

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULATORY – LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

21st May 2018
Report of the Director of Legal Services

Chesterfield Football Club – Special Safety Certificate, Lionel
Richie 21st June 2018

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval for a Special Safety Certificate to be issued under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (“the Act”) in respect of the Chesterfield Football Club stadium (known as the Proact Stadium) for an event on the 21st June 2018.

2. Information and Analysis

An application has been received from Chesterfield Football Club for the issue of a Special Safety Certificate for a concert at the ground, featuring Lionel Richie, on the 21st June 2018. The capacity sought is 14,000 including seating on the pitch. The breakdown of this capacity is set out in Appendix 1

The ground already has the benefit of a General Safety Certificate issued on the 21st July 2010. Closely allied to the General Certificate is an Operating Manual, based on a risk assessment approach, where the club sets out the detail of its spectator safety policy.

The current certificate restricts specified activities in the ground to football matches. The Special Certificate is therefore required in order for the Club to be able to stage the concert.

The promoters of the event have undertaken extensive risk assessments and produced an Event Safety Management Plan which has been scrutinised by the Club. The detailed arrangements for the event have also been examined by Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum’s Events Safety Advisory Group chaired by the Emergency Planning Division which also considered related matters such as traffic management, first aid and stewarding.

A full fire risk assessment, to include pitch and stage areas, is being prepared by the Club and will be passed to the Fire Service to ensure it is suitable and sufficient.

The stage and other temporary structures are to be the subject of full structural certification, both as to design and construction, by appropriately qualified personnel.

The existing stands at the ground have previously been the subject of specialist structural engineer approval taking account of the different crowd dynamics at the event and in accordance with associated guidance.

The General Operating Manual for the event will take account of the specific issues raised in the various risk assessments, in the Event Safety Management Plan and in the discussions in the Safety Group.

The Club has been reminded that spectator safety at the ground is ultimately the responsibility of the Club, rather than the promoters of the event.

The Club will also be reminded that the Special Safety Certificate, if granted, extends to this event only and that any future concerts would require a further application to this Committee for a safety certificate.

There will be an inspection by the Safety Advisory Group on the morning of the event to ensure that all of the arrangements are satisfactory including checking that the required certification has been supplied.

3. Legal Considerations

The Council, as the regulatory authority under the Act, is responsible for ensuring the appropriate certification of designated sports grounds and the enforcement of the requirements of the Act.

4. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:- prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; environmental, health, human rights, personnel and property considerations.

5. Officer Recommendations

That the Committee grants the Special Safety Certificate applied for in respect of the Proact Stadium to Michael Dunford as the qualified person, subject to;

- (i) the provision of satisfactory structural certification,
- (ii) the completion of satisfactory fire risk assessments
- (iii) the issue of a suitable Special Safety Certificate

It is proposed that approval of items (i) to (iii) be delegated to the Chair of the Safety of Sports Grounds Advisory Group, the Deputy Director of Legal Services.

Appendix 1

Capacities

The Holder shall ensure that the number of spectators admitted to each area of the sports ground for the event does not exceed the specified capacities set out below

East Stand (Permanent) 1900

South Stand (Permanent) 1100

West Stand (Permanent) 2000

Pitch Area (Temporary) 9000

Total capacity applied for; 14,000