
Michael Moss

Subject: SDC Licesning: Neverworld Representation CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

From: PRITCHARD Kate MarkPrmGesEts
Sent: 29 April 2019
Subject: Neverworld licence application 19/00902/LAPRE

Dear Mr. Moss,

Further to my earlier email these are the comments that should like to make regarding the application for a licence for the Neverworld festival to be held at Wilderness Farm in August this year. For your ease I'll try and keep to the website format but I am relying on memory as the web access appears to be down at the moment. However I'm extremely conscious of the midnight deadline by which we need to submit comments.

As the closest neighbour I strongly object to the application on the following grounds:

Public Safety

I have photographs from last year's festival where the organiser's vans were double parked blocking in the onsite ambulances. Additionally I attended the festival passing through no security checks and without a ticket so they have no way of recording the number of people on the site.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Despite being assured that the licensed noise levels would mean that it would be practically inaudible in my home the noise and bass on the first floor, where our bedrooms are, was unbearable. Last year I lodged complaints at 12.30 am on Friday 3rd August as the bass meant I couldn't sleep. On the Friday night / Saturday morning I was forced to complain on three separate occasions – on the 2nd and 3rd Firework display (we were told that there would only be one each evening) and again at 1am when I couldn't sleep.

During the festival I collected rubbish from the public footpath goes through my land running from the festival to the nearest pub. Additionally I have photographs of overflowing containers of rubbish a week after the festival finished. This has had an impact as I'm collecting occasional rusty beer cans whilst walking my dog even now.

Protection of children from harm

Last year the organisers decided to perform unscheduled sound checks circa 9.15pm one night before the festival started. These were loud enough to wake my 4 year old son. For the festival night I was forced, despite the extremely high temperatures, to keep his windows closed in an effort that he could sleep. These efforts were in vain as every time the organisers set off fireworks (3 times on the Friday night, it upset the dog who barked and woke my son)

Obviously my son is my greatest concern but I also worry for the children who attend the site. When I attended (late afternoon on Saturday 4th August) there were no security checks – I not only walked straight in but bought alcohol without a wrist band and there were no promised ‘drug amnesty’ bins that I could see. There was plenty of social media coverage of people “pulling all-nighters” and it doesn’t take much to work out the correlation between drugs taken and the ability to stay up all night. I consider this to be a particularly harmful environment for children to be exposed to.

Prevention of Crime

The festival site is in the middle of an Area of Outstanding Beauty – by definition home to many protected species. **It is against the law to kill, knowingly or recklessly, protected species.** I have provided the organisers with plenty of information regarding the protected species on the site and spoken with Natural England to see if they have been consulted as to how to prevent the killing of our protected species. Natural England have confirmed that the organisers have not approached nor taken any advice from them.

Additionally, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are protected by the CROW Act 2000. I realise that if falls outside the licensing team but under the CROW Act, “*the relevant local authority, must make sure that all decisions have regard for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB*”. I would like to understand what Sevenoaks Council is doing to ensure it is upholding the law and fulfilling their obligation to protect our AONB? Then there is the issue of drugs which are taken at the festival. As I have already stated, despite going through the main entrance I passed no security, no drugs amnesty bins, didn’t have a ticket but still was able to walk in with another adult and my 4 year old son, buy drinks and ice creams. I even mentioned this to the landowner whilst I was there but the situation hadn’t changed when a friend attended later that evening.

The pictures posted by festival goers don’t require any medical knowledge to know that drugs are taken.

My biggest concern however is that of breaking the law with regards to Countryside Act 1981.

Suitability of license applicant

I greatly admire the entrepreneurial spirit of the applicant and would have no hesitation in recommending him to run a festival at an appropriate location. However, it will be the 4th year of “Neverworld” at this site and for each of the past 3 years the organisers, despite employing “sound control contractors”, have shown that they are incapable of working within the boundaries set. Hopefully 3 years of consistent rule breaking will help question the suitability of location/applicant combination.

Summary

There is a weak argument that to protect my son, dog & livestock I should relocate during the festival but that seems utterly absurd to me although I know a number of my neighbours have been forced to do so over the last few years. It’s a clumsy way of trying to articulate it but I’m trying to show it’s not a case of “not in my backyard” – even if I was paid 10s of thousands of pounds to have a change of back yard during the festival period I would still object on grounds of prevention of crime and protection of children.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Campbell-Johnston
Truggers Oast,

Truggers Lane,
Chiddingstone Hoath,
Kent. TN8 7BP

Michael Moss

Subject: SDC Licensing: Neverworld Representation KELLY

From: jacqueline kelly

Sent: 29 April 2019

Subject: Objection for Neverworld.

Hi,

I am emailing as I cannot get onto the official website.

I am objecting to the licence.

Last year was the third year that they have broken the agreement on noise levels, this can not be allowed to continue. If after all their reassurance that they have the technology to remain within the levels set they once again failed, clearly this is not the area for the festival if they can not keep within the limits set. Why haven't they been fined for breaking their agreement?

Alcohol was not restricted to the licence bars, I have photos showing that the rubbish collected contained numerous bottles discarded by the festival goers showing that the restrictions on alcohol is not being enforced leading the health and safety concerns especially for young children on site.(pictures can be provided)

Rubbish was not collected as promised. Debris from the festival was still present over a month later (pictures can be provided) this is an AOB and as such should be protected.

Footpaths were blocked by vehicles during the festival and after the festival for many days making use unsafe and difficult.

Although the festival only lasts 4 days, the disruption for the festival starts a week before and was still disruptive 2 weeks after with people using the site long after the festival had finished.

We had cars speeding along Truggers Lane without any thought to the danger they posed not only to themselves but to us, other walkers, horse riders etc. This is a huge safety issue and another reason that this location is not suitable for the festival.

Having residents chased out of their homes during the festival is unacceptable, I know at least 4 families including myself that had to leave, the base of the music and the duration into the morning gave us no break from it.

Jacqueline Kelly.

Michael Moss

Subject: SDC Licesning: Neverworld Representation MULLENDER

From: TERRY MULLENDER
Sent: 02 May 2019
Subject: Re: SDC Licesning: Neverworld Representation

Dear Mr Moss

I have now taken a look at such documentation as I can find pertaining to this years proposed Neverworld event. Last years event raised many concerns regarding noise volumes and attracted numerous complaints which should be fully documented by the Environmental Health Agents in attendance at the time. Prevailing weather conditions is not a valid excuse for this disgraceful situation. There were also numerous vehicles abandoned in local lanes which caused a traffic hazard and potentially restricted access for emergency services had they been required. The organisers were informed at the time but denied that these vehicles belonged to attendees and insisted that they must belong to local residents. This is absolute nonsense as this situation never occurs at any other time. My concern is that documentation for this years proposed event does not appear, anywhere, to make any effort to address either of these issues and if not challenged we shall be forced to endure yet another ruined weekend this year.

Many thanks for your kind attention in this matter.

T R Mullender

From: TERRY MULLENDER
Sent: 29 April 2019
Subject: *Possible SPAM* Fw: Neverworld.

Dear Sir/Madam

I understand that comments have been invited regarding this years proposed Neverworld event. I feel that I can do no better than forward my comments made to The Environmental Health Authority at the time of last years event in the hope that things may be improved upon this year if this is to be once more granted a license:

Annie Sargent

I know that you heard a fairly substantial expression of views from both myself and several of my neighbours, concerning this years Neverworld Festival, yesterday evening but thought it best if I register my own standpoint in writing, for the record.

First and foremost may I express the sincere thanks of all of us to yourself and all of your colleagues for all of your longstanding hard work, not only this year but in those that have gone before, in connection with this event, in trying to adjudicate and manage the situation in an unbiased way between all of the parties involved.

Both myself and my neighbours objected to the original event, on many and various grounds, at the licensing hearing in Sevenoaks a few years back. Despite our views, mainly regarding noise and safety issues, permission was granted and apart from the predictable traffic problems and lack of adequate marshalling, against which we warned, there was little disruption to us so long as we did not venture from our homes for the duration. I believe that the poor inhabitants of Truggers Lane and its environs were less fortunate and suffered horrendous noise levels throughout.

Over the time that the event has been held at Wilderness Farm the situation appears to have deteriorated year on year with noise levels remaining a problem for Truggers Lane and many residents choosing to leave the area, for a few days, until the festival is over. The number of cars abandoned at the side of our lanes by attendees has grown ever higher and it seems that security has also become more lacks with many apparently able to enter and exit unchallenged via several local footpaths.

For my part I have had no axe to grind concerning noise levels until this year. From Friday afternoon the event was irritating, with an insistent bass beat, but it was not until 6.30pm on Saturday that things became intolerable. From then until around 2am it was impossible to sit indoors with windows shut (on an extremely hot and sultry night) and the TV on without feeling the thump of bass vibrate throughout your very being. Sleep under those circumstances was impossible and even once the music ceased we were treated to the shrieking and whooping of the audience for a further half an hour or so. Many local children were unable to get to sleep until the early hours.

Were I confident that this might be a one off event I would refrain from comment but I fear that if this is not nipped in the bud we shall suffer unreasonable disturbance across the whole period of Neverworld, with further deterioration of other aspects of the event, next year.

Best Regards

Terry Mullender

4 Park Cottages

Pigdown Lane

Hever, TN8 7LS

License Reference 19/00902/LAPRE

Michael Moss

Subject: SDC Licensing: Neverworld Representation WADSWORTH

From: Sandra Carney

Sent: 22 April 2019

Subject: Leefest Neverworld objections

Hi Louise,

Please forward my name and email address to the licensing officers at SDC.

I regret I will not be at the Chiddingstone Parish Council Leefest Neverworld event on 24th April at Markbeeceh. I am in Panama on an environmental/birdwatching expedition.

I wish to make clear my strongest objections to Chiddingstone Parish Council, against the Leefest Neverworld amplified music “festival” in our designated conservation Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Four non-stop days and nights of urban crowds, traffic, noise, and litter. I feel that this impact on our rural environment is as damaging as dumping four tons of plastic bags into the waters of a protected marine sanctuary.

I would ask the Chiddingstone Parish Council to mandate that the Leefest organisers this year pay compensation to those Truggers Lane residents forced to leave their homes during the Festival. Previously, Leefest Neverworld offered “free tickets” to those whose homes are immediately adjacent. I do not want “free tickets.” I am forced to leave my home during this event, and feel it only fair to get the cash equivalent from the commercial organisers, rather than four days of festival tickets. This is to cover my travel and accommodation costs to relocate to a quiet area.

Best regards,

Sandra Carney Wadsworth

Cares Cross

Chiddingstone Hoath

Kent TN8 7BP