

From: Pauline Gleason [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2023 11:48
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Licensing Application Reference:- 23/01234/LAPRE

Dear Sirs

Licensing Application Reference:- 23/01234/LAPRE

I have been experiencing technical difficulties submitting my objection to this application on-line and I would be grateful if you would please accept this email.

I am a local resident who has lived in Knockholt next to the village school and opposite the Church for over 40 years and have many years' experience of the dangers and chaos caused by even a small increase in traffic to and through the village.

I would like to share with you my concerns below in relation to the following Licensing Objectives:-

Public Safety

The proposed site for the venue is not a suitable location for such a large gathering of the public due to the remoteness of the area. The roads surrounding the proposed venue are extremely narrow - mostly single track country lanes - entirely unsuitable for event traffic.

The site is not well served by public transport. There is one bus every 90 minutes to Orpington which stops running just after 9pm and the nearest station is over 4 miles away along country lanes with no pavements and in some places little or no street lighting.

The event is expected to attract over a 1000 people. The organisers suggest that the majority of visitors will be walking or taking taxis to and from the event. The cost of a taxi from Sevenoaks or Orpington would be prohibitive for many event goers.

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 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 10pm, posing a clear danger to other road users entering or exiting this narrow site and along Main Road.

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 suggested measures of security staff manning the event (4-8 personnel to cover car parking, perimeter security and ticketing/entry) seems woefully inadequate.

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.

The field is not suitable for the parking of the anticipated 500 cars by members of the public. There is no hard standing and should it rain in the days before or on the day of the event there will be significant damage caused to the land and any vehicles not suitable for off-roading will need to be towed out of the field. The incline/slope that the field is situated on is also a danger in itself.

I have grave concerns over the volume of traffic:

- a) blocking local residents wishing to go about their day to day lives and (more importantly)
- b) blocking access for emergency services should the need arise
- c) endangering horse riders and their horses
- d) cyclists; and
- e) ramblers

In addition, there is potential for damage to wildlife including deer and badgers often seen blindly darting across roads as they move from field to field.

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.

Prevention of public nuisance

The proposed event will have a negative impact on the peaceful enjoyment of the neighbouring properties – eleven hours of music and congested roads.

Protection of children from harm

In addition to the safety concerns with regards to road congestion, I also have concerns 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.
- 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.
- Metal from disused machinery, old barbed wire etc are often found in fields and are not always easily visible. As this is a summer event children will not be wearing appropriate footwear for playing in an agricultural field and could easily become injured.

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 be seen as appropriate and I object to the event being held.

Yours sincerely

Pauline Gleason

