

Michael Moss

From: Michael Moss
Sent: 21 June 2018 17:30
To: Michael Moss
Subject: Resident Representations

From: publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk [mailto:publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk]
 Sent: 18 May 2018 17:33
 Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 18/01654/LAPRE

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 5:33 PM on 18 May 2018 from Mr Roland Foord.
 Address:Wilderness Farm Wilderness Lane Hever Kent TN8 7LP

Customer Details

Name:Mr Roland Foord

Address:Keepers Cottage, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Kent TN8 7AE

Comments Details

Commenter Type:Neighbour

Stance:Customer objects to the Licensing Application Reasons for comment:

- Crime Objections
- Noise Disturbance
- Opening Hours
- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Protection of Children from Harm
- Public Safety
- Traffic

Comments:5:33 PM on 18 May 2018 This is one of what appears to be at least three planned music festivals (and who knows how many more?) over the summer months in our peaceful rural location on a site poorly served by the local lanes and wholly unsuitable for the volumes of traffic to be generated. Why is it necessary or permissible for these events to be imposed on local residents who will have to endure summer evenings and nights of amplified noise nuisance (families with young children live nearby including us) with associated damage to local wildlife and habitat, detrimental impact on local road and traffic and the inevitable risk of theft and damage to property and other criminal activity that will result from the influx of large numbers of people. The proposed hours for live music and refreshments make no sense in a rural context in the middle of the summer and school holidays. Permission must not be granted.

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 From: publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk [mailto:publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk]
 Sent: 11 June 2018 11:20
 Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 18/01654/LAPRE

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 11:20 AM on 11 Jun 2018 from Mr Mark Fuller.

Address:Wilderness Farm Wilderness Lane Hever Kent TN8 7LP

Customer Details

Name:Mr Mark Fuller

Address:2 Ryewell Cottages, Ryewell Hill, Chiddingstone Hoath, Kent TN8 7BN

Comments Details

Commenter Type:Member of the Public

Stance:Customer objects to the Licensing Application Reasons for comment:

- Noise Disturbance

Comments:11:20 AM on 11 Jun 2018 I strongly object to this application. The noise levels coming from the last Neverworld Festival held on the 10th-12th August 2017 were tally unacceptable. We live on Ryewell Hill in Chiddingstone Hoath. The deep sounds and frequency coming from the bass were literally making our house and windows constantly vibrate. We could hear the music in our living room with the television on and even with all windows and doors closed. Again our sleep was disrupted owing to the noise even with all windows closed. We are not killjoys and people are entitled to enjoy themselves but not at the expense of others. To be forced to listen to music continually from 10.30am in the morning to 01.00am/02.00am the following morning for three days is not acceptable. We had received a leaflet through the post to advise that the festival was being held. The leaflet also explained the measures being taken to ensure residents would not hear the music. The leaflet quoted " You will not be able to hear the music from your house with a window open" The leaflet also advised us that the sound would be continually monitored during the event. Surely the point of monitoring the sound would be to turn it down if it exceeded the agreed limits. This did not happen. In this application the "Licensing Objectives" of prevention of public nuisance and crowd noise are not accurate and certainly not a true reflection of the noise levels last year.

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From: Kathryn Moore

Sent: 12 June 2018 10:59

Subject: 18/01654/LAPRE Neverworld / Lee Fest at Wilderness Farm licence application

Dear Licensing Authority,

I have recently been made aware of the planned Neverworld / Lee Festival at wilderness farm and would like to raise my objection to any amplified music being allowed on the basis of it being a public nuisance.

I am a neighbour to the farm and have found that previous levels of amplified music and fireworks from the previous events at the Wilderness farm to be very disruptive to the point where I have not been able to enjoy being in my home. I've needed to have all of the windows and doors closed (not very nice on a nice summers day / evening) in order to escape the noise. Following the noise nuisance from previous events I'm am now looking into options of going away to avoid the upset which it causes. This isn't fair as it will cost me money to do so and I should be able to enjoy living in my home in peace and quiet.

I am deeply concerned that this event will create significant public noise nuisance so request that any music that is allowed to be non-amplified or very restricted to not cause any disruption to neighbours and that numbers be kept small so as to avoid traffic disruption and nuisance on the roads. I would also like to request that no fireworks be permitted as this causes great upset to my animals and can only imagine how terrifying that must be for the local wildlife population.

Best regards,
Kathryn

Kathryn Moore
The Lodge, Hoath House
Chiddingstone Hoath
TN8 7DB

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From: Sandra Carney
Sent: 14 June 2018 09:28
Subject: Leefest 2018 Objections

Subject: Objections to Licensing Application 18/01654/LAPRE date of email: 14 June 2018

Application: Neverworld (Leppards Wilderness Farm, Hever TN8 7LP) Application Reference:
18/01654/LAPRE Application Type: Time Limited (02/08/2018-05-08-2018)

customer details:
Mrs Sandra Wadsworth
address: Cares Cross, Truggers Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath, Kent TN8 7BP

comment details:
Commenter type: Neighbor (our property adjoins Wilderness Farm festival site, our home is 400 metres from Leefest main stage)
Stance: customer objects to the Licensing Application

1. Public safety
2. Prevention of Public Nuisance
3. Prevention of Children from harm
4. Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Objection 1: Public safety:

Medical research confirms that high Db music noise damages human hearing, often inflicting permanent damage. This is an undisputed fact.

The noise levels sought by Neverworld/Leefest - measured as "2km from the Licensed Premises at levels up to 75dB" lasting a total of nearly 24 hours during the 3-day, 3 night rave, are dangerous to the health and safety of those living in our Truggers Lane/Hoath Corner neighborhood, only 400-500 meters from the Licensed Site. There are twenty households affected, including my home, which directly overlooks the Wilderness Farm festival site.

My hearing was seriously damaged by Leefest 2017. Since 12th August 2017, I have been suffering from tinnitus, caused directly by Leefest 2017 high Db noise. Tinnitus is a very debilitating condition (see web info). My NHS GP - Dr. Ravi Jumnoodo, Warders Medical

Centre, Penshurst, Kent, has confirmed this, and I am currently under his care. More Leefest noise in 2018 will further damage my hearing.

According to the Clean Neighborhoods and Environment Act, "A statutory nuisance is more than an annoyance or irritation. It is a disturbance that interferes significantly with your right to enjoy your home." Our homes on Truggers Lane/Hoath Corner have been on this site for over 500 years, timber-framed medieval buildings; we do not inhabit concrete bunkers.

Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003: "to respect the rights of people living nearby to a peaceful night." With the hours granted by SDC to Leefest 2017, and again sought by Neverworld in its 2018 application, there is no peaceful night for Truggers Lane/Hoath Corner. The high Db noise and disruptive lights from the adjacent Wilderness Farm site continues from sundown until 4am the following morning, for three days and nights.

This denies our neighborhood the right to enjoy our homes. We are forced to suffer Leefest noise against our will, and without our consent.

Neverworld promoter Lee Denny said he chose the Wilderness Farm location by searching website Google Earth for an attractive venue. Google Earth maps clearly show the location of residences 500 meters from Wilderness Farm. Did he not consider this?

UK festival industry consultants themselves say that each festival promoter must decide his own priority: venue or volume? If the Leefest/Neverworld priority is venue (Wilderness Farm, adjacent to 30 homes) they must operate at very low noise levels. On the other hand if their priority is music volume, they should re-locate elsewhere.

I feel that the SDC priority should be its duty of trust to the residents under its care, insuring our health and safety. High Db music damages human hearing. Because of the irreparable damage to my own hearing directly caused by Leefest 2017, I personally object to any amplified music whatsoever during Leefest 2018. However, if SDC is considering approval of a Premises Licence, I would ask for the following conditions:

a) I urge SDC to severely curtail the Neverworld Licence application for high Db volume on the grounds of public safety.

b) limit the hours of music performance from 7pm to 11:30pm.

c) make it a condition of the Licence that Neverworld install a Noise Limiter. This is acoustic technology that cuts off electricity to commercial music amplifiers when they breach their prescribed limits. Noise Limiters are mandatory in most London Boroughs, and many UK District Councils. Noise Limiters are the most effective control for music noise levels, especially when there have been residential complaints. (website: www.dgmusic.co.uk/blog/2015/8/noise-limiters-and-restrictions) Noise Limiters can be programmed for both db levels and time limits. In 2016 and 2017, Leefest went over its noise limits and its time limits. Saying "just phone us, we'll fix the problem" is not a valid solution. In 2016, their complaints phone number was an recorded answer phone. In 2017, their complaints phone number connected with a young person who said, "we'll get to you soon. Give us your address and we'll send a monitor over." In 2018, Leefest promises they will stay within their limits, with yet another phone number for local residents to call. As a result of this history, A Noise Limiter should be mandatory.

d) airplane noise: in 2017, Leefest claimed that "Gatwick planes - coming over every 3 to 5 minutes -distorted the monitored noise levels and caused breaches of their music noise levels." I dispute this. In August 2017, the Gatwick planes WERE NOT overhead "every 3-5 minutes."

Where did they get this statistic? I live adjacent to Wilderness Farm: during the occasional busy time, planes now come overhead here perhaps every 20 minutes, and there are often intervals of HOURS between planes. Gatwick changed its approach flight paths in 2016, in response to a concerted community anti-noise campaign (Gatwick Obviously Not!).

As a condition of the Licence, Leefest should provide the council with official data from Gatwick Airport Authority; Gatwick keeps records of its incoming flights, and their paths over SE England. Leefest should obtain and present these Gatwick records and see how they correspond to the times of their own noise violations.

e) At the end of Leefest, SDC Environmental Health should compile a report on the noise levels of Leefest recorded at Truggers Lane/Hoath Corner. This report should be a public record, and accessible to all. A copy of the report should be presented to every one of the 20 households in the affected area. We need to know exactly what the noise levels are. High Db music levels damage human hearing. We have a right to know what is happening to us and to the children in our neighborhood.

d) If Neverworld/Leefest fails to comply with the conditions attached to its 2018 Premises License, they commit an offense under section 136 of the Licensing Act 2003. It is expected that SDC will take action to enforce the statutory penalties.

Objection 2: Public Nuisance

The Wilderness Farm festival site used by Neverworld is bisected by two public footpaths. Two very popular public footpaths cross the site, including the public footpath which connects Hoath Corner to Chiddingstone village (the footpath is, in total, about 2 miles, and well-used by families.).

In 2017, during the three days and three nights of Leefest, the organisers erected high deer-fence-type fencing to turn this public footpath into a narrow containment alley to restrict public access to their site. Kent Ramblers Association have lodged a complaint with SDC.

Wilderness Farm is in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. AONBs purpose is to provide access to peace, quiet, and nature to the public. The CPRE lists this area as one of the most tranquil areas in West Kent. This is not the place to impose a festival/rave.

Another serious issue is rubbish: Leefest organisers say SDC gives them "seven to ten days" to clear up the site afterwards. Seven to ten days for the public - using the public footpaths on the site - to wade through festival rubbish (including broken bottles, plastic, discarded papers, discarded food, abandoned tents and blankets, etc. There is also the festival aftermath expected pollution (see web) of human urine, vomit, and feces - the normal fallout expected of five thousand people at an outdoor nightclub venue.

a) If SDC grants a Premises Licence to Leefest for this site, a condition should be made that the site is completely cleaned and cleared within 48 hours after the music stops. "Seven to ten days to clean up" is solely for the convenience of the festival organisers, and not for the good of the general public who walk the public footpaths on this site. The 48-hour limit should be monitored by Environmental Health, and at the deadline, if the area is still not cleaned, the penalties under the Licensing Act should be enforced.

Objection 3: Prevention of children from harm

High Db festival music/noise damages children's hearing and can cause behavioral problems. (see web: children and festival noise).

For residents of Truggers Lane/Hoath Corner, we are only 500 metres from the main stage. There are two households with small children on Truggers Lane, and they are being adversely affected.

Another issue is the Wilderness Farm site itself - this is in an area where ticks are prevalent (herds of up to fifty deer - carriers of the ticks - roam this area). See web for tick-borne diseases. The main concern for children is an illness called tick paralysis (see web), and also for both children and adults, Lyme Disease (see web).

The national tick register map lists this area as "moderate to high levels of infestation." August is the main month for tick activity. Anyone spending hours on the site, camping for days, lying on the ground, etc. is at risk.

a) If SDC grants a Premises Licence, the Neverworld organisers should be required -perhaps via leaflet to each individual entering the site - about the tick infestation and risks of contracting tick paralysis for children, and Lyme disease for children and adults. A suitable medical advisor should be on site if there are problems.

Objection 4: Crime and disorder

This is a peaceful rural area. The Leefest website and social media encourage London ticket-buyers to come here because of "easy proximity" to London. Basically, importing metropolitan urban problems to a rural neighborhood. There are natural local concerns about the possibility of drug use, drug dealing, and general anti-social behavior.

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 addresses many of these concerns dealing with raves and festivals.

Police can take action if the festival traffic blocks the roads (a series of small country lanes in this area), and if any of the festival participants trespass onto properties adjacent to Wilderness Farm.

There should not be any fireworks, due to local grazing animals.

Also, there could be road traffic accidents due to the wild deer in the area being panicked by festival noise and stampeding on to the roads.

Leefest complaints 2016: for the historical record: SDC and Leefest claim "there were no complaints against the Festival in 2016." I disagree with this statement. The correct statement should be "SDC received no complaints in the designated SDC written format." For indeed in 2016 complaints were made by local residents.

I, among others, made verbal objections to the Chiddingstone Parish Council, and to my SDC Councillor.

I telephoned the Leefest "complaints line" which only had an answer phone (at least 4 times), and left messages. Were these recorded messages of complaint not passed along to SDC by the Leefest organisers?

Only later, we learned that SDC only accepts written complaints and objections, not verbal ones.

I therefore submit my written objections to Leefest 2018 to SDC.

Thank you,

Sandra Wadsworth
Cares Cross
Chiddingstone Hoath
Kent TN8 7BP

-----Original Message-----

From: Sally Carroll
Sent: 14 June 2018 11:37
Subject: Neverworld

Application Reference 18/01654/LAPRE

Dear Michael

Having been to the Neverworld meeting at Mark Beech on Wednesday 6th June, Lee & Alex made the new control noise management systems for the Neverworld festival to be so amazing & perfect as to give us no cause for any concerns !! In reality this just will not be the case. We are still deeply inconvenienced by all of the background noises & thumping music ,which spoils our otherwise peaceful area all through the 3 days & nights .

Chiddingstone ,Hever & Mark Beech areas are just NOT the location for THIS festival or ANY other festivals.

So we most strongly object.

Yours sincerely
Richard & Sally Carroll

From: publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk [mailto:publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk]
Sent: 14 June 2018 15:15
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 18/01654/LAPRE

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 3:15 PM on 14 Jun 2018 from Mrs Kate Campbell-Johnston.
Address:Wilderness Farm Wilderness Lane Hever Kent TN8 7LP

Customer Details

Name:Mrs Kate Campbell-Johnston
Address:Truggers Oast, Truggers Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath, Kent TN8 7BP

Comments Details

Commenter Type:Neighbour
Stance:Customer objects to the Licensing Application Reasons for comment:

- Crime Objections
- Noise Disturbance
- Protection of Children from Harm

Comments:3:15 PM on 14 Jun 2018 Crime Objection. The area is home to many protected species including barn owls and osprey. The countryside act of 1981 states that it is a crime to intentionally or recklessly disturb any nesting wild bird listed on Schedule 1. The influx of 5000 people and amplified music can be nothing but a major disturbance and indeed it kills our protected species. The proposed location is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 AONBs are afforded the same protection as National Parks. It is the duty of the local authority to ensure that the beauty is conserved and enhanced. Has the licencing committee consulted with the High Weald AONB to ensure that the necessary surveys have been undertaken to understand the effect of the festival on numerous protected species?

Protection of children from harm -despite keeping his bedroom window closed last year my 3 year old son was woken on several occasions. I worry that if the weather is warmer this year is warmer I'll have to open his window and then he'll have no sleep. This is harmful to his health Noise Disturbance. My house is less than 500 metres from the main stage and I have livestock in the neighbouring fields. In previous years my pigs (which are pets) were distraught and my dog spent 4 days whimpering. The noise is clearly audible in the house and is loud enough to prevent sleep. Last year limits were breached on more than one occasion and communication (calls and emails) went unanswered. It is entirely unreasonable for local residents to have 4 days without sleep but that is the result.