

CLIFF TOP FESTIVAL
FULL VARIATION APPLICATION
REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

Rep #	
1	<u>05.12.25 - WITHDRAWN</u>
2	<p>As a local resident who lives opposite the grassed area on the Highcliffe clifftop, I formally object to the licencing application for the Highcliffe Cliff Top Music Festival to extend its operations to a three-day event, twice a year, with extended hours for music and the sale of alcohol.</p> <p>The new proposal significantly changes the nature of the event. What was originally a one-day community gathering, historically ending at 7pm, has now evolved into a large commercial operation. The extended hours - proposed as 6pm to 10pm on Friday, 11am to 10pm on Saturday and 11am to 5pm on Sunday – would result in prolonged periods of noise and disturbance. This year's event already generated considerable noise from amplified music, generators, general footfall and public drinking.</p> <p>The clifftop is an important public open space, valued for its green recreational area and coastal views. It also borders cliffs designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. This should not be treated as an overflow car park by visitors, nor fenced-off behind screens and accessible only to paying attendees.</p> <p>During the event, a 2-meter-high Heras fence was erected parallel to the road and covered with green mesh, blocked the sea views that residents and visitors normally enjoy. Public access to the open space was restricted throughout the event, contradicting the very purpose of preserving this land for community use.</p> <p>This year's event also left numerous 1100-litre wheelie bins left uncollected on the clifftop area for weeks after the event, causing both an eyesore and environmental concerns.</p> <p>The proposal for two 3-days periods per year may be intended as a tactic to increase the likelihood that at least one single 3-days event is approved. But any application should be rejected, even for a single day.</p> <p>I therefore object to this application. The extended use of the grassed clifftop area and the proposed increase to multiple-day events would materially affect the character of the neighbourhood, the tranquillity of nearby homes, and the integrity of this public open space.</p> <p>03.12.25 – Additional Comment</p> <p>I note that the applicant has reduced their proposal for next year's Highcliffe Clifftop Music Festival. The scenario in which an applicant initially submits an</p>

	<p>application for multiple events only to subsequently scale it back, is a recognised tactic.</p> <p>The proposed expansion, from last year's one-day event closing at 7pm, to two two-day events extending into the evening, would be hugely disruptive to what is otherwise a quiet residential community.</p> <p>The applicants proposed noise-management measures, including the use of directional speakers, positioned away from residential properties, appear little different to last year where the speakers faced the sea. Despite those measures the festival was reportedly audible from almost a mile away. There is no convincing indication that the revised plan would effectively mitigate noise or public disturbance.</p> <p>The clifftop is an important public open space, used daily for recreation and for its coastal views. Public access is significantly restricted in the days before and during the event, with a two-metre-high Heras fence erected parallel to the road screened on one side with a black sheeting. This level of enclosure and disruption is disproportionate. Given the applicant's aspiration for a longer event, it may be more appropriate to identify an alternative site not immediately adjacent to residential properties.</p> <p>Claims that the event benefits the local economy are debatable. Many residents choose to stay away during the festival and alcohol sales are better served by local pubs or cafes that operate year-round and contribute consistently to the local economy.</p> <p>Anything more than one-day per year closing at 7pm, with alcohol sales ceasing at least half an hour beforehand, would materially affect the character of the neighbourhood and compromise the integrity of the public open space. For these reasons, I strongly object to the application and urge the Licensing Committee to refuse the request for extended operating hours and expanded event days.</p>
3	<p>As a local resident who lives opposite the grassed area on the Highcliffe clifftop, I formally object to the licencing application for the Highcliffe Cliff Top Music Festival to extend its operations to a three-day event, twice a year, with extended hours for music and the sale of alcohol.</p> <p>The new proposal significantly changes the nature of the event. What was originally a one day community gathering, historically ending at 7pm, would now evolve into a large commercial operation. The extended hours - proposed as 6pm to 10pm on Friday, 11am to 10pm on Saturday and 11am to 5pm on Sunday — would result in prolonged periods of noise and disturbance.</p> <p>This year's event already generated considerable noise from amplified <u>music</u>, generators, general footfall and public drinking. Alcohol linked aggressive behaviour and vandalism should also be considered. Parking of motor homes and extended party drinking could also be intolerable.</p> <p>The clifftop is an important public open space, valued for its green recreational area and coastal views. It also borders cliffs designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. This should not be treated as an overflow car park by visitors, nor fenced-off behind screens and accessible only to paying attendees.</p>

	<p>During the event, a 2-meter-high Heras fence was erected parallel to the road and covered with green mesh, blocking the sea views that residents and visitors normally enjoy. Public access to the open space was restricted throughout the event, contradicting the very purpose of preserving this land for community use.</p> <p>This year's event also left numerous 1100-litre wheelie bins uncollected on the clifftop area for weeks after the event, causing both an eyesore and environmental concerns.</p> <p>I therefore object to this application. The extended use of the grassed clifftop area and the proposed increase to two three-day events per year would materially affect the character of the neighbourhood, the tranquillity of nearby homes, and the integrity of this public open space.</p>
4	<p><u>03.12.25 - WITHDRAWN</u></p>
5	<p>I strongly object to the Cliff Top Music festival Highcliffe.</p> <p>This is an open space to be enjoyed by all, not fenced off only to be accessible to those who pay . This fence is 2 metres high and completely blocks the view for residents and visitors. The green space should be enjoyed by all and not used as an over flow carpark.</p> <p>Last year the area was left in a sorry state for many weeks .</p> <p>Highcliffe is a quiet area and visitors come to enjoy this and the beautiful coastal views .</p> <p>This changes the the character of the area, and its appeal to the many visitors that visit.</p> <p>So I am objecting to this application</p>
6	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>I write to object to the above application for the significant extension of the Highcliffe Clifftop Music Festival.</p>

	<p>I have had the benefit of reading the attached objection from my neighbour, and I agree with his points wholeheartedly.</p> <p>Whilst I have been a supporter of the Festival in its current format, these proposals change the whole nature of the event much to the detriment of those who live around the festival site and indeed those who normally enjoy the open clifftop space.</p> <p>It makes me wonder whether this was the original aim of the organisers. Get everyone comfortable with the one day event finishing at 7pm and then bring forward our real mission for two, three day events.</p> <p>In my view, this application should be rejected.</p>
7	<p>I object strongly to the above application for the following reasons:</p> <p>The grassed area provides an opportunity for 'quiet enjoyment' in an urban situation. This clifftop grassland epitomises Highcliffe which is predominantly a quiet area populated by what's best described as having older or more mature residents.</p> <p>The severe negative impact on the lives of people living near this area cannot be over emphasised.</p> <p>The shorter one day event may be acceptable but the three day event with much extended hours and readily available alcohol is definitely not. What is being proposed is a massive expansion of what was a single one day 'family' event,</p> <p>The nearby Cliffhanger restaurant already offers plenty of live entertainment throughout the year and because it is self contained and indoors, works well. The type of entertainment being proposed is much more suited to a city centre where less residents would be impacted, and where bus and rail services are readily available which fits in better with our 'green' agenda.</p> <p>What is being proposed are regular events and could easily fall foul of Statuary Nuisance regulations. Public Nuisance and Disorder would be seriously compromised.</p> <p>I urge you to turn down this licence application.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>04.12.25 – Additional Comments</p> <p>Thanks for sending me the full response from Stir.</p> <p>My further comments would be (based on the matrix you have sent me):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is not just a two day event. There is disturbance on days before and after for set up and dismantle. 2. Accepted 3. Although monitored the results of alcohol availability cannot be predicted 4. The reduction in days and hours is a positive move but does not address all the worries

	<p>5. Profit ...OK, but let's not forget this is something that many people didn't want in the first place!</p> <p>6. Reduced hours noted</p> <p>7. Noted</p> <p>8. Noted....but see my response to 1.</p> <p>9. as 8</p> <p>10. as 8</p> <p>11. Bin removal done promptly</p> <p>12. Noted</p> <p>13. Noted</p> <p>14. I agree with Stir that they left the site clean</p> <p>15. The council should double check whether there is any public nuisance</p> <p>16. Noted</p> <p>17. Fine words, but this something many didn't want in the first place!</p> <p>18. Noted</p>
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In summary, I would withdraw my objection if the following were adopted:

1. The event to take place only once a year
2. The event is held on a Saturday and Sunday only
3. Saturday to finish at 20.00 hrs and Sunday at 17.00 hrs
4. Stir to remove the large bins promptly after the event i.e. not BCP responsibility. As a Council tax payer I should not be responsible for removing the debris from a commercial event.
5. Finally, and most importantly the licence if granted is valid for only one year. An event in subsequent years would need another application, thus allowing BCP to maintain tight control on the suitability or otherwise of the event.

I hope this helps in your decision making and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

05.12.25 – Additional Comments

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for the update.

The fundamental argument is I prefer not to have the two day event. One day would be more acceptable.

Whatever is decided I think it is important that the licence, if granted, is for this year only.

By having the organisers reapply means we have the power to stop the event if it turns out to be unacceptable.

So the last item should read:

9. The event shall be limited to a single two-day event for 2026 only.

8

Dear Sirs,

It is with horror that I see an application has been made for having a 3 DAY event TWICE a year at the Hlghcliffe Cliff Top grass area, with even some EXTENDED hours.

I have been to one of their events and was quite happy for the one day 11am to 7.00pm event. However, the event this year did cause a lot more unacceptable disruption to the local area. We were unable to use the area which is a local amenity used by many on a daily basis.

To extend the event so drastically from 1 day a year to 6 days a year with extended hours and is totally unacceptable.

For the above reasons I strongly object to this application.

03.12.25 – Additional Comment

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your email regarding the above event.

Having read the replies to the objections received I STILL OBJECT to the event being held for more than 1 day a year, having the event from 11am to 8pm would be acceptable.

My reasons for the objection are

1. Profits are being made from 1 day.

Requesting a 3 day twice a year event shouts of GREED. If allowed what will be requested in the following years?

2. Regarding the Sunday Parking,

Where are the traders and band members going to be directed to? As the Council already allows Sunday and Bank holiday parking on the grass overflow area during summer months.

3. The grass area being accessible,

If the event is allowed for more than 1 day, the grass area would not be accessible for the locals to walk across, for the dog walkers to use or for the children to play on, and last year the hut was also fenced off, so could not be used by locals.

4. By nature of the event, numbers of people are being encouraged to the cliff top.

This does not help the HighStreet, Highcliffe Tourism, eg. The Castle, the beach, or the cliff top paths. People would be encouraged to use Park and Ride, the stalls within the event and therefore highly unlikely to benefit Highcliffe in any way.

I therefore object to the event being for more than 1 day, once a year.

Perhaps Friars Cliff grass area would be more appropriate and the Council would still make money and less people would be disrupted or inconvenienced.

Regards,

10.12.25 – Additional Comment

Good afternoon,

	<p>Thank you for your email with the responses from Stir Events.</p> <p>Further to my last objections I still feel that the event is on for too long, but do recognise that the number of events, days, and hours are reduced. However I still feel that Saturday night should finish at 7.00pm.</p> <p>With regard to the site event, it does encompass the grass overflow car park together with the open public area. The overflow car park is used on some Bank Holiday weekends and has been opened during the summer holidays when the weather is very good.</p> <p>I still question where are the traders and band members going to be guided to. In connection with boosting the Highcliffe area and tourism, by its nature the event is only encouraging people to the event.</p> <p>Finally, "any profits being ploughed back into next years event " is a statement of intent that Stir will be wanting to try to enlarge the event year on year.</p> <p>For the above reasons I still have objection on some of the revised proposals.</p>
9	<p>As residents of Wharncliffe Road, Highcliffe, we wish to formally object to the licensing application for the Highcliffe Cliff Top Music Festival. The application referenced above seeks to extend the previous one-day event to a twice-yearly three day event with extended hours throughout. Our objections are on the basis set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The site is in a highly populated residential area, and the event creates significant noise disturbance to the local population due to the persistent loud and amplified music and related equipment such as generators. Further, there is substantial disturbance to the local road infrastructure through increased traffic and footfall both during the event and in the preceding set-up period. 2) The cliff top location is an open space used on a frequent basis by dog walkers and other users. To close this area off to the local population for a three day period would be incredibly disruptive to people's lives and their ability to get outdoors; particularly salient given the ageing demographic of the area, where residents with mobility challenges are unable to travel to other locations. Heavy usage of the open space over an extended period also results in damage to the grass and has a significant impact on the character of the area, taking weeks to recover. 3) The cliff top is adjacent to a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the increased footfall during the festival causes damage to this area. 4) There are multiple open spaces within the Christchurch area which are much better suited to a music festival; Christchurch Quayside and Highcliffe Castle being obvious locations in which such events have already been held for many years. There is no reason for the clifftop to be used for such events, when these more suitable locations are available. 5) The application not only extends the previous period from one day to three days, but also extends the duration to 10pm on the first two nights (versus the 7pm finish previously). Again given the demographic of the area and the noise and disruption caused by people exiting the site after the end of the event, such an extension would be immensely disruptive to the local population.

We have been able to tolerate the previous event due to its short duration and once-a-year nature, but any extension is wholly unacceptable and we wish to object in the strongest terms.

We would be grateful if you could please acknowledge receipt of this objection.

06.12.25 – Additional Comments

Dear Sarah

Thank you for your email.

While we appreciate the reduction in the duration of the proposed festival and the noise controls being suggested below, unfortunately they do not address all of our concerns. These were not limited to noise disturbance but also to the challenges posed by additional traffic and footfall in the vicinity, as the area (including the nearby site of special scientific interest) is simply not suitable for the type of event being planned. We live directly opposite the site and having tolerated the previous one day event, we have seen first hand the disruption it causes to local residents. Given that there are a variety of other far more appropriate locations in the BCP area for a music festival, we do not support the continuance of this one.

Our objections therefore still remain, although we are grateful for you reaching out to us.

13.12.25 – Addition Comments

Dear Sarah

Thank you for sharing this response. While we acknowledge some of the organisers' replies and actions, having seen the event in practice for the last two years, we simply do not accept their assertions in some regards; in particular their claim that there will be minimal additional traffic. The reality is that a significant proportion of attendees do not use the Park & Ride scheme and the local roads (not just those directly opposite the site, but all of those nearby) absolutely see the impact of this. Traffic management systems such as clear signage and use of cones, alongside regular traffic patrols, will be absolutely vital should any event go ahead.

We would add that their assertion that "only 11 properties are affected" is wholly untrue given the scale of the event and the noise it generates.

We note that the organisers have offered to reduce their application from two events per year to just one "if residents wish". We would like to make very clear that - notwithstanding that we still object to the event in any form - we would categorically request that one event per year is the maximum which should be considered, and the reduction in hours being proposed must be adhered to in any final application.

We appreciate your keeping us updated on this proposal. Please do keep us informed of any further developments.

10	<u>02.12.25 – WITHDRAWN</u>
11	<p>I would like to object to the above license variation from one day to a three day event twice a year with extended hours for music and the sale of alcohol.</p> <p>I have just recently moved in to Flat 2, Luna, 28 Wharncliffe Road, Highcliffe, Dorset, BH23 5GB and after finding out the proposed licence for extended days and hours.</p> <p>I am absolutely appalled that this should even be considered because as a resident who lives opposite the recreational green and only being around 30 metres away it will have a detrimental affect on the noise and disturbance, especially in the evening when people are drinking. Even if they erect a 2 meter fence, like the organisers did this year it will still not protect us residents from the noise and disturbance.</p> <p>Another factor as to why I object to this is that the grassed area is valued for its green recreational area and coastal views and this would definitely be spoilt by the extended days, hours and the erection of a 2 meter high fence.</p> <p>I look forward to a reply from you in due course.</p> <p>10.12.25 – Additional Comment</p> <p>Dear Ms Roger's,</p> <p>Thank you for your emails regarding the amended proposals for the Cliff Top Festival.</p> <p>Sorry for not responding sooner but I have just come back off of holiday.</p> <p>Having read the amendment and latest proposal I am still very, very concerned with the new amendments. Having only moved into my property on 4th November 2025 I was aware of the festival being held one day a year.</p> <p>If I had known that the applicant was now proposing for it to be held for 2 days and extended hours I would not have proceeded with my sale. My flat is on the ground floor and the festival will restrict my view quite significantly. Also the noise would have a significant impact on the people that live on Wharncliffe Road with extended unsociable hours. Another concern is the traffic footfall creating more noise and alcohol being consumed by people attending the festival with the extended hours.</p> <p>I fear that if the new proposals were to be accepted this would only be the beginning of further festivals taking place on the clifftop.</p>
12	<u>12.12.25 – WITHDRAWN</u>
13	<u>02.12.25 - WITHDRAWN</u>

14

We wish to oppose Licensing Application 232728 in relation to the Cliff Top Music Festival, Highcliffe to extend the terminal hour to 22.00 and to make it a three day event to be held twice a year.

The current one day event means several days of disruption to those living opposite and nearby the site. Many vehicles come and go from 07.00 until well after dark. This includes the unloading of a vast amount of metal fencing, large industrial rubbish bins and portable toilets (which due to the long queues appeared to be insufficient in number to cater for the number of attendees). The setting up of many food and drink stalls, the installation of lighting and portable generators, some of this being done under flood lights until late evening.

We live on an upper floor just a road width away from the main stage. Although the music is supposed to be 'cushioned' it is extremely loud and unbearable within our property. In order to get some peace and quiet we decided this year to go out for part of the day. When the music finished we were still having to listen to the noise of stall holders packing up which again continued under floodlights into the late evening. Security during the whole event seemed minimal and at no time did we see any police presence.

The disruption continued for the following day (Sunday) from 07.00 with the metal fencing being dismantled, vans and lorries loading and taking things away. The toilets were eventually emptied and removed after a number of days along with the large rubbish bins. The traffic cones were moved off the road/pavement, they and the barriers remained on site for a number of weeks.

The current music festival takes a number of days either side of the event to set up and clear up. The noise of the portable generators, music, people in general and the smell of food is mentally and physically disturbing for us as local residents.

Might we suggest that if the organisers of the event wish to extend the hours, days and number of events, they find an appropriate countryside venue that does not impact on the character and tranquility of the neighbourhood. We had particularly chosen our property because it was in a tranquil area with lovely views and an open space opposite.

06.12.25 – Additional Comments

Thank you for your email of 5 December. The proposal in the email only goes a small way to reducing the problems and the noise disturbance caused by this event.

Please refer to my email of 29 November, many of the points raised have not been addressed.

- Several days of disruption to those living opposite and nearby.
- Many vehicles come and go from 07.00 until well after dark in order to set up prior to the event day.
- The noise of the unloading of vast amount of metal fencing, large industrial rubbish bins and portable toilets.
- The setting up of many food and drinks stalls, the installation of lighting and portable generators, some of this being done under flood lights until late evening.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the music finished we were still having to listen to the noise of stall holders packing up, which again continued under flood lights into the late evening. The disruption continued for the following day. (This will now be Monday). Toilets were eventually emptied and removed after a number of days along with the large rubbish bins. The traffic cones were moved off the road and pavement, they and the barriers remained on site for a number of weeks. Some cones and barriers still remain today. This year's event took a number of days either side of the event to set up and clear up, the noise of the portable generators, music, people in general and the smell of food was mentally and physically disturbing for us as local residents. <p>What proposals do the organisers have to combat these problems?</p> <p>It is not just the noise from the music that we object to, it is the noise in general of the event, generators, machinery, the noise from a large number of people. It is not what one would expect to have to tolerate in a residential area.</p> <p>We still do not consider this site to be the ideal place for this type of event.</p> <p>11.12.25 – Additional Comment</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>Application Number 232728</p> <p>Thank you for your email of 10 December.</p> <p>The Stir responses just seem to be very much a repeat of previous ones and does not address the points that we have concerns over as mentioned in our correspondence of 29 November and 7 December.</p> <p>We still oppose this application.</p>
15	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council hereby submits a formal <u>objection</u> to the premises licence application submitted by Stir Events for a three-day commercial music festival, to be held twice annually, on Highcliffe Clifftop.</p> <p>The Parish Council stresses that it has not objected to the previous one-day daytime festivals organised by Stir Events, although these were not without impacts or complaints. We have even provided grant funding previously. The first festivals were delivered just within the margin of tolerance for the community, with disruption just about managed. However the proposed intensification would take the impact far beyond that margin, and represents a substantial and unacceptable departure from what has been permitted before.</p> <p>We raise the following specific concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noise Nuisance.

Past events were limited to a single day and ended in early evening. The proposed larger-scale commercial festival would stretch over three consecutive days, twice per year, with music well into the night.

The noise can be heard almost a mile away, and the intensification would drastically and detrimentally affect local residents and their peaceful enjoyment of their homes.

It must be stressed that although nearby Lymington Road is an A-road, the high street is almost silent after 6pm. The proposal would put unacceptable strain and stress on a very quiet community, impacting a wide residential area.

2. Antisocial Behaviour.

The constraints of the site, limited lighting, inadequate parking, narrow access routes, and absence of formal crowd-management facilities increase the likelihood of alcohol-related nuisance, antisocial behaviour, and late-night disturbances affecting nearby residential streets.

Highcliffe is not a late-night community, and does not even have any nearby public transport connections or local taxi services at this time. It does not have the infrastructure or geography to safely disperse a festival crowd at night.

3. Safety.

The clifftop area lacks the infrastructure necessary to safely manage the larger crowds associated with a commercial event of the scale now proposed, particularly as festival-goers would be leaving in darkness. This also raises concerns about emergency access. The clifftop's restricted entry and exit points, combined with the anticipated increase in attendance, and late-night conditions, pose significant risks in the event of an incident.

4. Environmental Impact.

Highcliffe Clifftop is a sensitive and fragile coastal environment, subject to erosion and land-stability constraints. It is also adjacent to protected habitats supporting valuable coastal wildlife.

The new proposal represents an over-intensity of use, which the site is simply not designed or equipped to accommodate. The introduction of twice-yearly, three-day commercial festivals is wholly incompatible with the site's environmental sensitivities.

5. Other Community Disruption.

The presence of the commercial festival for two long weekends of the year also impacts on residents' day-to-day enjoyment of a local beauty spot. The Clifftop Festival organisers erect barricaded screens around the site, blocking access for local residents. And unlike the annual Food & Arts Festival, which is community-grounded and free to attend, the Clifftop Festival is an outside commercial venture and charges all attendees to enter.

Conclusion.

Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council emphasises that we have not objected to smaller-scale events in previous years. Our objection arises specifically because this application represents a significant escalation in scale, duration, and impact, which represent a drastic tipping-point. We also note that this has been brought forward without any community consultation whatsoever.

The proposed festival conflicts with several core licensing objectives, including:

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

	<p>The Parish Council strongly objects to the granting of this premises licence and respectfully requests that the Licensing Authority refuse the application.</p> <p>Yours faithfully, Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council</p>
16	<p>Dear Sir, Madam,</p> <p>We would like to formally object to the licensing application for Highcliffe Cliff Top Music Festival to extend their operations to a three-day event, twice a year, and with extended hours for music and the sale of alcohol until 10pm on Friday and Saturday.</p> <p>We are local residents who live on Wharncliffe Road opposite the grassed area of Highcliffe clifftop where the Festival takes place.</p> <p>We take issue with the proposal for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new proposal significantly changes the nature of the event. Currently, this is a one-day community gathering on a Saturday in September, historically ending at 7pm. By its very nature this is a noisy and disruptive event, and multiplying the days six-fold, plus extending the finish time well into the evening on four of those days, is an unreasonable demand on nearby homes. • With set up and clear up days on each occasion, the site, and even the coastal view, would be removed from public use for up to a total of 10 days. The clifftop is a well-used and important recreational community space which should not be fenced off for a paying, special-interest minority, especially in the summer months when presumably these festivals are planned. • We are not aware of any discussions with the local community about this proposal and certainly not with the residents most directly affected. • Currently it is marketed as "<i>Our main priority is that the local neighbourhood brings along their families to a fun event</i>". Six days would require many more attendees than just local residents, which begs the question of who the expanded proposal is really for, why it has been put forward, and why it has made such a sudden leap from one day to six longer days. The feedback from the only two-day event run by Stir Events CIC, the Shake & Stir Vintage Festival in Southbourne in June 2025, was that - due to increased costs - the event needed to be ticketed which resulted in lower attendance and local families saying it was too expensive. • Stir Events does not appear ever to have run a three-day event of any sort, nor an event that is held more than once in the same year. As far as we know it depends heavily on volunteers to man the Festival. <p>We are supportive of efforts generally to involve the community in events, but this proposal would unreasonably affect the tranquillity of nearby homes and the integrity of this public, open space; does not seem to have been discussed adequately with the community; and has yet to demonstrate the preparedness of the organisers to manage the Festival's hugely increased size.</p> <p>03.12.25 – Additional Comments</p> <p>Dear Sarah,</p>

Thank you for your email and the additional information.

While the responses from Stir Events are helpful, they do not fully answer the points we raised.

We are also not clear exactly what Stir Events are now applying for as they mention potentially reducing the number of days for an event from 3 to 2 and possibly only holding one 2-day event rather than two.

It would be helpful to get more context about the comment in the pdf document that **"growing demand from many attendees has led to calls for it to become a full weekend festival"**

As we stated in our objection, we are not aware of any discussions with the local community about this proposal and certainly not with the residents most directly affected. The only communication we have been able to find is a pre-announcement that the event is already being marketed as a 2-day event on September 5th and 6th - interestingly with the hours of 1100 to 1900 on Saturday 5th. It's not clear when a second event would be held.

 [Cliff Top Music Festival 2026's Tickets | Christchurch | Highcliffe Cliff Top Car Park - Ticket Fairy](#)

We also note the objection raised by Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council and agree with the additional points they have raised.

In summary, we do not wish to withdraw our objection.

We are comfortable with our name and letter being disclosed.

The Cliff Top Music Festival as a single one day event finishing at 8pm at the latest is the most acceptable proposal for us.

12.12.25 – Additional Comment

Dear Sarah

Thank you for this update.

We are still confused by some of the responses from Stir Events as they make reference to the event being a community one, but then about trying to attract a lot of people from outside the community.

1. They state **"The event was originally set up to boost the local economy, bring additional footfall into the Highcliffe area and raise the tourism profile of the town"** but also **"The event site does not lend itself to masses of people from other areas due to its size."**
2. They also state **"Surveys and discussions in the area support the idea that the event does just that"** in the context of **"helping encourage growth in the area"** and also **"growing demand from many attendees has led to calls for it to become a full weekend festival."**
1. We repeat, we are not aware of any discussion with residents / the community and have seen no actual evidence from Stir Events to back their comments about demand for a full weekend festival and then

	<p>whether these calls are made by local people or from the additional footfall people coming to Highcliffe from outside the community for the event.</p> <p>Finally, we are not clear why they are asking for an 20:00 finish on Saturday evening when tickets are already being advertised for a 2026 event on September 5-6 (which is obviously premature as permission hasn't been granted) stating timing of 11:00 - 19:00.</p> <p>The Cliff Top Music Festival as a single one day event ideally finishing at 1900 but 2000 if really necessary is the most acceptable proposal for us.</p>
17	<p>I wish to object to this License Application in the strongest possible terms.</p> <p>Our flat is directly opposite the event stage area at ground level. When the current event is held the noise is already intolerable throughout the day. The views are blocked by a 2-metre-high fence. The traffic and footfall outside increases. There is no privacy, no view and no peace.</p> <p>Wharncliffe Road is a residential area with many flats and houses- I'm certain that if local residents were aware of this application there would be a deluge of objections.</p> <p>The preparation already starts the day before the current one-day event, when the organisers take over the space - with no respect or consideration for local residents. There is the event day and then, the clear up, removal of hoarding, rubbish etc the day after – so a one-day event already causes three days of disturbance for local residents.</p> <p>Once a year, as is current, as a family daytime event is tolerable – extended hours, frequency and duration (as per the new application) of the event would change its whole nature into something quite different. It would turn into a larger commercial operation, with prolonged periods of noise and disturbance to local residence and the wider community in Highcliffe. The event would no longer be purely for locals but would attract outsiders adding further complications with parking, traffic, noise, disturbance, pollution, anti-social behaviours etc.</p> <p>Terminal hour 22.00 is too late – this will encourage anti-social behaviour, drinking etc – who's going to police this? Three-day licence twice a year is ridiculous – this is Highcliffe not Sandbanks and certainly not Glastonbury! May I suggest that the applicants find a field for their extended event, away from houses and communities ... so as not to create a disturbance, nuisance. At the end of the day the area is designated as an 'overflow carpark' <u>not</u> an event space. Allowing this extended License will only open the floodgates to other events – before you know it we'll have the circus arriving, fun fairs, car boot sales the lot!</p> <p>As a one-day event it's already too loud and too disruptive. Extending the hours, duration and frequency is just not acceptable. What is the need? No thank you.</p>

	<p>04.12.25 – Additional Comment</p> <p>Hi Sarah Many thanks for your email.</p> <p>We pay a premium to live in Wharncliffe Road because of its location away from the High Street, open space, quietness and uninterrupted views. When we bought the property we had no idea that the grass area opposite us designated as an 'overflow carpark' would ever be used as an 'event space' – this concerns us for all of the reasons we have previously stated. Extend one License and it will open the floodgates for others.</p> <p>As I am sure you will appreciate given the close proximity of our flat to the area, even with the many assurances given, we have no option than to continue with our objection – <u>we do not therefore wish to withdraw our representation.</u></p> <p>Many thanks for your help with this matter.</p> <p>07.12.25 – Additional Comment</p> <p>Hi Sarah Per your email below. I had already assumed that these conditions would be implicit.</p> <p>Again, given the close proximity of our flat to the area, even with the many assurances given, we feel we have no option than to continue with our objection – <u>we do not therefore wish to withdraw our representation.</u></p> <p>Many thanks for your help with this matter.</p>
18	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>Dear licensing dept, BCP council</p> <p>I am writing to inform you of my full support of the Highcliffe Cliff Top Music festival 2026.</p> <p>I have attended the festival in 2024 and 2025.</p> <p>I believe it is a fantastic community event and wholeheartedly disagree with the objections and negative comments raised. My experience was that the festival was a delightful family and community event.</p>
19	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>I have attended both the recent annual festivals, and both times bought my tickets as Early bird. I wholeheartedly support the Cliff Top Festival.</p> <p>The festival is excellently run, and well publicised, with care for the community always in mind.</p>

	<p>I am thrilled that it's going to be two afternoons in 2026, and the lineups are an absolute coup. My tickets are already bought.</p> <p>It's important to support local events, and many of the acts are local and are fun and inclusive for all. It's a great party and I can't wait till September.</p>
20	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>I strongly object to the proposal of increasing this event to twice per year and the extension of hours.</p> <p>I am a volunteer litter picker and this event heavily relies on individuals like myself to clear the event and surrounding areas of huge amounts of rubbish. Yes they have official bins and collections but this doesn't even touch the surface.</p> <p>No doubt they expect the voluntary group I am a member of to give up our precious time for 6-8 days a year so they can make a commercial profit. The 1 day event takes 2 days of clearing rubbish left by those leaving the site - this covers quite some distance from the ground. It is also the volunteers that clear outside the perimeter not the organisers. The council is probably not even aware this takes place as we just get on with it and clear the mountains of waste leading from the Cliff top grounds to all surrounding roads. This includes: cans, food containers, bags of nappies, bottles (even when glass is banned), coffee cups, plastic glasses, food packaging to name a few as the list is endless.</p> <p>I am speaking for myself not the litter picking group but I am getting fed up of commercial events like this relying on litter picking volunteers.</p> <p>I hope my information is of assistance in refusing this license.</p>

03.12.25 – Additional Comment

Dear Sarah

Thank you for the quick response.

I have read the list of objections but the heavy littering of the surrounding area is not addressed by the applicant. They have no plans in place to address this. No doubt they expect us volunteers to do it each time.

The reduction in hours on the Saturday and Sunday is acceptable as is the reduction to Saturday and Sunday only. However I do not believe this event should take place twice a year. Once is more than enough.

I therefore do not wish to withdraw my objection.

05.12.25 – Additional Comment

Thank you for the information.

Unfortunately the organisers have not addressed how they are going to keep the surrounding areas clean of litter for the duration of the event. When

	<p>leaving these types of events rubbish is discarded enroute to vehicles etc. A simple question is who is going to monitor and clean these outlying areas throughout and after the event?</p> <p>I look forward to clarification on this.</p>
21	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>I have just seen it shared on facebook that there is a question mark over continuing the Clifftop Festival in Highcliffe. I have been for the last few years and it is such an easygoing, happy festival, and very clean and tidy. I am emailing in support of the festival, it would be a real shame to see it cancelled.</p> <p>I really hope Clifftop Festival stays. It isn't too busy or disruptive at all.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
22	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>I am a Highcliffe resident, postcode BH23 4RL, and I emailing to confirm my support for the Highcliffe Clifftop Music Festival.</p> <p>The event is well managed and organised, hugely enjoyable for local residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>It is also compact, with no detrimental impact on neighbours, and I imagine only positives for local businesses.</p> <p>I am hugely looking forward to the 2-day event in 2026 (and future years), it's lovely to have such great event on our doorstep and with such good transport arrangements.</p>
23	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>I understand that our Parish Council has objected to the licensing of the extended festival [over 3 days] in 2026.</p> <p>As a Highcliffe resident I would like to record my support for the extended twice yearly festival. I am not aware of any issues from previous years.</p> <p>The festival attracts a lot of local people [who walk] Hinton train station is walking distance and there are daytime buses.</p> <p>I understand the event is run by STIR CIC who run successful and professional community events across Dorset.</p> <p>I am not sure why they are bragging about Lymington Road through Highcliffe being quiet after 6pm- it's not but we locals would much prefer an objection to the amount of traffic we now have to endure during the day which is noisy and polluting and has a negative effect on local shops etc.</p> <p>It's hardly Boomtown- the attendees are older [representative of the local population] and the biggest concern is probably them tripping over their chairs after 2 glasses of warm white wine.</p>

	<p>Highcliffe needs soul, community and diversity- something the festival helps provide. The food festival is now established and the Parish Council don't seem to have any objections to shutting the road which surely causes more issues.</p>
24	<p>We wish to object to proposals for more than one Highcliffe festival a year as it doesn't benefit the locals who mainly avoid the area whilst it's on as parking etc shocking.</p> <p>Please note this</p>
25	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>Hi</p> <p>I am writing to fully support the amended application for the above events in 2026.</p> <p>The local Village Council is totally out of touch with the local community and is making false statements about 2025 event.</p> <p>It was well managed and attended. There was no noise pollution.</p> <p>Highcliffe Castle a BCP building/location held an event one weekend from which the noise pollution could be heard the north side of Lymington Road and I had to complain to the Duty Manager about it. That should be banned.</p> <p>Please grant new License for 2026 as supported by 99% of Highcliffe Community.</p>
26	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>I as a resident of Highcliffe .</p> <p>Am in full support of the music festival being extended Have been a volunteer for this much needed boost to our very sleepy village .</p> <p>Highcliffe is slowly dying , we need as much input and activity as we can get . It's a very family friendly event with absolutely zero unsociable behaviour.</p> <p>Time for Highcliffe to grow</p>
27	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>I am writing to express my strong support for the application submitted by Stir Events CIC to vary the premises licence for the Cliff Top Music Festival, held at the grassed overflow car park on Wharncliffe Road, Christchurch.</p> <p>I understand that the proposed variation seeks to expand the existing one-day annual event into a two-day event, with licensable activities including live music, recorded music, dance performances, and the on-site sale of alcohol during the following hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday: 11:00–20:00 • Sunday: 11:00–17:00

	<p>As a member of the local community, I believe this festival brings significant cultural, social, and economic benefits to Highcliffe. The event showcases local talent, promotes community cohesion, and provides a safe, family-friendly space for residents and visitors to enjoy live music and arts with a stunning backdrop of Christchurch Bay and the Isle of Wight.</p> <p>Stir Events CIC has demonstrated responsible event management in previous years, and I have confidence that the team will continue to uphold high standards of safety, noise control, and community engagement as the festival expands.</p> <p>The proposed increase in duration and frequency will, in my view, enhance the positive impact of the event without compromising local amenities. The operating hours remain very reasonable, and the outdoor nature of the festival aligns well with the character of the venue and surrounding area.</p> <p>For these reasons, I fully support the proposed variation to the premises licence and hope the Council will look favourably upon this application.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.</p>
28	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>Dear BCP council</p> <p>I am a resident who overlooks the Clifftop Cafe, so am in very close proximity to the festival and would like to give some feedback about this year festival (2025). I was concerned about the potential noise/traffic but my concerns were not valid.</p> <p>I was amazed at how well it was organised including:</p> <p>The fencing was put up with minimal disruption and was very effective How limited the sound was How there was no litter left behind How quickly it was dismantled and the area left clear No traffic problems (due to having the buses). So many people walked down Waterford Road.</p> <p>The organisers did a great job.</p> <p>I would recommend one improvement though and that is the signage to the event from the village.</p>
29	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>I am writing to add my support to the licencing application made by Stir Events to expand the Clifftop Music Festival in Highcliffe.</p> <p>I am a BCP resident and live just a few miles from the event. I have attended the event for the last 3 years.</p> <p>I believe this event to be well managed and a great asset to the area. The choice of entertainment is designed to attract an older audience (usually 40+) and the atmosphere feels incredibly safe and fun. The audience are encouraged to dress up in costumes of the 70s and 80s and have a good old dance to some brilliant bands in a fabulous setting.</p>

	<p>I always attend with a group of aged 50+ people and we've never seen any trouble there either during or after the festival. Everyone is very respectful. Clearly Stir Events know what they're doing and I have every faith in them to deliver a brilliant festival again in 2026. Please support them in doing this.</p> <p>It's so good for the locals to have something fun to do that's not targeted at kids and youngsters!</p>
30	<p>I'd like to add my objection to those already raised about the increase in days for the Highcliffe Music Festival. As a resident living opposite the festival site on Wharncliffe Road itself, the original increase to three days isn't acceptable as I (and I am aware of other residents) work from home and the noise level from previous events is simply impractical to work at this time. The recent suggested changes to a two day festival IS acceptable to me, however, I am against the idea of it being held more than once a year. If the plan is to hold it multiple times a year, I would request that a different venue be found as it is simply not acceptable to disrupt residents' lives two times each year and potentially also limit their income as a result of being unable to work.</p> <p>If the festival is increased to two days, up from one, it is also vitally important that patrols are in the area to remove any vehicle parked illegally. Another reason I am against the increase of days is that the site is on the overflow car park. Cars are continuously parked down Wharncliffe Road (legally or not) and the fact that they can park on both sides of the road does make it frustrating and sometimes noisy for residents, an effect that is amplified if there is some kind of event on anywhere in the Highcliffe area.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to suggest to the organisers that if this increase in days does go ahead that residents in the immediate area (e.g. along Wharncliffe Road) should be allowed to enter for free. I have not been to the last two events because the noise has been loud enough to hear every note clearly from my flat (the balconies and buildings increase the acoustics making it louder than it perhaps appears to be). However, I have wanted to go into the area to see what the vendors are selling but definitely was not going to pay just to do that, given that, as mentioned, I could hear everything without paying. This small gesture would make an acknowledgement to the local residents who are having their lives disrupted for the weekend, while still allowing lots of people to enjoy the festival.</p> <p>Overall, as a resident I find the idea of a two day event, once a year, to be acceptable. If the organisers want to increase this occurrence, then I think an alternative venue should be found. The organisers should also consider that the noise for residents might be louder than observed at ground level due to rebounding acoustics off buildings and also the increased number of people. Allowing local residents in for free might also help towards any resentment for the festival.</p> <p>Thank you for your time. I can be reached on the above email if any clarification is needed.</p> <p>15.12.25 – Additional Comment</p> <p>Dear Sarah,</p>

	<p>I would like to confirm that I am happy with the changes resulting in a shorter 2 day event, once a year, as summarised above and in the document.</p> <p>I would like to suggest that it be made clear how noise issues can be reported during the event next year. I also would suggest a feedback form be available to local residents after next year's event to check how well the new plans are going.</p> <p>I won't attend the hearing in January but I would like to view it on YouTube should the hearing go ahead.</p> <p>Thank you for the updates and I would appreciate being informed of any further information relating to this.</p>
31	<p><u>SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION</u></p> <p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>I wanted to write and give positive feedback about my experience after attending all 3 of the Highcliffe Festivals. In particular considering some of the points raised by Highcliffe and Walford Parish Council's objection.</p> <p>I have attended all 3 of the festivals and have had a really great time. I would say the event is targeted at the older population, which is evident based on the type of acts and music that is played.</p> <p>I would like to go through some of the objections made:</p> <p>NOISE NUISANCE</p> <p>I live in Montagu Road, so within walking distance of the clifftop. We have walked home to get our lunch during each of the festivals, and with that in mind I find it hard to believe you can hear the music a mile away. We have never heard it when walking home away from the site and this is less than a mile away!</p> <p>ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</p> <p>I can honestly say, I have never witnessed any anti-social behaviour... in fact it is a very civilised event, as I say targeting the older generation. It is enjoyed by so many, and us older lot - I am 56, my partner is 67, and my sister (who travels from Surrey) is 60, deserve to have something that appeals to our taste and music genre.</p> <p>People who enjoy disco music, Abba, Odyssey, are simply out to have a good time - trust me! In fact, neither myself or my sister have actually drunk any alcohol at the events - not everyone needs alcohol to enjoy themselves.</p> <p>SAFETY</p> <p>When leaving the event, it is still light currently. The crowds disperse in dribs and drabs, so by no means overwhelm the adjoining streets. My observation of the dispersing crowds has been people have left with out too much disruption.</p>

	<p>Also, the entrance/exit to the site itself is quite large so I would doubt it would be a problem for any emergency services to enter if needed. I am sure any barriers would be immediately moved if there was an emergency.</p> <p>I can't comment on the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.</p> <p>OTHER COMMUNITY DISRUPTION</p> <p>There is still much of the cliff top open, the site does not occupy the whole area. The area at the end by the Clifftop restaurant is still open, and of course for those who can get down, the whole beach! The enjoyment of the local beauty spot is being enjoyed by far more people whilst attending the festival than it normally would be! In fact, there are many local residents that are volunteering to make this event such a success.</p> <p>The first event was free to attend, and the next two have had a very reasonable entrance fee. I understand from the organisers this is a not for profit venture, so any costs of hiring equipment etc does need to come from somewhere - so absolutely no objection to paying an entrance fee.</p> <p>Unlike the food festival, there are no road closures during the event. Yes some restrictions around the normal on street parking - but surely that is to avoid unnecessary congestion.</p> <p>As a local resident, I have been thrilled to attend these events so close to my home. It is exciting to think this could be extended to a 2 day event so we had chance to see a larger number of acts. It would be a real shame if the few that have objected spoil it for the larger number who enjoy it so much.</p>
32	<p>We are writing to object to the proposed extension to the Cliff Top Festival to 3 days. Our concerns are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noise Pollution - Having experienced the last 3 festivals we do not feel that there appears to be any effective mitigation to the levels of the noise. Pointing the speakers out to sea does not provide any protection to residents of the local area. It should be noted that due to prevailing south westerly winds the noise simply gets blown inland. Apart from the impact on residents, consideration should also be given to the local wildlife, nesting birds, small animals etc. The application is for 72 hours of noise which is unacceptable. 2. The Festival is being proposed as "family friendly". It is difficult to accept that family friendly includes drinking to 11 pm. Such hours are likely to result in anti social behaviour and will be far from family friendly. 3. Highcliffe is a small residential village which does not have sufficient infrastructure to deal with a 3 day festival. The main street has limited facilities and little public transport. 4. This is proposed as a 3 day event using an amenity that is used by dog walkers, families and hikers and will be unavailable during this period. 5. 12 hours of music over 3 days is not appropriate for a small village. 3 day events such as Glastonbury or IOW are in large fields away from residential properties.
33	12.12.25 - WITHDRAWN

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