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Manchester United secure permission to host concerts at Old Trafford

Reigning Premier League champions Manchester United have secured planning permission to host concert events at their Old Trafford stadium on seven days per year.

The change of use application, which was approved by Trafford Council last night [08 October 2009], was submitted on behalf of Manchester United by Salford-based planning consultants Paul Butler Associates.

Old Trafford has hosted concerts on an irregular basis since 1991 and it had been assumed that this use was consistent with its planning status as a football stadium. This position was challenged by a court case involving the use of the rugby stadium at Twickenham for concerts where a decision ruled that the existing use did not allow concerts. Manchester United took the decision to formalise the situation at Old Trafford by applying for planning permission.

The last concert to be held at Old Trafford was in June 2008 when Bruce Springsteen played to almost 50,000 people. Rod Stewart, Bon Jovi and Genesis have also performed at the stadium. These concerts were permitted by the Council's licensing committee.

The club's football commitments mean that the concert events will only be held between the end of May and the end of June to ensure that the quality of the pitch is protected.

Noise levels will continue to be monitored from the stadium as before. A 10:30pm curfew will also be in place.

Tom Flanagan, Director at Paul Butler Associates said:

"We are delighted that this change of use application has been approved. The concerts will have a positive impact on tourism development and improve facilities in Trafford as well as creating new job opportunities for local people".

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Notes to editors

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Paul Butler Associates

Planning, Development & Heritage Consultants

2. Paul Butler Associates is a Salford-based independent chartered planning, development and heritage consultancy that provides specialist advice for public and private sector clients.

The practice was founded by Paul Butler in 1992. Paul wanted to provide professional, independent, cost-effective and imaginative advice to public and private clients and this remains our motivation today.

The practice has grown steadily since its foundation and we now have a committed and experienced team of qualified professionals who understand the interests and aspirations of developers, the responsibilities of local authorities and the needs of local communities.

For more information about Paul Butler Associates visit www.paulbutlerassociates.co.uk