

Licence application: 23/01234/LAPRE

Category	Premises Licence
Applicant	Union Knockholt Ltd
Trading Name	The Knockholt Fest
Address	Land North Of The Junction With Shelleys Lane Main Road Knockholt Kent

This planned event has several worrying implications for the village community of Knockholt.

Public Safety and Prevention of Public Nuisance

1. Traffic Volume

According to **Section 38** of the published Management Plan for this event, *‘As this is a community event most families will walk, arrive by train or share taxis.*

To avoid any congestion at Knockholt Fest have another car parking area in case overflow.’

According to **Section 40**, *‘We will encourage attendees to travel to the event by public transport if possible. The timetable will be published nearer the time and will correspond with train times and planned engineering works.*

A number of local taxi providers will be approached prior to the event to ensure they are aware of the event timings and location.’

At a meeting arranged by Knockholt Parish Council on May 11th, it emerged that there will be an onsite car park for 500 cars and the overflow (mentioned in section 38) will have 400 spaces. Go-Coach will be asked to provide a shuttle service from a rail station .

All these arrangements are for an upper limit of 1500 attendees. Clearly, the organisers are anticipating a much higher attendance than 1500, despite attendance being subject to pre-booking.

The impact of cars, taxis and coaches on the Main Road in Knockholt will be enormous; this road is already busy and dangerous (resident parking restricts the width at several points). Despite providing onsite parking, one may expect some attendees to park on Main Road, thus adding to the difficulty for through traffic and residents. Any attendees trying to reach the planned site via the much narrower lanes would cause havoc, as these lanes already use passing places and are used extensively by cyclists, horse riders, walkers and members of the farming community, who would be put at greater risk by an increase in traffic volume.

2. Noise

According to **Section 41** of the management Plan, *‘A noise assessment and management plan will be produced in order to consider and reduce the nuisance effects of noise arising from the event, taking into account the size, type and direction of each Soundsystem’.*

At the meeting arranged by Knockholt Parish Council on May 11th, it emerged that there will be 8 bands performing between 11am and 10pm at this event, with breaks of 45 minutes (although there is also reference in the Management Plan to ambient noise being provided). This will create extensive noise pollution not only for the residents but to ramblers (a footpath runs close to the proposed site). The site is very close to the parish church and churchyard; the latter is still in use and friends and relatives of the deceased frequently wish to share a moment of quiet reflection with their loved ones there.

According to **Section 51**, *'Posters will be displayed at the main exit asking attendees to leave quietly, stewards will amplify this message verbally'*.

The behaviour of attendees outside of the site cannot be guaranteed. Alcohol will have been on sale all day which inevitably brings an increase in the volume of conversations. Cars will be leaving the site until well into the evening.

Christine and Brian Boyden,

