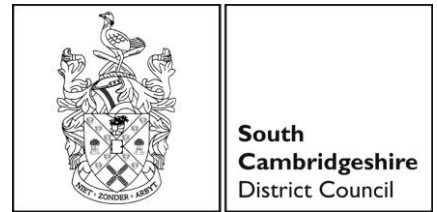


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Cambourne Business Park  
Cambourne  
Cambridge  
CB23 6EA

t: 01954 713000  
f: 01954 713149  
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Monday 24 July 2023

To: Chair – Councillor  
Members of the Licensing (2003 Act) Sub-Committee – Councillors  
Anna Bradnam, Jose Hales and Mark Howell

Applicant: Cambridge Rock Festival

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find below the agenda, and attached the relevant papers, for the hearing by the **Licensing (2003 Act) Sub-Committee** of the application for a premises licence. The hearing will be held in the **Monkfield Room, First Floor** meeting room at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **Tuesday, 25 July 2023 at 10.30 a.m.**

Members are respectfully reminded that when substituting on committees, subcommittees, and outside or joint bodies, Democratic Services must be advised of the substitution ***in advance of*** the meeting. It is not possible to accept a substitute once the meeting has started. Council Standing Order 4.3 refers.

Yours faithfully  
**Liz Watts**  
Chief Executive

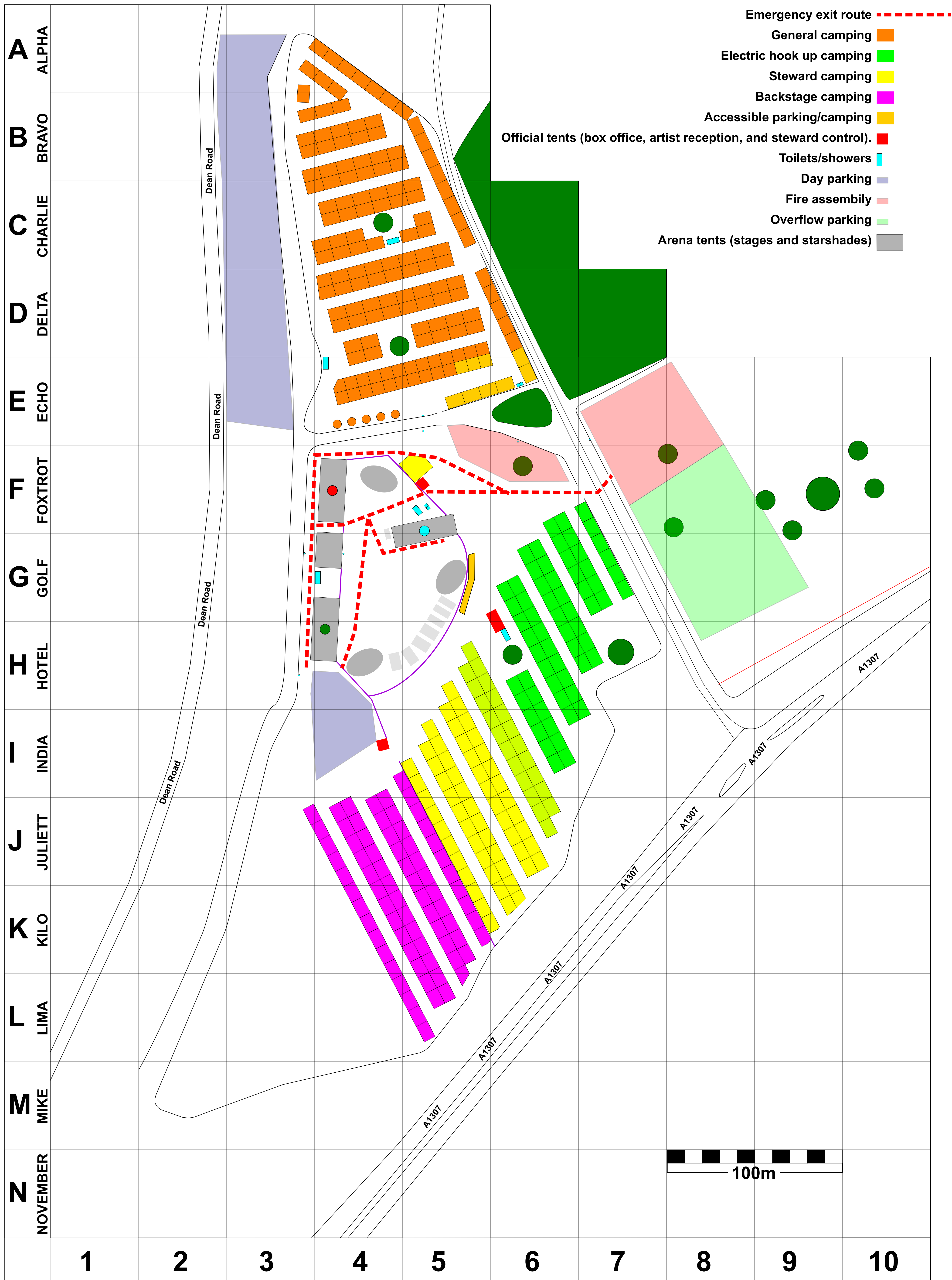
Requests for a large print agenda must be received at least 48 hours before the meeting.

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### Agenda

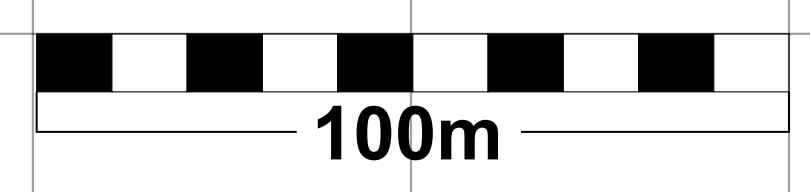
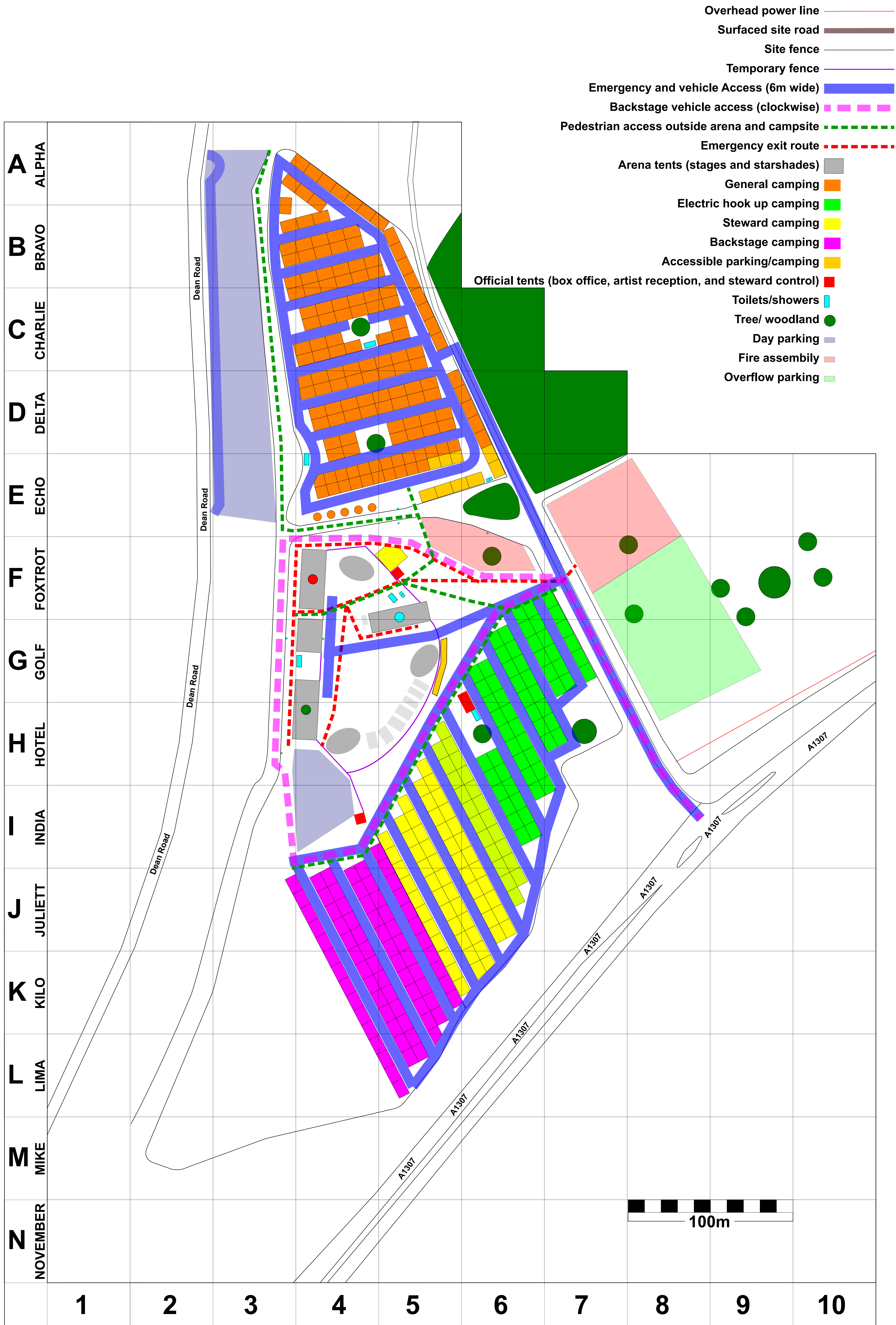
	Pages
4. <b>Grant of a Premises Licence: Horseheath Lodge, Horseheath Lodge Estate, Dean Road, Cambridge</b>	<b>3 - 88</b>

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

**C R F**

1 message

**Nigel Davies** [REDACTED]  
To: "crfhelpline@gmail.com" <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 4:31 PM

Dear Sirs

I was surprised and shocked to learn that the authorities have failed to issue a license for this year's CRF.

To put this in perspective, I have been trading at festivals for the past 35 years, including 23 Glastonburys, allegedly the biggest in the world, and prestigious events in Holland, France and Eire. In this time I have experienced lightning, flood, dust and 40 degree temperatures. I can state as a fact that CRF's attention to detail, and Health & Safety support in challenging circumstances, tower above most other events.

I am not aware under what technicality CRF's license has been declined, but I would be very confident that the decision-maker has no first-hand experience of running outdoor events. It is surprising that, after 2 decades of CRF, the local authority is not well aware of the lengths CRF have gone to, to assure compliance with H & S, Noise regulations, etc - surely there must be a dossier of these safely managed events in Cambridgeshire.

I would particularly draw attention to the year that CRF was struck by a hurricane - the efficiency of the stewards in keeping the public safe, while damage was dealt with, would be a lesson to all.

I would be delighted to provide evidence of my statements above, and am willing to travel anywhere to speak in support of CRF's hard working organisers.

Yours

Nigel Davies

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Cambridge Rock Festival**

1 message

**Pat Curtis**

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM

To: "crfhelpline@gmail.com" &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

I am writing to send my support for this festival which a nice friendly festival run by volunteers who share a love of live music.. It brings people into the area spending money with local businesses. It is well organised, there is never any trouble and at the finish the venues are always left in excellent condition. People that attend, and I have been to everyone since it started in 2004, form friendships from going and come back year after year. It helps young local bands get experience of playing on a big stage.

regards

Pat Curtis

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Cambridge Rock Festival 2023/2024**

1 message

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**Paul Ashton** [REDACTED]  
To: "crfhelpline@gmail.com" <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 4:56 PM

To Dave Roberts and the Cambridge Team,  
Thank you for the previous Cambridge Rock Festivals, and I am sorry to hear this years (2023) has to be postponed!  
Glad it's not cancelled in its entirety!

Please would you kindly roll my tickets over from this year to next year (2024). My order number is:- 2SWP-WQKX-MCR.

With every adventure in life, there's always the risk which makes the adventure memorable! I appreciate a lot goes on behind the scenes that most festival goers don't appreciate. So, very sorry for this year, but now I have something for next year. Let's Rock n'Roll!

Thank you.  
Paul Ashton.

Sent from my iPad

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CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

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## Cambridge rock festival

1 message

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**ozzi whiterod** [REDACTED]  
To: "crfhelpline@gmail.com" <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 4:02 PM

Please let CRF organisers obtain the licence they need. Its a fantastic festival and raises alot for differant charities. Its the most safest # friendly festival i have ever been to. Nothing is to much trouble for the committee. Xx

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Cambridge Rock Festival**

1 message

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**Alison Punchard** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 10:40 PM

Good evening all

I was very disappointed to hear the news about this year's CRF and appreciate being told the reasons behind the postponement. It must have been such a hard time for all of you as organisers, I can't even imagine the time and effort, not to mention the money that goes in to organising an event like this.

I would just like to say that we have enjoyed this festival over many years, going right back to the Rockinbeerfest days...in fact we have only missed a few over the years.

We have made this a real family outing, bringing our grandson when he was only a toddler and felt it was a really safe and friendly environment.

We were so looking forward to coming back to Horseheath this year after a break of a few years, it's a wonderful site and as far as I am aware there were no neighbour complaints.

Wherever the CRF has been held, the venue has been kept spotlessly clean throughout and always left clean and tidy thanks to the wonderful volunteers.

I really hope that the licensing issues can be overcome and we will be able to enjoy this festival next year.

Thanks to you all for your hard work.

Best wishes

Alison Punchard.

Sent from [BlueMail](#)

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Cambridge Rock Festival**

1 message

---

**Paul Monkhouse** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Thu, Jul 20, 2023 at 8:48 AM

Hello

Just wanted to express my full support for Cambridge Rock Festival.

I've been going to festivals for forty-one years now and CRF is without any doubt one of very best out there. Full of the friendliest people you could meet, a great atmosphere, thoughtful staff and incredibly well organised.

I've been going to CRF for over a decade, firstly as a fan, then as some of the bands I've worked with have played there and more latterly as a music journalist covering the event. The way that everyone is treated, be it the bands, vendors, music fans attending and the staff, by Dave Roberts and his management team is second to none. There's also a huge amount of thought and consideration that goes towards the feelings and comfort of anyone near whatever site they're at, noise and traffic kept to the barest minimum. Also, I've never seen any trouble at all at the festival, something that I can't sadly say about other events I've been to.

Cambridge Rock Festival is the highlight of my year and would never fail to recommend anyone to experience it. The music might draw people in but it's the friendships and the warmth that keeps people coming year after year.

I look forward to joining everyone at Cambridge Rock Festival 2024.

Very best wishes

Paul

Paul Monkhouse

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Cancellation**

1 message

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**Ronnie B** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 4:41 PM

Hi All

Absolutely gutted to hear that because of bureaucracy CRF cannot go ahead at such a late stage.

What is needed to make sure this doesn't happen again?

Absolutely crazy when bands are booked, hotels and flights booked!!!!

In my case I've had to book carers for my parents so I can volunteer. Don't these people realise that this impacts on everyone in so many different ways?

Dave and the rest of the team must be pulling their hair out after all their hard work to get such an amazing event organised.

Their has never been any problems or trouble at CRF as long as I've been coming along and that's 15 years!!!

We always ensure that no litter is left behind and the site is completely cleared as we have more respect for where our event takes place.

Apologies for rant but I really feel for you all. Please let me know if there is anything further that can be done.

Love and hugs to you all. Hope fully see you in 2024

Carron and Debbie

Ps Is there any chance of seeing some of the bands in Newmarket?. Willing to volunteer if anything goes ahead.

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**CRF 23 cancellation.**

1 message

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**Kev King** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 3:39 PM

What a terrible shame this years CRF has been cancelled. This is without doubt the most placid, laid back and peaceful festival which is organised by a truly conscientious and caring team. Signage, marshalling, sound monitoring etc..in fact every area of H&S have always been organised and executed in a first class, professional manner. I can say this with some authority having worked in the industry for a good number of years. I have witnessed many events with a far larger budget which could learn a lot from CRF.

Aside from the disappointed audience, there are hundreds of people who will have been badly affected by this outcome... musicians, crew, infrastructure suppliers, caterers, etc.. etc.. all who have lost income in these very fragile times when every day at work is precious. Of course my heart goes out to Dave Roberts and his team who have a wasted year of hard work and now face a damage limitation scenario trying to fend off infrastructure hirers... and others who I imagine will still want paying after being cancelled at short notice. Not to mention all of the other hidden costs which can never be recouped.

All in all, it's absolutely shameful that the local authority couldn't work with CRF and get this show to go ahead, especially as the same format has been successfully staged at exactly the same venue for two previous years..... truly shameful.

Let's get this event back on and not let nit picking and ridiculous, unnecessary red tape stifle the courageous, talented people trying to bring some much needed peaceful joy to the music loving fans.

Kevin King.

Sent from my iPhone

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**CRF 23/25**

1 message

**Ken BAPTIST** [REDACTED]

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 3:58 PM

To: "crfhelpline@gmail.com" &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

To who it may concern.

To say I am disappointed, saddened, and angry about the cancellation of this wonderful festival is an understatement. I have attended this event for a number of years and have found it to be the most friendly and welcoming mass attendance event I have ever been to. I have attended as a "punter" and a volunteer.

The clientele at Cambridge Rock Festival is not your stereotypical festival goers. The emphasis is on the enjoyment of the music, meeting up with old friends and making new ones.

I have never seen any antisocial or rowdy behaviour; the site is treated with respect and left clean and tidy.

Having spoken to the SIA staff they also love the event as they have little or nothing to do.

Is alcohol consumed? Of course, it is! To excess? No.

The stewarding is outstanding, helpful, empathic and knowledgeable.

I am sure that with even just a little research any worries about anti-social behaviour would prove to be unfounded.

This isn't Download, Glastonbury or Creamfields where illegal drugs are rife, excess alcohol consumption is the norm.

This is a festival run by and for music fans, with some of the very best artists of their genre both old and new.

The event has been held at this venue before with no issues. Had there been any concerns then, surely, the venue would not have welcomed the 2023 event.

A majority of the attendees are there for the whole event, arriving Thursday, leaving Monday thus minimising vehicle disruption, any vehicles queueing is on site and not on the surrounding roads

There is a reason Cambridge Rock Festival is looking forward to celebrating 20 years whilst others have fallen by the wayside.

It's well organised, well attended and behaves itself.

To lose this wonderful event would be a tragedy, bordering on the criminal.

I look forward to hearing the rationale behind the decision not to allow CRF23 to go ahead.

Kind regards,

Ken Baptist

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

---

**CRF 2023 postponement**

1 message

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**Gavin Siriwardena** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Sat, Jul 8, 2023 at 11:49 AM

Hello CRF team,

Just emailing to say how sorry I am that you haven't managed to get a licence for this year. I was looking forward to the festival, which is always great (brilliant music and a wonderful, friendly vibe) and Horseheath is the best venue that you've had, in my view, so it's doubly disappointing. I hope this doesn't cause you financial problems and wish you luck in getting everything organised for 2024.

All the best,

Gavin

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CRF &lt;crfhelp@line@gmail.com&gt;

---

**CRF 2024** 👍

**Julian Evetts** [REDACTED]  
To: CRF <crfhelp@line@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 11:47 AM

Good morning CRF Team

Thank you for the email below keeping me up to date as usual with a constant flow of information.

What is there not to like about CRF.

From booking my ticket on line, the easiest ticket purchase I have ever made, to the complete amazing detailed organisation of every aspect of the entire event. Each stage in its own marquee protecting the music lovers in the event of bad weather or even very hot and sunny weather (Hopefully) positioned perfectly not to allow "overlap" of music.

Parking included in the price of the ticket.

I phoned on 2 occasions and got straight through to Dave, what a lovely, engaging man. Not rushed and happy to talk me through each of my questions ( From road works that I would encounter on my journey from Essex to the CRF T shirts I wanted to purchase).

Last but certainly not least, the amazing line up of Artists. So as I said earlier, what is there not to like about CRF.

So I will undoubtedly see you all next year, same time, same place, including, hopefully , the lovely and enchanting Maria Daines.

Rock On CRF 2024.

Vaya con Dios

Julian Evetts

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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CRF &lt;crfhelpine@gmail.com&gt;

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## CRF hearing letter

1 message

**Chris Stapleton** [REDACTED]  
To: "crfhelpine@gmail.com" <crfhelpine@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 19, 2023 at 5:00 PM

To whom it may concern.

I am writing with regard to the licencing request made by RBF Festivals Ltd at Horseheath Lodge, Dean Road in support of the issuing of an event licence.

Attending my first Cambridge Rock Festival aged just 15 years at the Woodgreen animal shelter in 2008, I met Mr Roberts for the first time. His passion for live music resonated with my younger self in such a way that I returned to the festival in 2009 as a volunteer. Every year possible since then I have volunteered a week of my time to support Dave with this event, enjoying learning new skills whilst being promoted through the stewarding team; even completing the residential section of my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award whilst volunteering my time at the festival. In recent years (since 2016) I have, wherever possible volunteered my time in the role of site manager. With a career in health and safety and events this is a role not to be taken lightly. As a matter of fact if I felt that the event weren't being organised to the highest standard I wouldn't take the risk of being affiliated to the event, but with a solid track record for safety and quality I am proud to be a part of the team.

Throughout my career I have worked on and managed teams on a number of large scale events including but not limited to: Tough Mudder UK, the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the Great Swim Series, the International Triathlon Union World Championships and many more. All of these events have a significant number of customers and crew, having large scale impacts on the local environment. Tough Mudder, for example have an average of 10,000 customers in remote areas with poor road infrastructure, open air PA systems and have a scarring effect on the landscape. With this in mind, and with a strong background in environmentalism, I am somewhat aware of the environmental impacts of the events industry. Through all of my event career I would honestly say that RBF festivals Ltd are one of the most conscientious event organisers I have worked with, ensuring that there is truly a minimal impact on the environment. This varies from the event organiser himself walking the event site litter picking long after the final contractor has left site, through to the robust sound monitoring that takes place across the site.

The customer base of CRF is an aging one. I would say with confidence that I am one of the youngest members of the crew and visitors to the site. Aged 30, that's really saying something. As a result the behaviour of our customers is somewhat more modest than most music festivals, reporting a low to non-existent occurrence of anti-social behaviour and I would also suggest that drug use on site would be mostly restricted to prescription medication.

RBF festivals consistently monitor sound levels in the area, even demonstrating an awareness of the impacts of weather conditions on the direction and distance sound can travel, and managing this by monitoring sound levels in the areas it is expected that the event will be heard. Furthermore the stages are undercover, and audio levels managed as to prevent sound contamination between stages. Progressive Rock is often so intricate that booming bass is detrimental to the sound quality, and progressive rock fans come to the festival with the intention of hearing quality music, meaning that bass and volume must be controlled to prevent dissatisfaction in the customer base, let alone to impact people outside of the event.

I am aware that there are concerns regarding the traffic bought to the area by the festival, especially that on minor country roads. I understand that most customers will be arriving to the site via the A1307, a road which by the time of the festival will, hopefully, have had significant amounts of work undertaken to improve its safety and traffic flow. As a result there will be little use of minor roads in the vicinity of the event, and any minor road usage will likely be as a result of festival goers accessing local shops and facilities, boosting the economy of the surrounding area which should be supported in any planning case provided that the infrastructure is suitable, which having held this event on two separate occasions in 2017 and 2018 with no complaints it would appear that it is.

I hope that this letter is taken into consideration when discussing the licencing of this event, and I hope to see you at the hearing on the 25 July via teams.

Best wishes,

Chris Stapleton

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CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

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**CRF**

1 message

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**PHIL COLE** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 4:40 PM

Hi,

Every year I look forward to the most friendly and laid back Cambridge rock festival and am very disappointed that this years cannot go ahead as planned.

Please take this as support for the event.

Best wishes  
Phil Cole  
-Text only email-

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Fwd: Cambridge Rock Festival - Premises licence application for Horseheath Lodge Estate**

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CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>  
To: CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 8:33 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <clerk@horseheath.info>  
Date: Fri, 14 Jul 2023, 19:02  
Subject: Cambridge Rock Festival - Premises licence application for Horseheath Lodge Estate  
To: <Licensing@scams.gov.uk>, Cambridgerockfest <cambridgerockfest@gmail.com>

To South Cambs Licensing Officer

Re: Cambridge Rock Festival - Premises licence application for Horseheath Lodge Estate

Horseheath Parish Council understands that the application for a premises licence for Horseheath Lodge will now be subject to a Public Hearing later this month (July 2023). We hope this statement can be submitted to the review.

Horseheath Parish Council have dealt with a number of festival organisers over the years. Our experience includes variable levels of communication with event organisers which has meant, for example, that we have not received adequate information with which to brief our residents about local events on at least one occasion. In addition, some events have been poorly managed in relation to excess noise, causing disturbance and complaints from our residents. We do not wish these past experiences to negatively impact on the consideration of a premises licence for Horseheath Lodge for the purpose of staging the Cambridge Rock festival.

Horseheath Parish Council has had very good communications with the organisers of the Cambridge Rock Festival during the build up to this year's Festival and throughout the last Rock Festival visit in 2018. The organisers have been courteous, thorough, receptive and prompt in dealing with our Council. There were no concerns from residents after the last Rock Festival was held at Horseheath Lodge. The event was clearly well managed with adequate stewards and no excess noise. Our residents have stated strong support for the Rock Festival being in Horseheath; the event is considered to be a positive asset in the Parish.

We would like to emphasise that in our experience the Cambridge Rock Festival is professionally managed and the residents of Horseheath do not object to a premises licence being issued for the purpose of staging the Cambridge Rock Festival once each year at Horseheath Lodge.

Kind Regards

Jess Ashbridge  
Clerk to Horseheath Parish Council

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CRF &lt;crfhelp@scambs.gov.uk&gt;

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**Fwd: Cambridge Rock Festival - Premises licence application for Horseheath Lodge Estate**

---

David Roberts <cambridgerockfest@gmail.com>  
To: crfhelp@scambs.gov.uk

Tue, Jul 18, 2023 at 7:26 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Licensing (SCDC)** <Licensing@scambs.gov.uk>

Date: Mon, 17 Jul 2023, 09:59

Subject: RE: Cambridge Rock Festival - Premises licence application for Horseheath Lodge Estate

To: clerk@horseheath.info &lt;clerk@horseheath.info&gt;, Licensing (SCDC) &lt;Licensing@scambs.gov.uk&gt;, Cambridgerockfest &lt;cambridgerockfest@gmail.com&gt;, Natasha Wade-Guest &lt;Natasha.Wade-Guest@scambs.gov.uk&gt;

[REDACTED]

Dear Jess

Thank you for your email, however, as per my email of 26 June 2023, I advised the parish that there is, in law no ability to extend an application consultation period, so your representation is out of time and cannot be considered even though it is in support of the application.

However, I note you have copied the applicant into this email, so the applicant may wish to include your email of support as part of their submission for consideration.

Best wishes

Rachel

Rachel Jackson | Principal Officer Licensing

South Cambridgeshire Hall | Cambourne Business Park | Cambourne | Cambridge | CB23 6EA

e: rachel.jackson@scambs.gov.uk | t: 01954 713397

www.scambs.gov.uk | facebook.com/south-cambridgeshire | twitter.com/SouthCambs

Please note that the Council is currently trialling a four-day week to improve recruitment, retention and wellbeing. My working days are therefore Monday to Thursday. On my non-working day, you can contact licensing@scambs.gov.uk instead. Find out about our latest job opportunities on our website

-----Original Message-----

From: clerk@horseheath.info &lt;clerk@horseheath.info&gt;

Sent: 14 July 2023 19:02

To: Licensing (SCDC) &lt;Licensing@scambs.gov.uk&gt;; Cambridgerockfest &lt;cambridgerockfest@gmail.com&gt;

[REDACTED]

Subject: Cambridge Rock Festival - Premises licence application for Horseheath Lodge Estate

To South Cambs Licensing Officer

Re: Cambridge Rock Festival - Premises licence application for Horseheath Lodge Estate

Horseheath Parish Council understands that the application for a premises licence for Horseheath Lodge will now be subject to a Public Hearing later this month (July 2023). We hope this statement can be submitted to the review.

Horseheath Parish Council have dealt with a number of festival organisers over the years. Our experience includes

variable levels of communication with event organisers which has meant, for example, that we have not received adequate information with which to brief our residents about local events on at least one occasion. In addition, some events have been poorly managed in relation to excess noise, causing disturbance and complaints from our residents. We do not wish these past experiences to negatively impact on the consideration of a premises licence for Horseheath Lodge for the purpose of staging the Cambridge Rock festival.

Horseheath Parish Council has had very good communications with the organisers of the Cambridge Rock Festival during the build up to this year's Festival and throughout the last Rock Festival visit in 2018. The organisers have been courteous, thorough, receptive and prompt in dealing with our Council. There were no concerns from residents after the last Rock Festival was held at Horseheath Lodge. The event was clearly well managed with adequate stewards and no excess noise. Our residents have stated strong support for the Rock Festival being in Horseheath; the event is considered to be a positive asset in the Parish.

We would like to emphasise that in our experience the Cambridge Rock Festival is professionally managed and the residents of Horseheath do not object to a premises licence being issued for the purpose of staging the Cambridge Rock Festival once each year at Horseheath Lodge.

Kind Regards

Jess Ashbridge  
Clerk to Horseheath Parish Council  
13 The Green,  
Weston Colville,  
Cambridgeshire,  
CB21 5NT

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**Fwd: Open Letter to our CRF Family**

1 message

**David Roberts** <cambridgerockfest@gmail.com>  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 11:45 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **s.wdoherty** [REDACTED]  
Date: Sun, 9 Jul 2023 at 22:34  
Subject: Re: Open Letter to our CRF Family  
To: <cambridgerockfest@gmail.com>

Thank you team for all of your hard work with this festival and I am sure everyone will understand the predicament you have been placed in. I have been to your festival many times travelling all of the way from Liverpool. I always tell everyone what a great experience it is. This year I was unable to be with you due to another event but I can assure you that I will be back next year. All I can say is that I wish you all the very best of luck and best wishes to Dave with his health issues. Thank you again for putting together a great rock festival.

Warmest regards

Steve.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Dave Roberts - Cambridge Rock Festival - RBF Festivals Ltd" <cambridgerockfest@gmail.com>  
To: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, 8 Jul, 2023 At 20:51  
Subject: Open Letter to our CRF Family

[View this email in your browser](#)

## Open Letter to the Cambridge Rock Festival Family

### Dear All

Thank you everyone for all your supportive messages since our sad announcement. Our first priority was to let everyone know as soon as possible given the short time we had until the Festival. We would now like to give you some further details as to what led to the devastating decision to postpone this year's Festival.

### First a little background...

Those of you that love the Festival as we do, know that Dave has had a number of health issues over the past few years. Not least suffering a haemorrhage in both eyes before and after the Festival last year which required waiting for operations that, thankfully, put things right. At one point Dave was in effect almost blind and unable to read anything on any devices; which given the amount of paperwork that goes with running a Festival made

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

**Fwd: Open Letter to our CRF Family**

1 message

**David Roberts** <cambridgerockfest@gmail.com>  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 11:35 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ronnie B [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Sat, 8 Jul 2023 at 21:37  
**Subject:** Re: Open Letter to our CRF Family  
**To:** <cambridgerockfest@gmail.com>

Dave and CRF family

Thank you so much for taking the time to explain the situation further when you have so much more to be dealing with. As a supporters and volunteers, we have had nothing but wonderful experiences with this awesome festival and will do anything we can to help to get it up and running for 2024. We are both so sorry to hear about your health problems Dave and wish you much better health in the future. Please let us know if there is more we can do. Much love to the team  
Carron and Debbie

On Sat, 8 Jul 2023 at 20:51, Dave Roberts - Cambridge Rock Festival - RBF Festivals Ltd &lt;cambridgerockfest@gmail.com&gt; wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)**Open Letter to the Cambridge Rock Festival Family****Dear All**

Thank you everyone for all your supportive messages since our sad announcement. Our first priority was to let everyone know as soon as possible given the short time we had until the Festival. We would now like to give you some further details as to what led to the devastating decision to postpone this year's Festival.

**First a little background...**

Those of you that love the Festival as we do, know that Dave has had a number of health issues over the past few years. Not least suffering a haemorrhage in both eyes before and after the Festival last year which required waiting for operations that, thankfully, put things right. At one point Dave was in effect almost blind and unable to read anything on any devices; which given the amount of paperwork that goes with running a Festival made things extremely difficult. Dave is still unable to drive as a direct result of this.

The CRF team are a small close-knit group of volunteers that work, almost all year-round on top of their day-

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**In support of Cambridge Rock Festival**1 message

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**JR** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 7:02 PM

For forwarding to the relevant authority x

To Whom it may concern

I am a 68 year old woman and I have been attending festivals since 1972.

Cambridge Rock is one of the most friendly, well organised and, above all, safe festivals around. As a woman camping alone I feel perfectly safe at CRF and it is one of very few events that I now feel able to attend on my own.

The people who attend this festival are well behaved, cause no trouble to local communities and without fail leave the camping areas scrupulously clean.

I am very disappointed that the festival will not take place this year and I hope that I can be assured that it will be allowed to take place in 2024.

Yours faithfully  
Judi Reid

Sent from my iPad

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CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

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## Licence for CRF 2023

1 message

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**Carol Hurrell** [REDACTED]  
To: "crfhelpline@gmail.com" <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 10:05 AM

Please issue the license to enable the Cambridge Rock Festival to go ahead this year. We were so looking forward to it and don't understand what could have gone wrong.  
Carol Hurrell

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Licence**

1 message

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**val JONES** [REDACTED]

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 12:17 PM

[REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Its appalling a piece of paper cannot be expedited.

The council know the frstival and its organisers.

Local hotels, tradespeople, taxis, to say nothing of stall holders lose income they sorely need.

Musicians and their roadies have a hard life earning a living and are left with blank space in their diaries.

I think cambridge were very lucky to have such a festival. Good job I am not running it as I would move into another county to punish them. Many a council would be happy to have such a well organised happy event in their area.

Val Jones

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CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

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## License / Cancellation

1 message

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[Redacted]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 10:07 AM

We are truly disappointed and saddened that such a wonderful festival as Cambridge Rock is thwarted at the last minute due to changes in the licence.  
Live music in this country needs to be supported and helped by local authorities and regulatory bodies as it is such an important part of the UK's culture as well as employing so many people.

Best regards,

The Rockposer Dot Com! Team



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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Noise nuisance**

1 message

**Esther Bickerton** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 10:05 AM

To whom it may concern,  
I have recently been informed of the devastating news that a much loved and well respected event will no go ahead as planned this year.  
I have attended CRF at two of the sites where it's been held over the years, twice in Horseheath and twice just outside Cambridge.  
I have found it to be an extremely well organised, well run event that has the most amazing warm, welcoming atmosphere and gives immense pleasure to music fans and festival fans alike.

Having been a stall holder, I can categorically state that the music is never too loud and finishes with precision timing so there is no noise disturbance.

I can say this hand on heart as each of the four times I have had a pitch I'm there well after the music ends at 11 if not before as I'm still packing up my food business.

Any activity beyond this time is a quiet operation to wind down, have security safely escort punters out, watch for crowd control (I have never seen any trouble or issues) and general tidy up, help stall holders and prepare for the next day.

There have also been years I have not attended, and can also comment on the noise pollution level as a single parent living in Horseheath village it's self.

In the daytime, if the wind is blowing this way, you can just about catch the odd snippet of sound, never loud enough to identify the song or actually be 100% there actually is music coming from somewhere. I can not see at all how this could be classed as disruptive, or even mildly annoying!

There is another Annual Festival that takes place a little nearer to Horseheath which is slightly more audible. I'm sure you know of the Wild Wood Festival.

Living in the village and having connections with neighbouring villages of Linton, West Wickham etc I have heard the odd grumble about Wild Wood over the years but by far the majority of villagers can't see what the problem is.

We had a meeting in our village hall to discuss Wild Wood a few years ago and it was overwhelmingly supported despite a few key people putting up negative posters and posts on village social media sites.

Wild Wood has always been more audible than CRF so I'm am extremely shocked at this decision.

I will confess I have a vested interest in CRF. I have a very small food business (a team of 2) and absolutely love having a pitch at CRF.

It is not an intimidating, overly loud, roudy Rock Festival (as I thought it might be before I attended) it's welcoming, professionally run and great fun for punters, staff and vendors alike.

This puts a huge dent in the annual turnover of my little local business, and will have affected other pitch holders who will now be unable to fill those CRF dates with other Venu opportunities at this late stage in Summer event planning. The ripple effect is much more than just disappointed festival goers, it affects local businesses and I feel really upset at all the wasted time and effort that has put in by the organisers and loyal volunteers.

I won't be able now to take my children on holiday, or get my business bank account to a more comfortable place. This is a bit of a personal disaster, and seems like an extreme reaction to the minority of people who would prefer the event not to run for the short time it's there.

I hope things will be set right for next time, and thank you for taking the time to read this.

Kind regards,

Esther Bickerton  
The kitsch Hen.

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CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

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## Postponed festival

1 message

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**Donna Burnett** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 10:04 AM

Just to say how gutted we are especially for you the organisers - cannot imagine the depths of your despair and frustration especially as we were going back to such a fab venue. You must be devastated - all that wasted time and effort not to mention money. Thanks for all your hard work guys.  
We will be there next year !  
Charles & Donna Burnett

Sent from my iPad

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Postponement**

1 message

**Lesley** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Mon, Jul 10, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Dear CRF Team

I am so sorry to hear that you have been obliged to postpone this year's event due to problems over licencing. As it happens, we were unable to come this year due to a prior commitment but am very much hoping these problems will be resolved so we can come next year.

I have been coming to the festival since the early days of Rockinbeerfest and have always had a great time. It is the friendliest festival with no bad behaviour which means no noise into the early hours on the campsite. There are regular litter pickers and the campsite is left clean on the last day with almost everyone taking their tents home with them! I refer back to the awful social media reaction to your temporary move to the home of a very kind gentleman before the move to Horseheath, which I attended. I remember people saying he'd regret it on Monday morning but the pictures posted on the Monday showed a completely clear campsite with just a couple of communal rubbish heaps, all neatly bagged and ready to be collected. I trust you will use those images in your application.

As to noise, given the slightly older attendees and the nature of the music played, this is never excessive and, whilst audible from the nearer edges of the campsite, is unlikely to be audible beyond.

You all put so much both financially and in time and effort to this festival and we do appreciate this. It would be a tragedy if it had to stop due to licencing issues when so many other festivals which can cause so many problems (Download I'm looking at you) can go ahead.

Here's to seeing you next year.

best wishes

Lesley Baker

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CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

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## Premises licence

1 message

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**Rick Fisher** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Sat, Jul 8, 2023 at 10:48 PM

Dear CRF team.

I am gutted that this years event has been cancelled & know that the team are very careful with regards noise levels & behaviour at the festival and are very proud of their record with regards looking after people living in the surrounding area.

I feel particularly sorry for Dave after all his efforts & health issues.

Look forward to 2024 & very appreciative of the open letter explains the issues.

Keep up the marvellous work

All the best until 2024

Rick

Sent from my iPhone

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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## Refund

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**John Alderdice** [REDACTED]  
To: CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 10, 2023 at 11:09 PM

Many thanks for your email, confirming our refund.

We went to the very first festival, organised by the Roberts family, and have recommended it highly ever since. The events we have attended have always been well run and the clientele have always acted with integrity and respect. The campsite after the festival has always been free of litter, with absolutely no comparison with events like Glastonbury or Leeds, which non-festival goers seem to think are 'typical' festivals. The noise levels are never uncomfortable, and as a couple long since retired, it doesn't take much to be 'uncomfortable'.

We were disappointed to learn of the licencing problems, we were looking forward to it, and hope next year's event will be granted the licence the Roberts family's years of dedication deserve

Regards  
John Alderdice

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**From:** CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 10 July 2023 19:50  
**To:** John Alderdice [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Refund

[Quoted text hidden]

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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## Refund

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**Peter** [REDACTED]  
To: CRF <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 5:39 PM

Hi  
I would like to say that crf is a family friendly peaceful festival that provides great entertainment for many. Care is always taken to ensure that no problem or nuisance is made for the local community. Funds are raised for many good causes as well as providing much needed musical entertainment. Finally, the site has always been praised for the tidy and litter free condition that it is left in at the end of the festival.  
Regards Peter Punchard

Sent from my Xperia by Sony smartphone

---- CRF wrote ----  
[Quoted text hidden]

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Rock festival licence.**

1 message

**Trish Tatt** 

Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 7:06 PM

To: "crfhelpline@gmail.com" &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

MY NAME IS TRISH TATT AM DISABLED AND CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR. I HAVE BEEN ATTENDING THE ROCK FESTIVAL FOR MANY YEARS NOW. I LIVE ALONE AS MY HUSBAND PASSED AWAY IN JANUARY. THIS FESTIVAL IS ATTENDED BY MANY PEOPLE AND IT IS THE BEST AROUND. THE HELPERS, FESTIVAL GOERS AND ALL THE STAFF ARE AMAZING, VERY FRIENDLY AND THE ORGANISATION OF THE FESTIVAL IS THE BEST. IT IS THE ONE OUTING THAT I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO AND IS ONE OF THE FEW TIMES I CAN GET OUT. I REALLY MISS THE FESTIVAL AND IT WOULD BE DEVASTATING TO NOT HAVING IT ON AGAIN. I LOVE THIS FESTIVAL SO MUCH AS IT IS VERY FRIENDLY, TROUBLE FREE AND I FEEL VERY MUCH ACCEPTED AS A DISABLED LADY AND IT IS VERY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL. AM REALLY HOPING THAT THE ISSUES CAN GET SORTED SO THAT I, AND EVERYONE ELSE CAN HAVE A FEW AMAZING DAYS OUT, SEEING GREAT BANDS AND HEARING AMAZING MUSIC. YOURS SINCERELY Mrs Trish Tatt.

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Sad festival isn't running**

1 message

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**Will Russell** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Sat, Jul 8, 2023 at 4:56 PM

Really sad the festival isn't going ahead - particularly with the passion with which it's run. As suggested I have written a message of support as below!

It's a real blow and surprising that the Cambridge Rock Festival was not granted a licence this year - having attended many years to what has always been a very well run, and friendly event. Giving a stage for us to see many new bands - and bringing both bands and music lovers to the area it's always been a fabulous weekend - well run and with many volunteer stewards. Having never seen any trouble or issues I can't see why it wouldn't be a very attractive event for the area.

For 2023 Cambridge will be without it's finest outdoor music event!

Will Russell

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**So sorry**

1 message

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**Jane Armstrong** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 12:43 PM

Dear Dave, Mary, Julia and team

I just wanted to say how absolutely devastated I am for you all. I can't begin to imagine how you must all be feeling, especially after all the time, effort and expense you have put in to date.

This is always such a wonderful, well run festival and I can't understand why anyone could object to it or want to put a spammer in the works, especially considering how much money it brings in for the local economy.

Be assured that we will definitely still want to come next year so you can hold on to our booking until then. As you know, we've been to every CRF/RBF since the very first one so we look forward to celebrating the 20th anniversary with you all in 2024.

Once again, our thoughts are with you

Jane, Eddie and Nicky Armstrong

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**SUPPORT FOR CAMBRIDGE ROCK FESTIVAL**

1 message

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**Nick Leech** [REDACTED]  
To: Cambridge Rock Festival <crfhelpline@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 4:13 PM

Dear CRF

Please find attached statement of support for the CRF, as regards future Licencing. Feel free to pass it on to relevant authorities in your efforts to secure future licencing and permissions for the Event in future years.

***Dear Sirs,***

***I was very disappointed that the 2023 Cambridge Rock Festival had to be cancelled because the "goalposts had been moved" as regards Licencing Conditions imposed by the local authorities and there was not enough time left to put through the enhanced paperwork required to be granted a licence.***

***I have been to the Cambridge Rock Festival about 10 times over the years - both at the Haggis Farm Polo Club site, and at the Horseheath Lodge site. I can vouch for the fact that the CRF is extemely well run by Dave Roberts and his Team. I am an experienced attendee at a great many music festivals and other similar events all around the UK over the last 30+ years, and I can assure that the CRF is one of the very best run events.***

***In-muster and out-muster of cars and other vehicles is handled very well by experienced stewards every year. People do not all arrive and leave at the same time causing gridlock. People tend to arrive in dribs and drabs at different times over a couple of days to set up camp for the event. Similarly, people leave in dribs and drabs after the last performance, overnight and over the following day. Signposting for the festival in the area is usually excellent. So, the impact of traffic on local roads/residents is minimal.***

***Numbers of attendees are relatively small - it is essentially a small "boutique" type event, so numbers of people and vehicles is kept down. The size of the event site is tiny compared to something like Glastonbury, Reading or Download Music Festivals. It is very small even compared to the Cambridge Folk Festival which is held every year in the area, with far, far greater numbers in attendance.***

***The people who attend the CRF every year tend to be the more mature age group of music fans - typically in the 40-75 year age bracket. They are well behaved people with a genuine love of live music - they are not noisy, rowdy people. The majority of people attending are mature couples, and also some are families with children. There is a real ale bar, but people do not get "roaring drunk", they tend to be discerning mature real ale drinkers who sample a few beers while listening to the music.***

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***There are usually two main stages plus a small "acoustic" stage. All three stages are housed in temporary marquees. PA systems are relatively small - especially on stages 2 and 3. I know for a fact that a great deal of care is taken to minimise the acoustic/noise impact of the festival on local residents. Indeed, they have to ensure that the music from the two "electric stages" does not drown out the music in the Acoustic Stage which is extremely close by.***

***I have heard that there has been extra local concern about CRF, which has largely been caused by the impact of another festival in the same local area in a previous year. However, the latter festival was a different style of music, with larger/louder PA systems playing later into the night and with a much younger, rowdier demographic. In comparison, the CRF has minimal local impact and I wholeheartedly support it.***

***Although I do not live in Cambridgeshire myself, I would be more than happy to have CRF held in my own local vicinity. I would also add that the CRF brings financial benefit to the local area due to the money spent by the attendees in local shops, cafes etc. Not to mention the fact that many of the bands and artists who play at CRF are from the local Cambridgeshire or SE England area.***

***I sincerely hope that the Licence will be granted to CRF to allow it to go ahead in 2024.***

***Yours faithfully***

***Mr Nicholas A. Leech  
Morecambe, Lancashire  
Aged 64 years***



CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support for smaller festivals/CRF**

1 message

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**Clifford Bonner** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 12:09 PM

To those involved.

I wish to add my voice to the support of the continued operation of CRF - and other small festivals, of all kinds, across the country.

I would not have been able to attend this year's CFD which has now been cancelled. However, I have noticed the increased number of cancelling of smaller shows (agriculture/craft/music) as councils increasingly ask for unjustified fees and licence conditions to be met.

It is very sad that such a situation has been reached for CRF 2023.

I wish CRF every success in years to come.

Cliff Bonner  
(Buckinghamshire)

Sent from my iPhone

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Support**

1 message

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**Terry Clarke** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Sat, Jul 8, 2023 at 9:30 PM

To whom it may concern

My wife and I attend literally twenty plus gigs and festivals annually. It used to be significantly more but hey ho, age taking it's toll.

We have missed just three CRF festivals since their inception. They have been and remain one of the best organised and friendly festivals out there. I have never witnessed any issues of concern and noise curfews are strictly observed sometimes to the indignation of headliners who have mistimed their set lengths. There are no exceptions as they have found out !

Take a look at photographs taken of the site the day after CRF closes. There are many available taken over many years. You would not know a festival had taken place. The site is left immaculate. Other festivals, especially those that claim to be environmentally friendly take note. CRF and its loyal band of supporters sets the bar incredibly high.

To conclude, CRF is a little gem of a festival and deserves the support of the community. It most certainly does not need overly bureaucratic interference, a problem not only CRF but festivals and music venues as a whole who seem to be continually battling against this.

Very best wishes  
Terry & Erica Clarke

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CRF &lt;crfhelpline@gmail.com&gt;

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**Wonderful event**

1 message

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**Doug Elgood** [REDACTED]  
To: crfhelpline@gmail.com

Sun, Jul 9, 2023 at 11:38 AM

This festival is pure class from the start to the end. I've never seen any trouble, as the main age group are in their 50s and 60s, there's a huge amount of mutual respect and passion for the styles of music. Incredible facilities, posh loos and showers etc, and not even any litter, as everyone adheres to the requests of the organisers. Shame about this year, I imagine Adrian will be disappointed too. Long Live CRF Rock

Sent from my iPhone

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