

**From:** [publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk) <[publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 19 May 2023 12:09

**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 23/01234/LAPRE

## Customer Details

Name: Mrs Hannah Smyth

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Email: [REDACTED]

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Address: [REDACTED]

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Reasons for comment:

- Crime Objections
- Noise Disturbance
- Public Safety

19/05/2023 12:08 PM The proposed location of the site is a farm, with farm access for farm machinery. It is simply not a suitable location for such a large gathering of the public due to the remoteness of the area and lack of suitable servicing of the site. The side roads surrounding are extremely narrow (mostly single car country lanes) and are entirely unsuitable for mass vehicles so all the traffic would be directed down Main Road.

The site is located approx. two thirds of a mile outside the village central and is not well served by public transport. There is one bus an hour (to Orpington which stops running at 8pm) and the nearest station is over 4 miles away along country lanes with no pavement.

The access point adjacent to the Shelley's Lane is a bottleneck and will cause severe highways issues. The field is occasionally used by farm machinery not the anticipated 500 cars by members of the public in one day. The field itself is not suitable for the parking of cars, there is no hard standing and should there be wet weather in the days before or on the event, there will be significant damage caused to the land and vehicles - not to mention increasing delays and congestion to event goers and locals whilst they try to resolve the situation.

There have been many accidents recently along Shelleys Lane and Main Road caused by drivers clearly under the influence of alcohol or substance abuse or a combination of the two. The suggested measures of security staff manning the event (4-8 personnel to cover car parking / perimeter security and ticketing/entry) seems woefully inadequate.

The site is an agricultural field; the majority of those attending will be driving and in all likelihood people will be encouraged to drink alcohol during the music festival - 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.

Kind regards

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2023 2:35 PM  
**To:** Jessica Foley <jessica.foley@sevenoaks.gov.uk>; Raymond Picot  
[REDACTED] Laura Trott MBE MP <laura.trott.mp@parliament.uk>  
**Subject:** Licencing Application Reference:- 23/01234/LAPRE

To Jessica Foley, Senior Licensing Officer; Laura Trott MP, Ray Picot (PC)

19 May 2023

Dear Ms Foley, Ms Trott, Mr Picot

**Licencing Application Reference:- 23/01234/LAPRE**

I have submitted my concerns over this matter via the Licensing site but wanted to also flag them to you both. The box to include comments on the Licensing site only allows 2000 characters so my submission was an abridged version. Jessica, I've emailed you separately to see if there's a way of submitting comments in full other than by doing multiple comments.

Also, please note that several people are experiencing technical difficulties with the site where comments are not being registered ("system error") and comments that have been made (for example: myself and Sarah Jane Tormey, Headteacher of St Katharine's the local primary school) are not showing up.

Technical issues aside, please find my thoughts below.

As a local resident who has great concerns over the proposed alcohol and music festival at Rushmore Hill Farm by Union Knockholt Ltd – I would like to share with you my concerns below in relation to the Four Licensing Objectives

1. Public Safety
2. Prevention of crime (damage) and disorder
3. Prevention of public nuisance
4. Protection of children from harm.

**1 Public Safety**

The proposed location of the site is a farm, with farm access for farm machinery. It is simply **not** a suitable location for such a large gathering of the public due to the remoteness of the area and lack of suitable servicing of the site. The side roads surrounding are extremely narrow (mostly single car country lanes) and are entirely unsuitable for mass vehicles so all the traffic would be directed down Main Road.

The site is located approx. two thirds of a mile outside the village central and is not well served by public transport. There is one bus an hour (to Orpington which stops running at 8pm) and the nearest station is over 4 miles away along country lanes with no pavement.

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 access point adjacent to the Shelley's Lane is a bottleneck and will cause severe highways issues. The field is occasionally used by farm machinery not the anticipated 500 cars by members of the public in one day. The field itself is not suitable for the parking of cars, there is no hard standing and should there be wet weather in the days before or on the event, there will be significant damage caused to the land and vehicles – not to mention increasing delays and congestion to event goers and locals whilst they try to resolve the situation.

There have been many accidents recently along Shelleys Lane and Main Road caused by drivers clearly under the influence of alcohol or substance abuse or a combination of the two. The suggested measures of security staff manning the event (4-8 personnel to cover car parking / perimeter security and ticketing/entry) seems woefully inadequate.

The site is an agricultural field; the majority of those attending will be driving and in all likelihood people will be encouraged to drink alcohol during the music festival – 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).

## **2 Prevention of crime & Disorder**

The opportunity and risks for crimes to be committed in connection to this proposed event would greatly outweigh any perceived positives championed by the landowner. 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 the to the local community.

There will be an economic 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 – eleven hours of music (albeit with breaks during the day) and congested roads.

## **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.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Smyth



Hannah Smyth

