
Michael Moss

Subject: SDC Licensing: Neverworld Representations ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Sent: 23 April 2019

Subject: Consultee Comments for Licensing Application 19/00902/LAPRE

A consultee has commented on a Licensing Application. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 8:55 AM on 23 Apr 2019 from nick.chapman@dartford.gov.uk.

Application Summary

Reference: 19/00902/LAPRE

Address: Leppards Wilderness Farm Wilderness Lane Hever Kent
TN8 7LP

Proposal: Premises Licence

Case Officer: Michael Moss

Comments Details

I refer to the above application which has been passed to this team for comment.

Unfortunately, and despite the Environmental Health Team working with the operators of the festival for several years, I continue to have concerns about the proposed Music Noise Levels (MNL) and intended management controls.

Comments:

In 2018, it was agreed (through extensive discussions with the applicants acoustic consultant) that, owing to regular overflights by aircraft, the 15 minute LAeq MNL measurement period for compliance was inappropriate. I am therefore disappointed that the applicant has reverted

to a measurement period which is ineffective in this location. As was agreed for last year's event, I consider that MNL should be measured in 1 minute LAeq periods, with compliance assessed on the basis of an arithmetic mean calculated every 30 minutes following the redaction of measurement periods containing aircraft noise.

The MNLs proposed by the applicant are an increase on those granted in 2018. The applicant is seeking 45dB(A) on each night of the event from 23:00 to 01:00 (last year this level allowed only on Friday and Saturday night until 00:00).

The monitoring undertaken by Environmental Health in 2018 suggests that on the Saturday night of the event, 45dBA was not easily achieved whilst running the multiple sound stages and was exceeded by the operator (some issues were also identified on the Friday). Further difficulty was experienced achieving the 35dB(A) level (which in 2019 is intended from 01:00 each night) whilst operating any amplified sources on the Saturday night of the 2018 event. This level was also difficult to achieve on the Friday despite favourable acoustic conditions existing.

During the 2018 event, the District Council received 18 complaints about noise from the site. Unlike in previous years these were not received from one geographic location and the event appears to have affected a much wider group of residents than in previous years. Having consideration to the problems in 2018, I am, at this stage, reluctant to support the increase in MNL being proposed by the applicant.

In particular I oppose the proposed increase in MNL's and event times on Thursday night/ Friday morning. Friday remains a working day for the majority of residents in the vicinity of the event, and they should be afforded protection on this night of the event with the music finishing at 23:00.

The Environmental Health Team and the applicant have,

over the past three events, discussed and agreed a number of conditions intended to mitigate the impact of the event upon nearby residents. These have included acoustic controls, communication with residents, defined monitoring parameters (including specified monitoring locations), clear and agreed procedures to deal with noise exceedances and the maintenance/ publication of records. Unfortunately the current application does not sufficiently address these issues and the applicant has neither adopted the conditions previously set or suggested equivalent alternatives.

With consideration to the above; currently I am concerned that the event will give rise to a public nuisance and therefore I object to the application.