

APPENDIX

H

Hannah Sweetman

From: sam carlton [redacted]
Sent: 09 January 2018 22:33
To: Licensing
Cc: Hannah Sweetman; [redacted]
Subject: Premises License Poplars farm, Roe Green, Sandon, SG9 0QG
Attachments: Poplars Farm.pdf; P1060413.JPG

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached my objections to the proposed Premises License application for Poplars farm, Roe Green, Sandon, SG9 0QG

As a resident of the village who is very close to the proposed event and who has already endured the pilot event last year I am very upset that an application for an annual bigger event may be considered and I am strongly against this licence request.

I might also point out that we took a photo of the notice for our records and I have just noticed it states we have 28 days to respond from the date of this notice... and at the bottom they dated it they wrong year: 12th day of December 2018 (I have attached a copy of this also).

Kind Regards,

Sam Carlton
1 Roe Green Cottages, Roe Green, Sandon SG9 0QE

Hannah Sweetman

From: Alexandra Carlton [redacted]
Sent: 10 January 2018 09:59
To: Licensing; Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Poplars Farm Objection
Attachments: Poplars Farm.pdf

To all concerned with the Poplars Farm application,
My husband has compiled a detailed objection and I would like you to note that I share and support the same opinions and objections in regards to this case.

The pilot festival was extremely noisy and disturbed our family routine. I am horrified at the thought of a longer, and far larger festival this summer.

NOT RELEVANT
It seems wrong that Mr Alderman can put on an event that disturbs his neighbours to such a degree whilst he gains financially from his previously residential property. I've decided not to sign up for a trade fair the weekend of the festival as I'd rather not have face to face contact with clients after a potentially sleepless night. I'd also like to keep the weekend free so that my family can vacate our property at our expense to keep away from the disturbance. It's extremely annoying that a neighbours actions have affected my own business decisions and could potentially cost my family money in lost income and or the expense of staying away.

NOT RELEVANT

~~I believe that there are other options Mr Alderman could consider and other more suitable locations could be found for a music festival, if it is indeed for the love of music. If Mr Alderman is just looking for ways to make money out of his property there are plenty of other things he could do that would be more acceptable to the community. Church Farm in Arderly is a good example of a thriving rural business that supports the surrounding area and provides for the community in many different yet peaceful ways.~~

If the festival goes ahead, I would expect that public rights of way should be restored to their previous state straight away as we use them to walk to school. It's much safer than walking on the roads. The roads would also need extra maintenance as the drainage is really bad and pot holes form rapidly after resurfacing. I'm not sure the extra traffic would leave them in a very good state and assume the council would pay for any damage? I also think there should be better signs warning of the wildlife, cyclists and *NOT RELEVANT* horse riders on the roads to avoid accidents.

It would be great if you could consider all the information my husband has spent hours compiling on our behalf. There are many facts he has included that I'm sure count for way more than my personal opinion and notes!

Kind Regards,

Alex Carlton.
1 Roe Green Cottage, Sandon, SG90QE.

Objection to the proposed licence application.

In regard to the proposed annual licence request to put on a 2 day festival including music and alcohol (and until 2.30 am on the Saturday) I am formally stating my objection. There are many factors that I will bring up but in summary it is far too close to our home and a large number of other residents. We have had the misfortune to endure one "pilot" festival that was apparently "well received" (on what basis was this derived from?) from Poplars farm and based on this experience alone we are horrified that another festival is being planned at our and our neighbours expenses once again. We can only assume that the applicant intends to put this on with little regard for those it affects as sadly no attempt was made for the last festival to speak with the residents/local community and alleviate any concerns or hear our point of view before during or after the event and up to this point no attempt has been made with the current proposal (apart from the request being submitted). I am afraid I share a very different opinion to that laid out by the Event Management Plan (which for the sake of brevity I will refer to as the EMP from hereon in) submitted by the event organisers in regard to potential noise and "successful staging" of the pilot.

Noise concerns:

Stages, and arenas: It should be noted that during the last festival, (and also the wedding that was held at the farm approx a year earlier) we were disturbed significantly by noise throughout the event. During the festival while the music did stop precisely on time at 23.00 it dominated us within our home for the duration of the event no matter where in our home we were and with the windows closed. In fact it should be noted that the proposed siting for the arenas and stages for this event according to the plans submitted fall within 500 metres of a large number of residential properties including our own home, my count from aerial maps is approx. 75 properties, if we extended this to within 700 metres would include the entire village of Sandon which by my estimate is approx 150 homes in total. Of this each home is occupied by on average 2.3 people (as taken from the last census in 2011) which by my estimate would put approx. 172 people within 350 Metres of the stages and approx. 345 within 700 metres which in my opinion and experience of the Pilot event will cause distress to us and all of other residents within this range.

The positioning of the campsite is considerably closer to my property than the stages, while the festival music will end at 2.30am I am also extremely concerned that we will be disturbed by the ongoing festival campsite noise all night. I have been to many festivals myself and the party will continue once the official music has ceased, and there will be nothing that can be done to stop this in the campsite (in fact this is part of the point of a festival with a campsite), the cumulative sound of a few thousand festival goers enjoying the atmosphere will easily travel the 275 metres it is to my home, there will be many other residents affected including several residential properties within 150 metres of the campsite. Moreover there was no statement or reference to policies related to festival goers bringing their own sound systems to the event or what measures would be in place to control the noise generated by 4999 festival goers through the night (if any).

It should be noted that there are other successfully organised festivals referenced by the EMP; Balstock and Street fest in Letchworth (which take place at various locations in the town of Baldock and Letchworth and does not include camping or a single site and therefore are not a similar event and should not be compared) and the Farr and Wilkestock festivals which can draw comparison. Looking at the locations of these 2 festivals there are massive differences in the vicinities of residential properties to the festival sites.

- The Farr festival has no properties until roughly 750 metres where there are approx 20 homes in Bygrave and then over 1 km where the village of Newnam is and approx another 20 homes, in fact you need to go over 2km before there are any residential properties to the quantities within 500 metres of the proposed event in Sandon.
- Moreover at Wilkestock, apart from literally a couple of farms the nearest houses are approx 2 km away!

To my eyes the difference in planning, location selection and effect on neighbours between these events and the planned event in Sandon is staggeringly different. If the applicant feels the event should be held in North Herts surely they could locate a more suitable location as the Wilkestock or Farr Festivals have managed to do? It further raises the following questions:

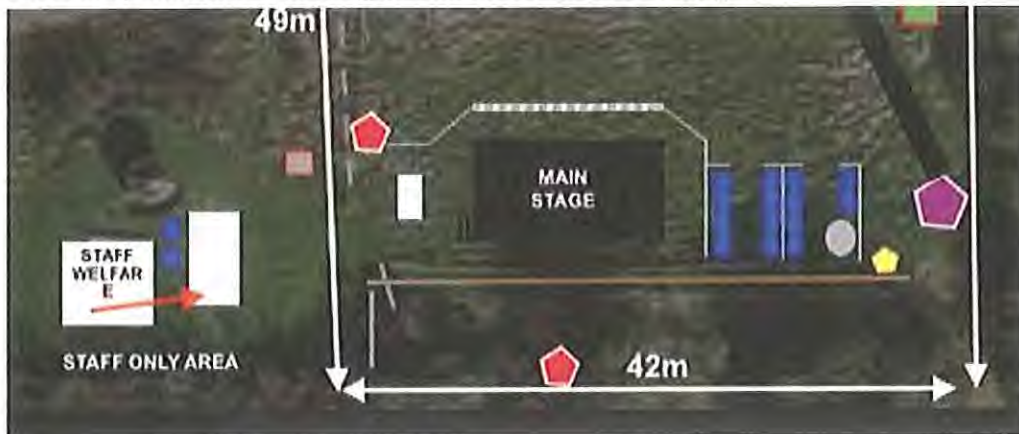
1. Does North Herts need another festival? NOT RELEVANT
2. Was the location selected because it is suited for an event and what other options were looked at if any?
3. Was the location chosen because the person who owns the land specifically wants a festival on their own land and is trying to make a case regardless of who it affects effectively trying put a square peg in a round hole?

~~I am afraid that to me and I am sure many residents affected by this proposal would answer that another festival in North Herts is not essential (especially seeing as the audience it will cater for has not been disclosed), I do not believe any other sites were looked at as it seems it is the owner of the land who would like the festival to be held there rather than the festival organisers wishing to put on an event and seeking an adequate location.~~

NOT RELEVANT

The distances to the closest properties are very inaccurate on the EMP, claiming one is 300 metres and the next 2 are 335 Metres from the main stage, followed by Rushden Road at 400 Metres, I have also measured these distances using Google Maps and the closest neighbour to the main stage is 260 Metres, the next 2 are 276 and 279 metres, 3 more 280-90 metres approx. one at 309 metres, and another at 348 metres (my own home being 407 metres and many others will be within similar and comparable range to the event in the same row of building as us) please see below measurements.

The location of the stage has been matched to the drawings submitted, please see the below map submitted showing the location of the main stage:



I have marked this point on the map and drawn a straight line to all the closest properties and stated the distance, you will see the facts are very different from that submitted.

Distance to the closest home from the main stage (260.66m):



2nd closest (276.28m):



3rd (279.45m):



4th (285.10m):



5th (296.20m): and 6th (309.89m):



7th(348.93m):



The distance to my property (407m):



Below is a map showing 500 metres (0.31 miles) from the main stage and I have marked all the properties as best I can, this is the illustrate and please note the markings are not exact as the the locations of the houses as it is not so easy to do this with the technology I have

available. But you will see my estimation of the amount of homes within 500 metres is accurate, furthermore you will see the close proximity of the rest of Sandon in the North East corner:



While I appreciate that a plan of action to tackle noise would be in place as stated in the EMP, this is by no means a guarantee of successful implementation when the event is on. While it appears calculations have been made and statements regarding the permitted decibels is only in theory and in practise there are many factors to take into consideration that will affect if we are disturbed as we were during the "pilot" festival. Weather and wind for example can have large impact. It is noted that the main stage faces away from Roe Green and there is a natural dip/bowl where the stages and arenas will be however the main stage is at the top end of this dip/bowl and most of the properties to be affected lie along what could be described as ridge of this dip/bowl and it is not as likely to be the natural barrier that is claimed in the EMP. The height of this can be shown and measured, please see the below measurements showing the height above sea level and that the effects of the natural bowl will not prove to be relevant and have been exaggerated:

Location of the main stage: 142.26 metres above sea level.



Last point clicked : 142.26 m / 466.74 feet

My home: 146.98 metres above sea level (4.72 metres difference)



Last point clicked : 146.98 m / 482.23 feet

Here it is plotted to Sandon from the main stage, Sandon being 146.43 metres above sea level (4.17 metres different) and every point plotted between Sandon creates a gentle change in height and no barrier:



Last point clicked : 146.34 m / 480.11 feet

(from left to right - height above sea level in metres):

Stage: 142.17

139.27

137.68

137.92

139.38

141.82

144.72

Dark Lane (Sandon): 146.34

While the EMP states a survey will take place before the event given the close proximity of so many properties and the fact that a pilot event has already taken place I would have hoped they would have thought to take samples and manage the sound at this event and would therefore have evidence to back up their plan. Judging by the lack of evidence collected from the "pilot" relating to noise samples taken during the event at any of the approx. 75 properties within 500 metres one would have to assume no surveying was done or if they did take samples they would not support their case, whether the pilot could be deemed a "success" or "well received" in relation to noise disturbance at residential properties can be only opinion whereas I can say for certain it dominated our home and my first hand experience was that it was a terrible incursion on our private space by noise disturbance and was not a success nor was it well received and I am extremely concerned for the new proposal of a bigger, longer and later event.

Furthermore I would reference a review in the independent related to the Farr festival 2017, please note as mentioned, there are considerably less properties in the vicinity and those that are are much further away, clearly sound is an issue and it not only affected those who reside there but also the festival goers experience - it states:

"Local noise restrictions have been an issue at previous editions of Farr and this year was no exception, despite deals apparently having been struck with the police and local residents (or relatively local – not a single house is actually visible from Farr's main site). The problem reared its head periodically over the weekend, though it was constant on the Adventures In Success stage, rendering sets from a frustratingly excellent list of names including Helena Hauff, Ivan Smagghe, Young Marco and Suzanne Kraft virtual write-offs. The most jarring and disappointing example of all came during Floating Points' DJ set early on Sunday morning at The Shack, and resulted in one of the world's great soul and disco collections being reduced to a pointless, tinny whisper. "There's nothing more depressing as a DJ than looking out and seeing nobody dancing," a friend who had played earlier said to me as Floating Points, through no fault of his own, looked out on precisely that. Bygrave Wood has been Farr's home since the beginning and is clearly special to its organisers, but a move elsewhere may eventually be necessary if its sound offering can't be significantly improved."

-
<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/reviews/farr-festival-review-baldock-helena-hauff-floating-points-mr-g-sad-city-a7848621.html>

NOT
RELEVANT

The EMP also mentions discounted entry was offered to residents for the last event however we were never made aware of such offer and can only assume as we live opposite the event it was only offered to those who knew and therefore I have no belief any such official offers would surface this time around either and should not be taken as a successful inclusion of the local community as it was not the case and either false information or very poorly promoted. The EMP referenced that many locals attended the event but there are no actual statistics in the EMP to back this up, just vague statement that they did. I do know of some residents attending the event during the "pilot" and none have reported positively of the event, "disappointing" and "overpriced" would be the term I would use to summarise all the feedback we have encountered, however I am sure you will receive many objections backing this up.

I would be very interested to know on what basis any residential concerns, customer satisfaction or noise levels were gauged before, during or after the "pilot", the EMP only makes reference to the opinions of the applicants and again is not backed up with any factual evidence (or if there is any evidence it is omitted and therefore conspicuous by its absence). Any pilot event would surely be to find out the impact the event will have positively and negatively by engaging with locals and attendees however it seems "success" was being gauged simply on whether or not it was held! A simple non-biased, optional/available to all affected survey of attendees and residents after the event would have seemed a prudent and important step when measuring the success of an event? I would further point out we emailed Mr Alderman (who owns the property) directly after the event to express our unhappiness and no reference to any complaints or how the concerns would be addressed was made in the EMP.

I am also concerned about the potential for additional antisocial behaviour during the event; for example what would happen to those who leave by foot (possibly intoxicated), who are evicted or just simply came to cause trouble and/or attempt to gain free entry and never managed to get admitted? While I appreciate in the application it notes any "patrons who cause a nuisance" will be taken care of by security and/or the Police; in what way will they be "taken care of"? Simply evicted into the street or barred from entering? What measures are there to ensure there will not be festival goers walking on the roads at night with no street light in safety? I would again believe no such guarantee could be made.

While security will patrol inside and out the event and drinks will not be allowed to be taken out of the event this does nothing to stop those who are already outside the event with drinks purchased elsewhere, security outside of the event will have no authority to do anything in respect of antisocial behaviour apart from bar entry to the event which in essence would leave them outside the event. It will also further encourage those who brought alcohol to the event to drink as much of it as they can before entering so as not to hand it over on entering.

Litter: our experience of the "pilot" event was rubbish and broken bottles left in the playground opposite the event on Roe Green. This were there for a couple of days after the event (in fact we are not even sure it was tidied up by the event organisers and not done by a resident). It was clear evidence of people drinking in the vicinity of the playground outside the festival and clearly it was not dealt with or if it was then nothing was done about the rubbish they left. This raises in my opinion questions over the applicant's ability to deal with such issues when the event is scaled up as is being proposed if they could not cope with the smaller event as evidenced.

I am therefore extremely concerned there will be an increase in antisocial behaviour outside of the event and no matter how much it is stated that it will be addressed it does not change the fact that it will be expected.

Given the nearest train station is 4.5 miles away (by road) and there are no buses to the village the only way to access the site is by road and there is pretty much one road to the site. I would therefore assume that there would need to be some kind of ferrying bus to

bring people from either Baldock or Ashwell and Morden station to the event as well as people driving or getting taxis, this in itself bring a new set of issues. The EMP states that they expect it to be only local people who go to the event and 80% by car. This is of course based on no statistics again and the musicians booked will likely draw the crowd and this is not likely to all be local. Also by having a campsite this further encourages people to travel in from further afield.

I suspect one station would be designated for taxis and ferrying. This would require additional ticket inspectors to deal with the influx of travellers and potential fair dodgers, and also additional police stationed to deal with any trouble. This is not only an assumption but also what I have seen first hand at baldock station the weekend of the farr festival so I can only presume there will be an additional burden on the police and Rail staff which has not been addressed in the EMP.

There are very few street lamps or pavement on the only road to the festival (in fact none for several miles from the A505), the roads are also narrow country lanes often with agricultural vehicles on them. The increased traffic would very likely all go through the village (regardless of what signs are up - people use sat nav) which will cause problems and congestion for local residents.

~~There are a large number of Deer that live on and around Roe Green, I have seen them in groups exceeding 10 on separate occasions many times it is a weekly occurrence at this current time, often they are on the green opposite where the festival is taking place. I have not seen a single sign warning of the hazards of deer for miles around. There were 2 dead deer by the side of the road at the top of the hill by Roe green that look like they were hit by a car in the summer (which is the route being suggested) . It may be a separate issue that the council should look at however there are additional hazards on the road in this area.~~

NOT RELEVANT

Essentially transport to and from the event is not ideal and public transport is wholly inadequate. The event organisers have made an assumption based on no facts or evidence of research on how people will come to the event, the chances of people being stranded in the village after the event must be higher than they have anticipated (they do not have appeared to have taken this into account at all) in the EMP. Referencing the same review as before for the Farr festival, this statement should further be applied to the proposed event as the taxi's serving this Festival are in the same region:

"though in both of the years I've attended its relative remoteness has become a source of slight concern when attempting to leave, due to the unwillingness of many local taxi drivers to venture there in the middle of the night."

There is also a public right of way through the land the event is held on, we use it to walk the children to school and many people walk across this daily as there are no pavements and a couple of blind corners to walk round if travelling on the road. I am also concerned if this will become blocked, when it will be, for how long and if proper permission to block to the right of way will be sought (if appropriate), the proposed entrance to cars for the public for festival is also a public right of way. It is noted fences will go up before the event but nowhere in the

event management plan does it reference how it will tackle public rights of way through the land it is proposed to be held on.

~~There appears to be no benefit to the local community at all. There are no businesses in the village that will benefit apart from the land owner and the event organiser, it should also be noted that the bars will be run by Mr Alderman who also owns the land and therefore will not benefit a 3rd party.~~ The local residents will be forced to endure loud music for two days including one very late night as well as additional traffic in the village, litter and antisocial behaviour that may or may not surface however the increased numbers of people, combined with day and late night drinking will in turn increase the probability of antisocial issues dramatically and would definitely not be an issue if it were not taking place. No efforts were made at the last event or up to this point for this event to engage the local community to discuss their concerns. ~~It appears the organiser and owners of the land would like to unfairly take and impose on the community for their own benefit and give absolutely nothing back.~~

NOT RELEVANT

Summary

NOT RELEVANT

For all of these reasons, however especially the noise disturbance and antisocial behaviour / mentioned above I am extremely concerned and unhappy that this may go ahead and I would strongly urge you to take my concerns and those you will likely get from other residents and neighbours seriously and to not let this event take place.

Attached to objections from :

Alex Carlton and Sam Carlton.

1 Roe Green Cottages,

Roe Green,

Sandton,

SG9 0QE.

Hannah Sweetman

From: Elizabeth Latta [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 January 2018 17:34
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields Licence Application.pdf(291KB)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Ms Sweetman,

I am writing to object to the granting of an alcohol licence to the above applicant for the following reasons.

Last September when a Music Festival was held at Poplars Farm, Row Green, Sandon the noise levels were so lowed that I was unable to converse with my neighbour whom I met at the top of Beckfield Lane, Green End, Sandon, which is approximately one mile away from the Music Festival venue, the noise level was so lowed that I thought somebody had left a radio on at full volume by the hedge that I was standing near, we had to stop our conversation. When I arrived home (at Green End, Sandon) my husband said that he could hear lowed music inside our home when all doors and triple glazed windows were closed.

I note that Mr. Alderman of Poplars Farm, Row Green, Sandon has already been granted a Licence to serve alcohol.

NOT RELEVANT

Because of the closeness of residential property to Poplars Farm Music Festival Venue I feel strongly that to grant another licence would be extremely detrimental to the local residence because it would be almost impossible not to cause a puplic nuisance due to the noise levels and a huge increase of traffic and people at unsociable hours.

I do hope you will consider my objections.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Latta (Mrs)

Willowdene,
Green End,
Sandon,
Buntingford,
Herts. SG9 0RQ

Wed 10/01/2018 09:52

Dear Ms Sweetman,

Thank you so much for the above information and please accept my apologies for any mistakes in my e-mail to you, it was sent before I was ready.

Mistakes are – I have double glazed windows not triple glazed and I believe that Mr. Alderman does not already have an alcohol licence, any spelling and punctuation mistakes many apologies.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Latta.

N.H.D.C.
10 JAN 2018

The Chapel
Sandon
Buntingford
Herts SG9 0Q J

5th January 2018

NHDC Licencing and Enforcement
P.O. Box 10613
Nottingham NG6 6DW

Dear Sir,

Ref. Poplars Farm, Sandon Fields, Premises Licence Application
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10 June 2018-01-05

I am writing with regard to the above application. We have experience of how this will be. When a similar one day event of this nature on a much smaller scale of 500 people was staged at Poplars Farm last summer, but noise was fantastically intrusive and we were forced to stay indoors with the doors and windows closed for the whole day and evening; even so we could not blank it out.

Sandon is a small rural village with no amenities, no public transport and many of the residents keep horses. Roe Green is a conservation area which abounds with a variety of wild flowers including Oxlips, cowslips and orchids. There are bats and Great Crested Newts in many locations, therefore it is a protected area.

NOT
RELEVANT

There is one road only through the village and across Roe Green which runs between the A505 and the A10, residents can only use this road to access their homes and with the possibility of traffic queing in both directions this will seriously affect their lives for two days and make it almost impossible for emergency vehicles to get through should they be needed.

Roe Green itself, as mentioned, is a conservation area having restricted use for access only over residents driveways except for the public sports area on the southwest side. The water table is very high and in wet weather can bare closer resemblance to a series of ponds. This is particulary so for the area on the north side between the properties of the Cuckoo, Poplars farm and Southcot, sometimes the whole place is awash (Ducks swim in it.) The area earmarked for the event in wet weather can easily become waterlogged as happened last year.

NOT
RELEVANT

The entrance to the site for the event goes is directly off Roe Green via a 5 Bar Gate close to a bend in the road. Traffic approaching from the East will have to cross traffic coming from the West. The 5 Bar Gate is only wide enough for one vehicle at a time so could end up causing a mega traffic jam gridlocking the whole village. The 5 Bar Gate and adjoining kissing gate are shared with a public footpath which is

frequently used.
to examine it?

This seems fraught with potential danger, have highways been asked

NOT
RELEVANT

At the event last year some people's gardens were used as lavatories and there was litter everywhere. Event goers were found in stable buildings and still wandering around at 1-30 am, 3 hours after the event had finished. They had no idea where they were in the dark. Last years event ended at 11-30. The application for this year is for 2-30 am with music going on in tents from 11 to 2-30. Tents are not soundproof!

I would stress that Sandon is unsuitable for an event of this nature seeing as the site is bordered by houses on the green and Payne End and Dark Lane in the village a couple of fields away all of which will be severely affected by noise and traffic.

Yours faithfully



Penelope Wallbridge

Hannah Sweetman

From: George Wallbridge [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2018 19:25
To: Hannah Sweetman
Cc: Cllr Steve Jarvis
Subject: Reference Application No. 6494. Poplars Farm Sandon Fields Festival Sat 9th & Sun 10th June 2018
Attachments: image1.jpeg; ATT00001.txt; image2.jpeg; ATT00002.txt; image3.jpeg; ATT00003.txt
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms Sweetman,

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Sandon is a small rural village with no amenities, no public transport and many of the residents keep horses. Roe Green is a conservation area which abounds with a variety of wild flowers including Oxlips, Cowslips and Orchids. There are Bats and Great Crested Newts in many locations, therefore it is a protected area. **NOT RELEVANT.**

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Roe Green itself, as mentioned, is a conservation area having restricted use for access only over residents driveways except for the public sports area on the southwest side. The water table is very high and in wet weather can bare closer resemblance to a series of ponds. This is particularly so for the area on the north side between the properties of Cuckoo, Poplars Farm and Southcot, sometimes the whole place is awash (Ducks swim in it) The area earmarked for the event in wet weather can easily become waterlogged as happened last year. **NOT RELEVANT.**

The entrance to the site for the event goes directly off Roe Green via a 5 bar gate close to a sharp bend in the road. Traffic approaching from the East will have to cross that approaching from the West. The 5 bar gate is only wide enough for one vehicle at a time so could end up causing a mega traffic jam gridlocking the whole village. The 5 bar gate and adjoining kissing gate are shared with a public footpath which is frequently used. This seems fraught with danger, have highways been asked to examine it? **NOT RELEVANT.**

At the event last year some peoples gardens were used as lavatories and there was litter everywhere. Event goers were found in Stable buildings and still wandering around at 1-30am, 3 hours after the event finished. They had no idea where they were in the dark. Last years event ended at 11-30. The application for this year is for 2-30am with music going on in tents from 11pm to 2-30am, tents are not soundproof!

I would stress that Sandon is unsuitable for an event of this nature seeing as the site is bordered by houses on the green and Payne End and Dark Lane in the village a couple of fields away all of which will be severely affected by noise and traffic.

Yours sincerely

George Wallbridge

The Chapel
Roe Green
Sandon
SG9 0QJ



Hannah Sweetman

From: Mary McElroy [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2018 18:43
To: Hannah Sweetman
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Premises Licence Application, Poplars Farm ,Roe Green, Sandon

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Dear Hannah Sweetman,

I live one house away from Poplars Farm and I write to oppose the granting of a two day premises licence there, currently being applied for for dates in June 2018 and yearly thereafter.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The management document which forms part of the licence application describes the location of Poplars Farm as '.....surrounded by hectares of farmland and woodland'. Roe Green is certainly a very quiet rural spot, but the house and the two barns lie cheek by jowl with the other houses which surround Roe Green, a specially protected conservation area. Poplars Farm and all its immediate neighbours give on to a narrow road leading to the village of Sandon . The proposal is to bring 5,000 people and their vehicles into a very small, rural village. Sandon has a population of well under 700 people. An ENORMOUS increase, necessitating careful, well thought through management! There is little evidence of this in the management plan which lacks essential detail. The only roads in and out of the village are narrow and winding. The one leading to Poplars Farm has several dangerous blind corners and goes past the children's play area with its slides, swings etc as well as the village cricket and football pitches. There are no pavements in the village. The dangers to walkers, cyclists, people on horseback, other road users and the public in general are obvious.

'It is not anticipated that there will be any traffic queuing'. Event Management Plan, 2.16.1, part of the documentation supporting the licence application.

When you consider that this huge influx of people is likely to take place over quite a short period of time, it is likely, contrary to the statement above, that the lanes around the village would be gridlocked. The 'music festival' held at Poplars Farm in September 2017 was a one day, not a two day event and for a maximum of 1,000 people, yet there were complaints about the long queues of cars, with through traffic obliged by the people directing the cars into Poplars Farm to wait in the line. Drivers leaving in the evening and especially late at night, not knowing the roads and possibly after several drinks would be a special hazard not just to themselves and other road users, but also to the large herd of deer which roam across Roe Green at night.

A 'new entrance' for pedestrians and vehicles is proposed in the management document. It is not at all clear how this will affect the public footpath which runs alongside the parking and traffic areas and how walkers will be safeguarded.

PUBLIC NUISANCE

The introduction to the appendix document on NOISE states: 'We have committed to proactively manage noise and ensure that sound/noise does not cause a significant public nuisance.....'.

The most obvious source of public nuisance from a music festival is the amplified music, perhaps especially garage music because of its very nature. "The Garage Arena" in the event plan appears to be pointing directly at Sandon village.

It would be interesting to see the log which should have been made of recordings taken at the September 2017 event to substantiate the claim that '.....the music was virtually inaudible at the furthest boundary of the unused

perimeter of the site'. It was certainly audible in my cottage, despite its normally very effective secondary glazing. The whole cottage rocked with the noise all day and all evening. Despite a whole range of noisy and very noisy parties over the years at Poplars Farm, where on one occasion police had to be called to stop fights, I have never complained about the noise or anything else. For the first time, in 2017, I wrote to NHDC to complain. My understanding is that other people also complained. If this licence were to be granted, with its 2.30 am finish, there would be quite intolerable levels of noise from the bands, people partying, cars and taxis leaving the event as well as the noise from the campsite where the partying would be likely to continue all of Saturday night into Sunday when another set of people would be due to arrive from midday.

The complaints procedure outlined in the document means that the people running the event would be causing the problem, judging whether the noise was "significant" (and there is no definition of "significant") and deciding what, if any, action to take. Clearly unacceptable.

While the noise and public disturbance caused by an event like this might last two days for the village as a whole, for people on Roe Green, the Dark Lane area of Sandon and anyone on the routes of the heavy lorries carrying equipment to build stages, marquees, lighting, sound equipment etc the disruption is likely to last at least an entire week. There would need to be a great deal of construction and then clearing of the site afterwards. More heavy traffic on narrow lanes.

One of the most serious concerns and the reason why Poplars Farm should not, in my view, be used for any event of this kind, whether it finishes at 10pm or midnight or 2.30am and is for 500 people or 5,000 is its porous boundaries. These consist largely of wooden post and rail fencing, designed to contain horses. The situation raises issues in the areas of CHILDREN'S and PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC NUISANCE and CRIME and DISORDER.

It would be foolish to ignore the fact that drugs and music festivals tend to go hand in hand, even if for only a minority of the audience. While the management plan for this event states that everyone will be searched on entry to the site and all illegal substances and alcohol will be confiscated, the Icknield Way, a famous right of way, runs straight across the site. At the September 2017 event the gates were barred and people were stopped from crossing through on the right of way.....an illegal act. There is no provision for security staff to be on duty all night, so how is this point of entry to be secured?

The management plan estimates some 2,300 people will be camping overnight on the Saturday. It does not explain how these people are to be prevented from leaving and re-entering the campsite, possibly with the 'banned substances'. People can simply clamber over or through the wooden fences into adjoining fields or neighbouring properties. This happened to two neighbours in September .2017 when drunken revellers had to be evicted. There would obviously be a hugely increased risk of this with 5,000 people on the site, of whom some 2,300 would be camping all night. Because of these porous boundaries a quite massive number of security staff would be needed to patrol the entire perimeter or the whole area would need to be properly fenced off.

The clear up from last year's event over the whole area of Roe Green was slow and flawed. With 5,000 people and two day's debris of glass and possibly discarded needles left in the children's play area, but more generally too, the possible dangers to dogs, children and the general public have to be noted.

COMMUNITY

"We believe good communication with stakeholders.....is vital to the success of any event...."
Event Management Plan.

NOT RELEVANT

~~At no point has there been any communication with any of Poplars Farm's neighbours. This was also largely true of the event last year, when even the closest neighbours had to approach the owner to discuss areas of concern, just a few weeks before the event. The rest of the neighbours learned of it through social media. Although the current licence application was received by NHDC on 12.12.2017, the notice of the application did not appear at the bottom of Poplars Farm's drive until 18.12.2017. It contained scant information, some of which was subsequently scored through.~~

The fact that the licence application is not for one event, but for a yearly event is a cause of considerable concern.

~~Given the history of applications from Poplars Farm were this licence to be successful there is a strong likelihood of other events being applied for throughout the year, possibly through Temporary Event Notices. While it does not directly bear on the current premises licence application, it is very concerning that TENS, quite rightly designed to be~~

NOT RELEVANT

NOT RELEVANT

~~easy to obtain for small scale charitable or community events can be used for large events of 1,000 people or more with tickets sold on social media to a very wide and diverse public. This was how last year's festival obtained its 'licence' and it is fortunate that the attempt to obtain three TENS in early December to hold a music festival for 1,500 people in 2018 was unsuccessful.~~

~~There are a great many other festivals in North Herts, many of them genuinely community and family friendly, others designed for the music festival audience. What is being proposed has all the characteristics of a purely commercial enterprise, with little or no extra benefits for the village and a very detrimental effect on the environment and on the close and wider community. It is entirely unsuitable for this quiet rural area.~~

Mary W McElroy
Polyanna Cottage,
Roe Green,
Sandon,
SG9 0QG

Lye End Farm
Sandon
Buntingford
SG9 0RS
9 January 2018

Application Number 6494 Sandon Fields.

Dear Hannah,

I write in response to the Licence application for Poplars Farm, Sandon.

The timings within the application to me are ambiguous in that the Saturday is due to finish at 22;59. Sunday then starts at 23;00 to 02;00 this I am sure is an application filled in inefficiently at the best, or just downright corrupt. What is the meaning of this timing?

So many people these days just want to turn up at a "function" have their fun and leave, then there are those that are hell bent on upsetting all and everybody through whatever means available to them. These are the ones few in number but high in excitability and couldn't care less for who or what they cause upset too.

Sandon Is a Village I have lived and worked in all my life, very small in population some 200 houses spread over some 4000+ Acres so quite spread out. The site in Question "Poplars Farm" backs on to the Village Sports ground/common and even if one were to get every household to have "a" member to attend that would account for only 200 attendees. If an extra 4799 are going to attend we are probably looking at 3000 vehicle movements for the festival an awful lot of movement around the country lane let alone the egress and access points on the major roads.

A function of this scale if it were to be allowed to happen really is of "No" benefit to the Village of Sandon the turmoil too and encroachment (as happened at the event held at this site last year) of others living in the locality is unacceptable in such a rural community it is not as has been said elsewhere a benefit to the Village.

~~The School it has said may get some fund raising from it, but as last year's one day event made a substantial financial loss this could just be a dismissed statement made by the owner of the site.~~

NOT RELEVANT

I object to the application in its entirety. I find the Timings unacceptable. I find the licence numbers unacceptable, more over I find that the application for an annual ongoing licence unacceptable.

~~But I am a realist and find that the things I am not happy with, the "Authorities" let happen anyway and if this is your intention to allow this you need to put in place a Financial benefit for the Village in a levy on all attendees (not a compensation) be they paying/employed or just given free admission of 10% of total revenue.~~

~~This would not be unreasonable as an ongoing Fee to the "Village"~~

Yours Sincerely



Robert Wornham

NOT RELEVANT

Hannah Sweetman

From: James de Uphaugh [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2018 17:17
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Licensing Application No. 6494, Poplars Farm, Roe Green - OBJECTION

Danyells
Sandon
Buntingford
SG9 0RF

9th January 2018

LETTER OF OBJECTION

Dear Ms Sweetman

Licensing Application No. 6494, Poplars Farm, Roe Green.

I wish to OBJECT to the Licensing Application No. 6494, Poplars Farm, Roe Green for the following reasons:

1. Noise management plan: the plan seems insubstantial for an application of this type. It sets out not to cause a significant public nuisance. Surely the bar should be higher than this?
2. Traffic management. The plans on this seem flimsy given the bottleneck at entrance and exit and the significant increase in traffic that would be associated with this.
3. Licensing hours for alcohol. 2.30pm seems very late to ask for a licence to.
4. Next to no engagement with the local community or neighbours on these plans which were put in over the festive period.

James de Uphaugh

NOT RELEVANT

James de Uphaugh
Majedie Asset Management
10 Old Bailey
London EC4M 7NG

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Southcot, Roe Green,
Sandon, Buntingford,
Herts. SG9 0QG.



5th January 2018.

Poplars Farm, Roe Green
2 Day Music Event.

Dear Hannah Sweetman,

I write concerning the above proposed 2 Day Music Event which will cause great disruption for many reasons.

There was an event, 'Sandon Fields', held at Poplars Farm on 16 September 2017. - This continued long after its official finish time with people & cars leaving, stadium lights,

o the intrusion of generator noise, which was extremely distressing, o why similar events are held at places like Knebworth & Latifude etc., o not in peaceful residential areas.

The volume of traffic, people o loud music will have a huge impact, not only on residents, but our pets, o

~~The, much, nurtured, wild life that live on the green o surrounding fields o woods exactly where the event is to take place.~~

NOT
RELEVANT

The event is planned

for June, we would Not be able to go in our gardens, or have our windows open, day or night.

If this went ahead; as a pensioner living on my own, like many others living around Roe Green, I feel I am left with two options —

1. I would have to go & stay somewhere else for the weekend, leaving my home empty & vulnerable.

2. Stay in my home leaving myself vulnerable.

To conclude - an event

like this is wholly in-appropriate
in our quiet residential
location.

Should you need to contact
me - my address is on this
letter, my landline is -

[REDACTED], & my email is

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth Grubb.

(ELIZABETH GRUBB)