

Lingfield Parish Council Comments Application for Variation of Licence

Lingfield Park Racecourse

Lingfield Park Marriot Hotel and Country Club

To licensing@tandridge.gov.uk

Members of Lingfield Parish Council (LPC) met with members of the management team at Lingfield Park Resort on 3rd June 2019. Other local parish and district councilors were also present.

LPC wished to raise issues of concern which have been passed onto them, including how residents were interpreting the information as presented in the application documents on the Tandridge Council website.

The Lingfield Park management team explained the reasoning behind the current applications is to condense several licences into just 2, one for the Hotel and its associated leisure facilities and the other for the Racecourse, including all the individual buildings which are also used independently of the race events.

LPC were assured the current operating schedules for the racecourse events, including those with music/entertainment will remain as they are at present, which accords with their agreements with the local Safety Advisory Group and is compliant with The Green Guide requirements for outdoor/sport events. This is reviewed annually with all stakeholders.

LPC understand that Lingfield Park Resort undertakes the following procedures as part of their standard operations and is only making minor modifications as detailed.

The Racecourse grounds: races/events open to the public

- Outside music/entertainments are not stand-alone events but attached to a race-days
- Attendance limit set at 10,000 per event, well inside their safe max of 12,000
- Noise levels constantly monitored by independent company to be below 10db above background noise levels (but excludes aircraft noise). Instant feedback to event should noise levels be breached and volume reduced directly. Monitoring record sheets submitted to TDC after events. 10db is considered below industry standard but is set to reflect rural/residential nature of surroundings.
- Outdoor music to stop at 22.00 hours
- Outdoor curfew, including for alcohol 22.30 hours
- Aim to clear site of outdoor event guests by 22.30 hours
- Strict control of alcohol: none allowed to be brought in and guests encouraged to finish drinks before leaving; all outdoor drinks non-glass
- On site security to ensure orderly departure but are not on covered to work public highways

- Car park staff insured to work on public highway for entry/exit car parking areas
- Litter collection throughout events and where light permitting, immediately after events on Lingfield Park land

The Marriott Hotel and Country Club

This has its own stand-alone 24 hours licence and there is no overlap with any of the racecourse events. Any functions inside the hotel are entirely separate to the racecourse. The application seeks to extend the licenced area for the Hotel to a lawn area to provide outside space exclusively for hotel guests by the trackside (Area A on licence map). This area will be monitored for noise, with a 10db max above background noise levels for nearest residential property.

The Pavilion, The Eclipse Stand and The Grandstand:

These buildings have their own individual licences which already include operation to 02.00 hours, other than for Sundays and are used for private hire. This application seeks to include Sundays into the same timetabling for all events taking place inside. Currently each Sunday function in each of these buildings requires an individual Temporary Event Licence. By combining all the separate licences for the individual venues, and the Sunday applications into a single racecourse-wide licence, it is administratively and financially more effective for the racecourse.

Other specifics

New Year's Eve has a separate definition to allow the extension of the licence for this. No change

The Lingfield Park fireworks are limited to the one public event, widely publicised, which has about 15 minutes of fireworks and then the usual rules apply to the remainder of the evening event with regards music, alcohol, etc. No change.

Any private function can book their own fireworks display using the racecourse approved contractor and it must finish before 22.00hrs. Notice of these events is published locally. No change.

These procedures, and the modifications to some of the details, appear to have no additional impact on the residents of Lingfield and a degree of misinformation hasn't helped with the perception of the changes to Lingfield Park's licences as being hugely impacting on the local residents. LPC are reassured the minor changes will not cause any changes to the current system of linking music to races and limiting the numbers and timings as stated.

As such LPC have no objection to the proposed changes on the understanding that the existing operating procedures continue and these will be monitored through Tandridge Council's role in the Safety Advisory Group.

Additional comments

About the issues raised by residents, which fall within the areas for the licencing authority to consider, LPC raised the following points of concern

1. The behaviour of racegoers when arriving or leaving through the village; some suffering the effects of overdrinking, to purchase food and/or alcohol. This puts pressure on facilities through overcrowding/unruly behaviour. Disturbances may require police intervention as on the Good Friday meeting when both The Star and The Greyhound went into lockdown, causing inconvenience/distress for regulars. Some behaviours are entirely unacceptable, littering private property, using gardens as toilets, etc but once the racegoers are off the Lingfield Park premises, they are technically no longer the responsibility of Lingfield Park

2. Lingfield Park management team have experience of working with local police forces around the country and have tried to engage some help from the police, mainly as a visible presence after well attended events. Due to Tandridge police staffing issues, this has not been possible but LPC support Lingfield Park approaching them again to see if the increased funding for neighbourhood policing will change their position.

3. Regarding the safety of pedestrians walking into the village, LPC asked if Lingfield Park might help them clear back some of the overgrowth, especially on the surface of the pavements, as they have become progressively narrower over the last 20 or so years. This is being considered subject to clarification from Surrey Highways.

4. A suggestion for sponsoring litter bins in the village, with an arrangement for TDC to empty them, might help improve the general appearance of the village.

5. LPC suggested additional ways that Lingfield Park could get their message out to the local community, especially the offers of free tickets to evening races and for service men and women. The Community News is delivered to every house in Dormansland, Lingfield, Felcourt and outlying areas and the Village Voice is delivered to the Parochial Parish of St John's in Dormansland.

The contacts for these are:

Community News <http://communitynewslingfield.co.uk/contact> next edition deadline 5 July 2019

Village Voice published monthly except August: Anne van Vliet anne@hatchend.eu

6. For greater transparency, it may be useful for Lingfield Park to publish their noise reports, even though they are very technical, to reassure locals that any noise nuisance is being prevented with the current system. Some of the music/noise may carry over greater distances because of the location of the source, the type of sounds and the weather conditions.

7. Lingfield Park are happy to receive comments and questions from residents, including in relation to noise, and ask they are directed to Deborah Hay via email

(dhay@lingfieldpark.co.uk) or through the main reception telephone number 01342 834800