

**CHESTERTON PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO  
NOTICE OF APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE  
LICESING ACT 2003 - HOMEGROWN MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The Parish Council raises the following objections to this application:

**i) Access arrangements off Akeman Street**

The access proposed off Akeman Street is in close proximity to the motorway bridge and we would deem this to be unsuitable and potentially dangerous given the lack of vision when driving over the bridge towards Chesterton. Akeman Street has a 60mph limit as a country road and drivers regularly drive at that speed or in excess. The Organiser has given us assurances that marshals will be positioned on either side of the bridge adjacent to the narrow access but we still hold that this is potentially too dangerous as a sole access point.

We also raise the question of the 'sole access' off Akeman Street. We have been advised that such an event should have a minimum of two access/egress entrances for safety reasons.

**ii) Access arrangements via the A4095 and Green Lane in the village**

The Organiser has assured us that the 'road map' issued to ticket holders will stipulate that there is no access via Little Chesterton or Chesterton village itself and that 75% of users will access the site from the B430 via Akeman Street.

We are still concerned that users from the Milton Keynes/ Aylesbury directions will access the site through the village especially off the A4095 via the 'Allotments road' which is both narrow and the subject of concerns already expressed to OCC Highways on numerous occasions.

**iii) Minibus shuttles from Bicester North station**

We feel that many drivers will ignore advice to use this service and access the site via the A4095 going through the village and via the above 'allotments road'

#### **iv) BSA Sports Ground**

We support the responses made by Mr Len Payne on behalf of the Sports Association whose land abuts the proposed festival site. The BSA Sports Ground lies within our parish and we endorse their concerns over the oncosts involved for special safety and security over the festival period. We also express our concern over the possibility of attempted access across BSA land to the boundary of the festival site from the minor road to Little Chesterton for the reasons stated by Mr Payne.

#### **Conclusion**

We were impressed by the assurances given by Mr Readle and the professional approach to this application but do feel that safety factors are of paramount importance in this instance and our local knowledge suggests that the access is inadequate for the 400 cars expected given the use of Akeman Street as both a 'rat run' avoiding the congested A34 and its use by users of the Bicester Hotel & Country Club as well as by users of the BSA facilities. Any increase in traffic on the 'allotments road' is unacceptable.

**If a licence is granted then we would advocate that it is for this one event only, giving us the opportunity to monitor access and traffic movements etc.**