



4 May 2023

Jessica Foley
Senior Licensing Officer
Sevenoaks District Council
Council Offices
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1HG

Dear Jessica

**Ref:- Land to the North of The Junction With Shelleys Lane, Main Road, Knockholt, Kent.
(Licensing application Ref 23/01234/LAPRE)**

I would like to make you aware of a recent licensing application submitted by Union Knockholt Ltd and recently notified along Shelleys Lane and locally along Main Road.

The application is for live music and the sale of alcohol on non standard timings from 11am – 10pm on Saturday 5th August 2023 at Rushmore Hill Farm which my property is located immediately next to and has the potential to cause significant disruption, nuisance to the peaceful enjoyment of my home.

The submission contains nothing more than an application form with vague answers as to the potential nuisance and disturbance that will likely be caused.

In trying to ascertain further information about the application the case officer Jessica Foley has reached out to the applicant to establish further details. Statements such as the “stage being positioned away from local residents,” and “parking for up to 500 cars,” are not accompanied with even the most basic of drawings illustrating where the music stage will be located or where all the visitor cars, event vehicles and all the associated large vehicles necessary to facilitate the event will be parked. At this moment in time I have grave concerns if this licence is to be allowed to go ahead as it will set a dangerous precedent for the applicants’ use of the land for causing nuisance to neighbours.

The application raises far too many concerns to be considered acceptable there have been numerous instances in the past where the applicant Mr William John Cutting has had a blatant disregard for his neighbours with planning enforcement necessary on many occasions with wilful acts of antisocial nuisance behaviour.

The idea seems to be to organise a pop up music festival providing alcohol in an agricultural field which is used for grazing sheep. I list some of the initial pertinent issues I have with the application below:-

- The access point adjacent to Shelleys 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 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.
- The numerous lorries and large vehicles used for constructing the stage and for bars selling alcohol will in high probability cause significant disruption and damage during the set-up in the days and weeks before and after the event, churning up the field and causing numerous traffic problems.
- There have been many accidents recently along Shelleys Lane caused by drivers clearly under the influence of alcohol or substance abuse or a combination of the two. What measures will be put in place to prevent things from getting out of hand? Private security companies are mentioned but as to the events enforcement should problems occur then the police will be obligated to get involved taking them away from other vital roles in protecting the community.
- The lack of information provided with the licence application is evidence to the inadequacy of the due planning the event has by the organiser.
- The fact remains that the site is an agricultural field the clear majority of those attending will be driving and in all likelihood people will be encouraged to drink alcohol during the music festival the risk is 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.
- The waste that will be created by the 1,000s of visitors and the potential 500 cars anticipated to be accommodated on the site isn't equipped for this sort of set up and will cause significant damage to the natural environment and will harm local wildlife. Badgers, Deer and Bats and Owls are often seen nearby.
- The organisers suggest that the majority of visitors will be walking or taking taxis to and from the event. This seems rather unlikely due to the rural nature of the site and limited catchment for those most likely to walk on foot to a Music, Food and Alcohol Festival.

Prevention of Crime and 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 this is clearly just a smoke screen aimed at getting supporters onboard to market the event and make it more palatable for those that would have to suffer the event. If the objective is for truly charitable efforts a large proportion of the profits generated would be being handed over.
- We are led to believe there will be security and volunteers involved in managing the event. However what levels of staffing are deemed acceptable to ensure a safe management? Any

breach of the peace is going to cause nuisance and encourage poor behaviour of people wanting to enjoy a day basking in the summer sun drinking alcohol. The site is not served by public transport and it will be attended in the vast majority by people driving to the event.

- 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 the community would benefit from. I remind you that this is not a community, charitable event this is a for-profit enterprise.

Public Safety

- The site access to the field is highly dangerous with limited visibility to Shelleys Lane . A lack of clear visibility along the Main Road will cause significant public safety concerns. The event organisers' claim there will be security and volunteers manning the event however it could well result in the involvement of the police and emergency services with people driving to a music event and actively encouraging the drinking of alcohol.
- The hosting of this music and alcohol festival will no doubt cause major congestion and traffic chaos around the area and with the bottleneck access the safe management of the public raises unacceptable risks to safety.
- Once people are under the influence of alcohol this festival is likely to get out of hand without the proper management. It would not be a safe event for children and this raises concerns for families thinking about attending.
- People drinking in public places is great when its organised and controlled however the danger with this applicant is that he has breached the peace too many times before to feel that he can safely deliver what is necessary to ensure the public safety of children, families and visitors to the site.

Prevention of public nuisance

- The proposed licence is for one event on 5th August 2023. This leaves no opportunity for repercussions should any breaches be clearly established. What happens if the music is too disruptive and causes harm? By the time Environmental Health can speak to the organisers the event will have happened and the breach will have occurred with zero consequence for the owner or organiser.
- The pop up music event will cause uncontrolled noise pollution, from loud music and generators powering the event. This will cause significant public nuisance to those nearby the music and alcohol festival.

Protection from children from harm

- The site is an agricultural field ill suited for the use as a music and food festival. The land will be polluted with animal waste before the event and will be polluted with human waste rubbish and litter after the event. The risks of concerns for children at such an event are appropriately concerning.

- The drinking of alcohol at such an event will only encourage unwelcome behaviour and with the majority of visitors in all reality driving to site the risk of injury to children and families are too high.

In summary this proposed event for the consumption of alcohol and the playing of loud music in an agricultural field goes far beyond what could reasonably constituted as appropriate. On the above grounds I eagerly welcome your views on the matter.

The event will not only have a severe impact on public safety due to the clear highway concerns it is highly probable that there will be a lack of any real management of the event. As clearly highlighted by the application form the responsible person for the event is yet to be named. This begs the question why the owner is not willing to accept responsibility should any issues occur.

I sincerely hope as the Senior Licensing Officer that you will do all you can to stop this event proceeding. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Marco Williams