

From: Eva Hendry [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 3:44 PM
To: laura.trott.mp@parliament.uk; Jessica Foley <jessica.foley@sevenoaks.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Licensing Application Ref: 23/01/1234/LAPRE - Objection and Comments

Dear Ms Foley, Ms Trott and Mr Picot

I have emailed my concerns regarding the above matter via email to the licensing authority given technical issues with the Comments box on the internet site. Please see my email below.

I hope on consideration of all these matters and others from your knowledge of the area in which the Site (as defined below) is located, that you will support in refusing the licensing application for the Site.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Eva Hendry [REDACTED]
Subject: Licensing Application Ref: 23/01/1234/LAPRE - Objection and Comments
Date: 20 May 2023 at 15:33:03 BST
To: licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I live at [REDACTED] which is adjacent to the site for which a licence is being sought under the above application (the "Site").

I wish to submit my grave concerns in relation to the proposed festival at the Site, as a local resident and as someone who lives in close proximity to the Site taking into account the 4 licensing objectives below:

1. Public Safety:

The Site is a farm, with inadequate access for a gathering the size of which is proposed. Shelley's Lane which runs between our house and the Site is very narrow and there have been a number of accidents recently on the road. Also Main Road is the only road suitable for two lane traffic in the immediate area but even then any increase in traffic is detrimental to the amenity of the area and safety of residents and others using the road, which is especially evidenced when traffic on the M25 is detrimentally affected and motorists use Main Road as an alternative access and also during term time when there is increased traffic due to parents parking on the road to take their children to school. Main Road is often turned into a single lane road at such times and there are often temporary jams arising on the road as a result of increased traffic. The proposed festival at the Site would undoubtedly cause the same issues.

The Site is also not well served by public transport, with only one bus running hourly. The nearest station is over 4 miles away along country lanes with no safe pedestrian route.

We have grave concerns over the volume of traffic blocking:

- a) local residents wishing to go about their day to day lives and (more importantly)
- b) access for emergency services should the need arise.

The majority of those attending the Site which is an agricultural field, will be driving and in all likelihood people will take advantage of the easy access to alcohol during the music festival and there is a very real risk that many drivers will be under the influence leaving the event at 22:00 and would pose a clear danger to other road users entering or exiting this narrow site and along Main Road.

In addition, there is potential for damage to outstanding areas of natural habitat (wildlife including badgers, deer, bats and owls are often seen nearby). The Site is a pathway for deer which often cross from the Site to our property.

Further, any increased traffic would be a danger to the many cyclists that frequent the village in which the Site is located.

2. Prevention of crime and disorder:

Our property is often mistaken as having a public footpath and is easily accessible and we have concerns about the increased exposure that our property and those of other neighbouring residents will have to those aiming to attend the festival who are not averse to partaking in crime and/or disorder. The organiser advised that we would have the telephone numbers of 2/3 individuals at the festival however I believe that this is wholly inadequate given the potential risks for criminal damage and trespassing.

The applicant suggests that the event will support local businesses and local charities however as a for profit endeavours and enterprise; if the objective is for truly charitable efforts a large proportion of the profits generated would be being handed over. When asked what percentage of profits would be donated to charity, the applicant was unable to answer. This is in direct contrast to the well established Knockholt Carnival which is non profit making and is a substantial benefactor to the local community.

There will be an economic and time cost to the community in policing this music and alcohol event should a licence be granted. The risk of any crime and disorder being committed far outweigh any potential benefits to the community. We would reiterate that this is not a charitable community event but a for-profit enterprise.

3. Prevention of public nuisance:

The proposed event will have a negative impact on the peaceful enjoyment of the neighbouring properties. The area is enjoyed for its peaceful nature with only bi-annual events taking place for the benefit of the community.

4. Protection of children from harm

In addition to the safety concerns with regards to road congestion, we also have fears surrounding the safety of children at the event. The proposed site is bordered by public footpaths where anyone can freely walk with little protection to the children on site.

I hope that we can engage your support in refusing the application for this Licence, as I believe having spoken to those at the recent parish council meeting that these concerns are held by many residents in the area where the Site is located.

Sincerely

Eva Hendry

email

