

Dear Sam

PA19/09719 | Temporary use of land for Boardmasters music festival with camping for a five-day period each year for five years 2020 - 2024 inclusive together with retention of existing shuttle bus infrastructure | Land At Trebelsue Farm Watergate Road TR8 4AN

Newquay Town Council is writing to contribute to the consideration of the arrangements for this year's Boardmaster's festival. We are keen to ensure there is no repeat of the local disruption experienced by residents and nearby businesses as a result of the 2021 event.

Our office started to receive calls towards the end of the working day on Friday 13th August and this continued through till Monday 16th. This was the point at which the Town Council felt it necessary to issue a press statement signposting unhappy festival goers and local residents to Cornwall Council's online reporting service as we simply weren't in a position to assist them.

The calls we received described the unusable state of onsite toilet facilities and the apparent failure of traffic management arrangements, including the passage of construction traffic down the lane past Treloy Touring Park and the extensive traffic jam that overloaded the local highways on the Monday.

Following the festival, the owners of Treloy provided the Town Council with evidence indicating that late changes to the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) had resulted in an unacceptable level of harm and disruption to their business.

We have included a copy of the original email from Treloy, which was included in the meeting papers for our Planning & Licensing Committee of 15 September 2021. We have also included extracts from the publicly available minutes of that meeting as well as those from the subsequent committee discussions that took place on 13 October 2021. These documents give some flavour of the failings of the 2021 event – and hopefully they can help inform a decision-making process that ensures these mistakes aren't repeated in 2022.

Representatives of the Town Council's Planning & Licensing Committee have recently engaged with the festival organisers, and it is felt that sufficient reassurances have been given that the management of onsite toilet facilities will be improved significantly for this year's event.

However, the issue of traffic management is still to be resolved and it is our understanding that the organisers are intending to submit a plan similar to that used in 2021.

In our opinion, the disruption resulting from the 2021 traffic management arrangements cannot be repeated. The build up to the event created problems on the small roads around festival site, the significant traffic jams that took place on the Monday caused chaos. The impact experienced by the nearby holiday parks and on Newquay's tourist economy was unacceptable.

This year's Traffic Management Plan needs to fully address these issues and it is the Town Council's view that all interested parties should be allowed the opportunity to view and comment on the draft TMP before it is signed off.

The Town Council remains a strong supporter of the Boardmasters Festival but holds the view that, in order to have a future, the event needs to operate in harmony with local residents and nearby businesses, not at their expense.

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