



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

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## CRF hearing letter

1 message

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