

Dear Ms Foley,

Reference: 23/01234/LAPRE

I am writing to object strongly to the proposed Festival on 5 August [REDACTED]. Our objections relate to public nuisance, possible disorder and crime, and public safety.

I am very concerned that we have had no formal notification from the council of an application for the proposed Festival – despite it only being a couple of months away. Nor have we had any contact from the organiser (Michael Cutting) even though [REDACTED]. The lack of contact clearly indicates the attitude of the organiser to security, safety, and nuisance concerns that neighbours or other local residents might have.

[REDACTED]

The event field is crossed by a right of way (running roughly East/West) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We have serious concerns about the likely security risks and nuisance from people trying to access the Festival improperly [REDACTED] given the access points and the rights of way. This may be via the stile or even just by climbing over or pushing down the fence along its 400 metre plus boundary length. There is a serious likelihood of crowds milling around [REDACTED] if significant numbers turn up attempting to do this with the potential for ensuing trouble, public disorder, and damage [REDACTED]. This also poses a security risk [REDACTED].

I am also concerned that there may be significant amounts of litter thrown over the fence [REDACTED]. I expect that we and our neighbours will have a real issue with noise pollution.

From a safety perspective, the Council should also be aware that there are a significant number of trees along the boundary (mostly on the organiser's land) which are old and not in good condition. Indeed, there is one very large trunk blown off its base and simply leaning on the tree next door [REDACTED]. I have previously mentioned this to the site owner some time ago, but nothing has been done. Not so serious when there are only sheep about, but obviously a real risk if the Festival were to go ahead.

The only reason I know about the proposed event is a flyer from Knockholt Parish Council. Unfortunately, this arrived while we were away and we have therefore missed the public meeting they organised. I have however read the material tabled at that meeting including the 'Management Plan' and associated papers. I found these in the main to be very generic and not to deal with the specific issues of this proposed event. For example, they don't mention the right of way across the site nor the issue of the long boundary [REDACTED]. The traffic management plans are not detailed: traffic issues at school opening and closing times show the potential problems daily [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] and I would be very surprised if problems didn't happen at the Festival including compromised access for emergency vehicles to surrounding houses and, indeed, the village. The documents did not persuade me that the organisers had thought carefully about specific potential issues with this particular event or that they had any real concern for the neighbours and residents of Knockholt.

This is not a 'community' event (the locals didn't know anything about this!), but an attempt by Mr Cutting to make money out of land he owns which is just used for sheep grazing. He has not made any effort to contact neighbours directly and to discuss concerns and consider any ways in which they may be mitigated.

In summary, I repeat our strong objection to the proposed Festival on the grounds of public nuisance, possible disorder and criminal damage, and public safety.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Bloomer

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

cc Graham Brookes – KPC Chair

Rita Radford – KPC Planning

Zoe Brookman – KPC Clerk

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Laura Trott MP