

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 7:34 PM

To: Licencing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>; Jessica Foley <jessica.foley@sevenoaks.gov.uk>

Subject: Knockfest application ref 23/01234/LAPRE

I am a resident of Knockholt and wish to register my objection to the application for an alcohol licence in Kings Valley on Saturday 5 August.

General Comments

I attended an open meeting in Knockholt last week and was not impressed by the organisers. Almost all the questions were answered blandly along the lines of "We will employ professionals to manage that" without appearing to give any understanding of the very real concerns that were raised. Specific issues are:

1. There is only one entrance to the site. I attach pictures which I took earlier this week. As you can see, the entrance is barely wide enough to accommodate vehicles entering and leaving, let alone pedestrian entrances/exits.
2. Just inside the gate is are large piles of building materials and debris, none of which appears on the plans submitted to you. Clearing all the debris will be necessary to provide clear access, but this will require heavy lifting equipment and lorries, none of which are mentioned in the application.
3. The plan does not make sense. The car park area is supposed to be able to hold 500 cars, but appears to be only just more than twice the stage area – which just does not make sense. A considerably larger car parking area will therefore be needed, but this will then go on to land which has a steep descent down to the bottom of the valley. If the weather is wet, this will result in cars churning up the land and, in extremis, being unable to drive out.
4. The lanes around the site are narrow and in many cases are single track only. Visitors will inevitably look to park nearby which will lead to massive congestion and would make it very difficult for police/ambulance/fire vehicles to get quick and easy access. To add to this, Saturdays are very popular with groups of cyclists coming up and down the hills to Knockholt.
5. I walked past the site yesterday and it is currently grazed by sheep. While this helps to keep the grass down, the whole area would need to be cleared of sheep droppings to avoid health risks, particularly to children. No mention has been made of this.

Dealing with your specific areas of concern:

Public safety

There is a strong likelihood that roads around the site will be seized up, making it impossible for emergency services to get to the site.

Prevention of crime (damage)

For the same reason, police vehicles are unlikely to be able to access the site easily or quickly.

Prevention of public nuisance

I have commented above that there is a considerable amount of debris that needs to be cleared from the site. This will create a significant degree of nuisance, particularly to those living nearby. Also, there is no public transport in Knockholt after 21.30, with the risk those who have drunk too much will hang around the neighbourhood, causing nuisance and annoyance to residents.

Protection of children from harm

Sheep droppings present a health risk, particularly to young children. The organisers do not seem to be aware of this.

I urge you to reject the application.

Graham Cooper



