

From: Emily Kindley [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2023 23:00
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Licensing Application 23/01234/LAPRE

Dear Ms Foley and Mr Picot,

Re: Licensing Application 23/01234/LAPRE

We are writing to you as a local resident, living close to the proposed music festival site.

1. Public Safety

We believe that having a large number of private vehicles coming and going from the event would be dangerous, with minimal public transport services to and from the village forcing eventgoers to use private vehicles. Most of the road access nearby is single track country lanes and completely unsuitable for large volumes of traffic. Knockholt attracts lots of pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders, especially at the weekends, and large amounts of visiting cars will increase the chances of Road Traffic Accidents. Access for emergency vehicles would be difficult. The only larger road through Knockholt is Main Road, while most of the alternative routes into the village are single-lane country roads with few passing places. This is often gridlocked outside the primary school, with a much lower level of traffic than the volume expected for the festival, so much so that I changed my working hours to avoid driving at school drop-off and pick-up times. Similarly when there have been road-works and closures of Main Road in recent months, the overflow of traffic onto the adjacent lanes (eg Washneys and New Years' Lane) make them very congested even at ordinary times. With much greater amounts of traffic expected for the festival, we think allowing it to go ahead would be foolhardy.

2. Prevention of crime and disorder

The influx of visitors coming into the village for the festival is likely to increase the potential for crime and disorder. It is unclear to us how effectively the event will be policed given the volume of traffic and visitors, the length of the event and the lack of appropriate public transport services to enable visitors to travel safely away from the event location.

3. Prevention of public nuisance

As noted above, our primary concern relates to the volume of traffic and the potential for congestion on narrow country lanes. We are concerned that congested traffic is likely to result in nuisance and disorder for both local residents and visitors, stuck in traffic jams and/or having to reverse down country lanes to give way to oncoming traffic. The proposed festival organisers do not appear to have given adequate consideration to how the traffic flow would be managed, both for residents travelling to and from their properties and for visitors who wish to get to the event. It seems likely that this will result at the very least in nuisance, potentially accidents and road rage incidents.

4. Protection of children from harm

Inadequately managed and congested traffic, narrow lanes with few pavements, added to an influx of visitors may well result in harm being caused to children and other vulnerable pedestrians by accident. In addition, the location for the proposed festival is close to a number of residential properties, with numerous public footpaths enabling easily access across, to and from the site with little in the way of security or protection for young or vulnerable people.

Yours sincerely,

Emily and James Edmunds

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