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**Leeds District Licensing Department**  
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LS11 8BU

Email: [REDACTED]

10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Entertainment Licensing Section,  
Leeds City Council,  
Civic Hall,  
Leeds.  
LS1 1UR**

cc. Christopher REES–GAY, Woods Whur.

**RE: Mint Festival & Live Music Act, Newsam Green Farm, Newsam Green, Leeds LS159AD**

**Application for a premises licence.**

**POLICE – LETTER OF REPRESENTATION:**

Thank you for providing us with details of an application for a licence for the above event.

The application relates to the holding of a two and a half day music event for up to 19,999 people each day. The Premises Licence will be limited to a one weekend event (a total of 3 days in all) per year.

West Yorkshire Police licensing department have conducted enquiries with the relevant policing colleagues, including the Leeds district senior leadership team, following on from a similar one-day event held in 2021. We have also taken note of the current application documents and a subsequent traffic management plan provided by the applicant.

These enquiries have resulted in a decision that it is the opinion of West Yorkshire Police that the event cannot be held safely.

The concerns include, but are not limited, to the following:

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- Indication of drug usage on site.
- 12 individual reports of theft from persons attending the 2021 event.
- The de-brief from the 2021 event which showed that attendees were able to encroach onto the M1 motorway putting themselves and the general public at substantial risk.
- The general safety concerns raised arising out of the 2021 event. We have not received any indication that these have been adequately addressed.
- The traffic management plan provided by the applicant for the proposed future events is not sufficient to ensure the safety of attendees and the general public.
- The infrastructure around the general site location does not lend itself to a safe and crime free event.
- The procedures notified by the applicant are not thought to be sufficient to adequately mitigate against the risks and to be able to provide a safe and crime free event.
- Mitigation to the concerns with regards the limitations to the site and its general location have not been adequately provided.

West Yorkshire Police submit a formal representation to this application for a licence. This representation is on the grounds that the application would have a negative impact on the licensing objectives namely:

- the prevention of crime and disorder.
- public safety.
- the prevention of public nuisance.

CE David Parker  
Leeds District Licensing Officer  
West Yorkshire Police

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## WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B;  
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16.2)

NICHE Ref. No:

URN:

**Statement of:** David Parker

Date of birth: Over 18

Occupation: Licensing officer

This statement (consisting of:      page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: D. Parker

Date: 09.08.2021

Time and date statement taken:

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am a licensing officer within the Leeds district licensing department, West Yorkshire Police.

My role involves liaison with licensed premises and I am tasked with implementing various remedial, action-planning and enforcement procedures on those which do not fulfil their required responsibilities in promoting the licensing objectives.

I also interrogate police computer systems to assess any crimes or incidents said to be associated with named premises. I also deal with applications for new premises licences, variations to existing premises licences, enforcement applications and other clerical duties concerned with the Licensing Act 2003.

I make this statement in relation to the application for a premises licence for Mint Festival & Live Music Act, Newsam Green Farm, Newsam Green, Leeds LS159AD.

The application relates to the holding of a two and a half day music event for up to 19,999 people each day. The Premises Licence will be limited to a one weekend event (a total of 3 days in all) per year.

Prior to being employed as a civilian licensing officer I was a police officer within West Yorkshire Police latterly being employed within the force planning unit. One of the events for which I was the lead planner was the Mint Festival.

### History

The Mint Festival is a long-standing event which has had a nomadic existence. It has been held at a number of locations during its nine-year history. These premises have included Lotherton Hall, Wetherby racecourse, Leeds city centre and a number of locations outside the West Yorkshire Police area. In 2021 after a break due to the covid19 outbreak the event was held at Newsam Green Farm, Newsam Green, Leeds.

Signature: D. Parker

Signature witnessed by:

NICHE Ref. No:		URN:	
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Continuation Statement of David Parker

Issues leading to this representation

I have conducted enquiries with the relevant policing colleagues, including the Leeds district senior leadership team, following on from the one-day event held in 2021. I have also taken note of the current application documents and a subsequent traffic management plan provided by the applicant.

The senior leadership team at Leeds district have also stated that they are not satisfied that with the information provided all the safety issues arising out of the 2021 event have been addressed.

An experienced roads policing supervisor has produced a full traffic management review which has been submitted as part of the evidence to the hearing.

The issues that arose from the 2021 event and the ongoing proposed planning for subsequent events have raised a number of concerns as to the safety of future events namely:

- Indication of drug usage on site in 2021. There was a quantity of drugs placed into the amnesty bins which were located on entry to the site. It would appear from talking to the organisers that security staff may have also placed seized drugs in these receptacles. Due to manner in which the amnesty bins were used the organisers cannot state how exactly the drugs came into their possession. The drugs seized were disposed of by West Yorkshire Police. We are unable to give further details as to the type, quantity or value of drugs seized.
- 12 individual reports of theft from persons attending the 2021 event. The majority had the same modus operandi namely mobile phones been taken from secured bags whilst in the possession of their owners.
- The general safety of festival goers raised by officers attending incidents during the 2021. These focus mainly on pedestrian activity when festival goers were entering and leaving the site. The de-brief from officers attending the 2021 event showed that:
  - Festival goers were able to encroach onto the M1 motorway putting themselves and the general public at substantial risk. There were numerous reports via 999 throughout the day of pedestrians walking on the motorway. Some of these were established as festival goers trying to get on or from the site in a state of intoxication.
  - At 1419hrs a member of the public reported “hundreds” of youths “running about” on Bullerthorpe Lane in front of traffic. Officers were despatched but fortunately there were no arrests or injuries.
  - Despite signage prohibiting vehicles picking up/dropping off there was an influx of vehicles doing so after 2100hrs. It was reported that festival attendees were seen walking along NEWSAM GREEN ROAD on to BULLERTHORPE LANE before attempting to find their lift. Due to this there were several calls for service regarding groups of young people walking along BULLERTHORPE LANE. Due to the layout of the road pedestrians were extremely vulnerable.
- The traffic management plan provided by the applicant for the proposed future events is not sufficient to ensure the issues raised during the SAG de-brief process have been adequately addressed.
- The infrastructure around the general site location does not lend itself to a safe and crime free event.
- The procedures notified and proposed by the applicant are not thought to be sufficient to adequately mitigate against the risks and to be able to address the crime and safety concerns as outlined above.

Signature: D. Parker

Signature Witnessed by:

NICHE Ref. No:		URN:		
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Continuation Statement of David Parker

There were minimal reports of disorder arising out of the 2021 event with one person being arrested for causing a breach of the peace. There was also an incident where a male required hospital treatment after falling from a fence on Bullerthorpe Lane.

West Yorkshire Police submit a formal representation to this application for a licence. This representation is on the grounds that the application would have a negative impact on the licensing objectives namely:

- the prevention of crime and disorder.
- public safety.
- the prevention of public nuisance.

CE David Parker  
Leeds District Licensing Officer  
West Yorkshire Police

Signature: D. Parker

Signature Witnessed by:



# Mint Festival TM Plan Review

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AUTHOR

PS 4289 Duncan R. Street

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## **Mint Festival – Traffic management Plan – Police Observations**

### **Overview**

I have been asked by XXX to look at the Mint Festivals' proposed Traffic management / event management plan for the 2022 event, in which XXX is the Police Silver Commander.

The following observations are based on my operational experience as a police officer with over 34 years' service, the majority of which has been based in Roads Policing Roles (including the dedicated WYP Motorway Unit and Leeds Roads Policing Supervisory roles). Having worked in the Leeds area for a lot of my service I have a good deal of local knowledge. My current role is the national liaison for British Cycling, and I work nationally with elite sporting events organisers in the planning of, and the police escorting of the cycle races on the road network.

As part of preparing this report I have visited the site area and local road network.

I have also reviewed the following documents associated with the event:

- MINT Festival TMP 2021 V3
- MINT Festival ESMP 2021 V2 Final
- MINT Festival Site layout
- MINT festival 2021 Site Plan 2021 V03
- Debrief report from XXXX – Leeds NPT

I have attached at Appendix A a series of photographs taken to highlight some of the issues noted below.

### **The Event Site and surrounding area**

MINT festival is held on some private land situated on Pontefract Lane / Newsam Green Road, Leeds. It is generally agricultural land, situated to the northern side of the road, and the land itself is bordered to its north by the M1 motorway. On the southern side of the access road is an industrial waste / refuse landfill quarry which operates throughout the year, meaning the road is used by large goods vehicles to the site. The only other premises in the vicinity of the site are some small farm buildings.

The only access road to the site from the West has been upgraded over recent years with the opening of Junction 45 of the M1 Motorway, and the new A63 Leeds east link Road. Junction 45 M1 motorway also serves the new Skelton Grange Motorway Services, and the Pontefract Lane end of the access road from the services, is relatively new, well-marked, and has decent footways. At the start the road it is subject to a 30 MPH maximum speed limit and has a system of street lighting. However, within a few hundred metres of the junction the speed limit changes to 50 MPH and the South side pavement stops at the first access road, as does the street lighting. The pavement on the northern side of the carriageway, reduces from a new, wide tar surface first to a narrow uneven tar strip and then a muck track. It is like this for the remainder of route to site. Shortly after the designated site entrance for vehicles to the site the pavement abruptly stops. There is no pavement then on the road for some considerable distance, around half a mile or more until a few hundred metres before the junction with Bullerthorpe Lane.

The main car park entrance to the site is a temporary structure and has no hard road access. At the time of my visit there was a temporary kerb line and the access was blocked by heaped soil.

### **The Organiser Traffic Management Plan**

The site is licensed for 14,999 attendees, and the event management plans is set to cater for them arriving at site by several modes of transport.

They are the following:

- Shuttle Bus runs from Leeds City Centre
- A dedicated Private Hire company
- Private motorcar – limited parking on site
- Private motorcar – pick Up and Drop Off
- Walk up attendees.

In all methods of transport access to the site can only be gained in one of two methods:

1. From the West – entry on to Pontefract Road from Junction 45 of the M1
2. From the East – entry onto Newsam Green Road from Bullerthorpe Lane.

The TM plan stipulates that there will be a one-way system for all vehicles arriving only from the Western Entry by Junction 45. Once committed to the one way private cars / non-event taxi's & private hires will enter the site at the first main car park gate, with only designated private hire and shuttle buses passing the main site entrance to their designated drop off near to Newsam Green Farm on the eastern side of the site.

When exiting the site through the day private cars / private hires return to junction 45. Shuttle buses and event private hire vehicles will travel east along Newsam Green Road and exit onto Bullerthorpe Road and turn either way depending on current traffic flows.

At the conclusion of the event, all vehicles will leave in the above manner, but en masse.

Throughout the event, Pontefract Lane / Newsam Green Road, will be subject to a reduced maximum speed limit of 30 miles per hour. A system of temporary traffic lights will control flows at the junction of Newsam Green Road / Bullerthorpe Lane to allow maximum traffic flow. Bullerthorpe Lane itself will have a lowered speed limit stepping down from 50 mph to 40 mph at the temporary traffic lights.

### **September 2021 Debrief Issues**

There are a number of concerns raised in the Police debrief of the event by Sgt McDonald who worked the event. The majority of these are in relation to Pedestrians on the road network in an around the vicinity of the event on Bullerthorpe Lane / Pontefract Lane / Newsam Green Road, and more worryingly the M1 Motorway. Some of these pedestrians were reported to be heavily intoxicated – which is not a surprise in view of the age / demographic of attendees and the event type.

Other issues relate to aspect of the TM plan that are in place to minimise identified issues – such as:

- No waiting restrictions (Local Authority enforcement – unless Obstruction Offence)



- Speed Restrictions
- Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (No entry / no left or right turns etc).
- Motorway restriction

All these restrictions to ensure compliance rely on enforcement, and alas in this scenario this can only be achieved by police action. As part of the event TM plan for a successful and safe event this requires deployment of police resources – which is not discussed in any of the attached reports. This is an option that could be provided but would need to be dedicated police resourcing and paid for by the event on Special Police Services at the agreement of the organiser and the police commander. The function of the police in this role is to undertake statutory functional powers of enforcement as part of an agreed traffic management plan. More detailed analysis of the aims of the organiser would be required to look at the resourcing implications around this and what could be achieved if agreed.

### Issues of Concern

Aside from the lack of enforcement action in place, there are other concerns from my view that affect public safety.

In relation to the event TM plan my main area of concern is the suitability of the site for the event in general. There are a number of reasons for this;

1. The site is industrial / agricultural and is only generally used by a small number of people on a regular basis. Adding circa 15000 people and associated vehicles to the area is in my opinion a concern, as the impact would be as follows:
  - (i) The road network is not equipped for the additional associated traffic
  - (ii) There are insufficient safe pedestrian walkways
  - (iii) The road layout / construction and general condition is not suitable for high volumes of event traffic
  - (iv) The area is unlit and has no street lighting – the sunset time on 25/9/21 was 18.57 hours, meaning that at the scheduled finish time of 2100 hrs there was a conflict of pedestrians / vehicles at the conclusion of event using unfamiliar and unlit roads.
  - (v) The north border of the event lies adjacent to an unlit busy motorway. Access to pedestrians (who may incoherent through drink / drugs use) cannot be permitted.
  - (vi) All traffic entering the site from the West could potentially queue back and block / restrict exits from Junction 45 of the motorway. This then creates two additional safety issues of standing traffic on the motorway network. This then creates two additional risk of collisions in queuing traffic, and also it may encourage any festival attendees to alight on the carriageway and walk to the event to avoid queues. This **must not** be permitted due to the potential risks.
  - (vii) The TM route diversions are generally sending additional traffic into Leeds City centre to attend the event and follow an extended route to the site. However most people currently drive using sat navs and as such would choose the most logical route. Thus, I still think that people would still try and access the site from the eastern side – particularly local people. For the TM to work this must not be permitted.

2. The TM plan has all vehicles / private hire / shuttle buses accessing the site to Park / drop off. From my attendance at the site (albeit I have not been on to the fields) it appears that all access is via fields / grass. This works well if the event is held over a warm dry period, but should there be inclement weather on the run up the event then parking access may become unusable. I cannot see any alternative plans for this if it were to happen – other than a brief line in Contingency plans for wet weather – saying they will have temporary road / walkway that can be delivered at short notice. This would not suffice if access to the site is not possible due to the weather.

Also as consequence of the above, should any vehicles be on site and then start to leave from muddy fields and undue amount of debris / mud would be transferred to the road network (it is already heavily soiled in the area due to the landfill site and they regularly have to clean the surface) this situation would have to be addressed as soon as possible to prevent the risk of serious collision / injury.

### **Conclusion**

In my opinion having looked at the event plans, the site, and all relevant issues it is my view that the site is not suitable to hold such event with the above issues raised.

The issues regarding location and access cannot be changed or resolved without substantial investment in the road network – which the local authority could not justify for this one event / location. I doubt that the land holder would be willing to pay for such upgrades to services.

Many would be cost prohibitive to resolve – and the local authority would not prioritise for such limited events.

If the event were to be continued to be licensed, then a substantial involvement of police resource to assist in delivering the event management plan would be required. Again this has both cost implications to the event and resourcing implications to Police (should it be agreed to), without the enforcement ability of the Police the plan relies on public compliance, and failure to do so could result in serious congestion / obstruction of the road network around the location. This would both be a safety concern and a nuisance factor for residents in the area. It would also hamper an emergency response to the event – as emergency access is via the only route available to the event attendees.

This report is submitted for consideration, and should any party have any issues with its content it is open to discussion.

**Appendix A – Location Photographs**

1. Access to shuttle bus / event private hire drop off

Looking back to Newsam Green Road (narrow road width)



View North Looking toward drop of area on nearside past gate.





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2. Photographs along Pontefract Road entry to site – showing footpath.

View from entry at Junction 45 service road.



Footpaths both n/s and offside – but path stops on offside after the parked car.



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Footpath on nearside then narrows to rough tar strip. Street lighting stops just past this point.



Path continues to diminish – eventually becoming a muck track and then nothing past the entrance gate 1 to site.





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3. Photographs showing Newsam Green Road (entry from East side) towards venue. Again, diminishing road widths and lack of footpath.

Newsam Green Road. Junction Bullerthorpe Lane





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