

**From:** Pauline Eldridge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2023 09:05  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** reference 23/01234/LAPRE

Mrs. Jessica Foley  
Senior Licensing Officer  
Sevenoaks District

Reference [23/01234/LAPRE](#)

Dear Mrs Foley,

I wish to make representation concerning the application for a licence for alcohol and music for an event to be held in Knockholt on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Union Knockholt Ltd

I believe my concerns cover each of the licensing application points but I have indicated where I consider this relevant.

Knockholt is a small village community with about 1500 residents. Thus, on the date in question, the population will double. We have narrow, often single track roads, most without pavements so not completely safe with the normal population and we understand the risks. Traffic management with a proposed one way system will render normal movement in the village impossible, let alone any emergency access to either residents or visitors.  
(Public safety and Prevention of public nuisance)

Knockholt has an hourly bus connection with Orpington. The last bus is about 9pm and is a single decker bus. It is safe to assume, given this situation, that most visitors will arrive and leave by car. We find, living here, that most transport in and out of the village is by car. This will be a nightmare, there only being one safe access into the village via Rushmore Hill and Main Road. We have two popular Coolings garden Centres, one at each end of the village, so traffic is already busy on this route at weekends.

The Management Plan considers 30% of the expected 1500 will arrive by car. What about the rest – how will they get here? Knockholt station is 2.5 miles from Knockholt, an hourly single decker from Orpington and a shuttle bus caught up in the traffic chaos with a spare if this breaks down! I quote from the management plan

“**2.3 Shuttle Bus Breakdown** – Go-Coach Hire Ltd will be providing the shuttle bus service, with a back-up vehicle on standby in case of mechanical problems.

One can only assume that at the end of this planned event, there being no satisfactory public transport, the majority will leave by car. This after a day with alcohol on sale all day, participants getting into cars and driving back through narrow unfamiliar roads with poor lighting in many places. An accident waiting to happen! It is interesting to note the published Management Plan states "Police presence at the event is always welcomed, though we feel that it is not necessarily required considering the private security arrangements we will have in place"

I would disagree, feeling that with the potential for many drivers to be over the limit Police presence is essential since only they have the legal power if drunken driving is noticed . Apart from private cars and a proposed shuttle bus caught up in the same traffic disorder, participants have no little alternative but to drive. (Public safety & prevention of crime and disorder)

There are many footpaths criss-crossing this area so the potential for children to wander off into dark, unlit areas, or be driven home with 'over the limit' drivers noted in previous paragraph is of concern (Harm to children)

We have a perfectly adequate recreational ground in the village used for our local community events. It is properly fenced to the main road and given that it is in our village almost all can walk to the recreational ground so few traffic or drink driving problems. We held a fantastic community event there for the recent Coronation and it is the site of our regular Carnival. We have sufficient events planned by the community and for the community. This planned event does not fall into this category.

Yours faithfully  
Pauline Eldridge  
John Lewis Smith