

*Established in 2007, the Board is an independent, non-profit organisation.
www.bognorregisregenerationboard.com
Chairman: Raof Daud*

Planning
Arun District Council
Town Hall
Clarence Road
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO21 1LD

By Email: planning@arun.gov.uk; amy.myer@arun.gov.uk

4th November 2021

Dear Sirs,

Re: BR/232/21/PL

Butlins, Upper Bognor Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1JJ

Retention of existing temporary venue (Studio 36) which accommodates performance stage and seating, including mechanical ventilation system/external plant equipment, for an additional temporary period of 2 years (24 months) from the end of the 1 year period (ending 11 March 2022) granted for BR/292/20/PL. Also being applied for is a 1 night exemption from the restriction on hours of use approved under BR/292/20/PL (latest use of venue 23:00, latest egress of venue by 23:30) for New Year's Eve only to allow the use of the venue until 00:30 and egress of the venue by 01:00.

In preparing its response to this application the Board has taken into consideration Arun District Council's strategic vision and policies for the locality of Bognor Regis town centre outlined in the Arun Local Plan 2011-2031, the Bognor Regis Masterplan, the Bognor Regis Masterplan Planning Policy and the Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Development Plan. Furthermore, the Board endorses and promotes the established placebranding values for Bognor Regis, as follows:

BOLD - A beacon for a bold future

INNOVATIVE - Blue sky thinking

FUN - Ready for fun

In summary, the Board supports this proposal.

The application is for the time-limited retention of temporary buildings [BR/292/20/PL, granted 11th March 2021] located on a site within the existing Butlins compound facing the seafront east of the Gloucester Road car park and a 1 night exemption from restricted hours for 31st December 2021 only.

Having examined all the application documents including the Planning Statement, the Board would comment as follows:



- The existing temporary buildings, in scale and mass, impose no greater visual impact on the surrounding area, including the seafront, than the previous building housing the old swimming pool and are in keeping with existing on-site buildings.
- The construction of the temporary buildings has allowed Butlins to safely raise operating capacity to c. 4,000 people and has not increased the overall capacity of the resort past the pre-Covid 5,500 capacity. This has supported the sustainable operation of the business, and consequently, the retention of local employment during the pandemic. The proposed extension of time will ensure that this continues over the next two years, a period of time likely to still be affected by current challenges such as supply chain volatility and labour shortages, to the longer term recovery and prosperity of the Bognor Regis economy.
- Resident concerns regarding noise have been noted however the applicant's installation of on-site mitigation measures including improved insulation and a 'real time' sound monitoring system with full perimeter scope and alerts would suggest that noise issues can be managed and are unlikely to have a significant impact.
- The 1 night exemption from restrictions on hours of use, for 31st December 2021, is, in the Board's view, unlikely to cause significant noise or traffic disruption on an evening when many other local businesses and residents will also be engaged in entertainment activities. New Year's Eve, as a national celebration, is an event enjoyed by many and acts as a draw, increasing visitor numbers and footfall to Bognor Regis.

There is no doubt that the Butlins resort plays a significant role in the wider Bognor Regis economy which, like many other towns in the UK, has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had two major impacts; on public health and on the economy. This proposal addresses both by seeking to operate a Covid-19 secure environment whilst contributing towards economic activity. The applicant's track record in these areas should be noted. The opportunity to assess and implement sustainability improvements site-wide to achieve Net Zero Carbon should be undertaken and details published in support of future applications.

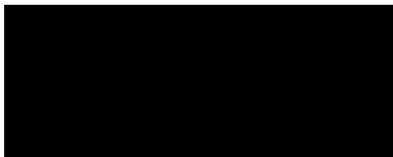
The Board therefore notes that the application is likely to deliver the following benefits:

- Maintaining sustainable guest numbers as proposed will support continued local employment.
- The ongoing security of both staff and guest numbers will benefit the wider economy of Bognor Regis, particularly the businesses and services located within the town centre area.

Finally, the Board notes that in reacting to the challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and continuing to invest, innovate and create new ways to support the ongoing viability of the resort and secure local employment, the applicants have demonstrated commitment to the town centre values for Bognor Regis.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the Board's representations.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca White
Advisor
Bognor Regis Regeneration Board

NOTE

The Bognor Regis Regeneration Board is a unique private and public partnership established in 2007. It brings together leading representatives from the key public, private and community stakeholders in Bognor Regis. The Board has three overarching key objectives:

1. To collectively promote Bognor Regis as a great place to live, work, visit and invest
2. To consider, give opinion and comment upon how and to what extent planned and proposed developments contribute to:
 - the town's growth and development;
 - addressing and overcoming the town's socio-economic challenges; and,
 - maximising benefits and opportunities for the town.
3. To consider and evaluate strategies which impact upon the economic growth of Bognor Regis and offer comment, opinion and where appropriate modifications.

The Board is independent and not a part of, or a subsidiary body of, any organisation or agency.

