

# Public Document Pack

## NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 2025

### SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Please find attached supplementary papers relating to the above meeting, as follows:

**Agenda No**   **Item**

4.            **REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF BYGRAVE PLANTATION** (Pages 3 - 22)

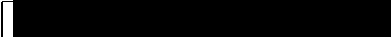
The Sub-Committee to determine the application by Bygrave Parish Council for a review of the existing premises licence for Bygrave Plantation.

Included within this Supplementary Pack is a supplement to Appendix E of the report.

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Land Adjacent to Bygrave Woods – LC/2701 – Review of current licence  
Representations for support of Review

Email address	Address	Text
[REDACTED]	E J Buxton 37a Silver Street, Ashwell. SG7 5QH	<p>Re: Application number 18730, Premises Licence 2701 (Festivals in Bygrave Woods)</p> <p>Sirs,</p> <p>I wish to lodge my grave concerns regarding the above applications, the reasons are listed in no particular order below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too many event days planned for 2025 but absolutely no proper advanced warning</li> <li>• Roads in and around Bygrave woods will be gridlocked - thus everyday traffic will be impeded</li> <li>• No proper facilities off the site e.g. toilets, water stations</li> <li>• Late night pedestrian wanderings</li> <li>• Noise nuisance</li> <li>• Impact on local residents</li> <li>• Far too many events</li> <li>• Possible trespass - people living alone could be especially vulnerable</li> <li>• Litter - of all descriptions</li> <li>• Noise pollution [REDACTED]</li> </ul> <p>There just isn't enough facilities/transport connections. [REDACTED]</p> <p>In all honesty a maximum of 2 x 2 day events would be enough for people to cope with. I hope you err on the sensible approach. There must be a middle ground surely?</p>
[REDACTED]	Nigel Whittle 38 Wedon Way, Lower Bygrave, SG7 5DX	<p>I would like to object to the current event licence which permits unlimited events for up to 7,500 people, plus one event up to 15,000 each year. As a resident of Lower Bygrave I am significantly affected by the level of traffic, which can result in bumper to bumper streams of cars, taxis, vans and coaches, in a manner entirely unsuited to the narrow winding lanes around the festival site. This can make it impossible to go about daily business whilst the events are in progress, in addition to being a major safety hazard. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

	<p>Julie Colegrave 74 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, SG7 5EA</p>	<p>Premises Licence 2701 for Bygrave Plantation</p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>I am writing to support application no. 18730 made by Bygrave Parish Council to review the Premises Licence no. 2701 for Bygrave Plantation.</p> <p><b>Events held under this current licence adversely impact my quality of life and my wellbeing and pose an unacceptable risk to my safety and the safety of others.</b> The current licence is far too wide and is not being fully complied with. I request that changes are made to the licence and that an oversight regime is put in place to ensure that the licence holder complies in full with the terms of their licence and that this is clearly evidenced.</p> <p>I set out below some of the key problems with events held under the current licence.</p> <p><b>Noise nuisance</b></p> <p>My family and I are significantly impacted by noise nuisance. <b>Our home is situated very close to the festival site;</b> with just one field separating us.</p> <p><b>Amplified noise nuisance – daytime (between 9 am and 11 pm)</b></p> <p><b>The amplified noise is so loud during the day that we are unable to use our gardens during music festivals,</b> whether that be to tend to the garden, read a book or enjoy the company of friends. The noise is also clearly audible inside our home which I find intrusive.</p> <p>I have raised this problem directly with the licence holder, the designated premises supervisor and the appointed sound engineer on a number of occasions but to no avail.</p> <p><b>Amplified noise nuisance – nighttime (between 11 pm and 9 am)</b></p> <p>Nighttime noise is a particularly significant issue for us. <b>Noise from the festivals is too loud for us to be able to sleep at night,</b> even with our windows closed and in rooms at the back of the house which face away from the festival site. This is in breach of the licence which requires noise levels to comply with the Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts which states that <b>after 11 pm at night, music noise should not be audible from homes with windows open for ventilation.</b></p>
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I have raised this problem directly with the licence holder, the designated premises supervisor and the appointed sound engineer on a number of occasions. I have also made calls to the festival telephone lines (which we are notified of in advance of the festivals) to complain about the noise but was simply told that the sound engineer was taking readings, as there had been other complaints; and the noise continued. I fail to see why prompt action was not taken. The sound engineer simply needed to stand outside my home in Bygrave village and instruct the music to keep being turned down until it was no longer audible. At this point, the music noise would not be audible inside my home with the windows open for ventilation and the licence condition would have been met.

The licence holder is required, under Environmental Condition 2 (viii) of their licence, to set up a telephone complaints line for each event that they hold at the site and to notify residents of this. They are also required, under Environmental Condition 4 of their licence, to provide to the Licensing Authority and Council Noise Control Officer (within 31 days of each event) details of all noise complaints received and any remedial action taken to minimise noise disturbance off site.

**Music noise typically continues until 4 am** during weekend camping festivals but is, astonishingly, permitted to continue right throughout the night under the current licence. Sleep deprivation can have serious consequences, particularly over a prolonged period. This issue needs to be resolved, so I and my family can enjoy the sleep that we need and are entitled to enjoy. That's a basic human right.

#### **Traffic**

##### *Use of a country lane*

The road between Baldock and Ashwell is used for festival traffic. This is a narrow country lane with a number of blind bends and many stretches of the road only being wide enough for just one vehicle. There is also a weight limit of 7.5T except for loading. **This road is entirely unsuitable for the volume of traffic associated with events at the premises.**

[REDACTED]

The majority of people attending the festivals and events come from outside the locality. With no easy access by public transport, many opt to drive. These are people who are unfamiliar with the local roads and, possibly, inexperienced in driving on country roads in general. This is a safety issue; the vast majority of serious road traffic accidents occur on country roads.

*Use of a public bridleway*

**The public bridleway running alongside Cat Ditch forms part of the traffic route** for festivals and events; traffic which includes SUVs, caravans, coaches and HGVs. This is extremely dangerous and should not be permitted. Furthermore, the junction of Ashwell/Claybush Road and the bridleway is on a blind bend which is extremely dangerous.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Inconsistency with highways conditions imposed for construction traffic*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As part of the work on the application for the solar plant, it was identified that articulated vehicles cannot access Bygrave Road from the A507 without going over the pedestrian refuge at the road junction. Accordingly, temporary changes are to be made to the junction for the period of construction. As it would not be practical to make temporary changes to the junction each time there is a festival, I consider that there should be a ban on large vehicles using this junction for festival purposes.

[REDACTED]

Consideration needs to be given to the interaction of festival traffic with construction traffic for the solar plant, as well as the interaction with other road users.

*Proposed solution*

The above **problems could be easily solved** by routing all festival and other event traffic directly from the A507 and through the licence holder's land in Newnham; using the same route for exiting traffic. For last year's AMA Fest, festival traffic was routed through Newnham and not through Bygrave. This made a significant difference to us in Bygrave. There were a few cars and people walking through the village to the festival (a problem for them as there was no entry

point to the festival site in Bygrave) but this should be easily solved by adequate signage and removing any reference to Bygrave in the festival information.

### **Insufficient notice of events**

**We are not given adequate notice of events;** an issue which I have previously raised with the licence holder.

Last year, we received just one month's notice of two events: [REDACTED] and Brockwood. **For AMA Fest, we received just nine days' notice.** As explained above, we are unable to use our garden during the music festivals, as the music and other amplified noise is simply too loud. In the summer, we enjoy having friends round for lunch and dinner in our garden, which is usually a peaceful haven. We plan these events months in advance and expect the courtesy of being informed by the licence holder of events at their premises in sufficient time for us to factor these into our plans.

### **Too many events and inconsiderate scheduling**

I consider it completely unreasonable to have to endure multiple festivals and events each year. I am aware (from my research) that there are at least **25 days** of festivals at the site already in planning for 2025, including weekend events on **three out of four consecutive weekends** in late summer.

### **Anti-social and criminal behaviour**

We experience anti-social and criminal behaviour in and around our village during the festivals. This includes **drugs (dealing and using), public urination and defecation, fighting, trespassing and littering.**

On this point, I would like to register my concerns over the security arrangements for the festivals which I consider to be wholly inadequate. The safety of the people living in Bygrave village should be considered as well as that of the festival goers. For example, when, after a previous festival, the village was mobbed by thousands of festival goers, urinating in the village and trespassing in gardens, as they walked to Baldock station late at night along an unlit road, there was no security presence in the village, despite being requested by at least one frightened villager.



**Industrial scale solar plant and battery energy storage to be built next to the festival site**

Planning permission has recently been granted for an industrial scale solar plant with between 80,000 and 95,000 PV panels and a generating capacity of 40 MW plus battery energy storage units (with an additional capacity of 8 MW) and other infrastructure to be built on the 147 acre field (owned by the licence holder) immediately next to the festival site. We are concerned that consideration has not been given to the **safety aspects** such as fire risk (noting that there are no fire hydrants at the location and access for emergency vehicles, which is to be along Ashwell Road, could be compromised by festival traffic) of holding festivals for a very large number of people on a site in a rural location next to such a development.

I trust that this significant change of use of the neighbouring field (which was previously used for growing arable crops) will be taken into account when reviewing the licence for the festival site.

**Capacity of events**

Whilst the licence holder has permission to host one event each year for between 7,500 and 14,999 people, I do not believe they have hosted any events which have come close to the maximum permitted capacity. My understanding, from discussions with the licence holder, is that the largest event to date was Electric Woodlands 2021 with around 9,000 attendees. This was an event which caused innumerable issues for Bygrave villagers; issues which have been raised with the licence holder.

**Past events have typically had a capacity of a few thousand.** As these festivals for a few thousand people are causing wholly unacceptable problems for me, my family and other villagers, I am extremely concerned at the thought of the problems we would encounter if the number attending were to be anywhere near the maximum permitted.

**Non-compliance with the licence**

I am aware of a number of instances where the licence holder is not complying with the terms of their licence.

*Nighttime noise*

As stated above, nighttime music noise prevents me and my family from sleeping. This is in breach of the licence which requires that after 11 pm at night, music noise should not be audible from homes with windows open for ventilation.

*Daytime noise*

The noise levels outside my home are significantly higher than those at the test location closest to Bygrave village which is in a dip relative to the festival site and relative to the nearby homes. I made this comment to the Sound Engineer during the Warm-up 2022 Festival and he confirmed that that would be the case, as the noise levels outside (and inside) homes are amplified by the sound waves reflecting off the buildings. There are no buildings at the test location. So even if the sound levels at the test location are within the limits required under the licence, the sound levels at my home are not. So either the test location needs to be changed and/or the noise levels permitted at the test locations need to be reduced to reflect the fact that noise levels will be louder at nearby homes.

*Notice given to North Herts Council*

The licence holder is required to give North Herts Council a minimum of 3 months' notice of events for up to 7,500 people. This is to allow sufficient time for appropriate arrangements are put in place for that specific event covering things such as event traffic management, security and policing and noise management. I believe that it should be a requirement, at the beginning of the calendar year, for the licence holder to notify the Council and residents of proposed events for the year.

Last year, two festivals – Brockwood and AMA Fest – were arranged at less than three months' notice. In fact, for AMA Fest the notice given was just days. The reason for the short notice was that these events were not originally planned for Bygrave but were moved there when – at the eleventh hour - [REDACTED]

I am concerned that what might reasonably be viewed as “problematic events” are being hosted in Bygrave without appropriate security and other measures being put in place. I note that when AMA Fest was going to be held near Hounslow, it had been agreed that the following security arrangements would be put in place outside the event site: around 130 SIA (Security Industry Authority) licensed staff and 20-30 stewards to deal with any anti-social behaviour outside of the event, as well as five dog units and 25 response teams. There would also be SIA staff and

stewards at local railway stations. I would be very interested to know whether similar security arrangements were put in place for the event in Bygrave Woods, noting that I was told that for the 2022 festivals there would be just one vehicle with two SIAs patrolling the local area.

I am concerned that it might become known within the festival world that it is easy to get a festival held in Bygrave Woods which could result in Bygrave Woods becoming a “dumping ground” for festivals which other local authorities have rejected, possibly for good reason.

*Resident liaison*

Operating Schedule Condition 1 (v) requires that the Event Management Plan for an event to include details of resident liaison arrangements.

I have looked at the Event Safety Management Plans produced for the 2022 Warm Up Festival and the 2022 Electric Woodlands Festival (I do not have copies of the Event Management Plans for the 2024 events and there were no events in 2023). Each of these plans includes a section on “Community Relations”. Unfortunately, the copies of the plans I received have truncated the wording at the right hand side of the page, so some of the information is missing. From what I can see, this section of the plan acknowledges the impact that these events can have on the local community and the importance of early engagement between the landowner and the Parish Council regarding proposed events. This year there has been no engagement, early or otherwise, by the landowner with the Parish Council. In fact, it is my understanding that the Parish Council was not even informed of the events when residents were. The first contact with residents was the letter referred to in section 5.1 of the Event Management Plans.

Section 5.1 of the plan sets out the information to be included in the letter to residents. One item is any public Right of Way closures. I am not aware of there being any such closures but this does not stop the security staff trying to prevent people (excluding event traffic) from using the public bridleway which runs alongside Cat Ditch from Ashwell Road to the edge of the festival site. I was walking along this bridleway with my husband on the day of AMA Fest (31 August 2024) when a member of the event security staff (name to be provided on request) jumped out of her vehicle that had been driven at speed towards us and told us that we could not use the route as it had been closed to the public that day. I challenged her on this; I was aware that there had not been time for the organisers to secure agreement for the bridleway to be closed. Eventually, she backed down and agreed that we could continue our walk. Festival security staff trying (and often succeeding) in stopping people using this public bridleway is a regular occurrence.

I do not consider that the provisions of Section 5 of the Event Management Plans could reasonably be viewed as meeting the requirement for resident liaison. The Oxford Dictionary defines liaison as “communication or cooperation which facilitates a close working relationship between people or organisations”. This is not achieved by sending out a letter a matter of days before an event telling residents what is going to happen.

### **Compliance with North Herts Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy**

North Herts Council has produced a Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 (the “Act”). Its purpose is to give guidance to North Herts Council when carrying out its functions and responsibilities acting as the licensing authority for North Hertfordshire under the Act.

Set out below are details of sections of the licensing policy which I consider are being contravened by the operation of the licence.

#### *Section B10*

Bygrave is a tranquil village set in a rural landscape and most people living here have chosen to make it their home as they value the peace and quiet that it usually affords. North Herts Council recognises the need to take this into consideration when determining suitable licensing arrangements for rural areas. Section B10 of their Statement of Licensing Policy states “*The Council is aware that those living in the rural communities of the district often do so to enjoy the quiet of a rural location. In making a balanced decision, the Council accepts that the level of disturbance that is reasonable in a rural location will be less than in a town centre location. This could be addressed by reduced licensable activity timings, particularly in the evenings and early mornings, and the frequency of activities. Whilst a 1-off event may cause some reasonable disturbance, it would be more tolerable than an event lasting multiple days or occurring numerous times throughout the year.*”

I consider that the current wide-ranging licence which provides for unlimited events (often running over several days) and for music noise to continue until very late into the night / the next morning (with live music permitted around the clock at weekends) is at odds with Council policy.

#### *Section G2.3*

Section G2.3 of the Statement of Licensing Policy states *“The Council acknowledges that it is inherent in the Act that responsible authorities and other persons should be given the opportunity to make representations related to the nature of the individual event which is planned. The potential for adverse effects on the promotion of the licensing objectives can vary significantly between events, even when similar events are held on a regular basis. In order to support the promotion of the licensing objectives, the Council believes that responsible authorities have a role in ensuring the safety of every large-scale event, in particular when annual or multiple events are held under a single permanent premises licence.”*

The licence contains conditions (consistent with G2.3) relating to timeframes for activities required in the run up to an event, such as serving notice and a submitting a draft Event Management Plan and a draft Noise Management Plan. However, as explained above, two events were arranged at short notice last year, events which had not previously been held at the site. The licence conditions consistent with G2.3 were not met and, consequently, policy G2.3 was not adhered to.

Furthermore, to enable Bygrave Parish Council and local residents, both of which fall within the definition of “others” in policy G2.3, to make representation with regard to a planned event, they need to be notified of the event far earlier than is currently the case; ideally in line with the notification requirements for the Council.

#### *Section G2.6*

Section G2.6 of the Statement of Licensing Policy states *“Sites for large occasional events are not usually purpose built for the variety of licensable activities that can take place, therefore there is considerable work involved before, during and after such events in planning and organising the event as well as co-ordinating and ensuring the full involvement of all the emergency services to ensure a safe and well managed event. The Council believes that this can only be adequately achieved by the full and ongoing involvement of the licensing authority and responsible authorities in liaising with the applicant, whilst they are compiling the operating schedule for each individual event.”* The licence contains conditions relating to timeframes for activities required in the run up to an event, such as serving notice and submitting a draft Event Management Plan and a draft Noise Management Plan which are consistent with Section G2.6. However, as explained above, two events were arranged at short notice last year, events which had not previously been held at the site. The licence conditions consistent with G2.6 were not met for these two events and, consequently, policy G2.6 was not adhered to.

*Section G10*

Section G10 of the Statement of Licensing Policy addresses Environmental Considerations. I would like to draw attention to two sections of G10: G10.1 and G10.4.

*G10.1 states "Having declared a climate emergency the Council is acutely aware of the need to ensure the impact on the environment of outdoor events is minimised. The Council will expect an applicant to address the measures they are taking to protect the environment in their application and operating schedule. This applies equally to licence holders that produce an event-specific Event Management Plan who should ensure that the EMP addresses these concerns."*

I have not had sight of Event Management Plans for 2024 but the previous plans (for 2022 events) did not address protection of the environment.

*G10.4 states "With many large-scale events taking place in remote locations, transport to and from the site by car can produce significant carbon emissions from exhaust fumes. The Council will expect an applicant/licence holder to encourage environmentally friendly transport for example, discounted parking for ultra-low emission vehicles, and/or reduce vehicle numbers by encouraging car sharing or use of the railway network with shuttle buses."*

Each of three large scale events held at the festival site last year would have attracted people largely from outside the locality: [REDACTED] Brockwood was going to be held near Windsor until just a few weeks before the event; and, AMA Fest was going to be held near Hounslow until just a few days before the event. The promoters of AMA Fest informed the London Borough of Hounslow that most of the people attending would be coming from London which is consistent with there being an official ticketed after party in London.

There have sometimes been shuttle buses laid on from one of the local railway stations to the festival site but there were no such arrangements for any of the events held last year. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] For Brockwood and AMA Fest, it was in all probability too late when the festivals were arranged to sort out a shuttle bus service, as National Rail require notice of the events and will then determine which local station is to be used for these purposes.

The licence holder offers free car parking for all events.

I do not believe that the licence holder is complying with G10.4.

**Support for Bygrave Parish Council's application for the licence to be reviewed**

**I wholeheartedly support the application recently made by Bygrave Parish Council for the licence to be reviewed.**

I have provided details above of some of the ways in which my and my family's lives are impacted by the festivals and events held at the premises. I believe that these issues constitute breaches of the Licensing Objectives.

In short: the events are too loud, go on until far too late into the night/early morning and are too long (often being multiple days); there are far too many events; too little notice is given of events; security is poor; traffic management is inadequate; resident liaison is virtually non-existent; and the licence is not being fully complied with. Changes need to be made to the licence to address these problems. An oversight regime needs to be put in place to ensure that the licence holder complies in full with the terms of their licence and that this is clearly evidenced.

**I would also like to see a resident liaison group established** which would have a formal role in working with the licence holder and North Herts Council before, during and after each festival to ensure that any issues for the community are identified and quickly and fully addressed.

**We chose to make Bygrave our home as it is, festivals aside, a quiet and tranquil, rural location and we value that highly. I urge the Council to take this into account in determining the appropriate action.**

**Next steps**

I would be happy to provide further information or clarification, as required.

I would like to attend and speak at the public hearing which will be held to consider these matters.

**Julie Colegrave  
74 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, Hertfordshire, SG7 5EA  
18 January 2025**

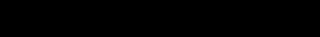






	<p>Hannah Young 43 Ashwell Road Bygrave SG7 5DT</p>	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I object to the licence renewal for the festival site in Bygrave, due to its ongoing negative impact in Bygrave.</p> <p>The site causes excessive noise, frequent and late-night and early morning disruptions, traffic congestion, antisocial behaviour, including open usage and sale of drugs, and lack of response to complaints</p> <p>To allow any festival site so close to a village to hold a 365 days a year licence seems unbelievable. Even sites away from any residents are not granted such an open licence.</p> <p>I heartily object, Should renewal be considered, I urge stricter conditions, including noise monitoring, reduced event hours, better traffic management, a limited number of events a year (maybe up to 4) and measures to prevent antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>While cultural events have some value, they must not compromise residents' well-being, mainly from visitors from outside the locality. Coaches and buses bring people in from London, and then back again so there is no gain for local businesses, just nuisance. I request that the licence renewal be refused or revised with significant changes.</p> <p>Yours faithfully, Hannah Young</p>
	<p>Emma Clarke 43 Ashwell Road Bygrave SG7 5DT</p>	<p>Objection to Licence Renewal</p> <p>I object to the licence renewal for the festival site due to its ongoing negative impact on Bygrave and the surrounding villages including Baldock</p> <p>Key Issues</p>

		<p>1. Excessive Noise: The site causes severe noise disturbances, often late into the night, disrupting residents' peace and rest and making life impossible for parents with young children. Indeed the bass makes all the houses shake</p> <p>2. Event Timings and Frequency: Events are frequent, lengthy, and extend late into the night, causing continuous disruptions. If they were limited to a couple, not after 12.00 it would be fine</p> <p>3. Traffic Congestion: The influx of vehicles creates unsafe and congested conditions on narrow roads, affecting residents and emergency access. Parking over driveways and blocking exits happens frequently</p> <p>4. Antisocial Behaviour: Festival attendees frequently engage in public drunkenness, vandalism, trespassing, and other disruptive behaviour. There are also drug pushers and numerous discarded needles around the village</p> <p>5. Lack of Communication: The site fails to provide a resident liaison process that works, leaving concerns ignored and unresolved.</p> <p>Proposed Conditions for Renewal</p> <p>If the renewal is considered, I urge the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise Control: Stricter limits with regular monitoring and penalties for breaches.</li> <li>• Reduced Hours: Events should end no later than 12.30PM, with fewer events annually.</li> <li>• Traffic Management: A plan to use access and exit through the applicants own farm tracks, to prevent congestion and ensure safety.</li> <li>• Resident Liaison: A dedicated officer and formal complaints process</li> <li>• Behaviour Management: Enforce measures to curb antisocial behaviour with clear penalties.</li> </ul> <p>Nothing is done to control vandalism outside the site</p>
<div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div>	<p>Richard Young Manor Farm Church Lane Bygrave SG7 5EE</p>	<p>Objection from a Local Business</p> <p>We, as a local business, formally object to the licence renewal for the festival site, citing the following concerns:</p> <p>1. Noise Disruption:</p>

		<p>Excessive noise from events, especially late at night and early morning, disrupts both residents and local businesses, exceeding acceptable limits without effective enforcement.</p> <p>2. Event Timings and Frequency:</p> <p>Prolonged and frequent events strain the local environment and community, with late-night activities proving particularly disruptive and daytime blocking of roads causing major difficulty to my staff and customers</p> <p>3. Antisocial Behaviour:</p> <p>Public drunkenness, littering, vandalism, and trespassing by festival attendees create safety concerns and degrade the local environment. My business houses expensive equipment and the drug taking and alcoholism leads to threats to the equipment and many expensive vehicles on my site</p> <p>4. Traffic Issues:</p> <p>Increased traffic overwhelms local roads, causing hazards and restricting emergency access, without proper management solutions.</p> <p>5. Lack of Communication:</p> <p>Insufficient consultation with residents and businesses has left legitimate concerns unaddressed, fostering frustration.</p> <p>We urge the licensing authority to either refuse the licence renewal or impose stricter conditions, including noise limits, reduced event hours, robust traffic management, improved security measures, and a formal resident liaison system, recognising that as an employer of village residents and a supplier of services to ours and surrounding villages, we should be properly consulted Cultural events are valuable, but their operation must respect the well-being of the local community and businesses.</p>
	<p>Andrew Young</p>	<p>I am writing to formally object to the licence renewal due to the significant and ongoing negative impact it has on local residents . The issues outlined below highlight why this application should not be granted without substantial changes to the conditions under which the site operates.</p>

	<p>43 Ashwell Road Bygrave SG7 5DT</p>	<p>1. Noise Nuisance The events held at this site generate excessive noise levels that cause severe disruption to residents. Amplified music, often played late into the night, prevents villagers from enjoying peaceful evenings and obtaining adequate rest. The noise frequently exceeds acceptable decibel limits, and the lack of effective monitoring or enforcement exacerbates the problem.</p> <p>2. Timings and Frequency of Events The frequency and duration of events are disproportionately high for a site so close to a small village. Residents are subjected to continuous disturbances throughout the festival season, with events often lasting several days. The late-night operating hours—frequently extending past 04.00 am are unacceptable in a rural, residential setting and fail to consider the well-being of nearby communities.</p> <p>3. Antisocial Behaviour Festival attendees often engage in antisocial behaviour, including public drunkenness, littering, and vandalism, which adversely impacts residents' quality of life. Instances of trespassing onto private property have also been reported, creating safety concerns for families in the village. Despite previous complaints, there seems to be little effort to mitigate or address this issue effectively. In particular evidence of drug consumption and drug dealing</p> <p>4. Traffic Impact The influx of vehicles during events overwhelms the narrow country roads leading to and from the site. This creates hazardous conditions for both local residents and festival attendees. Traffic congestion often blocks access for emergency vehicles and disrupts the daily lives of residents, particularly during peak event times. The lack of adequate traffic management plans or road infrastructure to accommodate the increased volume is unacceptable.</p> <p>5. Lack of Resident Liaison There has been insufficient communication or consultation with residents regarding the site's operations. The lack of a clear and responsive liaison process has left the community feeling ignored and unsupported. Concerns raised in the past have not been adequately addressed, and there is no effective framework for managing complaints during events.</p> <p>Proposed Conditions</p> <p>Should the licence renewal be considered for approval, I urge the licensing authority to impose the following conditions:</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Noise Control: Enforce stricter noise limits and ensure regular monitoring during events, with penalties for breaches.</li><li>• Reduced Hours: Limit event hours to no later than 12 PM and reduce the number of events permitted annually to 4</li><li>• Resident Liaison: Appoint a dedicated liaison officer and implement a formal complaint system to address residents' concerns promptly.</li><li>•Traffic Management: Require a comprehensive traffic management plan to prevent congestion and ensure safe access for residents.</li><li>• Code of Conduct: Mandate clear measures to prevent antisocial behaviour, including on-site security and penalties for misconduct.</li></ul> <p>In conclusion, while i acknowledge the importance of supporting cultural events, this must be balanced against the rights and well-being of local residents. The ongoing issues caused by this site demonstrate that its operations, in their current form, are incompatible with the local area. We respectfully request that the licensing authority either refuse the renewal or impose the stricter conditions outlined above.</p>
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