telling us it is a new enterprise, although it is a number of the same personnel as their last application and their website refers to their past events and claims continuity.

The noise that will be generated until the early hours will be a significant nuisance to the quiet rural area, seriously affecting residents, farm animals and wildlife.

There has been very little engagement with the local community which I find astounding. It appears that the organisers have arrogantly assumed it to be unnecessary. I doubt their credibility and ability to ensure compliance with the licensing objectives. As a local, I am unsure as to what they have put in place to prevent crime and disorder, public nuisance by way of light and noise pollution and public safety, particularly on a very narrow single track local road with limited access should there be an emergency.

Please refuse this application as I have no faith that it can be delivered safely.

D and A Hayes

Please find below the reasons for our objections to granting a licence for this event.

Basically, we are concerned that such an event is not logistically feasible and more worryingly, would pose a potential threat to the well-being and safety of

residents and animals and wildlife, and significant risk of damage to the local and wider environment.

On this basis, we believe this to be an inappropriate and unacceptable proposal.

Here are our specific concerns.

Prevention of Public Nuisance.

Noise Pollution: High-volume and persistent music (over a number of days) until 2.00am will travel long distances in open rural landscapes (the surrounding area is flat and comprises open fields), disturbing residents lives and sleep and potentially harming wildlife, livestock and pets. The noise of thousands of people arriving, camping and leaving the event (the latter, at night) will cause unacceptable disruption to everyday lives, and place an unwelcome and unacceptable burden on local people.

Light Pollution: Light pollution from this proposed event would not be commensurate with the AONB dark sky policy.

Powerful, flashing lights in the evening / night in this quiet, rural area will inevitably prevent residents from sleeping and cause distress and harm to local wildlife and livestock (including rare cattle breeds and valuable thoroughbred horses in adjacent properties and fields).

Litter and Waste: There is no existing local infrastructure to cope with a mass influx of people, with the inevitable litter and human waste which such an event will engender; this is regardless of what steps organisers take to try to avoid this. Inevitably, litter and waste will be wind blown, dropped in areas surrounding the proposed site and left in lanes and local fields.

Use of popular public footpaths, whilst not restricted by this event, will become unviable.

Such an event is inappropriate to be centred in the midst of normally quiet and peaceful rural communities with no precedent for such use, and poses significant risk to, and no benefit for local communities who, we believe are wholly opposed to this event.

Traffic, Safety and Congestion.

The single lane Crudwell road which we believe is the only access to the site is not able to safely sustain the arrival, activities and dispersal of heavy festival traffic and movement of thousands of event visitors over a number of days. This road already has significant issues of congestion and safety due its constant use by large lorries

going daily to and from the Melcourt Industrial site, in addition to its regular use by cars, bicycles, horses from nearby farms, and pedestrians / hikers wishing to explore the Fosse way.

These problems will be greatly exacerbated and likely overwhelmed by festival traffic and may well result in traffic chaos, gridlock and accidents. Emergency services may not be able to operate speedily if needed and may be prevented from gaining access.

The re-siting of the festival car park, now adjacent to the only single lane access road, will create even greater potential for traffic queuing back onto the road and increase the already significant risk of accidents.

Potential for Crime and Disorder.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Given the numbers of potential visitors involved and the nature of the event, there is an obvious risk of loud and rowdy behaviour, (especially late at night), the potential for damage / vandalism to local homes and buildings, possible trespass in local private properties and fields, the high potential for fire outbreaks (from bbq, camp fires etc) given the time of year, and the significant possibility of general anti-social behaviour in a quiet rural community that does not have the police infrastructure to deal with such incidents.

Given the nature of the event and the numbers of people expected to attend, the possibility of incidents of alcohol and substance related disorder is high, and again, the local policing infrastructure would struggle to cope. Equally, local medical services may find themselves overwhelmed with demands on their time, to the cost of local people, whose safety may therefore be compromised.

Protection of children from harm.

The single track entry road passes a preschool and playing fields. Festival noise until 2am will result in disrupted sleep for local children. The site of the proposed festival will inevitably result in the inability to use the public footpaths for recreation and travel in a safe manner.

Summary.

Whilst recognising that such events are enjoyed by many his particular application seems highly inappropriate and unworkable and provides a clear potential risk to safety and well-being of local communities. The obvious lack of infrastructure locally, the access and transport difficulties and dangers and the threat to the safety and wellbeing of residents, their families, property,

animals and wildlife, all make this appear to be a highly ill-conceived and inappropriate venue for such an event.

It is our belief that a festival of this size and scale is wholly unsuited for this location and is a cause of significant distress and anxiety for the local community.

Request for Clarification: Additional questions

- What feasibility and logistical studies have been undertaken by event organisers in selecting this site?
 - What communication has been made by event organisers with the local community prior to venue selection? How much have local voices and concerns been considered and reviewed?
 - What guarantees are event organisers able to provide to ensure safety, security and supervision not only on site but within the local area, which will inevitably be affected by such a large influx of people, especially given the nature of the event and the dangers outlined above.
 - What formal liability exists should event organisers not meet their responsibility to protect local people, animals and property from any damage, harm and interference from event visitors?
 - Will event attendees remain on site throughout the various days? If not, how (if at all) will they be supervised in the locality to ensure the well being and safety of residents and their property?
 - What procedures exist to prevent large numbers moving around the adjacent areas to seek food, drink, entertainment etc? How would such movement be regulated?
 - What assurances can event organisers provide to ensure there is no ecological / environmental harm caused by the event? What restitution / recompense would be available in the event of this happening?
-

J Barker

Dear ERS,

I understand that a licence application has been made to hold a festival in September on farmland off of Crudwell Lane, near the Fosse Way. I wish to express my concern and objection to this festival, which if successful could be held annually thereafter.

The traffic disruption from large vehicles setting up and dismantling, either side of the actual traffic of people attending the festival, is too much for this single track lane, which already struggles for passing places from existing volume. The public safety risk to walkers, cyclists and children in Crudwell is too great.

The noise impact on local residence will be too much, as I understand amplified music will take place from 10am to 2am the next morning. The disruption to sleep and the distress caused is of great concern.

I could add further concerns, but I hope my main ones listed will be taken into account when you consider this application.

S Dale

Re: application C/26/00777/PRMW Music Festival Long Newton 3-7 September

With reference to the above, the main concern relates to the safety of the people attending and the wildlife.

Sadly there was a wildfire, recently in one of the fields to be used or nearby to the event. It caused devastation and will have killed numerous wildlife unable to escape.

With such hot weather and dried plants, the risk of starting a fire from a discarded cigarette or glass is high and a fire is likely to spread very fast, causing panic to the event goers. Given the single track roads, fire crews, the police and ambulances will probably struggle to get to the fire especially as people try to escape it.

The single track emergency exit route along the narrow Fosse Way by way with a ditch on one side, often difficult to see because of the plants covering the ditch, adds to the risk of vehicle accidents and blockage. The byway is used frequently by walkers, cyclists, bikers, carriage drivers, horse riders and families with children. It is not a safe exit route, nor are the single track roads into the site.

D Inskip

I want to object to this event taking place at the proposed site. The only access is along a single track road used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders, as well as the normal local traffic. Also, the junction with the main road in Long Newnton is not suitable for large volumes of traffic as it is narrow.

Though I am not a lover of these festivals, I am not against them, but they do need to be in suitable places where they can't upset the local community. All the local villages, Long Newnton, Ashley, Culkerton, Crudwell, Brokenborough will hear the noise, and I don't know where all the wildlife that lives in that area is going to go.

Please do not allow this festival to take place on this site.

Mr and Mrs D Barson

1.We are disabled but still driving and use the road by the Church to the Cirencester main road often

2.We already encounter many large Bark Lorries that take up most of the road, very Large Lorries and Tractors with attachments, also please

be aware it is used as a cut through by Dyson staff going to and from work.

3.My Wife and I wish to support our Parish Council fully they will have made you aware of all the points of Law far better than we can.

We hope you will see your way clear to deny this application

J Lodwick

C/26/00777/PRMA Application for Existence Festival Licence

I OBJECT to the application for a licence to hold the Existence Festival on land belonging to James Bell on 4/6 September 2026.

I would like to inform the licencing group that I have a very personal interest in this application - my son's wedding is on Saturday September 5th at Long Newnton Church followed by a reception in the garden and dinner in an open marquee at Ashley Manor. The coordinates of these events are in close proximity to the festival site: Church 51.6308N, 2.1319W. Ashley 51.65133N, 2.10051W. This event has been planned for 18 months, a wedding that brings together family and community, using locally sourced food, flowers, staff and infrastructure. I was very distressed to find that the festival organisers immediately posted the new festival dates after cancelling the June festival dates with no consultation with our community.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

As a small community of elderly people, some of whom are vulnerable, we could find festival goers wandering over the village for a number of days.

I am particularly concerned that the tent could draw outsiders into my land in ways that would otherwise not happen. The marquee and tent will be vulnerable whilst we are in the church as well as guests cars.

I ask that the licensing group consider the safety of property and persons in Ashley.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The lanes from Long Newnton church to Ashley are very narrow. Church parking is along the lane and I anticipate 70 cars will be parked. There is also a high probability of tractors and farm vehicles using the lane. Melcourt uses large articulated lorries. The festival organisers have not shared their traffic management plans in their application.

There is also the problem of the water supply to the festival. Have the organisers filed an approved water sanitation plan?

The Athelstan Pilgrim Way crosses the festival site and there are no notices of closure on the footpath. This footpath is used by children and by old people and they will have to cross a busy festival site with no protection. The organisers have not provided any public information regarding security on a public footpath.

There is not a viable emergency exit route from the festival site. The Fosse Way is simply not viable as it is regularly used all day by walkers, cyclists, dirt bikers and horse riders.

PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

The noise from the festival site will be a public nuisance, especially during a church service. It will have an enormous impact on the wedding celebrations in our garden. Having a noise complaint telephone number is completely inadequate - how can I be reassured that it will be manned 24 hours/day? We have two under 21 neurodivergent children who are vulnerable to noise stimuli.

The date and location of this festival is inappropriate given its impact on the village of Ashley. The organisers have not engaged with the community in planning this event. The festival produces no community benefit.

I urge the licensing officers to take a proactive approach to protecting our community and to serve our best interests by refusing this application,

P Barker

I am writing to formally object to Premises Licence Application **C/26/00777/PRMA** on the grounds of **Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance**, and **Prevention of Crime and Disorder**, as set out under the Licensing Act 2003. My concerns relate directly to the operating schedule and conditions contained within the application submitted by Wilde Dancing Limited.

1. Public Safety – Absence of a Traffic Management Plan

The application proposes a festival for **up to 2,000 attendees**, with **24-hour site access**, alcohol sales until **02:00**, and late-night refreshment until **05:00**. Despite this, **no Traffic Management Plan (TMP)** has been provided for public scrutiny.

This is a serious omission given the location:

- Crudwell Lane is already heavily used by **Melcourt Industries**, a major timber processing and distribution business.
- Melcourt operates **20–30+ HGV movements per day**, including articulated vehicles requiring wide turning radii and unobstructed access.
- The proposed festival entrance lies in close proximity to Melcourt's operational access.

Introducing thousands of festival vehicle movements onto this narrow rural road creates foreseeable and significant risks:

- Conflict between festival traffic and commercial HGV operations
- Blocked access affecting a long-established local employer
- Increased collision risk on a constrained rural road
- No modelling, phasing, or mitigation provided

The Licensing Act requires applicants to demonstrate how public safety will be protected. This application does not do so.

2. Safety Risks to Walkers, Riders, Cyclists, and School Users

Crudwell Lane and surrounding roads:

- Have **no pavements or footpaths**
- Are **unlit**, with tight bends and limited visibility
- Are used daily by **dog walkers, horse riders, cyclists, and families accessing Crudwell School and Pre-School**
- Include open playing fields directly adjacent to the access route

Festival traffic—including late-night movements until **02:00** and servicing traffic until **05:00**—will materially increase danger to vulnerable road users.

The application includes **no mitigation**, such as:

- Temporary speed limits
- Marshals or traffic stewards
- Warning signage
- Segregated pedestrian routes

This represents a clear failure to uphold the **Public Safety** licensing objective.

3. Extended Disruption from Build, Servicing, and De-Rig

Although the licence covers **3–6 September**, a festival of this scale requires:

- Several days of **site build**
- Daily **servicing traffic** (fuel, water, waste, catering)
- Several days of **de-rig**

The realistic disruption period is **10–14 days**, not five.

This extended operational footprint will:

- Intensify conflict with Melcourt's HGV operations
- Increase congestion on narrow rural roads
- Prolong risks to walkers, riders, and cyclists

The application provides **no schedule, phasing, or mitigation** for these extended heavy-vehicle movements.

4. Noise Disturbance from Amplified Music Until 02:00

The operating schedule seeks permission for:

- **Live music until 02:00** on Thu, Fri, Sat
- **Recorded music until 02:00** on Thu, Fri, Sat
- **Music until 23:00** on Sun
- Four outdoor stages
- No amplified music between **02:00–11:00**, but **24-hour site access** remains

In an open rural landscape:

- Noise will travel significant distances
- Low-frequency bass carries particularly far at night
- Residents and livestock will be affected

Although the application references future submission of a Noise Management Plan, **no NMP has been provided**, and therefore:

- No modelling
- No monitoring strategy
- No stage orientation
- No perimeter noise control
- No real-time management measures

This fails to meet the **Prevention of Public Nuisance** objective.

5. Alcohol Sales Until 02:00 – Crime and Disorder Risks

The application seeks alcohol sales:

- **Thu:** 14:00–02:00

- **Fri:** 11:00–02:00
- **Sat:** 11:00–02:00
- **Sun:** 11:00–23:00

Combined with:

- Late-night refreshment until **05:00**
- 24-hour site access
- Rural roads with no lighting or pavements

This increases risks of:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Noise from late-night movement
- Impaired driving on narrow rural roads
- Littering and trespass

The application provides **no dispersal policy, no late-night management plan, and no strategy to prevent intoxicated driving.**

This represents a failure to uphold the **Crime and Disorder** and **Public Nuisance** licensing objectives.

6. Environmental Impact – No Environmental Management Plan

The site comprises agricultural land and surrounding wildlife habitats. A festival of this scale introduces:

- Soil compaction
- Grassland damage
- Light pollution
- Noise disturbance to wildlife
- Waste and wastewater risks
- Fuel spill risks

The application provides **no Environmental Management Plan, no waste strategy, and no ecological assessment.**

This again engages **Public Safety** and **Public Nuisance**.

7. Failure to Demonstrate Compliance with Licensing Objectives

Under the Licensing Act 2003, applicants must demonstrate how they will uphold the four licensing objectives. This application fails to do so:

Public Safety

- No Traffic Management Plan
- No pedestrian/equestrian safety measures
- No emergency access strategy
- No build/de-rig safety plan

Prevention of Public Nuisance

- No Noise Management Plan
- Music until 02:00 in a rural area
- Late alcohol and refreshment hours
- No dispersal or behaviour management plan

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- No late-night management strategy
- No alcohol-related risk mitigation

Protection of Children from Harm

- Although 18+, no safeguarding detail for vulnerable adults
- No perimeter security detail provided

The burden of proof lies with the applicant. In this case, **the burden has not been met.**

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that the Licensing Authority **refuse** Premises Licence Application **C/26/00777/PRMA**.

M Darby

Dear Licencing review team,

By copy of this email I would hereby like to object to the approval of licencing application reference C/26/00777/PRMA on the following grounds:

- Long Newnton is a small village of circa < 250 people served by 4 primary ingress/egress roads, one of which is Crudwell lane - a single lane road with few passing places that is used by walkers, horses and cyclists as well as local traffic. As there is no public transport serving the area, allowing the event to go ahead will result in an influx of at least 300-1250 vehicles (assuming an average occupancy of 4 people per car) as well as trucks and other heavy machinery required before and after the event to prepare/dismantle the event infrastructure. This estimate also excludes additional vehicles required by staff and vendors. Such an influx will not only pose a significant noise nuisance to this quiet village but is a major safety concern with a high probability of road traffic accidents - particularly at night as all roads in the area are unlit.

- The area is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and hosting a festival of the nature proposed would lead to significant levels of noise and light pollution which would undermine this designation and deprive local residents with the right to quiet enjoyment of their properties and, given the intent to have music playing till 4am, will likely lead to sleep deprivation which is known to be a signifanct health issue.

- I understand that similar events in the locality have resulted in the introduction of drugs, excessive consumption of alcohol, damage to and theft from properties as well as high levels of littering - all of which pose a risk to residents & have an adverse effect on the the countryside and its wildlife.

- I am also led to believe that a former venue has, based on their prior experience and a number of the above concerns, banned this same festival.

In summary hosting such a large venue (1250-5000 attendees + staff & vendors) in a small rural community (<250 people) located in an Area of Natural Outstanding Beauty is both incongruent and inappropriate. I would therefore request you reject this application.

P and C Shropshire

We are residential home owners in the village of Long Newnton and wish to express our **Objection** to the application for a licence to hold a 4 day psytrance/electronic dance music festival on land adjacent to Boldridge Farm from the 3rd to 7th September 2026 and any future annual events for such festivals.

This is the second application for an Existence Festival but under a new company name, to be held in exactly the same location as the one granted in June, for one year, and one which failed to go ahead as the organisers failed to demonstrate that they could deliver on any of the licensing objectives.

This naturally raises questions of credibility and confidence in this new application.

For all the reasons listed below, compounded with the new information above, it clearly demonstrates that this site is just not suitable for the type of event being proposed and is of considerable concern to all local residents and neighbouring villages.

Our Objections to the proposed Festival are:

Total unsuitability of the Site.

The site is within the **Cotswolds AONB** whose primary objective is to protect and manage the landscape, which includes conserving natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.

For four days plus the setting up and clearing up periods, the nature and scale of the festival will greatly disrupt the rural tranquillity of the locality for humans and wildlife alike and be non compliant with the Licensing Act of 2003 by:

Substantial increase in traffic on the only access road, Crudwell Lane, a single track, unlit rural road with no pavements or footpaths.

Firstly, from the vehicles used for setting up and dismantling the venue.

Secondly, from the attendees (between 2,000 and 5,000 people) who will have to travel by vehicle to the venue as there is no public transport.

This will, inevitably, increase the risk of harm to pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and nature as well as cause disruption to local business and residential travel.

Noise and Light Pollution.

The application is for amplified music until **2 am** on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night and to **12 midnight** on Sunday.

The festival is commencing during a working week and at the beginning of the new school academic year which is a disregard for the **health** and **well being** of local residents, children and adults alike.

For the **Wildlife** their whole life cycle is thrown into chaos.

Bats: Bats are nocturnal relying on the darkness to hunt, navigate and avoid predators.

Bats also rely heavily on **echolocation** where they emit high frequency sounds and listen to the echos to find prey, navigate and avoid obstacles.

Noise also interferes with the bats ability to communicate with each other and coordinate in roosts.

Owls rely on darkness and stealth to hunt. They, too, also depend heavily on hearing to catch their prey.

It is very clear that the **artificial light** and **music** until **2 am** from the proposed festival means that there will be **limited darkness** and **continuous penetrating noise** which will destroy the bats and owls ability to feed.

It will also negatively impact other wildlife, farm animals and pets too.

Crime and Disorder: Festivals by their very nature, to a greater or lesser degree, are associated with a freedom of alcohol and drug misuse causing

lack of control with the increased possibility for aggression and crime.

This can create an increase in fear and anxiety in local people, particularly for the safety of children and older people.

A Preston

I objected to this application the first time and was very disappointed the Council saw fit to grant a License. I understand the Festival was cancelled at the last minute as it could not fulfill the requirements of the License. I understand the 'new' company is basically some of the same individuals and there is no faith they will be able deliver these again. I would go as far to say they are not trustworthy as they just

changed the date on their website with no explanation showing all the same acts on all four stages when they could not possibly have re-resigned them all.

Furthermore, on the Existence Festival Facebook page people were asking how to get their money back and said they were getting no response. Someone hinted that if it doesn't go ahead in September their tickets will be tied over to next summer, suggesting they are not entirely sure it will go ahead in September. So basically you can't get a refund. You can check the Facebook page yourself and you will see it is now switched off for further comments.

I reiterate the points I made before:-

- **Crime and disorder** – it is well documented that such large multi day music festivals are associated with higher levels of drug usage, alcohol intake and anti social behaviour.
- **Public nuisance** – significant noise pollution until 2am, light pollution not commensurate with the AONB dark sky policy, significant traffic noise, use of public footpaths, whilst not restricted, will become unviable
- **Public Safety** – significant traffic on a single track rural road is a major safety issue for pedestrians, cyclist, horse riders. Very limited access should there be an emergency
- **Protection of children** – the single track entry road passes a preschool and playing fields. Noise until 2am will result in disrupted sleep, inability to use the public footpaths in a safe manner

As you know the licensing act of 2003 states that the application must promote the following statutory objectives

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Promote public safety
- Protection of children from harm

In addition there are two new points worth noting.

- The emergency access route has been changed to now go onto the Fosse way, and then Crudwell lane – in the opinion of the Parish Council an emergency access on to a blind bend in a single-track road is not suitable.
- The car park is now the field adjacent to the road, so vehicles will now be queuing along Crudwell lane to get access to the car park.

All of these points give cause for concern and we really feel this is not the right place for a Festival of this size or length.

E Lodwick

I would like to formally note my objection to the application for Existence Festival (C/26/00777/PRMA) on 4-6 September 2026.

I am getting married on September 5th at Holy Trinity Church in Long Newnton, with a reception a short distance away in Ashley. The festival is a very short distance from both locations. This wedding has been planned for over a year, and the choice of location and dates was made specifically to avoid conflict with other large events in the area. I have lived in the area for nearly all of my life, residing in the village of Ashley.

My objections are as follows:

- Public nuisance
 - Noise: The location of the festival is incredibly close to both the church and the village of Ashley. As per their website there will be multiple sound systems in place that will be in use throughout the period that we will be in the church and reception, representing quite significant detriment to a religious ceremony and subsequent celebration.
 - Whilst a noise complaint procedure is in place, is there any guarantee that this will be monitored constantly and if a complaint is raised how quickly will they be able to respond to it?
 - It seems that public footpaths go through the festival site. These were to be used during our celebration. Is there confirmation that these will be accessible and unobstructed during the dates that the festival is being put on?
- Public safety
 - The local lanes in the area are extremely narrow with limited passing points. There is also significant farming traffic at all times. The wedding will bring in over 50 cars to the immediate area around the festival, and thus congestion is likely to be extreme during the weekend.

- With the extreme dry weather, there has already been on large fire in the proposed location. With dry conditions expected to continue, the risk of fire is significant given the number of expected attendees, with the concomitant likelihood of smoking, generators, and catering facilities.
- Any medical, policing or fire related issues will place a significant impact on already heavily strained local services. The remote nature of the event and scant emergency provisioning detailed in the application have the potential to result in resource use that would be to the detriment of the location population.
- Prevention of crime
 - The influx of people drawn by the festival represents a high risk of crime in the area. The villages nearby are isolated and the population is largely of retirement age.
 - The lack of published location on the website will invariably encourage people to seek out the festival, and those without tickets will almost certainly attempt to find access point other than the main entrance.
 - As our wedding reception will be held in an externally lit marquee, the risk of mis-identification of our home as part of the festival is extremely high, and the risk of unwelcome passersby entering the village of Ashley raises the risk of theft. This risk is exceptional when the marquee is unmanned Thursday-Friday and during the wedding ceremony on Saturday.
- General
 - We have planned our event for over 18 months, with the date chosen to avoid clashing with such an event. We have no ability to change our plans at such short notice.
 - The last minute nature of the application, in a site that has never been used in such a way, raises significant concerns from the local population. Public disorder, theft, traffic congestion, drug use, trespassing and prevention of the populations right of access are all major concerns that we do not feel have been adequately planned for in this application.
 - There is no tangible benefit to local residents if the festival application were to be granted. Other festivals (for example Womad previously)

have offered alternative forms of compensation to the local population so as to ameliorate the negative impact of their event. The combination of extremely late notice, lack of community engagement and insufficient provision of safety features means that this application cannot be allowed to go ahead.

Overall, this application represents several significant risks to the community, impacts on long-standing community events, and offers no benefit to the population. The fact that tickets have already been sold prior to the application only compounds my concerns that the organisers have no true wish to engage with the community. I strongly urge that this application is rejected, and if it were to be granted significant limits should be put in place to ensure that the concerns of community are placated.

E Barker

I am writing to formally object to Premises Licence Application **C/26/00777/PRMA** on the grounds of **Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance**, and **Prevention of Crime and Disorder**, as set out under the Licensing Act 2003. My concerns relate directly to the operating schedule and conditions contained within the application submitted by Wilde Dancing Limited.

1. Public Safety – Absence of a Traffic Management Plan

The application proposes a festival for **up to 2,000 attendees**, with **24-hour site access**, alcohol sales until **02:00**, and late-night refreshment until **05:00**. Despite this, **no Traffic Management Plan (TMP)** has been provided for public scrutiny.

This is a serious omission given the location:

- Crudwell Lane is already heavily used by **Melcourt Industries**, a major timber processing and distribution business.
- Melcourt operates **20–30+ HGV movements per day**, including articulated vehicles requiring wide turning radii and unobstructed access.
- The proposed festival entrance lies in close proximity to Melcourt's operational access.

Introducing thousands of festival vehicle movements onto this narrow rural road creates foreseeable and significant risks:

- Conflict between festival traffic and commercial HGV operations
- Blocked access affecting a long-established local employer

- Increased collision risk on a constrained rural road
- No modelling, phasing, or mitigation provided

The Licensing Act requires applicants to demonstrate how public safety will be protected. This application does not do so.

2. Safety Risks to Walkers, Riders, Cyclists, and School Users

Crudwell Lane and surrounding roads:

- Have **no pavements or footpaths**
- Are **unlit**, with tight bends and limited visibility
- Are used daily by **dog walkers, horse riders, cyclists, and families accessing Crudwell School and Pre-School**
- Include open playing fields directly adjacent to the access route

Festival traffic—including late-night movements until **02:00** and servicing traffic until **05:00**—will materially increase danger to vulnerable road users.

The application includes **no mitigation**, such as:

- Temporary speed limits
- Marshals or traffic stewards
- Warning signage
- Segregated pedestrian routes

This represents a clear failure to uphold the **Public Safety** licensing objective.

3. Extended Disruption from Build, Servicing, and De-Rig

Although the licence covers **3–6 September**, a festival of this scale requires:

- Several days of **site build**
- Daily **servicing traffic** (fuel, water, waste, catering)
- Several days of **de-rig**

The realistic disruption period is **10–14 days**, not five.

This extended operational footprint will:

- Intensify conflict with Melcourt's HGV operations
- Increase congestion on narrow rural roads

- Prolong risks to walkers, riders, and cyclists

The application provides **no schedule, phasing, or mitigation** for these extended heavy-vehicle movements.

4. Noise Disturbance from Amplified Music Until 02:00

The operating schedule seeks permission for:

- **Live music until 02:00** on Thu, Fri, Sat
- **Recorded music until 02:00** on Thu, Fri, Sat
- **Music until 23:00** on Sun
- Four outdoor stages
- No amplified music between **02:00–11:00**, but **24-hour site access** remains

In an open rural landscape:

- Noise will travel significant distances
- Low-frequency bass carries particularly far at night
- Residents and livestock will be affected

Although the application references future submission of a Noise Management Plan, **no NMP has been provided**, and therefore:

- No modelling
- No monitoring strategy
- No stage orientation
- No perimeter noise control
- No real-time management measures

This fails to meet the **Prevention of Public Nuisance** objective.

5. Alcohol Sales Until 02:00 – Crime and Disorder Risks

The application seeks alcohol sales:

- **Thu:** 14:00–02:00
- **Fri:** 11:00–02:00
- **Sat:** 11:00–02:00
- **Sun:** 11:00–23:00

Combined with:

- Late-night refreshment until **05:00**
- 24-hour site access
- Rural roads with no lighting or pavements

This increases risks of:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Noise from late-night movement
- Impaired driving on narrow rural roads
- Littering and trespass

The application provides **no dispersal policy, no late-night management plan, and no strategy to prevent intoxicated driving.**

This represents a failure to uphold the **Crime and Disorder** and **Public Nuisance** licensing objectives.

6. Environmental Impact – No Environmental Management Plan

The site comprises agricultural land and surrounding wildlife habitats. A festival of this scale introduces:

- Soil compaction
- Grassland damage
- Light pollution
- Noise disturbance to wildlife
- Waste and wastewater risks
- Fuel spill risks

The application provides **no Environmental Management Plan, no waste strategy, and no ecological assessment.**

This again engages **Public Safety** and **Public Nuisance**.

7. Failure to Demonstrate Compliance with Licensing Objectives

Under the Licensing Act 2003, applicants must demonstrate how they will uphold the four licensing objectives. This application fails to do so:

Public Safety

- No Traffic Management Plan
- No pedestrian/equestrian safety measures
- No emergency access strategy
- No build/de-rig safety plan

Prevention of Public Nuisance

- No Noise Management Plan
- Music until 02:00 in a rural area
- Late alcohol and refreshment hours
- No dispersal or behaviour management plan

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- No late-night management strategy
- No alcohol-related risk mitigation

Protection of Children from Harm

- Although 18+, no safeguarding detail for vulnerable adults
- No perimeter security detail provided

The burden of proof lies with the applicant. In this case, **the burden has not been met.**

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that the Licensing Authority **refuse** Premises Licence Application **C/26/00777/PRMA**.

D Wasey

Daily attendance of 2000 guests + artistes + security + staff + contractors & no total estimate suggests that the event could involve 3000+ people/cars + commercial vehicles per day which is way more than the local infrastructure can support.

Local uncategorised roads are already in an unacceptable state & this traffic will simply make matters way worse.

2) Timing of Thursday to Sunday inclusive with music proposed to end @ 02.00 am Monday morning (but refreshments to 05.00 am Monday morning) will cause misery for the local residents for the duration which feels unacceptable.

3) High risk of alcohol & drug related anti-social behavior, trespass on nearby private property. Should attendees be ejected they will be cut adrift for the local community to accept the consequences.

AF Pratt

Please be advised that I strongly object to the proposed up and coming Existence Festival to be held in the vicinity of Boldridge farm (Private Land GL8 8RT) My concerns are the same as the rest of the residents in the village of Ashley and surrounding area This event could potentially be a disaster for the domestic livestock grazing in the vicinity and housed in adjacent barns The road congestion surrounding the proposed event will be nothing short of chaos and could severely hamper emergency vehicles attending to the residents in nearby villages The fire risk to the surrounding area must have increased 10 fold due to current weather conditions and there seems to be very little rain forecast to alleviate current drought conditions Wild fires could start with a drop of a cigarette or a controlled fire used for cooking and spread at a rapid speed to all surrounding areas The majority of the village of Ashley rely on a borehole on the festival site for their potable water and should the festival participants have access to this water it will surely have a massive impact on the supply and will most certainly mean long periods without water to their homes ,if any at all This concert must not go ahead and the voices of the residents must be heard and considered . There are plenty of purpose built facilities designed for such events which should be used rather than creating havoc in our countryside

K Jones

I wish to make a formal representation objecting to the above premises license application on the grounds that it would undermine the prevention of public nuisance, public safety, the prevention of crime and disorder, and the protection of children from harm.

The application also raises serious concerns in relation to public rights of way, highway safety, and the statutory duty to protect the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Public Safety and Highway Impact

The festival proposes to funnel all attendees, merchants, performers, and other associated staff through the only access to the site, Crudwell Lane, which is a single-track rural road with no pavements. This country road is regularly used by walkers, cyclists, horse riders, dog walkers, farm traffic and other vulnerable users who will inevitably be affected by the huge increase in traffic.

There is no public transport, so all attendees will arrive by vehicle, typically car, campervan or minibus. The week before and week after the road will be subject to set up and take down traffic, which will have a significant element of HGV, vans, trailers and small trucks. An ATC survey on Crudwell Lane recorded approximately 900 vehicle movements per day. Planning application 21/04342/FUL and appeal APP/F1610/W/23/3323640 were refused due to the road's inability to safely accommodate any additional traffic. The additional vehicle movement for the festival would more than treble this. Emergency access is via the same single-track road, with an additional access point of a similar nature for emergency vehicles. If there were a serious incident, it would be very difficult to safely evacuate the site in a timely manner. (Note: Martyn's Law) This is a major public safety failure. The risks are obvious, foreseeable and unacceptable.

All festival traffic must arrive from Crudwell village (a single-track road), from Newnton Hill (a single-track road with HGV restrictions), or Church Lane, Long Newnton (a narrow road used by local residents). Melcourt industries operates on an 'open site' around 800m from the festival site. They have at least 20-30 HGV vehicle movements a day along Crudwell Lane and Church Lane and operate on Saturdays as well as weekdays. There is significant risk of festival traffic conflict with HGVs and other road users, both during the festival and for the week before and after for set up/take down. The application offers no plans to restrict festival goers, with late night egress onto an open hazardous site being both possible and severely dangerous

Noise and Public Nuisance

The application mentions amplified live and recorded music until late on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, with music until midnight on Sunday. Some residents live just 500m from the site, with the site being circumnavigated by 4 villages only 1500m away (around 1800 residents). The site is open farmland with no natural sound barriers and noise will travel directly into people's homes. The low frequency bass

music associated with such a festival is well known to travel far at night. Music until 4am is not a 'nuisance', it is a takeover of the nighttime environment. A Noise Abatement Order was issued by Wiltshire District Council to the Existence Festival organisers on 14 June 2025 at approximately 2:00am while the event was held at Charlton Park, Malmesbury, when unacceptable noise levels were recorded. It would be perfectly reasonable to assume similar noise levels at this site. A proposed 4:00am cut-off is wholly unacceptable in a rural setting and would seriously affect residents, rural workers, farm animals, and wildlife. **It should be noted that Charlton Park Estate has refused to host the festival again due to noise and organisational issues.**

Dark Skies and the Cotswolds AONB

The site lies within the Cotswolds AONB. The Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018 -2023 encourages local authorities to consider dark skies when determining applications. The Rural White Paper (2003) recognises light pollution as an increasing intrusion. Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a statutory duty on authorities to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of AONB. A festival of this genre is normally associated with wide variety of lighting effects, such as high intensity LED lighting, strobe lighting, wash lighting, in addition to the floodlights/security lighting. The National Planning Policy Framework 2018 is clear that the relevant authority needs to review the impact of artificial light in a rural area and intrinsically dark landscape. The application site is open farmland with surrounding wildlife habitats, small areas of woodland. The application offers no mitigation for damage to the environment, ecological protection or waste management.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The event is billed as a psytrance/electronic dance music festival, a genre widely documented to be associated with drug and alcohol misuse. By comparison, Creamfields Festival 2025 (the same genre) reportedly resulted in 43 arrests and 188 crimes, most drug related. This was a 50% increase from 2024 (source: BBC). With music until 4am, the likelihood of alcohol-related disorder, noise from departing attendees and antisocial behaviour affecting nearby homes is high. The community should not be expected to absorb these risks.

Protection of Children from Harm

Families with small children live within 500m of the site, and Crudwell pre-school is approximately 1,500 metres from the site on the main access route. A children's playing field is within 1500m from the site and on the main access route. Crudwell primary school is also nearby. Safety risks for parents transporting children to their

respective educational establishments or to the playing fields are of serious concern. It would be perfectly reasonable to assume that children will be playing outside at the beginning of June. Children would be exposed to excessive noise, potentially offensive language, alcohol and drug use, and unacceptable behaviour associated with an 18+ event. Music until 4am will cause significant sleep disturbance and impact on wellbeing and daily life. The application offers no mitigation to protect children in the local community

Commercial impact

There are several commercial businesses to the west of the site on Crudwell Lane that will be impacted by the festival. As previously mentioned, Melcourt industries operates on an 'open site' c800m from the festival site. They have at least 20-30 HGV vehicle movements a day and operate on Saturdays as well as weekdays. Church Farm is home to a number of small businesses who rely on Crudwell lane for access for their customers. Potential conflict with festival goers may result in these businesses losing trade over the festival period as their customers will not want to put themselves in danger. The application does not adequately consider the impact on neighbouring commercial premises, including the risks associated with unauthorised access and disruption to business activity.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, the application is fundamentally incompatible with the licensing Act 2003, and conflicts with statutory duties and should therefore be refused. It conflicts with all four licensing objectives: Public Safety, Prevention of Crime & disorder, Prevention of public nuisance, Protection of children from harm and poses unacceptable impact on the local community:

- Unsafe rural road - public safety and highway impact
- Emergency access unacceptable
- Potentially increased crime and disorder
- Loss of safe access to footpaths
- Four nights of sleep deprivation
- Loss of dark skies
- Environmental damage
- A complete disruption of rural life

I respectfully request that the Licensing Authority refuse this application in full, or require substantial amendments and enforceable conditions before it can be considered acceptable.

H Fildes

As in my previous objection I see little benefit from the proposed event other than to line the pockets of the organisers.

It is an unpleasant inconvenience to local residents and, much more than that, to all the wildlife in the vicinity. I believe it will play havoc with their normal rhythms of life. I doubt whether the organisers care significantly about the disruption their event will certainly cause and just because this site is not close to a large population that might object it doesn't justify its proposed existence.

Our countryside and wildlife needs our protection and I for one believe we should do all that we can to stop events that care little for the land and creatures that are affected.

H Witchell

My husband and I live on Crudwell Lane at GL8 8RT about 750 metres from the proposed Existence Festival site. We noted that the June licence was for 1 year only with a cutoff time for the amplified music at 2am. Please can the councillors consider 12 midnight as a cut off time, as it goes on for 4 nights, and if they are going to grant a one year licence. It is unreasonable for those of us who live within earshot to have our sleep disrupted after midnight for 4 consecutive nights.

In other respects we support the representations of our Long Newton Parish Council.

E Churchill

I am gravely concerned about the lack of transparency with this application. There is reference to an event management plan but nothing said about what is in it.

The proposed location is off a single track road that relies on passing places. Yet vehicles of residents and daily access will be up this very narrow lane. The main route from the East (London) will be along Tetbury Lane from Crudwell, shown as Crudwell Lane on the Gloucester side of the county boundary which is yards from event. This narrow lane relies on passing places to enable 2-way flow and sadly this is not always considered. My husband has been run off the road on his bicycle by traffic and we have referred this to the police. However, as it was on the Wilts side. (remember the boundary is yards from the site) I suspect that this location on a county boundary was selected to minimise the likelihood of involvement of half the local people who will be directly affected and yet live in another county as far as applications are concerned.

Another major concern I have is that as a regular dog walker along this route I collect litter daily dropped by passing traffic - has plentiful provision been made to accommodate litter and waste - preferably in recyclable containers - as the emphasis on food availability is clear. Wiltshire and Gloucestershire residents have no wish to be used as a general litter bin for visiting festival attendees, as other counties have been in recent months!

Finally I can only assume that any emergency access will also be along this narrow road (Malmesbury fire station is the closest).

A Witchell

My wife and I live on Crudwell lane at GL8 8RT about 750 metres from the proposed festival site. We noted that the June license was for one year only with a cutoff time for amplified music at 2 am Please can the councillors consider 12 midnight as a sensible cut off time if they are minded to grant a one year licence. It is unreasonable for those of us within earshot to have our sleep disrupted after midnight

In other respects we support the representations of our Long Newnton Parish Council

C and A Steele

We live in the Parish of Brokenborough along the road between Long Newnton and the A429 Charlton Park Five Lanes Crossroads.

We strongly object to this Licence Application as do most of our neighbours and parishes in this area. Please consider our following objections.

The severe noise and nuisance from 2000 + festival goers for four days would be a huge intrusion into our quiet and bucolic existence here. Our countryside is quiet and peaceful with a great number of hares, deer and other wildlife. The level of nuisance over an extended period of 4 nights until the early hours of the morning is quite unacceptable and damaging to our health and wellbeing. (Note that in the application permission is sought for refreshments until 5 am!) Past

experience has taught us that despite living in a well insulated property - you cannot get away from the incessant noise so sleep becomes impossible and any outside activity impossible to enjoy. It is interesting to note that when an event took place at Charlton Park by the same people

there were various socially unacceptable incidents resulting in the Noise Abatement Notice from Wiltshire Council in June 2025. How can this now be acceptable just along the road

Possible Danger to the public with the proposed huge increase of traffic on very small, narrow and unsuitable country lanes, with hardly any passing places. These lanes are used locally by the farming community, horse riders, walkers, cyclists as well as local motorists. As mentioned previously there is also an abundance of wildlife. This sort of large event at the proposed venue with all the build up of larger vehicles on top of attendees would cause chaos, possibly accidents and huge inconvenience to our local community and is not only dangerous but totally unacceptable.

We understand that the application site is reliant on a private water supply from Ashley. A lot of

local residents in this village rely on this supply daily. Has the necessary work been done to ensure local residents will not be impacted and would there be enough water in case of fire?

E Salau

I would like to formally note my objection to the application for Existence Festival (C/26/00777/PRMA) on 4-6 September 2026.

My close friends are getting married on September 5th at Holy Trinity Church in Long Newnton, with a reception a short distance away in Ashley. The festival is a very short distance from both locations. This wedding has been planned for over a year, and the choice of location and dates was made specifically to avoid conflict with other large events in the area. My friends have lived in the area for nearly all their lives, residing in the village of Ashley.

My objections are as follows:

- Public nuisance
 - - Noise: The location of the festival is incredibly close to both the church and the village of Ashley. As per their website there will be multiple sound systems in place that will be in use throughout the period that we will be in the church and reception, representing quite significant detriment to a religious ceremony and subsequent celebration.
 - Whilst a noise complaint procedure is in place, is there any guarantee that this will be monitored constantly and if a complaint is raised how quickly will they be able to respond to it?
 - It seems that public footpaths go through the festival site. These were to be used during their celebration. Is there confirmation that these will be accessible and unobstructed during the dates that the festival is being put on?
- Public safety
 - - The local lanes in the area are extremely narrow with limited passing points. There is also significant farming traffic at all times. The wedding will bring in over 50 cars to the immediate area around the festival, and thus congestion is likely to be extreme during the weekend.
 - With the extreme dry weather, there has already been one large fire in the proposed location. With dry conditions expected to continue, the risk of fire is significant given the number of expected attendees, with

the concomitant likelihood of smoking, generators, and catering facilities.

- Any medical, policing or fire related issues will place a significant impact on already heavily strained local services. The remote nature of the event and scant emergency provisioning detailed in the application have the potential to result in resource use that would be to the detriment of the location population.
- Prevention of crime
- - The influx of people drawn by the festival represents a high risk of crime in the area. The villages nearby are isolated and the population is largely of retirement age.
 - The lack of published location on the website will invariably encourage people to seek out the festival, and those without tickets will almost certainly attempt to find access point other than the main entrance.
 - As the wedding reception will be held in an externally lit marquee, the risk of mis-identification of their home as part of the festival is extremely high, and the risk of unwelcome passersby entering the village of Ashley raises the risk of theft. This risk is exceptional when the marquee is unmanned Thursday-Friday and during the wedding ceremony on Saturday.
- General
- - They have planned their event for over 18 months, with the date chosen to avoid clashing with such an event. They have no ability to change their plans at such short notice.
 - The last minute nature of the application, in a site that has never been used in such a way, raises significant concerns from the local population. Public disorder, theft, traffic congestion, drug use, trespassing and prevention of the populations right of access are all major concerns that they do not feel have been adequately planned for in this application.
 - There is no tangible benefit to local residents if the festival application were to be granted. Other festivals (for example Womad previously)

have offered alternative forms of compensation to the local population so as to ameliorate the negative impact of their event. The combination of extremely late notice, lack of community engagement and insufficient provision of safety features means that this application cannot be allowed to go ahead.

Overall, this application represents several significant risks to the community, impacts on long-standing community events, and offers no benefit to the population. The fact that tickets have already been sold prior to the application only compounds my concerns that the organisers have no true wish to engage with the community. I strongly urge that this application is rejected, and if it were to be granted significant limits should be put in place to ensure that the concerns of community are placated.

J Pratt

My property is located to the East side of Boldridge Farm and is directly on the boundary of the proposed application site. Whilst I do not currently reside at Ashley Marsh Farm, the property is in the process of being sold to Mattias and Charlotte Ljungman. The sale is due to complete in August 2026 and I understand that Mr and Mrs Ljungman have made representations in their own capacity.

Should this application be granted, the licensing objectives under the Licensing Act 2003 will be seriously undermined. The Existence Festival will cause substantial public nuisance and disturbance, not only to the owners and occupiers of Ashley Marsh Farm, but also to the wider local communities of Tetbury, Ashley, Long Newnton and Crudwell. There are significant risks to the health and safety of both local residents and persons who may be attending the event and risks in respect of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm.

I have set out my concerns in respect of this application both generally and against each of the Licensing Objectives in more detail below and would ask the licensing committee to consider these carefully when determining whether or not to grant the application.

1. **GENERAL CONCERNS**

1.1 A premises licence numbered C/26/00293/PRMA was granted for the Existence Festival at this location on 11th May 2026 to Anthropos Experience Limited. This licence was limited to permit one licensable event within a 12-month period. It is not clear whether that Premises Licence continues to have effect given that the Existence Festival did not take place during June 2026, when it was originally scheduled. If the previous licence does continue to have effect, then two events could technically be undertaken at festival site before June 2027. Furthermore, if this application is granted, it is not clear if both licences could be operated simultaneously in which case there would be a risk that the size of the festival and its capacity could be doubled and its impact magnified further.

1.2 The Premises Licence application states that it “mirrors that of the earlier application and the outcome of the licence hearing save for the intended commencement dates of the event”. This is not entirely correct, given a number of material differences between both applications, which includes the following: -

- The Premises Licence plans have been changed. The proposed area designated for the provision of licensable activities (“Events Arena”) has been moved and the plans indicates proposals for 4 event stages, an increase from the previous application. These stages are orientated in four different directions which will have a greater impact on the dispersal of noise across the local area.
- The emergency exit route has been changed and now leads on to Fosse Way, which is not a road.
- Only one toilet block appears to be proposed in the event field.

1.3 The applicant has provided insufficient details to enable proper assessment of the application particularly as once again the Event Management, Traffic Management and Noise Management plans have not accompanied the application. The Premises Licence plans do not show sufficient detail and it is unclear where the boundaries of the licence are. The Premises Licence plans also do not appear to be to scale.

1.4 The Existence Festival organisers have continued to demonstrate poor planning and disorganisation which raises serious questions regarding their preparation and competence to operate a safe and compliant event. There are also legitimate concerns as to who exactly is responsible for the event management. In particular the licensing committee should be aware of the following:-

- The Existence Festival was held at Charlton Park Farm Estate in 2025 when it was subject to numerous noise complaints from local residents. This resulted in Wiltshire Council issuing a noise abatement notice on the first night of that event. Charlton Park Farm subsequently refused to permit the organisers from returning in 2026 as the noise levels of the festival had caused too much distress to the local community. This is why the festival has had to relocate and it is not right that the community including the residents of Ashley Marsh Farm which surrounds this application site will have to suffer similar distress.
- The licence application made by Anthropos Experience Limited for the Existence Festival scheduled for 11-14th June 2026 was made at the very last minute. This resulted in the licensing hearing taking place on 11th May 2026 only a few weeks before event was scheduled, with tickets having already been sold. The application was rushed and poorly prepared with no pre-application engagement with the local community. No Event Management, Traffic or Noise Management plans were shared with the licensing committee on that occasion and important details such as emergency access to the site were changed during the hearing.
- Incompetent planning and organisation was further demonstrated on the 5th June 2026 when notification was received, less than a week before the scheduled event, that the Existence Festival was postponed. It appears that the event could not go ahead due to a disagreement between the organisers. Local residents and businesses had already incurred considerable stress and had braced themselves for the disruption that was going to be caused. The decision to postpone was also very poorly communicated to the local community. It is also unacceptable that as a consequence of the postponement and the need for a new licence application that a considerable amount of time and costs already incurred by the local authority in respect of the June event has been wasted.

- This Premises Licence application has once again been made with no regard for the local community. There has been no substantive prior consultation with local residents and businesses and again it has been submitted last minute, with the organisers having rescheduled the festival for 3rd to 6th September 2006 only a couple of weeks after the licensing hearing. Additional tickets are currently on sale and existing ticket holders have been informed of the date before the Licensing Committee have even had the opportunity to consider the application. This application is now made by a different legal entity despite the festival organisers remaining the same. Accordingly it is unclear who actually has responsibility for this event and the Existence Festival.

2. PUBLIC NUISANCE

2.1 I am seriously concerned that given the immediate proximity of Ashley Marsh Farm that throughout the duration of the Existence Festival (and during the build and take down afterwards) noise will be a significant nuisance to anyone residing at the property. The main event field, with its four proposed stages will be located just meters from the boundary of the property. Nuisance will not only be limited to sound from musical performances, but also from PA announcements, background music, plant machinery and generators, traffic noise and shouting and singing from people attending (who will likely have been drinking). This is normally a very quiet location but given the open fields and no natural barrier, there will be no protection and noise will be experienced at a level which will cause significant disturbance to the peaceful enjoyment of Ashley Marsh Farm both inside the farm house and outside the property. It is not just the volume of the noise that will cause disturbance but also the frequency of bass levels and the vibrations that will also be caused.

2.2 There will also be substantial light pollution for 24 hours a day for the duration of the event and throughout the build and take down of the site that will have a detrimental effect to Ashley Marsh Farm again due to its proximity to the event site. Strobe lighting from event staging, 24-hour gantry and spot lighting, and light from other ancillary activities (such as any fairground rides, food vans and bars etc). This is normally an area which has little pollution at night so the impact will be significantly magnified.

2.3 Nuisance from noise, vibration and light will not only impact those residing at Ashley Marsh Farm, but it will also cause distress to livestock including a number of horses that are to be kept on the property. The barns for the farm are located along the boundary with Boldridge Farm and are situated just to the North of the proposed event field. Furthermore given the open fields and the lack of a natural barrier there is a substantial risk that the noise will travel around the area day and night and cause

disruption to nearby residents, certainly those living at Ashley, Long Newnton and Crudwell. Light pollution seen by those areas will also be substantial.

2.4 I am particularly concerned by the potential Impact the festival may have on the local supply of water. Boreholes located on the event field which are jointly managed by both Boldridge Farm and Ashley Marsh Farm, supply not only the farms but also 11 homes situated within Ashley. The rights to use the boreholes are legally restricted to agricultural, equestrian and single-household residential use. No permission has been granted by Ashley Marsh Farm to use the boreholes for the festival and its 2000 plus attendees. If the boreholes are used, experience tells that the supply will be seriously disrupted, and local residents will be without water. Not only does will this constitute a public nuisance, it could also have serious health and safety implications for the Ashley community.

2.5 There will also be nuisance caused by traffic accessing and egressing the festival site via Crudwell Lane, which will have a significant impact on the whole of the local community. The narrow single track roads are not intended to accommodate the levels of traffic expected. These roads are also used by agricultural vehicles and commercial vehicles from Melcourt Industries and there inevitably will be significant congestion that will impact on these local businesses.

2.6 Furthermore, there is a significant risk of littering and refuse being left behind on the event site after the festival which if not effectively managed could pollute the neighbouring fields belonging to Ashley Marsh Farm and other neighbouring land.

3. PUBLIC SAFETY

3.1 Access to the proposed festival site only appears to be via the main entrance on Crudwell Lane and an emergency route which uses the Fosse Way. The Fosse Way is not a proper road and is unlikely to be suitable for emergency vehicles. It also still relies on access via Crudwell Lane which if congested due to traffic could be seriously obstructed in an emergency. This puts the festival goers at a serious safety risk. For the avoidance of doubt I wish to clarify that no secondary access to Boldridge Farm via Ashley Marsh Farm has been permitted or would indeed be suitable.

3.2 I am concerned that the proposed festival is to be situated on the fields of a working agricultural farm used for growing crops and not specifically prepared for festival use. In recent weeks, given the hot dry weather, there have been fires across this land and use of these fields by 2000 people for festival activities and camping increases significantly the risk of further fires. Alternatively if the weather becomes wet this could result in the breakup of the ground and become a mud bath. Again, if

emergency access to the site is not sufficient the consequences could be catastrophic.

3.3 The proposed sanitary provision for the event is unclear and if mismanaged this could result in serious contamination to agricultural land.

3.4 Given the position in respect of the water supply set out above, if there is inadequate water supply for festival goers this could result in public health implications for them.

3.5 I am also concerned that persons refused entry to the festival or ejected could be left wander the countryside given the remote rural location which would be particularly risky at night, given the lack of proximity to accommodation and public transport.

3.6

Crime and disorder

- The security of Ashley Marsh Farm is also a concern to me should this licence be granted. This is open agricultural land and not purpose built for festival activities. There is a serious risk of trespassers entering on to Ashley Marsh Farm from the festival site, and the owners should not be expected at their own expense to employ private security contractors to protect their land to make it secure.

- The nature of the proposed festival may give rise to risk of alcohol abuse and possible use of other substances which could give rise to disorder or conflict. Given the remoteness of the site, police attendance could be 40 minutes away if required and if the security provision is not sufficient or suitably experience then the risks of disorder are significant.

Protection of Children from Harm

- I am also concerned about underage persons attempting to access to the site and there is no safeguarding measures proposed in the Premises Licence application. There is no indication as to what measures are to be taken to prevent minors purchasing tickets or accessing the event venue. Furthermore, no details have been provided as to what lawful measures will be in place to protect minors if they are refused entry given the proposed festival's rural location.

Conclusion

This licence application for the proposed Existence Festival is totally inappropriate and if granted would undermine the licensing objectives relating to:-

- The prevention of public nuisance;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of crime and disorder; and
- The protection of children from harm.

Whilst appearing to be situated in a remote rural location the festival will actually have a significant impact on the residents of Ashley Marsh Farm given its immediate position on the boundary of the event field and the wider communities of Ashley, Tetbury, Crudwell and Long Newnton.

Further there have to be serious concerns as the track record of the event organisers and their capability to operate a safe and compliant event for 2000.

For the reasons I have set out I would respectfully ask the Licensing Committee to refuse the application..

I Churchill

Dear Sir,

I am gravely concerned about the lack of transparency with this application. There is reference to an event management plan but nothing said about what is in it.

The proposed location is off a single track road that relies on passing places. Yet live in vehicles and daily access will be up this very narrow lane. The main route from the East (London) will be along Tetbury Lane from Crudwell, shown as Crudwell Lane on the Gloucester side of the county boundary which is yards from event. This narrow lane relies on passing places to enable 2-way flow and sadly this is not always considered. I have personally been run off the road on my bicycle by traffic and have referred this to the police. However, as it was on the Wilts side. (remember the boundary is yards from the site) I reported it to Wilts not Glos police. I suspect that this location on a county boundary was selected to minimise the likelihood of

involvement of half the local people who will be directly affected and yet live in another county as far as applications are concerned. directly

I can only assume that any emergency access will also be along this narrow road (Malmesbury fire station is the closest).

G Wasey

Site location & access via uncategorised poorly maintained road through a residential rural village considered completely unsuitable for an event looking to support 2,000 attendees. Articulated lorries & other commercial vehicles will cause considerable disruption & inconvenience during the set up & tear down of the proposed event.

2) Excessive bass & late night (early hours of the morning!) noise will cause disruption to village residents & wildlife for the duration of the festival which whilst proposed until 2am all 4 days, we see from the application catering is planned to be on offer until 5am which suggests that noise & light noise could carry on until this time which feels totally unreasonable in a rural village setting.

3) Event suggests a high likelihood of alcohol & drug anti-social behavior & offences. Should attendees be ejected from the festival they would effectively be cut adrift in the nearby village.

4) We have already experienced a spike in crime in the vicinity in recent weeks (thefts) so a high influx of people presents an opportunity for trespass / scouting of potential sites for theft in the near future.

The site & timings of the event are totally unsuitable & I should like my comments recorded as an objection to a licence being approved.

G and A Tucker

We write to formally object to the above premises licence application. I am a local resident and interested party with a number of our own farm and Equestrian (HG Tucker & Son) and other business based at our farm in Long Newnton and have reviewed the application and associated site plan. My objections are set out below by reference to the relevant licensing objectives.

1. Organiser Track Record & Change of Name

Whilst it was under a different business name a number of the same management are still in post were required to vacate Charlton Park in Wiltshire following the issue of a formal Noise Abatement Notice by Wiltshire Council. They were also unable to deliver the event in July due to their poor event planning and non existent communication with local residents and businesses.

Given this track record we do not believe this new business (with a lot of the same personnel) can be trusted to deliver an event at such short notice especially when the venue that is simply not appropriate with access routes, emergency exits, fire risks etc.

The licensing authority is entitled to take this track record into account when assessing whether granting a licence is appropriate and whether the applicant can be expected to promote the licensing objectives. I respectfully urge the Authority to obtain the full details of the Wiltshire enforcement action and to give it significant weight in its determination.

2. Highway Infrastructure & Footpaths

As we highlighted in our previous objection, the road network serving this location was assessed by Gloucestershire Highways as already operating at or near capacity during the Melcourt Industries application for expansion (Ref 21/04342/FUL dated 17 November 2021) and subsequent planning appeal Hearing (Ref APP/F1610/W/23/3323640) dated 25th October 2023 that was dismissed. The various observations and traffic assessments that occurred during both the original application and Melcourts appeal are matter's of public record and provide a clear evidential foundation for the proposition that this road network cannot safely or practically absorb the substantial additional traffic that the festival would generate in the build up to the event (likely to be around 2-3 weeks) and will require access for HGV vehicles, across the four days of the event and then finally the breakdown of the event when again HGV vehicles will require access.

It is therefore essential that should this license be granted that a thorough traffic management plan is put in place including:

- Appropriate signage highlighting roads are used by local equestrian businesses and drivers must give them at least 2m clearance as per the highway code.

- Monitored speed limits – i.e temporary speed cameras to ensure people stick the speed limit.
- Traffic lights at the Church Lane / B4014 junction. this was highlighted as dangerous for lorries turning off the B4014 and traffic coming down Crudwell Lane and lorries having to reverse back onto the B4014.
- 24 hour stewarding of emergency exits on to the road

It should also be noted that the public footpath going through the site needs to be formally closed and an application will need to be made.

3. Single Public Access and Egress

The site plan submitted with the application confirms that all public access to and from the festival site is via a single main gate, served by a farm track off Crudwell Lane with car parks in the first two fields which will mean severe congestion on Crudwell Lane during arrival and departure periods, no alternative route for the public in the event of any incident on the access track, and the dispersal of large numbers of vehicles onto an already inadequate road network between midnight and 4am on four consecutive nights. This raises serious concerns under both the public safety and public nuisance licensing objectives. Added to this the revised emergency exit is on a blind corner which we do not feel is safe

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, I respectfully but firmly request that this application be refused. The proposed event would, in my submission, be incompatible with the licensing objectives of public nuisance prevention and public safety, and the applicant's track record provides further grounds for refusing the licence.

I would welcome the opportunity to address the Licensing Sub-Committee in person should this application proceed to a hearing, and I reserve the right to make further representations as additional information becomes available.

M and C Ljungman

We write to make formal representations in relation to the above application under the Licensing Act 2003.

We are in the process of purchasing Ashley Marsh Farm, Ashley, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8SX, which shares its eastern boundary with Boldridge Farm. Completion of the purchase is expected shortly, following which Ashley Marsh Farm will become both our family's home for ourselves and our two children, and the base for a significant equestrian operation.

The farm is being acquired specifically as a long-term equestrian property. It will accommodate competition horses and ponies, including animals competing at national level and those representing Great Britain internationally. The property will also continue to operate as an agricultural holding.

Having reviewed the application, we have serious concerns that granting this licence would undermine each of the four licensing objectives.

General Concerns

This application appears substantially similar to the previous application considered earlier this year, notwithstanding changes to the site layout and staging arrangements.

We remain concerned that the application has been submitted without sufficient detail to allow neighbouring landowners or the Licensing Committee properly to understand how the event will operate or how its impacts will be mitigated (if they can be).

In particular, the absence of a detailed Event Management Plan, comprehensive noise management strategy, water supply arrangements and full environmental management proposals makes it difficult for the Committee to assess whether the licensing objectives can realistically be upheld.

The organisers' recent history of cancellation, late amendments and repeated applications also raises legitimate concerns regarding planning, preparedness and operational competence.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Ashley Marsh Farm shares its boundary directly with the proposed event site. Unlike many neighbouring properties, the farm is intended to house valuable competition horses and ponies whose welfare depends upon a quiet, stable and predictable environment. It will also be our family home.

The likely impacts include:

- continuous amplified music;

- low-frequency bass vibration;
- public address announcements;
- generators;
- construction activity during site build and breakdown;
- vehicle movements;
- crowd noise extending late into the evening; and
- significant overnight lighting.

These impacts extend well beyond ordinary agricultural activity of Boldridge Farm and are entirely inconsistent with the quiet rural environment required for both livestock and elite equestrian animals, and normal everyday living as our home.

Competition horses require consistent exercise, turnout, schooling and recovery routines. Unexpected loud noise, lighting and vibration can lead to stress, injury and behavioural problems, affecting both animal welfare and rider safety.

The disturbance is not limited to the advertised festival dates. Site construction, sound testing, rehearsals, deliveries and dismantling are also likely to generate several additional days of disruption.

The application therefore represents a substantial nuisance and material interference with the peaceful enjoyment and normal operation of Ashley Marsh Farm, our new family residence.

Shared Borehole

We are particularly concerned regarding the shared private borehole serving Ashley Marsh Farm and neighbouring properties. The borehole is shared with Boldridge Farm under legal arrangements which restrict its use to agricultural, equestrian and single residential purposes.

To our knowledge, no consent has been obtained for the borehole to supply water for a commercial music festival attracting approximately 2,000 attendees.

If the organisers intend to use this water supply, the application should clearly identify:

- the expected water demand;
- the legal basis upon which the supply would be used;
- contingency arrangements;

- monitoring procedures; and
- measures to ensure neighbouring users are not adversely affected.

Ashley Marsh Farm relies upon this water supply for domestic occupation, livestock and horses. This borehole also supplies water to eight homes in Ashley.

Any interruption or reduction in supply would have immediate consequences for both animal welfare and residents. This would cause a public nuisance and have a direct impact on the health and safety, and amenity of the people of Ashley.

Should the Committee be minded to grant the licence (which we request that it does not), we respectfully request that a specific licence condition prohibits the use of the shared private borehole for any festival-related purposes.

Light Pollution

Ashley Marsh Farm currently benefits from an exceptionally dark rural environment. Floodlighting, stage lighting, lasers, moving lights and overnight site illumination would fundamentally alter that environment.

Such lighting can disturb livestock, affect horses housed close to the boundary and materially reduce the amenity of our new home and neighbouring residential property.

Dust and Air Quality

Large numbers of pedestrians, service vehicles and construction traffic on dry agricultural land are likely to generate considerable airborne dust. Dust may affect grazing land, forage, riding arenas and horses, particularly those undertaking regular athletic training. It will also have an impact on our family.

Public Safety

The application gives rise to several public safety concerns. The proposed site sits immediately adjacent to agricultural land containing livestock, fencing, machinery and equestrian facilities.

There is a foreseeable risk of members of the public straying beyond the licensed area onto neighbouring farmland.

There are also concerns regarding emergency access.

The application appears to rely primarily upon Crudwell Lane, with the alternative route utilising the Fosse Way.

Given the anticipated traffic volumes, we remain concerned and unconvinced that emergency services would enjoy unrestricted access should a significant incident occur.

Fire Risk

The surrounding land contains crops, grazing, hay, bedding, timber buildings, equestrian facilities and agricultural equipment. The proposed event follows a period of exceptionally dry weather, during which nearby land has already experienced a grass fire.

The application does not adequately explain how fire risks will be managed or how neighbouring landowners will be protected should a fire spread beyond the event boundary. This is a considerable risk.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Ashley Marsh Farm will contain valuable horses, tack, vehicles and agricultural equipment and it will be our family home

Professional competition tack and associated equipment can represent a substantial financial investment.

A temporary event attracting several thousand attendees immediately adjacent to the property inevitably increases the risk of trespass, theft and criminal damage.

We should not be expected to incur additional private security costs in order to protect our property and our family from risks arising solely from the operation of a neighbouring commercial festival.

Protection of Children from Harm

We note that the application provides limited detail regarding safeguarding measures.

Given the rural location, we remain concerned about how vulnerable persons or minors refused entry to the event, separated from companions or leaving the site late at night will be protected.

Conclusion

Ashley Marsh Farm is being purchased as a permanent family home, agricultural holding and high-quality equestrian property. The proposed festival is fundamentally incompatible with those uses.

Our concerns are not based on opposition to properly managed events in principle. Rather, they arise because this particular proposal places a large-scale commercial music festival immediately adjacent to a working farm and elite equestrian facility and our family home, without demonstrating that the resulting impacts can be adequately controlled.

For the reasons set out above, we respectfully submit that granting this application would undermine the licensing objectives relating to:

- the prevention of public nuisance;
- public safety;
- the prevention of crime and disorder; and
- the protection of children from harm.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Licensing Committee refuse the application.

Should the Committee nevertheless be minded to grant the licence, which we hope that it won't, we request that robust conditions be imposed, including:

- a prohibition on any use of the shared private borehole;
 - strict noise monitoring at neighbouring residential boundaries;
 - restrictions on lighting directed towards neighbouring properties;
 - comprehensive fire prevention measures;
 - enhanced security along the boundary with Ashley Marsh Farm; and
 - detailed traffic management and emergency access arrangements.
-

H Foley

This application is apparently the same as the recently withdrawn one.

The lane, Crudwell / Tetbury Lane which will be used for access is narrow with occasional passing places.

If there is or has been rain there will be even more deep ruts at the sides from vehicles, some of which are farm vehicles, having to pass each other.

Horse riders and children walking or cycling with or without parents also use this road.

Although access is listed as via Crudwell Lane, vehicles will travel via the A429 and Tetbury Lane which is the other end of Crudwell Lane.

As it is a very quite area, at night the sound will travel to Crudwell, causing problems for those on shift work or having to rise early, and will also disturb farm animals and wild life.

The Lane is not suitable for the large numbers of visitors and vehicles proposed.

R Cartwright

I am writing to formally object to the application for a new premises license for Land East Of Boldridge Farm, Crudwell Lane, Long Newnton, Gloucestershire.

I live 1600 metres (one mile) from the proposed site.

I believe this application should be refused because it will undermine the following licensing objectives: prevention of public nuisance, and public safety.

Public Nuisance

There was a festival at the same location last year from Friday 25th till Sunday 27th July 2025, and the noise disturbance was all but incessant from mid-day Friday until early morning on Monday.

The thudding of the bass frequencies carries a long way and we found it intrusive and disturbing. It made being in our garden unpleasant and difficult to bear at times as there was nowhere we could go to escape the noise. Likewise at night the banging drums and bass sounds travelled through the house and continued to disturb us as we tried to sleep. This went on through day and night all weekend and into the start of the working week.

The applicant states they will manage noise levels throughout the event. In my experience the noise control measures used at these events never sufficiently attenuate the thudding and booming of bass frequencies to prevent noise nuisance over a large distance.

The application proposes live and recorded music until 2 a.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. With music recommencing at 10 a.m. on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday, that will mean continuous noise nuisance for 16 hours out of every 24 for two days in a row, along with another 12 hours on the Thursday and 13 hours on the Sunday.

I believe this schedule of inescapable noise disturbance is an unreasonable imposition to be inflicted on the residents surrounding the festival.

At the very least the music should not commence until midday and finish by 11p.m.

If that is not possible then I request that this application be refused on the grounds that it will cause unavoidable public nuisance.

Public Safety

Unlike other well planned festivals nearby which are set in suitable locations with direct access from a main road, the only access to this festival will be along narrow country lanes.

I would strongly urge the Licensing authority's Safety Advisory Group to make a site visit to see for themselves the difficulty, dangers and impracticality of 2000 visitors converging on the proposed site. A zoom meeting online is insufficient to show how inappropriate this piece of farmland is as a festival location.

It is already difficult to use the roads safely here, and the influx of festival traffic would only make a bad situation worse. Along much of the lanes there is no verge, and passing places are so badly eroded as to damage cars. The lanes here really would struggle to safely accommodate any more traffic.

Additionally, the applicants have applied for a premises license lasting one calendar year terminating 2nd September 2027. If granted this would allow the applicants to run a second festival during the summer of 2027 and avoid making a separate application, contrary to the intentions of the Licensing Sub-Committee's previous amendment on 15th May earlier this year.

C Parfitt

I am writing to object to the following: Premises Licence Application for Existence Festival, Ref: **C/26/00777/PRMW**

As a local resident, I am objecting on the following grounds:

Public nuisance and public safety

The proposed festival for four days and nights for approximately 2,000 attendees would severely impact local residents, animals and wildlife.

Access to the site is along single-track lanes with no formal passing places. Drivers already experience difficulties on these lanes due to the number of cars, vans, and agricultural vehicles, as well as HGVs from a business whose access is on the same stretch of Crudwell Lane as the entrance to the proposed festival site. Adding traffic

for approximately 2,000 attendees, along with lorries and vans to service the festival, will be a nuisance, unworkable, unsafe and dangerous.

Activity during the festival, including setting up and dismantling, will create a significant nuisance to residents, animals, and wildlife. Loud music on four days and nights, until 2am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and midnight on Sunday, is entirely inappropriate for this rural location and will result in significant noise pollution for local residents

I understand that the Existence Festival was not allowed to return to last year's site at Charton Park. Charton Park is set up to accommodate large events and festivals; the proposed site is not. This year's event was planned for June and postponed to September without a Premises Licence having been granted. Management of the festival appears chaotic and does not give confidence that the issues of public nuisance and public safety will be addressed.

The proposed site is wholly inappropriate for this kind of event in and the potential impact is unacceptable.

R Parfitt

I am writing to object to application **C/26/00777/PRMW** as a local residence on the following grounds:

Public safety, Public nuisance

The proposed event is completely wrong for this location.

Public Safety: Long Newnton is a small village, a rural location, agricultural and residential, which would be overtaken by a massive music festival of four days and nights and several days of setting up and dismantling with HGVs. Access to the site is totally unsuitable consisting of narrow lanes. The heavy traffic would be difficult, dangerous and unsafe.

Public nuisance: the noise disruption for four days and nights will be unreasonable, unbearable and a nuisance to residents and animals. I can only see that this event would dominate the area.

Andy Sibley

Existence Festival – September 2026

Reference: C/26/00777/PRMA

I am writing on behalf of Sibley Motor Engineering Services to object to the above Premises Licence application.

My objection relates to the licensing objectives of **Public Safety** and the **Prevention of Crime and Disorder**.

Sibley Motor Engineering Services is a working vehicle repair business located close to the proposed festival site. We have customers visiting throughout the day and vehicles, tools and equipment on our premises.

I am concerned that an event of this size will increase the likelihood of people entering neighbouring land and commercial premises. Our site is not intended for public access and contains customer vehicles, specialist equipment and machinery. Any unauthorised access would present both security and safety concerns.

I am also concerned about the impact the event could have on access to our business for customers, staff and deliveries. We rely on the local road network to operate our business and would be concerned if access became obstructed during the event.

For these reasons, I do not believe the application has demonstrated that the licensing objectives relating to Public Safety and the Prevention of Crime and Disorder will be adequately promoted, and I respectfully ask the Licensing Sub-Committee to refuse the application.

END