

Wards Affected:

'All Wards'

ITEM 6**LICENSING COMMITTEE****23 SEPTEMBER 2015****THE BOWL CONCERT "EDC" HELD ON 11th JULY 2015 (OFFICER'S REPORT)**

Author: Gillian Clarke, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Tel: (01908) 252438

Executive Summary:

A music festival was held at the National Bowl on Saturday 11th July 2015, by EDC (Electric Daisy Carnival). This report outlines the main features of the festival, the event as a whole, and the outcomes and impacts.

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the report be noted by the Licensing Committee.

2. Background

2.1 The Environmental Health department were contacted by the Bowl operators Gaming International/ Live Nation UK, at the end of 2014, to advise that an EDC (Electric Daisy Carnival) event was being proposed for July 2015. A similar event had been held on the 12th July 2014.

2.2 This event is a different format to previously held "pop concerts". Traditionally, a rock or pop band (with supporting groups) will perform on the main stage. For EDC, music is played by a DJ from the main arena stage and in four additional marquees positioned on grass land to the south-east of the main arena. The festival also has visual attractions (lighted features and pyrotechnics) mobile performers (eg stilt walkers) and large fairground rides. Approximately 35 mobile food vendors supplied a variety of "fast" foods, and five bars served alcoholic drinks. EDC is a large brand in the USA and operates very large festivals in a number of major cities. Milton Keynes is the only location in Europe where the event is held and attracts fans from across Europe as well as from the USA.. The spectacular main stage was shipped over from Florida.

2.3 A total audience of 35,000 people attended the festival. Approximately 6,500 people arrived by train (and 5,300 returned by train).(London Midland ran extra trains to London) Coaches were accommodated on Elfield Park. Walking routes from the station & CMK were signed and well used. Taxi drop offs were provided at Knowhill (PHV) and Chesney Wold (Hackney Carriages).

2.4 The festival times were 12:00 noon to 23:00 hours. It is a condition of the Premises Licence (attached as Appendix A), that music must cease at 23:00 hours.

2.5 For the first time this year, a camping area was provided on Parks Trust land at Teardrop Lakes. The site was managed by "City Camping" (an established company in Milton Keynes) and approximately 1,000 festival goers camped at the site. The site was provided with toilets, showers, drinking water, medical and welfare facilities.

- 2.6 Arrangements for the event involve all the emergency services, the Hospital, principal stakeholders including the Parks Trust, several council departments (including Environmental Health, Licensing, Trading Standards, Building Control, Highways, Environment & Waste), Vinci Parking and London Midland. There was on-going engagement and four formal meetings of the Milton Keynes SAG (Safety Advisory Group) where all the preceding was invited.
- 2.7 Prior to the event a meeting was held between the Bowl and Shenley and Tattenhoe PC with local MKC Councillors invited. The meeting was held to mainly discuss fly parking by concert goers in the estates to the West of the Bowl.

The Bowls response was based on their experience of the previous EDC concert and comparing the traffic issues at this show with two other rock shows last year. Last year's EDC was notable for the low numbers of people attending in private cars and the low take up of official car parking places and the absence of particular fly parking problems. They proposed to sign the entrances to the estates nearest the Bowl, closure of Bilbrook Lane in North Furzton with access to residents displaying a pass. Cllr Williams producing and distributing the passes. Stewards would be present on Bilbrook Lane but not at other locations.

- 2.8 Officers from Environmental Health monitored compliance with the law and licence within the Bowl. 30 food vendors were visited, Health & Safety advice was given on matters such as noise etc. noise conditions monitored, barrier safety etc. monitored. Taxi enforcement officers patrolled externally to deter illegal activity.

3.0 Impact on the local community

3.1 Noise

The current conditions on the Premises Licence pertaining to noise controls, were approved by the Licensing Committee on the 14th July 2010. There are 15 separate conditions, specifying noise measurement methodology, limits and timings. There is an absolute maximum permissible noise limit 75dB $L_{Aeq(15min)}$ as measured at one metre from any noise sensitive façade and curfew of 23:00 hours. These conditions were complied with throughout the EDC event.

Three noise complaints were made during the festival, which were investigated by Environmental Health Officers present at the event and the promoter's appointed Sound Consultant. A further eight complaints were made to the council the following week. The complaints were from Coffee Hall (2) Tinkers Bridge (3) Beanhill, Wavendon Gate (2), Kents Hill, Bow Brickhill, and, the Duty Manager of the CentreParcs facility in Woburn.

3.2 Crime/ Anti-Social Behaviour.

Thames Valley Police have reported that "Overall crime was low". The Bowl security staff carried out a thorough search regime resulting in a quantity of drugs being surrendered and seized by the Police. The number of telephone calls to the Police were low, there was just one call relating to traffic/parking." There was one reported stabbing within the venue which was dealt with.

"The Police Staff who operated from the Welfare Centre at The Bowl, dealt with 85 reports of missing/lost property, and were handed 113 items of found property."

Councillor Geaney reported that there were significant issues with open drug taking and apparent dealing in Favell Drive as well as inconsiderate parking which caused alarm and distress to residents. The complaints concerning parking in Favell Drive were received by Bowl management and the police who responded.

3.3 Litter

Complaints were made concerning litter in areas surrounding the Bowl, Furzton, Chesney Wold and along Route 51 to the rail station. The number of complaints is not accurately known, as they have been made to several parties, and they have been made in duplicate. Environmental Health received three complaints, including a detailed email from Councillor Chris Williams (attached as Appendix B)

Considerable numbers of nitrous oxide canisters' were discarded along entry routes.

The Bowl undertook litter clearing activity during the show and for a week afterwards. They cleared the parking area at Furzton, Route 51 and responded to complaints from further afield. They sent a team to Favell Drive when it was identified as a particular problem. City Camping cleared the Teardrop Lakes area.

The current conditions on the Premises Licence require a Waste Management Plan and adequate litter collection arrangements within the Licensed Area.

3.4 Parking

Official parking was provided on Furzton Lake Dam and was not sold out. Parking associated with the camping was provided on Tear Drop Lakes Park.

Two complaints were received after the event about nuisance parking in Favell Drive, one complaint about the closure of Peartree Lane.

Six PCN,s were issued in streets with parking restrictions (4 Bilbrook Ave, 1 Chesney Wold, 1 Davey Avenue). The parking wardens reported significantly less parking infringements on streets with parking controls than last year.

3.5 Transport

Taxis. Private hire vehicles were provided with a drop off/pick up area in Kelvin Drive Knowlhill. It was not greatly used. Hackney Carriages were provided with a rank in Chesney Wold Bleak Hall. At a tactical meeting during the concert concern was expressed by the police and promoters at the number of people who had entered via Peartree Lane and the potential public safety risk this may pose at the end of the concert. With police support the decision was made to close the rank and direct taxi users to CMK station.

3.5 Street Trading

15 street trading issues were investigated during the concert. 4 Traders without permits were moved on with police assistance (including children selling water), 1 pedlar without a licence was moved on, 6 pedlars were given advice, 4 traders were trading in accordance with permits.

4.0 Implications

None

5.0 Policy

There is no specific policy concerning the National Bowl.

6.0 Resources and Risk

As this is an information item regarding an event that has taken place there are no implications. However Council staff are significantly involved in the planning and during the event, the cost of which is covered by the licensing fee.

N	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

6.0 Carbon and Energy Management

6.1 Carbon reduction and energy management are affected in terms of transportation and waste. Personal car use was relatively low by those attending the concert.

Legal

- (a) The venue has a premises licence issued by this authority with conditions pertinent to an event of this nature.

Other Implications

As this is an information item regarding an event that has taken place there are no implications.

There are no equalities/Diversity implications in this report

N	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	N	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

N	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

Background Papers:

Annexes

A: The Premises Licence of The National Bowl

B: Email of Councillor Chris Williams

C: Report of TVP