

Appendix 7

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

- Fitness of Licence Applicant
- Noise Disturbance
- Public Safety
- Traffic

The event management plans surely ought to address:

- traffic management (it is chaos when these events are operating)
- Covid safety guidelines

And could the Council explain why you think it is remotely acceptable in a quiet part of the countryside for residents to be subject to ANY noise after midnight: why would you even contemplate 45 decibels from midnight to 2am?

I note that you have not had many/any comments on this proposal: perhaps this is because the notices have been posted on a few random trees in the area: it would be better if they were posted through the letterboxes of affected residents.

I think it no coincidence that the Pinetum is located as far away as conceivably possible from the accommodation on the St Clere estate: in other words, all of the inconvenience in relation to these commercial events, is suffered by local residents and not by the owners. Perhaps if you are considering granting this licence to increase the inconvenience for local residents four fold by increasing the number of events from 1 to 4 and increasing capacity too, you might consider asking the St Clere estate owners to do the right thing by the local community by clearing up the considerable debris which litters the hedgerows either side of the roads through their property. I appreciate that they are not responsible for fly tipping in the first instance, but if there is debris on my property, I move it and so should they.

Officer response:

Dear [REDACTED]

I am in receipt of your communication with regard to the current variation application which is under public consultation until 8th April 2021.

Can I ask you to confirm that this is a representation against the application submitted for the reasons you have outlined in your email.

The reasons for objection should be matters you consider the application undermines any of the four licensing objectives:

- Public safety
- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

To clarify a couple of points in your email :

Traffic Management

The current and proposed licence do contain the conditions attached : item 4 covers traffic management. All Event Plans are taken through a Safety Advisory Group whose members include Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue, Environmental Health, Highways, Parking control, South Coast Ambulance, Licensing, and Planning etc., and events taking place whilst lockdown restrictions are still in place will require additional covid risk assessments to be supplied.

Public Notices

The Licensing Act 2003 is very prescriptive with regard to the placement of signage and advertising when applications are submitted under this piece of legislation. It is not a requirement that applicants notify local residents by way of posting notices through letterboxes.

Unless I hear from you otherwise, I will accept your email as an official representation and a Hearing of the Licensing Committee will be held (usually within 20 working days of the end of the consultation : 8th April 2021) to which you will be invited.

Should you wish to expand on any points further then please do so by 8th April (confining the matters to the four licensing objectives above) and I will be able to include these in your representation.

If I can assist, or you have any queries in the meantime, please do make contact with me direct by either responding to this email, or by telephoning me on the number shown below.

Further representation lodged following officer communication:

I confirm my representation that capacity increasing from 2500 to 12000 for this one applicant (presumably there will be other applicants) amounts to a public nuisance affecting local residents. With time either side of the events for set up and removal etc, the nuisance will extend over a period considerable longer than the 4/5 days envisaged in the application.

I note that you refer me to traffic management conditions and wonder why the arrangements are not more clearly on display on line. In this context, there would be less need for traffic management schemes at all, if the owners of the St Clere estate used a different entrance to their site. Specifically, a couple of years ago,

after a particularly troublesome season of events, we met with representatives of the estate and I suggested that all the traffic issues could be avoided if the gate access at the corner of Terry's Lodge Road and St Clere Hill Road were used instead of the access at the bend of St Clere Hill Road. I was told at the time that this would be 'looked into'. So what has happened: what was the answer? And why has the Council not investigated other access points that could cause less nuisance.

As regards the placement of the signs, I fully recognise that there is no obligation to post notices through letterboxes, but would submit that in an area of so few properties it is probably less troublesome to post a notice rather than stick notices to random trees. The placing of the notices on trees has not been spotted by most residents who were alerted to the application by me. I thought the point of a notice was to alert local residents to an application, but anyone would think that the Council persists in an approach that is unhelpful because it does not want to elicit comments.

Many thanks.

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