

POPLARS FARM, ROE GREEN, LICENCE APPLICATION

Premises licence application number 6494

Introduction

1. It is unclear if the Application is only for a 2-day 'festival' event; this Objection assumes that it is – if it is for longer then this Objection applies with greater force.
2. The proposed venue is unsuitable for such events as it is in the middle of a quiet, rural residential area; houses are close to the site and, given the topography, noise will carry north and east to most of the village of Sandon.
3. At the event in 2017 noise certainly reached this property (Roe Green House); the noise was sufficiently loud to disturb us inside the property.
4. In addition the road network is not sufficient to handle the likely number of vehicles that would attend this event.
5. ~~The key question it seems to me is this; should the desire of one resident in this community to make money from his property be sufficient reason to put the remaining residents through 2 days of hell? In striking this balance it seems to me that the decision should fall on the side of the residents – most of whom live here for the rural peace and quiet – as opposed to favouring one person who wishes to make a profit from his property by its inappropriate and disruptive use.~~
6. The experience of 2017 suggests that this event will be hugely detrimental to the local residents – and it should not be allowed.

NOT
RELEVANT

Specific Observations

7. ~~It has been suggested that the Barn (or 'Artists Room') does not benefit from planning permission – in that it has been built larger than the size permitted. If so, this is a further example of the owner seeking to push the boundaries and is, arguably, the beginning of the 'thin edge of the wedge'.~~
8. ~~As to the event in 2017 this received many complaints – as far as I am aware no application in advance was published such that objections could not be made.~~
9. The Application states that the site is 'surrounded by hectares of farmland and woodland' – it fails to mention that it is sited in the middle of a village and is surrounded by residential properties (unlike, for example, the location of Standon Calling).
10. The Application states that the 2017 event was a 'Pilot' attended by 1,000 people; i] this event was not trailed as a 'Pilot' and ii] my understanding is that it was attended by (and licenced for?) only 500 people.
11. It also states that the event was 'well received' by Sandon and Roe Green and that many residents attended – i] many did not; ii] those that did were offered free tickets and iii] there was no mention that the 2017 event was a 'pilot' (many locals did not attend, even with a free ticket, as it was feared this was a bribe to allow the owner to state that the event had local support).

NOT
RELEVANT.

12. As to this event it caused great inconvenience to the local residents – for my observations see attached the Note I submitted at the time. This Note records that I ejected 4 trespassers from the stables of a nearby resident – they all had ‘gold’ wristbands for the 2017 event.
13. The Application also states that in 2017 the noise was ‘virtually inaudible at the furthest boundary of the licensed perimeter of site’ – my personal observations were that the noise was clearly audible inside my property and was also clearly audible some 400m north of the Church (on the road to the A505). Other neighbours in Roe Green told me that the noise was unbearable inside their homes.
14. I also note that the License Area seems to extend to the whole Farm – which strikes me (should approval be given) as very inappropriate – it should be limited within the Farm to areas where alcohol is to be sold.
15. In 2017, and it seems to be similar in 2018, the emergency exits seem to be to adjoining farmland – and the adjoining landowner had no idea of the proposed exits; in any event at least some of these exits are merely onto rough farmland.
16. In 2017 the weather was inclement; many vehicles had difficulty exiting the site. In 2018 it seems that the vehicular and pedestrian entrance is over unmade-up land (opposite houses at the east end of Roe Green); in inclement weather it is likely that many vehicles will be unable to exit unaided.
17. The highways around the site, and leading to it, are minor; these roads already can be dangerous with traffic that know them – with traffic from a wider area (especially when leaving if alcohol has been consumed) difficulties are likely to arise.
18. The Camp Site and Funfair/Family Zone are in close proximity to residential buildings – it is likely that these will disturb the local community.
19. In addition the late running of the proposed festival – to 0230 hrs on Sunday morning – is entirely inappropriate for such a rural community and setting.

Conclusion

20. ~~It seems that this owner wishes to make a commercial gain at the expense of the local residents;~~ he ran a small event in 2017 (it seems without consultation) and invited, at no charge, local residents to attend. He now seeks to justify a larger event partly on the attendance of those residents and the fact that no disruption was caused.
21. In fact local residents were significantly disrupted in 2017 – and any larger, and longer, event in 2018 will cause even greater disruption to a quiet, rural area.
22. This is not the location for such an event; the Application should be rejected.

NOT
RELEVANT

Richard Nall-Cain
Roe Green House
Sandon

POPLARS FARM/SANDON FIELDS/SANDON FESTIVAL
16.9.2017 – 1200HRS TO 2300 HRS

1. The noise was heard here from very soon after midday until just after 2300 hrs; I first noticed it over the sound of my TV as I was watching practice at the Formula 1 Grand Prix from Singapore.
2. I drove through the village at about 1230hrs; there were 3 people at the end of Poplar Farm's drive who were stopping traffic (including some cars on the road which were not going to the event!); a number of traffic cones were placed on either side of the road (for maybe a hundred metres?) – this had the effect of almost making the road single tracked.
3. There were various signs (mirroring AA type signs) directing traffic to the Farm – these were entitled 'Sandon Festival' (unclear why this when the event was advertised as Sandon Fields). ~~I here comment that, as far as I am aware, no consultation was undertaken with Sandon (or Roe Green) and no authorisation has been obtained for the event;~~ I also comment that Roe Green residents were offered free tickets (via What's App). I printed off a number of pages from social media etc. relating to the event on 15.9.17. NOT RELEVANT
4. We had tea with Mary (Polyanna's) at about 1600hrs; we could clearly hear the music in her property. The weather was poor; for most of the day it rained – at times it was very hard.
5. I took some aerial shots between 1800hrs and 1930hrs from Dawn's property (Clare Cottage) and the Faure Walker field to the north of the venue; on my way back to Dawn's I identified and asked to leave 4 young men (probably in their 20s) who were in Dawn's stables – 1 (who was wearing a hat) was clearly the worse for wear). I informed Dawn; the trespassers said they had Gold Bands (?) and were friends of Lawrie's; one said he had ridden on Dawn's ménage as a child with the Ayton children. ~~Query: does Lawrie have planning permission for his 'barn' – which seems to be associated with this event.~~ NOT RELEVANT
6. I went back out at about 2030hrs to take some more shots; the venue's lights were very visible from the road at Gannocks; I took some more aerial shots of the venue (from the north) and recorded the sound level on my iphone (from the area of the hammerhead on Roe Wood). I also took some ipad shots looking east from the northwest corner of Roe Wood.
7. As I left at about 2030hrs I heard and saw a group of 4 young people (teenagers?) walking west past my gates; they were very loud and were speculating as to where they were going!
8. There was a large volume of cars leaving the site from 2300hrs until near midnight (which was audible from my bedroom).
9. At 2335hrs my dog started barking loudly; from my spareroom window I could see and hear a group of 6 or so people gathered around my gatepost light (it seemed that they might have been using the light to look at phones (or possibly a map)). I watched them there for some 10 minutes or so – they stopped at least 8 or 10 cars (including 2 taxis going east) – going in both directions; I assume they were after a lift. Being unsuccessful they then wandered off down the hill going west. I here note that there is no public transport here – let alone at that time of night.
10. I also note that the event area was very sloping – and I have no idea what arrangements had been made in case of an emergency; I also noted the following day considerable rubbish in the area – as far away as Wallington.
11. In conclusion – I have no idea why such an event should be allowed in such an area, ~~especially as the only motivation seems to be personal gain!~~ NOT RELEVANT

17.9.17
Richard Nall-Cain
Roe Green house
Roe Green
Sandon
SG90QE

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 03 January 2018 09:20
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Sandonfields - Poplars Farm Sandon

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to state that we are against the application for a Premises Licence/Club Premises dated 12 December 2017 for Poplars Farm in Sandon.

An event called Sandonfields at The Cowshed took place this summer and was totally not suitable for this quiet peaceful clean tidy village. It was extremely noisy and attracted a large amount of traffic in and out of the village causing a lot of disruption. A lot of rubbish i.e. beer cans, plastic bottles & litter were left all across Roe Green and the surrounding verges as nobody had thought to arrange for this to be cleared up for days and days. This is absolutely not the kind of business that this village wants.

Regards
Julia Howard
Jeff Collins
Ivy Cottage, Roe Green, Sandon. SG9 0QE

Sent from my iPad

Hannah Sweetman

From: Chris Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 December 2017 13:53
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Hannah Sweetman

I wish to object to the proposed application for a license for the above, we are a quiet village and when any of these 'events' are on none of us will leave our properties so we can keep an eye on things, with the amount of people who would be attending these events it is advisable, also once the license is granted it will then be more than one event, which is not acceptable, the traffic, noise and smell from the stalls is not pleasant, ~~we seem to be plagued by people wanting to change this nice village to a rowdy town.~~ **NOT RELEVANT**

Your sincerely
Chris Turner

Cedar Lodge
Roe Green
Sandon

Roe Green Barn
Sandon
Herts SG9 0QE

North Herts District Council Licencing Authority
Licencing and Enforcement

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

3 January 2018

Our Ref: KGJ/SD

Dear Sirs

Licence Application - Sandon Fields/Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon

I wish to object to the above application on the following grounds:

1. ~~Granting a licence will set a dangerous precedent in an area that mainly consists of residential property. Many of these residential dwellings have either acreage or ancillary/agricultural buildings within their curtilage. It is in my opinion that should you be minded to grant a licence for this application, you will open the floodgates for other commercial type activities that you will have little opportunity to defend once a precedent is set.~~
2. "The so called "Pilot" referred to in the application that took place in 2017 was of a much smaller scale, yet this still caused noise issues – a car being abandoned on the public highway for a number of days after the event and increased traffic flows through a rural hamlet. These demonstrate that the location is not suitable for such a scalable event as is proposed.
3. ~~With other events already taking place in Baldock, Ware, Bygrave, Letchworth and outskirts of Stevenage, there is no real need for additional "Festival" venues in the local area~~

NOT RELEVANT

As an aside, I would ask you to note that the application notice for this licence has been placed on a telegraph pole 60+ metres from the public highway, which seems wholly inadequate in terms of notifying local residents of the application.

NOT RELEVANT

Yours faithfully



Karl G Judd

Hannah Sweetman

From: TONY BARKER [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 January 2018 17:15
To: Hannah Sweetman
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Premise Licence Application 6494 SandonFields

Having taken a look at the Licencing Act of 2003, it would appear that we as members of the public may object to 4 main criteria that are not regarded as being frivolous. These are:-

Prevention of Crime and Disorder,
Public Safety,
Prevention of Public Nuisance, and
Prevention of Children from Harm

We the undersigned believe that the points raised below fall within one or all of the criteria listed above.

Loud music from 12pm to 2.30am is absurd in the context of being neighbourly. 14.5 hours of such noise would be intolerable, especially for the elderly living nearby as I respectfully suggest that only insomniacs might normally be awake at such a very late hour as 2.30 in the morning... This is totally un-neighbourly in our opinion.

An alcohol licence to serve into the the small hours of the morning would also run the possible risk of much drunken and anti-social behaviour putting a strain on local hard pressed NHS services and increasing the risk of potential crime and disorder both within the event site and the local environs. ^{NOT} RELEVANT
Roe Green, Sandon is a tiny hamlet and the potential influx of up to 5,000 people over not one, but two successive days would be an unnecessary burden on the ability of the occupiers of neighbouring properties to enjoy the comfort of their own homes and garden curtilages, The sheer volume of the continuous music for so many hours on end, we would respectfully regard as being a very public nuisance to all nearby residents and, indeed, the rest of the village.

Whilst appreciating that such concerts require large amounts of open ground to stage such events, the organiser could hardly have chosen a more peaceful location. By example, the Knebworth Concert (which is not an annual occurrence) is not located within a village and has the noise competition of the road traffic of the A1(M) to contend with. The Standon Calling 3 day event only has an impact on the one property whose grounds the event is situated.

The location of the proposed event is in a totally unsustainable location, being remote from the train stations of either Baldock or Royston and there being no weekend bus services to the village on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. This means that it is highly likely that almost all potential attendees would need to come by car. Any attendees wishing to walk to the event would be risking their lives by walking along narrow country lanes with no footpaths. Any risk assessment would deem that to be totally contrary to public safety and, of course, highway safety. This, in our opinion is totally unacceptable.

Tony & Eve Barker The Dell Roe Green Sandon
Mrs Elsie Graves Dell Cottage Roe Green Sandon

Hannah Sweetman

From: Colin Broadhurst
Sent: 02 January 2018 15:54
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Poplars Farm -SandonFields-Premises License Application and music event

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: David Wardley [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 January 2018 14:20
To: Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Poplars Farm -SandonFields-Premises License Application and music event

Dear Sirs

I am writing with regard to the above application.

In my opinion this event (and any further 'events') would be totally out of place in a small village environment.

The impact on the local infrastructure would be intolerable. (As witnessed by a similar event last year).

The impact as to the noise levels (in what is a small quiet location) would mean that on a summer evening residents would have to keep windows and doors closed just to get some peace and quiet.

NOT RELEVANT

The other problem I foresee is that once one or two events are allowed this will inevitably lead to more and more.

The event is effectively taking part in the rear garden (however large it is) of the property which I find totally inappropriate.

On a personal level although the end of the proposed site backs on to fields there are properties quite close (my property is approximately 150 mts from the rear of proposed site).

As you can imagine this means interrupted evenings.

I cannot express myself enough as to my opposition to this totally inappropriate and out of place event ('s).

Regards

David Wardley

Springers Barn
Rushden Road
Sandon
SG90QP

Sent from my iPad

Hannah Sweetman

From: Nigel Beaumont [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 January 2018 10:23
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields, Poplars Farm - Licensing Application - Comment/Objection

My property is located opposite the fields which would accommodate this event, and we had experience of this event which was held on one day last year. My objections are as follows:

Noise – the noise report states that the natural topography will deflect the sound away from the surrounding houses, this is not true – the fields are directly behind the farmhouse (Alwyns) which is opposite my property, when the bands were playing last year the sound was clear and disturbing both in the garden and within the house, this was such that the words of the songs were clearly distinguishable. This is unacceptable disturbance of the peacefulness of this rural area.

Traffic – The anticipated attendance will attract visitors by car which will overload the rural roads, and increase the dangers to local horse riders and dogwalkers and the wildlife which frequently overnight on Roe Green - drivers unfamiliar with rural roads are unaware of these risks. **NOT RELEVANT**

Litter – After the one day event last year there was significant litter on the sides of the road and over the cricket pitch which is a feature of Roe Green and is directly opposite the entrance to the event.

Danger to children – Opposite the entry to the event is a children's play area, any litter or discarded bottles, drug related items are a significant risk.

The claim in the application that this event can be likened to the event held in Standon every year is inaccurate – this is held on an extensive farm with the event taking place some distance from the residents of Standon. The site at Sandon Fields is adjacent to the residents of Roe Green.

In summary, this application is inappropriate to the village location of the site, it will be disruptive to the residents. Before this application is considered the views of all of the residents in Roe Green should be invited – **with a direct request for input.**

~~The discreet application submitted during a period when many residents are pre-occupied with Christmas/New Year events, is underhand and an attempt to push through an application which the applicant is aware is comprehensively unpopular with the affected residents.~~

Nigel Beaumont
Woodcot, Roe Green, Sandon, SG9 0QE
[REDACTED]

NOT RELEVANT

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 19 December 2017 13:03
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: General Enquiry

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

License application for POPLARS FARM, ROE GREEN SANDON, HERTS. SG9 0QG I would like to raise an objection to the license application ref 6494 SANDON FIELDS, I am a shift worker, have school age children. Our ponys who are stabled & paddocks backing on to Poplars farm will be stressed by the noise of the event The land owner paid lip service for the past event but we were subjected to excessive noise all night & trespassers on our property. Drunks loitering around in front of our house restricting access. The road outside our house had been coned off restricting access on the road. As a shift worker you have a duty of care for my health & safety.

NOT RELEVANT

PLEASE PASS TO LICENSING DEPT ##### Application 6494 Poplars Farm Roe Green Sandon Further objections to License application.

I have just seen the plan for the event & it looks like we are going to have a fair ground & flood lights up against our boundary. This will cause stress to our ponies that will be paddocked/stabled right next to this. Also it is the nearest point to our house, we live in a grade 2 listed building that has thin walls & single glazed windows so we will receive full volume noise & light pollution from this. We did hire a paddock from our neighbour but he has now threatened to raise rent unless we drop our objection, we have text message available if you want to see it (sent 22/12/17), needless to say we will no longer be using his paddock. Also it looks like vehicles will be parked on Roe Green in front of our premises I thought this was a conservation area & this is not allowed.

NOT RELEVANT

Regards John Williamson
Thatched Cottage Roe Green
Sandon
Hertfordshire
SG9 0QG

Hannah Sweetman

From: Lyn Packman [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 January 2018 16:04
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms Sweetman,

I am writing to you with my comments regarding the proposed annual Sandon Fields musical event.

1) I live in Rushden, approximately three miles from the event. This year it was held for one day with one thousand people but the noise, even at this distance was very intrusive - and this was in the house with all the doors and windows shut and the television on. It would not have been possible to comfortably spend time in the garden.

2) The new proposal is for approximately five thousand people and these numbers will have a much greater impact on the surrounding area including narrow lanes that are not designed to take so much traffic.

3) The new proposal is for the event to take place over two days and on the Saturday night to go on until 2.30 the following morning. Although the organisers say that the music will be in a marquee/big top, this will not dampen down the noise sufficiently to reduce the negative impact on properties over a large area.

4) This part of the countryside is one of the few peaceful and unspoilt areas in this part of Hertfordshire and is totally unsuited to the large volume of people and the excessive noise that will be generated.

In view of the above comments, I would urge you not to allow this event to go ahead.

Yours sincerely,

M Packman (Mrs)
Church End Cottage,
Rushden,
nr Buntingford,
Herts,
SG9 0SG.

Hannah Sweetman

From: Dorothy Gibbs-Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2018 19:39
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Licencing Application for Sandon Fields (Property known as Poplars)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I have viewed the above application on the internet and have other information which I consider to be relevant.

A one day event was held on the property in September 2017. Local residents were not all informed of this but I understand it was booked for a Saturday from 12 midday to 11.30 p.m. This event had stewards. On Common Land, outside Poplars there was a large unsightly notice measuring possibly 4 foot by about 20 foot saying "Sandon Fields". I was at home four driveways beyond Poplars for most of the day. During the day there was music in the Cowshed. Most of this was relatively quiet but virtually constant drum beats were annoying. Other than that the event appeared to be organised and by 11.30 p.m. all was quiet where I was.

The present application has several aspects which cannot be considered as a simple extension of the one day event last year.

The event operates on two to three days.

Camping is to be offered from Friday Night to Late Sunday.

In a village of about 400 people, up to 4999 outsiders could be involved

A bar is to be open all day from midday until the early hours of the morning

Poplars is faced by a large Common Land area, part of which gives land to a football pitch and a cricket pitch. Common land, as you will know, cannot be used for parking or other activities and I wonder therefore how last year's unsightly notice could be erected. To have it up for one day was bad and it would be a worse eyesore if more days were allowed. Cricket matches are common in the summer months and I feel the need to stop driving when a match is on, if it looks as if a ball is to be bowled. This is surely a problem when hundreds of visitors are driving on the road?

After the official music of the proposed event, campers are likely to make their own. Also campers are likely to bring their own drink once the bar has closed.

Roe Green in Sandon is a very quiet and rural area and it is for this reason that most of us have bought our property. The proposals for use in this application will destroy those benefits for one twelfth of the year.

~~Since the houses on both sides of the road, are all relatively close to Poplars, the proposed intervention would have a significant effect on house values in the area. Who would be responsible for compensating house owners for the devaluation of their homes? Would it be Mr. Alderman or NHDC for allowing such unsuitable behaviour~~
NOT RELEVANT

As you will see from what I have written above, my direct concerns stemming from the current application are as follows: noise, not just from musical aspects but from the enormous number of people and vehicles coming into a small rural, residential area, the camping, the inability of local residents to use their gardens or their homes with open windows for an extended weekend.

~~When I was first aware of the proposal I became extremely concerned about where all this, with its worries, would lead to in the future. Mr. Alderman has said to me and other local residents that he intends to use any permission to seriously extend his activities. He understands that the wording of the application, once granted would permit a wide range of other activities. Among these is using the property for a Jazz Club to be held once a month, having the venue for weddings, an up-market restaurant and many more musical gatherings.~~
NOT RELEVANT

Personally I would feel that Mr. Alderman has as much right as the rest of us to have the occasional party on his property but, like the rest of us, has a duty to respect the rights of the other inhabitants. His plans appear to consider, totally falsely, that he owns a massive secluded estate.

Dorothy Brown

Tay House,
Roe Green,
Sandon,
Buntingford,
HEAS,
SG9.0QG

Hannah Sweetman

From: Heather Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2018 18:59
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I write with my objection to the above activity that is planned to take place in Sandon. This is a quiet village where we live to get away from this kind of activity. Apart from the hugely increase in traffic flow on roads that are not made for such volume, (we already suffer greatly from potholes), the noise created travels many miles across the countryside. I could hear last years music very clearly in my garden and I live 2/3 miles away from the venue.

My request is that you find a more suitable site that is not so close to private dwellings.

Thank you.

Heather Jackson Mill End Cottage Sandon
Sent from my iPad

Hannah Sweetman

From: Sandra Waddington
Sent: 10 January 2018 17:17
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields Licence application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Hannah

Regarding the above application we have very strong concerns about the serving of alcohol until 02.30 in the morning.

Sandon is a rural village and it is very difficult to get a taxi to come to the village during the day let alone at night time.

Serving alcohol until 02.30 in the morning encourages visitors to come by car and drive home - as there are no accommodation options in the village.

Revellers who do manage to come by pre-organised coach will be highly intoxicated by this time and will be noisy on leaving the village. Anti-social behaviour in the village is a great concern to everyone. The venue is surrounded by residential properties and all lanes in and out of Sandon are dangerous to navigate at the best of times.

We feel it would be more advisable to have the licence end at the same time as it ends in pubs - this would keep most sides content.

Anything else would be setting a precedent for future ventures by all and sundry!

NOT RELEVANT

Regards

Steve Wilson
Green End Farm
Sandon
SG9 0RQ

Hannah Sweetman

From: Anne Cottam [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2018 16:02
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields Licence Application

From : Mrs Anne Cottam, Green End , Sandon SG9 0RL

Application for Licence for Food and Music Event at Poplar's Farm

I write to draw your attention to some facts about this proposal, which follows on from a "pilot event" last September.

With regard to the Prevention of Public Nuisance , on the last occasion we could hear the NOISE easily in Green End (just over one mile as the crow flies) and I was told afterwards that it could be heard in Throcking and Cottered also, another mile or two to the South. It is the deep booming sounds that carry across the countryside.

The other matter of Public Nuisance would be the TRAFFIC - our lanes are not designed for those numbers, even if there are buses provided from the railway stations, not all 4,999 people will come by train, and they will have difficulty turning. The entrance track over Roe Green is very narrow, and our country lanes already have broken down edges in many places. The Council will have more repairs to do NOT RELEVANT

~~My main concern is that once this festival is established, it will increase and increase in the way that many others have that started small - beginning with Glastonbury. The applicant has pointed out that there are three other festivals in the area - do we really need another? - and on researching these, I find that they all started out as small - even family parties - and now have thousands of people and go over many more days than this proposal. The main difference is that they are in ISOLATED PLACES (Standon Calling is on a large estate, Farr Festival is in a block of woodland on a family farm, and Wilkestock is also in fields away from any village)~~

This proposal will increase the population of Sandon from 500 to 4,999 which will be an extreme nuisance for the residents, particularly with regard to the ROADS as it is A FIVE DAY AFFAIR, with huge lorries carrying everything in and setting it up, then taking it all down again afterwards.

My other objection is to the length of time that is being requested. Is there no longer a law that nothing on Saturday can go on after midnight? To have a FunFair etc going on late is not fair to the local residents, some of whom have horses. 2.30 is just too late for local residents.

NOT RELEVANT

Last year's "pilot" was acceptable as a once a year occasion, as there were only hundreds of people, not thousands. Please allow only the same again, or it will be the thin edge of the wedge towards a huge event over many days, as in other cases.

To conclude, I hope that you will not allow this Licence .

Anne Cottam

Hannah Sweetman

From: Nicholas Cottam [mailto:n.cottam@btinternet.com]
Sent: 10 January 2018 11:58
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields premises application

From: Mr N Cottam. Millsted Sandon SG9 0RL

I write to express some concerns after I have read this application for holding an annual event at this address on a consecutive Saturday and Sunday in the month of June every year.

The local infra structure does not have the capability to accommodate the arrival of up to 5000 people with no public transport or facilities to provide for them, and public road safety may be compromised. Once established the numbers may also grow above this level if successful.

Although the application lists the provisions being made for controlling the numbers of people and the sale of alcohol, large crowds often become difficult to control and are a nuisance, when under the influence of alcohol over an extended number of hours. There is also an inherent danger of motorists leaving the site with alcohol levels above the legal limit.

The level of noise is known to be difficult to control in open air events and low level bass sounds may travel for a considerable distance aggravating local residents at night.

Sent from my iPad

Hannah Sweetman

From: Mike Ayton [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2018 20:15
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields premises application

Dear Ms Sweetman

We refer to the premises application submitted on the 11 December and write, as Sandon villagers, to register our objection to the proposed timing set out in the application. We believe the location of Sandon Fields, set in the grounds of Poplars Farm which is very much part of the residential area of Roe Green, is an inappropriate location to hold a 2 day music festival with a licence to play music and to serve alcohol and food to 2.30am on the Saturday night/Sunday morning. The farm is not a working farm, it is a private residential unit and flanked on both sides by other dwellings and therefore the potential to create noise and disturbance within the village is very substantial and especially so at Roe Green.

We are not against the principle of a one-off annual music event but do think that the organisers need to give more consideration to the impact of such an event in a village location. Their inaugural event last year was for one day only and closed by 11pm. A cut-off time of 11pm or midnight might be more acceptable, for example, although there is bound to be some noise and disturbance beyond this time, created by festival goers and trade vehicles leaving the site or by people carrying on with private parties in the camping area. In addition, the longer the event goes on, the greater the potential for anti-social behaviour. The application refers to late night music being restricted to tented locations but these will have little or no sound proofing and noise is bound to carry over the village on a summer evening.

If the Council is minded to grant a licence – to whatever time – we would also hope that conditions are imposed to specifically restrict this type of event to only once a year and that the Council is mindful of setting precedents for other potential events in Sandon.

NOT RELEVANT

Many thanks
Regards

Mike & Gay Ayton
The Six Bells
Sandon
Buntingford
SG9 0QX

[REDACTED]

Sandon Conservation Group

Increasing well-being for all inhabitants.

Website: <https://sandonsg9.wordpress.com/>

Hannah Sweetman,
Licensing Officer,
North Hertfordshire District Council,
Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 3JF

9 January 2018

Dear Ms Sweetman,

Licensing Application for Poplars Farm, Roe Green,

Entertainment Licence for Annual 2 day Music Festival

Sandon Conservation Group wishes to comment on this particular application because it is the latest in a number of licensing applications made for this property which seem inappropriate for its location and a number of villagers have expressed concerns to us about all the applications. The property is located in the Roe Green Conservation Area and surrounded by Landscape Conservation Area LC2.

Whilst we would encourage rural enterprise that provides local employment and is of benefit to the local community we do not believe that the provision of such a licence will serve the local community. The stated intention is to cater for a perceived need outside the community and one which the applicants themselves acknowledge is already catered for in larger communities within the wider area of North Hertfordshire.

Sandon is a very small parish area of approximately 150 houses and 500 residents in total. There are virtually no facilities or services in the area. For example, there are no shops, no pubs and no public transport. Most people choose to live in the area because they value the tranquility, the wildlife and the views. The demographics of the area are not indicative of a need or desire to host a music festival here. The community has the Village Hall which provides events, including regular pub and film nights, for the community and the church and other groups organise music and art events on an ad hoc basis. Residents who would be interested in attending such a music festival would generally prefer to travel outside the area if they have to pay to attend. Those that did attend last year's event did so largely because it was free.

NOT RELEVANT

NOT RELEVANT

At the time we were not able to comment on the application for a temporary events licence for the one day music festival in September 2017 because it was not open for public comment. However, before the event we received numerous comments from residents raising concerns about the fact that it was taking place and, after the music festival was held, Sandon Conservation Group received more comments from village residents regarding the impact of it. Residents in Roe Green found the noise unbearably loud within their properties, felt it had had a significant adverse impact on their well-being and prevented them from going about their daily life. Residents in the centre of the village and as far away as Green End could also hear the noise in their homes and felt it was intrusive and unacceptable. Traffic control at Roe Green was very poor, causing long queues and considerable inconvenience and delays. Residents and their visitors very much objected to be being stopped on the public highway by marshals for the event, forced to join the queue for the

event and then, at the entrance, quizzed as to where they were going before being allowed to continue on the road. A number of trespassing incidents occurred, particularly at properties on Roe Green, where drunken revelers, originating from the event, had to be evicted. Great concern was expressed about the music festival becoming a regular event and leading to more frequent 'music' events taking place on the premises.

As a result of this experience, an increasing number of residents have contacted Sandon Conservation Group to express their concern about this latest licence application for Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon.

Our main concerns are:-

1. *Crime and Disorder*

We would stress that Sandon is a very quiet, small, very rural area with virtually no public facilities. The 2011 Census showed the population of the civil parish of Sandon to be just 495. Policing is generally only provided by PCSOs on an occasional basis as there is normally very little crime and disorder in the area. Sandon is some distance from the towns where full time police officers are located so in the event of a situation arising, it is likely to take the police some time to arrive unless they are present for the duration of the festival. On these particular premises there has been at least one incident at a large private party where the police and paramedics had to be called because of fighting. Whilst the event security may be able to deal with incidents within the perimeters of the festival grounds and control the situation until the police arrive, they will not be able to do this outside the grounds and there were a number of incidents that occurred outside the premises at the event in September. Given that this application is for a much larger festival, 5000 people for two days compared to 1000 for just one day last year, it has to be assumed that there is likely to be a large increase in the number of incidents both at the festival itself and outside. The documentation provided by the applicants is lacking in detail and provides no evidence to show that such a sized event can be managed successfully on this site. The Event Management Plan deals solely with managing events within the festival grounds and makes no acknowledgement that incidents could and, based on previous experience, are likely to, occur outside the festival grounds. It is therefore highly likely that there will be a large increase in crime and disorder in the area and it will not be possible to deal with it in a timely and effective manner. As a Crowd Management Plan has yet to be produced it is difficult to see how it will be possible to prevent such a large number of people from swamping the local population when visitors to the festival will outnumber residents 10:1.

2. *Public Safety*

The roads around Sandon and Roe Green are country lanes which are narrow, winding and unlit. There is no public transport in the area and there is a lot of wildlife, including Roe deer and badgers, which can suddenly appear and cross the roads unexpectedly. People attending the events, particularly those camping, are likely to be driving cars and the majority will be unfamiliar with the area and therefore at much greater risk of being involved in accidents, especially if they have consumed alcohol or drugs.

Of particular concern to us is that the application is planning for over 1400 cars to arrive on site, which is unheard of in the area, yet the Traffic Management Plan does not consider the impact of such traffic on the area and how it will be managed

entering and leaving the public road to the site. The whole of Sandon Parish only consists of 150 or so houses spread out over three main areas. We have to assume that these cars will arrive and leave over a short space of time as happens at all music festivals. So most will arrive and leave within say 2 hours of the event opening and closing with a peak occurring when there will be a continuous stream of traffic off and onto the public road. At least half the traffic is likely to go through the centre of the village. Even if you assume there will not be a peak it means at least 750 cars going through the centre of the village over a 2 hour period which equates to car every 10 seconds for 2 hours. At weekends, particularly in summer, there are a number of walking and cycling groups who travel to and around the area. They are likely to be in the area when the majority of traffic is entering and leaving the site. There are no cycle lanes along the roads and very few footpaths beside them so it is normal to see both pedestrians and cyclists on the roads. As the roads are narrow and at best only just passable by two vehicles going in opposite directions, a stream of traffic going in one direction can make it impossible for anyone else to use the road. This has been the experience when, for example, the A505 has been blocked and traffic has diverted through Sandon.

3. Prevention of Public Nuisance

The event managers by their own admission on page 2 of the Event Management Plan have very limited experience of organising an event of such a size at such a venue; their experience essentially being limited to organizing events in towns rather than in very small rural villages.

In terms of noise, it is difficult to see how there will be no public nuisance as the Noise Management Plan only addresses the noise produced by performances and sound checks and makes no mention of the noise created by the fairground, the food outlets, the large number of visitors and the vehicles, or the set-up and take-down of structures. In towns some of the noise created by such things just adds a little to the background noise whereas in a quiet rural area it has a much more significant impact and can travel much greater distances. Further, the guidance that the Noise Management Plan refers to does state in section 3.11 that associated noises such as these should be taken into account when setting the limit for the music level. No evidence has been provided to show that this has been done. The same guidance also states in section 3.2 that for events continuing or held between the hours 2300 and 0900 the music noise should not be audible within noise sensitive premises (which includes residential buildings) with windows open in a typical manner for ventilation. The Noise Management Plan simply states that *"Between the hours of 23:00 and 02:30 the music noise arising from the event will be inaudible within the nearest residential noise sensitive premises, unless by prior written agreement with the occupant. The test for inaudibility inside the property will be that the music noise level shall not exceed 45 dB (A) (15Min) at 1m from the façade of the property"*. No evidence is provided to show that this will meet the requirements of the guidance. Much of the argument for claiming that the proposed event will meet the requirements centres around the sound measurements made at last year's event but these have not been produced and the nearest neighbours reported that the sound was so great that the windows were shaking. Understandably they are greatly concerned that this much larger event could cause an even greater nuisance.

It is difficult to place much confidence in what the application documents state as no evidence is provided to support the statements, there is an element of inconsistency between the various documents which quote different figures for the maximum noise levels at different frequencies that will be allowed and the Noise Management Plan

effectively says that the maximum noise level could increase if the occupant of the nearest residence agrees to it with no recognition that there might be a knock on effect for other neighbours who have not agreed.

In addition to the public nuisance of excessive noise on residents, in rural areas public nuisance can be caused by damage to the environment and by preventing the public enjoyment of the nature of the countryside. If this licence is granted substantial damage could be caused to the Conservation Area of Roe Green and the surrounding Landscape Conservation Area.

Hertfordshire Local Nature Partnership, which includes Hertfordshire County Council, has carried out a local habitat inventory of the area and identified what is required to maintain it. None of this appears to have been taken into account in the application.

The proposed public access to the site by road and footpath will have to cross Roe Green Common (Areas D01484, D01488, D01394, and D01496) which is in the Roe Green Conservation Area and contains habitat protected under s41 of the NERC Act. Great care is taken to maintain this common to ensure the habitat is protected. No mention has been made as to how the event's organisers will prevent any damage being caused to the area (if it is indeed possible to do so) by 5000 people and 1400 vehicles going back and forth over it during the two day event.

The area marked out for the event partly sits in the Roe Green Conservation Area and the remainder of it sits in the Landscape Conservation area LC2, which surrounds Sandon. This particular area contains part of Roe Wood (Area D01475 also protected by s41 NERCA), an ancient semi-natural woodland where, according to the plans, some camping is planned. This will inevitably cause damage to the area from which it will take many years to recover and in the meantime the fragile wildlife corridors will suffer.

The pond (Area D01480) referred to in the documentation is also protected by s41 NERCA. Ecological surveys have identified sightings of the Great Crested Newt in Roe Green and this is classified as a European Protected Species (EPS) under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). The newts and their habitats are protected under both UK and European Law (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)). This protection includes ponds and rough grassland used by them at different times of year. As the site itself and the surrounding area contain both rough grassland and ponds it is quite possible that the activities associated with the event could cause harm to the newt. It is incumbent on the applicants to obtain the advice of a suitably qualified ecological consultant to ensure that they do not commit a criminal offence and that they take all suitable action to ensure that the newts are protected.

The rest of the site sits in fields which have been identified by Hertfordshire Local Nature Partnership as containing habitats designated as areas with a high potential to qualify for protection under s41 of the NERC Act and so should be protected and restored. (Areas D01476, D01479 and D01525). These are natural grasslands and should not be just cut back at will as is proposed in the Event Management Plan. No evidence has been provided to show how these areas will be protected from damage. Also in the vicinity of the site is Area M02699 which is designated as an area of high priority for habitat creation and so requires ecologically functioning corridors from one end of the land to the other.

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The Icknield and Hertfordshire Ways run through the proposed site. Icknield Way is the oldest road in Britain extending from Norfolk to Wiltshire and consists of

prehistoric pathways dotted with archeological remains. This part of Icknield Way is used not just by local people but also visitors from all over the world, who make special plans to walk the whole route and wish to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the area as well as the views over the fields.

As the area is generally very dark and there is no public lighting, it is inevitable that there will be significant light pollution, not just from the tower lights and the lighted walkways but also from the lighting used by the food vendors and individuals during darkness. This isn't just irritating for the human residents, it is harmful to the local wildlife.

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Finally, it is hard to see how having an event, which includes over 2000 people, with no particular environmental interest, camping overnight in a Conservation and Protected Area, where there are just 500 residents in a parish which has minimal facilities, will not inevitably cause a public nuisance. Apart from anything else where are these people going to obtain food and drink from if the on-site facilities are closed for a period of time as is planned? Will the utilities such as electricity, water and sewerage be able to cope with such an influx, given that residents already have to cope with fairly frequent drops in water pressure and blockages in the sewerage system and frequent short term losses of power and power surges? As the site is on a hillside where the water table is already high will there be problems with run-off? How will the sewerage, used fuel and waste of such a large number of people be disposed of? There are only plans for a very limited litter pick-up around the site but not further afield. Will the applicants repair any damage caused to surrounding properties?

Although the event is billed as a 1 and ½ day event, the applicants have allowed some limited time for building and dismantling structures, suggesting that the residents will be inconvenienced for a total of 5 days. However, experienced project managers for such events have suggested that for such a sized event set-up and clear-up would take much more time and it could easily be 10 days of inconvenience for residents. In addition, when camping is allowed considerably more waste is created not just from paper and food/drink containers but because attendees often discard tents and other camping equipment they no longer require. How will the applicants ensure that the area will be left completely free from waste and anything harmful, to humans, wildlife or the environment given the sensitivity of the area, especially as there is still some waste from last year's event yet to be removed?

NOT RELEVANT

4. Prevention of Harm to Children

The Event Management Plan only addresses this at the venue and not outside the venue. Nor does it consider any harm local children may suffer as a result of the event taking place.

The venue is opposite the village play area. The possibility of attendants at the venue using the children's play equipment and leaving alcohol and/or drugs paraphernalia in the vicinity is high, putting children at risk. Also, as the event is planned for summer, local children are likely to play on Roe Green and may be attracted to go close to the music event. This could expose them to inappropriate adult behavior and/or make them vulnerable to inappropriate adult attention, particularly if the adults are under the influence of drink or drugs.

Unfortunately there has been very limited, if any, communication with local residents both over this licence application and the previous temporary events licence application. Rather

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than approaching the local community and attempting to address any concerns directly, the applicants have very much left it to residents to approach them about issues. As the applicants did not adequately address the concerns raised last year, simply advising residents that they would not be disturbed at all, and villagers were encouraged to believe that last year's event was a one off, essentially for the benefit of the community, there is a great deal of mistrust about the application. Villagers are concerned that a regular event of the size proposed will decimate the village and that there will not be an effective complaints procedure in the event that there is disruptive behavior or excessive noise. As no attempt was made to seek feedback from those residents who were likely to be most affected by the event and no evidence has been produced from other sites in similar areas to show that they can be successful, we have difficulty in seeing how this application minimises any adverse effects to local residents, public safety and the environment in any way. Indeed, on the face of it, we would claim that it considerably increases the adverse affects on all three and would urge you not to grant the licence without receiving satisfactory evidence to demonstrate that all the obstacles can and will be overcome.

We trust that you will fully consider our points and look forward to receiving details of your decision on this licensing application in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Lydia Pollard
on behalf of
Sandon Conservation Group

Jubilee House,
Rushden Road,
Sandon,
SG9 0QS.

Thatched cottage
Roe green, Sandon
Herts
SG9 0QG

8th January 2018

**Letter of objection to premises licence application for Poplars Farm,
Sandon SG9 0QG**

Dear Hannah Sweetman,

I am writing to you with regards to the Premises licence application which has been submitted by Richard Maskell, location Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon and being named Sandon Fields. As a direct neighbour I would like to lodge a formal objection to the application and the event proposed on site.

The application form has many errors and very little information on how Mr Maskell is going to implement or promote the four licencing objectives. There appears to be a lack of knowledge and understanding of the layout of the local area, the physical environment, proximity to residents and any potential risk.

~~There are no clear dates of when the license would cease only begin and according to guidance there has to be both. Mr Maskell has applied as an individual but then refers to his company and uses his business address, for insurance purposes which is it? Mr Maskell does not own the land, are there any covenants restricting use of land, has landowners insurance company or other relevant companies been notified of proposed event on land? Proposed use of land is not considered domestic use so could invalidate insurance.~~

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RELEVANT.

There is no mention of fairground or camping on application form. The times are inconsistent throughout the form, and inaccurate as how can the sight possibly close when people are camping, the public will still be on the premises.

Four licencing objectives

Prevention of crime and disorder:

- Security and CCTV will be in place.

CCTV alone does not prevent crime or keep the public safe it just records it. Who are the security, how many, what level of qualification will they have?

- **Attendees that causes a nuisance will be settled or handed to police.**
If no police present where are these people going to be held whilst waiting for the police? If they are already causing a nuisance they are hardly going to wait quietly and be compliant.
- **Stewards.**
How will different levels of staff be distinguishable? Anyone could just enter wearing a hi Vis top who would challenge this?
- **Underage drinking.**
Wristbands will not prevent underage drinking, other people can purchase it for them. What measures will be in place to stop this? What happens with 17year olds who have an adult ticket, will they be challenged and asked proof of age at gate? How will drinking be monitored on campsite? Challenge 25 scheme will be in place but no mention of how it will be implemented and what information will be recorded on those refused so that all staff are aware.
- **Searches.**
How thorough will searches be? Body searches or just a bag search and will it be carried out every time someone enters the gates regardless of whether they have just gone back to their car or walked off premises? Will people camping have their belongings searched? How will potential build up of people at gates be dealt with while searches take place?
What will happen to anything confiscated and where will it then end up, will police be called if weapons, drugs, psychoactive substances found? Are staff doing the searches adequately trained?
Will children be searched?
- **Bomb threat or terrorist attack.**
What procedures are in place for residents in close proximity to event if a threat is made or attack takes place?
- **Trespass.**
No mention of this other than the fact that fencing will be up. Last year fencing was put around landowners house. My boundaries consist of post and rail fence as do other properties, we had trespassers on our property as did our neighbour. When politely asked to leave we received verbal abuse. I was assured prior to event that security would be excellent and nobody would be where they shouldn't. Children were also found wondering on our property unsupervised, child protection issue.
- **Crowd management.**
Potentially 5000 people will be in close proximity to my property with no accurate means of counting and making sure they stay where they should. Certain areas due to their size will have capacity limits which there is no clear procedure to maintain. There is no clear procedure in how crowds are going to managed off site or prevented from being off site and minimising the impact around neighbouring premises and the village as a whole. Last year approximately 1000 people which is

significantly different to 5000, the local village is suddenly increasing by 4000 or more in just 2 days.

- **Conservation and footpaths.**

There has been a total disregard to the fact that the site is in a conservation area and that some of the land is a conservation site. ~~There are many measures put in place protecting a wide variety of wildlife and plant life, the applicant and landowner has not taken into account any of the adverse effects this event will incur.~~ Last year's

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smaller event still has rubbish littering the land and neighbouring properties which is not only unsightly but also causing harm to the wildlife. Down at the lake/lagoon vegetable oil cans are leaking over the ground and into the water causing contamination. So disposal of waste has not been a priority from the previous event. Footpaths stretch across the proposed event site with no mention of closure or application to do so. That being the case how can the applicant provide a safe and secure sight? Last year public footpath gates on site were cable tied to prevent use without the appropriate permissions. Walkers were prevented from using footpath, this all being actioned by people with no legal powers. Sandon does attract a lot of hikers and young people in training for their Duke of Edinburgh award so what procedures are in place to deal with this? With young people in the area it also becomes a child protection issue too.

What permissions if any have been granted for use of the common in front of Thatched cottage and Poplars farm as a traffic holding area/ emergency? The common is a conservation area and parking is prohibited, as residents we only have a right of access to our properties. Signs also need permission.

Public safety:

- **Plastic glasses.**

Plastic was only supposed to be used at the last event but it was clear bottles and cans were used as they were littered around the land and Roe Green common.

- **Parking and highways management.**

On a map submitted with application parking is going to be accessed through a field which the applicant has not been granted permission to do so. A conversation has taken place but no agreement. The landowner of the field had no idea that a map had been submitted with these details. The proposed access point at the moment is a footpath and vehicles are being guided to another footpath where a public footpath access meets the proposed car parking site. Clearly there is no vehicle access so a hedge is being taken down to accommodate this. This will be the main access in and out for pedestrians and vehicles. No permissions have been granted to do this, no clear plan on how potential risks are going to be managed and how everyone is going to be kept safe be it festival attendees or general public using footpaths.

Bus and taxi rank are also being proposed on that site too. Potential chaos in field and at entrance/exit site. At present there is no vehicle access to field and in order to

get to it common land has to be crossed so other permissions will need to be granted for this to be possible.

There is no highways management plan. The map that is attached to event management plan is the map used for the September 2017 festival which was incorrect for that event. It has parking marked on two properties and not the festival site. Parking was accessed down Poplars farm drive and then cars parked on his land at the back of our property. The map served no clear purpose to that event and does not have any relevance to this proposed application.

- **Volume of traffic.**

With the potential of 5000 people can the rural roads of Sandon cope with the numbers of vehicles. Attendees will be driving on narrow unfamiliar lanes with the potential of meeting slower road users such as farm vehicles, cyclists, horse riders, pedestrians etc putting locals in danger and themselves. Queues will gather along and through the village blocking driveways and preventing local residents going about their everyday life. There are no clear plans in place to deal with the quantity of traffic. Last year's event saw cones placed along Roe Green restricting the road to a single lane causing inconvenience to local traffic and again no permissions sought or granted.

- **Emergency procedures.**

What detailed procedures are in place for emergencies and evacuation? In the event management plan it refers back to crowd management which tells you nothing. In the event of fires, security alerts, terrorist attacks, out of control festival attendees what happens if there is no clear plan, how are the public being kept safe, where are they going to go? What about residents are they to be included in emergency procedures as any emergency could effect them, fire and terrorist attacks being the most worrying. Are all event staff trained in dealing with such emergencies?

- **All equipment on site.**

Who will check all equipment is fit for use, structures built on site safe and fit for purpose. Certificates provided certifying equipment is safe and persons qualified to work on equipment. Who will oversee health and safety regulations are being met? Being so close to venue all of this could have an effect on the safety of my family, property and animals.

There is a complete lack of information on the implementation of fire regulations, food safety, disabled facilities, health and safety, insurance, risk assessments, medical provisions plan, traffic management plan, major incident plans, emergency protocol plans, detailed crowd management plans, waste management plans, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, no bar management and alcohol policy, clear management of music, fairground, campsite and no clear operating schedule so how will the applicant keep the public safe and residents in a close proximity to site?

No references have been made to Health and safety regulations 1981, Equality act 2010, the Regulatory reform order 2005, Clean neighbourhoods and Environmental act 2005, Environmental protection act 2005 or children's act 2004. A good

understanding of these would be evident in the applicant's policies and procedures

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and would therefore be evident in an events management plan with regards to keeping everybody safe.

Prevention of public nuisance.

- **Noise**

I was assured by the applicant and the land owner that I would not hear a thing last year, a bold statement. Needless to say I knew that statement would not be true but was prepared to accept that through the day I would hear it but was prepared to put up with it as music was due to finish at 11pm. However I believe that the noise of the music was far louder than they have described in the applicants noise management plan to the point of being intrusive. Where there was a claim that nobody had made a complaint at the time of the event shows that he is taking advantage of his good neighbours as he has chosen not to communicate and ignore concerns of his neighbours but has used the knowledge that nobody complained to hold another event only bigger. The measurements and statistics in the noise management does not seem to be taking into account that the event is taking place on Roe Green. On the maps in the noise management plan it marks our property as being on Sandon fields site and that is incorrect. Closest neighbour being myself Thatched Cottage has not once been mentioned. The fact that they said they took readings from closest property is astonishing when they have never entered the premises. I would like to see the evidence of these recorded statistics of last year's events. The distance of my property to the event and activities is also incorrect we are closer to the stage than they are suggesting. Music outside did stop at 11pm last year but music continued on in the barn until far later. The proposed times for this event seem to be totally unreasonable and do not take into consideration the location and well being of the residents, many other festivals which take place tend to finish around 11pm so why do they feel the need to extend this especially as its being advertised as a family event. My husband is a shift worker and weekends are included in his rota pattern, his well being is going to be compromised depending on the shift he's on.

The music was not the only noise to deal with, crowd noise, traffic noise, generator noise, deliveries, setting up and taking down all created noise before and after for at least a week before and over a long period of time after. A bigger event proposed is going to have a far larger impact and for a much longer period as more equipment will be required.

- **Nuisance**

As mentioned before trespassers on land last year how will this be prevented? Congregations of crowds on drive drinking whilst waiting for taxis, cars turning in drive, lorries blocking drive loading and unloading before and after event this all occurred last year. Witnessed an attendee toileting on our boundary, how can we be assured that these things won't happen again?

- **Light pollution**

Obviously there will be a need for light and significantly more than last year, how will these be managed and will they be on over night? Last year one was set up shining right on our house all night as the event was supposed to finish at 11pm why was it left on? Roe green is going to be glowing, there is no information about how this is going to be controlled and the impact on the environment and wildlife.

NOT RELEVANT

- **Noxious smells**

Last year we had the car park on our boundary so lots of car fumes. This year a fairground is proposed right on our boundary so we will have the noise and fumes from the generators and constant noise of attendees on the rides. Last year we were unable to put our horses in the paddocks and that will be the same again. Our daily routines will be impacted on by the applicant and landowner.

- **Litter**

As mentioned before litter was an issue and still continues to be one. I have grazing animals so this is a significant problem and to the wildlife. I was assured that all litter would be picked up first thing the following morning which it wasn't.

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- **Publicity**

It clearly states in the event plan 3.8.3 that a letter drop will be carried out to all immediate local residents with times and contact numbers to help combat public nuisance. This did not happen for the last event. In fact as a direct neighbour the landowner or applicant did not tell me anything about last year's event until I approached him 2 weeks before the event, where he dismissed my concerns and was rude because I didn't agree with him. We did have a short meeting where he showed me what he was intending to do and gave me assurances which turned out to be worthless and there was no communication after the event. Again applications for an even bigger festival have been applied for and again no communication until after the applications had been applied for. The landowner made contact 2 days before Christmas asking if he could come round and talk about concerns of the festival and coincidentally he wanted to talk about the rent we pay for using his paddock. He wanted to appease our concerns by letting us have the paddock we rent for free this year, we told him we no longer require it but would be happy to talk about the festival. His response was we have nothing to talk about then, but he did suggest he would help finding my ponies somewhere to go during the event. There has been no communication since. My ponies will be staying on our property close to me as they require regular attendance.

Protection of children from harm.

There are no clear steps to protect children, no clear operating schedule about activities and times when events take place to determine what's appropriate for children. Last year's music had explicit language content really not suitable for children. There appears to be no restricted areas or times to protect children from this content on or off premises. I have a two children and as explained before we could hear the music and the inappropriate lyrics, what procedures will be in place to protect my children and other children on Roe green and any children at the park

opposite Poplars Farm? The whole event is based around the consumption of alcohol which again is this suitable for children who could potentially witness totally inappropriate behaviour.

There appears to be no detailed lost child procedure or adequate safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. What trained staff will be present to deal with any child protection issues?

Conclusion

This whole event as was last year's is being advertised as a community and family music festival.

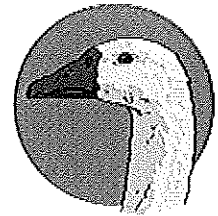
~~The applicant and landowner has made no efforts to engage with the community or immediate residents and has proceeded with submitting applications with no prior communications. Both have submitted temporary events notices without advising any of the immediate neighbours for last year's and this year's event.~~

NOT
RELEVANT

The only reason we know about this years event is due to the fact that three temporary events notices were rejected by the police and a premises licence has been applied for. Looking through the application nothing much has changed from applying for the tens application. The application has many errors and omissions and does not have any regard for the tranquil, rural local community we live in. There are many events held locally where the community can attend well organised, cultural, musical events at more suitable venues so why does Sandon need to host an outdoor music festival? My letter contains many concerns and questions about the poor application. It doesn't competently meet the four licencing objectives, which in turn makes me worried about the organisational abilities of the applicant and designated person, so therefore I have no option but to object to the premises licence.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Williamson



Sandon Parish Council

Parish Clerk Helen Stubbings.
17 Dark Lane, Sandon
Buntingford
SG9 0QT

Chairman James de Uphaugh

Hannah Sweetman
Licensing Officer
North Hertfordshire District Council
Council Offices, Gernon Road
Letchworth Garden City

Hertfordshire
SG6 3JF

9th January 2018

Dear Ms Sweetman

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

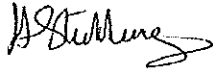
Sandon Parish Council wish to object to the Licensing Application No. 6494, Poplars Farm, Roe Green for the following reasons;

- The Event management plan is poor with the information in the application being inaccurate and in some areas incomplete; for example, there is no mention of a planned fairground.
- The negative opinions and comments of near-by neighbours are based on last years 'pilot' event and the problems incurred which included the noise, trespass, and litter. It was noted that this planned event is of a very different calibre.
- The Noise statement is limited and inaccurate.
 - The plan sets out to not cause any significant nuisance to residents; should this not be no inconvenience?
 - The statement claims that the arena will face least populated areas – however the 'Garage Arena' points directly at Sandon village.
 - (Page 4 Section 3 / 4) The C weighted limit of 80db in the 63Hz or 125Hz octave is high, this should be closer to 70db at 2km and beyond. There is no mention of a reduction in C weighted limit in line with the reduction in A weighted limit after 2300. This is also contradicted by Page 24 Section 2.17.2 of the EMP which states a C weighted limit of 70db at 2km.
 - (Page 5 Section 5) The plan states they intend to use a "Line Array" type system for the main stage. MOST of these systems are modern and will have accurate prediction software with them to enable users to accurately determine the systems output and impact on the surrounding area – this information has not been provided.
- The Traffic management and highways plan is flawed and out of date.
 - The access is along small roads,
 - the planned access may cross conservation land and public footpaths
 - no consideration has been made for construction traffic.
 - Should there be an incident, emergency vehicles would struggle to gain access.
- The size of the proposed event is not appropriate for a small village.
- Concerns were raised regarding event security, neighbours' security and child protection.
- The camping provision of some 1,200 tents is excessive and it would be difficult to manage the noise from 'campers' both during and after the event.
- Finally, the requested licensing hours for the sale of alcohol is too long and continues late into the night, early morning.

In addition there appears to be a total lack of regard towards neighbours and the village as a whole. This is reflected in both the timing of the licensing application over the holiday period and the fact that the property owner and applicant have not make an effort to approach or visit local residents to explain their proposed plans.

We hope that these points will be taken into consideration when deciding on the outcome of the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Stubbings', written in a cursive style.

Helen Stubbings
Clerk, Sandon Parish Council

On behalf of Sandon Parish Council

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 09 January 2018 14:49
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Application for Premises Licence at Poplars Farm, Sandon 6494

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: steven krempel [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2018 14:29
To: Licensing
Subject: Application for Premises Licence at Poplars Farm, Sandon 6494

Dear Sirs

I wish to object to this application.

The site appears to straddle a number of public rights of way, including the Icknield Way long distance path. I understand that these were closed without appropriate sanction the last time an event was held here.

This is a rural residential area quite spectacularly unsuited to this sort of activity.

There is no public transport to the site.

The vehicular access to the site is constricted and inadequate. The roads leading to the site are rural lanes, unsuitable for the significant traffic that an event such as this would generate. Access is planned within a few yards of one of the most dangerous unsighted corners in Sandon.

Emergency evacuation would be challenging over the route proposed even if the weather is dry. In wet weather moving a significant number of vehicles and/or people off the site would be virtually impossible in the sort of timescale indicated for an emergency evacuation.

It is concerning that no police presence is indicated.

Indoor events at this property generate sufficient noise to be a local nuisance; the noise from an outdoor event will create a significant noise nuisance and loss of amenity to those adjacent to the site and the village generally.

~~There has been no local consultation for this event, which to me is an eloquent indicator of the lack of concern on the part of the applicants for the interests, comfort and peace of the community they propose hosts this event.~~

NOT RELEVANT

Thank you

Steven Krempel
Elm tree house,
Roe green,
Sandon
Buntingford
SG9 0QE

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 05 January 2018 11:39
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Sandon Fields application

From: Jean Handley [redacted]
Sent: 05 January 2018 09:38
To: Licensing
Cc: Cllr Steve Jarvis
Subject: SandonFields application

Dear Sir

We feel very strongly that the SandonFields application for Premises/club licence is entirely inappropriate for our small village community.

Our main concerns are the long hours with drinking until 2.30am and the noise level, which last year affected most of the village but particularly the Roe Green area and environs.

The proposed numbers of almost 5,000 people with the likely traffic movements through our narrow and already congested village roads and the parking necessary cannot be tolerated.

We do not feel that the space proposed and the necessary facilities would be adequate for the overnight camping of so many people and we fear overspill into the surrounding areas.

Yours faithfully,

Jean and John Handley,
5 Sayfield Cottages,
Rushden Road,
Sandon

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 09 January 2018 09:02
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Sandon Fields Premises licence application

----- Original message -----

From: Jackie Dove <[REDACTED]>
Date: 08/01/2018 17:26 (GMT+00:00)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sandon Fields Premises licence application

Sir/Madam,

We wish to object to the proposed event(s) planned to take place at Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon, SG9 0QE, and our objection is based primarily on our concerns about noise and the number of people potentially attending the proposed event(s).

Firstly, in the proposal, it states that there will be a capacity of 4999 people at the event, with an estimate of a maximum of 80% travelling to the venue by car. Seeing as there is only 1 main vehicular access point to the site, this would create a huge problem for local residents in Sandon, particularly along Roe Green. This is a quiet country road which we believe does not have the capacity to withstand such a volume of additional traffic without causing untold problems for residents trying to leave/access their own properties. If the proposed event is to go on until 2.30am, traffic would cause problems with noise and other issues as people leave the venue well into the early hours. (It is estimated in the proposal that there could be 1150 tents pitched on the site, with an average occupancy of 2 people. If the event is a sell out with 4999 attending, that suggests that well over 2500 will be travelling home from the site along quiet country roads !!)

Secondly, we have grave concerns with regards to the noise coming from the venue. We are not the closest property to the venue along Roe Green, but we were certainly affected by the noise generated at last year's event. We are therefore very concerned not only for our neighbours along the Green, but if the event is to go on till 2.30 am then we will be more troubled by the noise than we were last year, and much later into the night. Antisocial behaviour is a worry also, as alcohol being consumed all day and up till bars close at 2am would potentially cause all sorts of issues. We have direct information from neighbours relating to drunken trespassers on their properties at last year's event, and with a much larger number of people estimated for this year, these instances would be potentially far higher in numbers.

~~The final point we would like to make is regarding the local wildlife. We live in a Conservation Area and there is plentiful wildlife around. We refer in the main to two large herds of Fallow Deer, numbering at least 30, who reside in the woodland to the rear of the planned venue. If this was to go ahead we can only imagine the distress caused to these beautiful creatures coming from the increased traffic and noise from the event.~~

NOT RELEVANT

Yours faithfully,
John and Jackie Dove
Jays,
Roe Green,
Sandon,
SG9 0QE

Hannah Sweetman

From: Dinah [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2018 08:02
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields Licensing Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Further to the above application I would like to make the following comments.

The above application to hold an event with potentially 5000 revellers drinking until 2.30am will completely ruin the tranquility of the village. Although it is planned as a two day event there will be a huge increase in traffic in the week before the event and the week after the event. Most other events ie in the village hall have to finish at 12.00. This is a small Hertfordshire village, not a large city where events terminate later.

~~Sandon is a very quiet, rural village which over the years has suffered a huge increase in traffic due to the development of industrial units at local farms and also a 'cut through' from the A505 to A10.~~

NOT RELEVANT.

MRS Dinah Pearce,
Slate Cottage
Sandon Road
The Field
Royston
SG8 9RE.

Application for Premises Licence No. 6494

Poplars Farm, Roe Green

I wish to object to the above application in respect of the proposed Sandon Fields Festival in June 2018

Last year (2017) a one day event was held on Saturday 16th September. This has been referred to in the Noise Management Plan 2018 as a pilot event for 1,000. It was certainly not conveyed to the local people that this was to be the case. I understand that many local residents were unhappy with the event and made complaints about the noise, traffic and trespassers to their properties. The Event Management Plan refers to an event on 9th and 10th June 2018. ~~The application is though unlimited and could be for every weekend.~~ The number of people proposed for this event is just under 5,000.

NOT RELEVANT.

Noise

The proposed venue is surrounded by many local residential properties and the noise will be easily heard by the residents (as it was last year) including but not limited to the bass levels of music until late in the night. What is deemed as "acceptable" noise by the organisers may not be so to local residents ~~or their livestock~~.

NOT RELEVANT.

Will local residents be issued with noise level measuring equipment by the local authority?

The site noise levels are proposing to reflect the number of people attending. Thus, it could be very loud and is likely to be unacceptable to those within the village.

There are proposed to be a children's fun area, funfair rides and "bounce zone". These will be sited immediately behind residential properties and fields containing livestock. Are these intended to be in use until, for example, 02.30?

Public Rights of Way

There are public footpaths which run through the proposed venue, such as the campsite, vehicular access and public parking areas.

Is it intended that the venue security prevent people who are not attending the festival from using the public footpaths?

In reality if people are camping are they likely to camp from Friday night in readiness for the event? They will certainly be arriving before the event starts. There could be potentially 1,150 tents. The building days are proposed to start on the previous Thursday.

What assurances are there that rights of access over the public footpaths will not be barred?

Traffic

There is no public transport in the immediate vicinity. Baldock is five miles away and Ashwell not much nearer for the railway stations.

The organisers are expecting 100 vehicles for staff and performers plus the car parking mentions possibly 1,425 cars although taxis and buses are potentially being arranged. The roads around this area are small country lanes and not suitable for large amounts of traffic and/or large vehicles.

There is one main vehicular access point which is wide enough for one vehicle at a time and is opposite and adjacent to residential property. It also seems to go over the village green. Has consent been obtained from the village green owners? It is suggested that each attendee will be searched before entry is allowed. With the best will in the world this will lead to queuing. The queues will disrupt local traffic and potentially adjacent villages and possibly up to and including A505.

The emergency exit gate shown on the area 2 plan is suggesting an egress over someone else's land. Last year that landowner's consent had not been obtained and he appeared to know nothing about it. It is in any event an unsuitable exit as it passes onto sloping rough farmland. This could be difficult to evacuate people through.

Will we also have to endure extra helicopter traffic to the event?

In conclusion I would suggest that this is not a suitable venue for such an event

Deborah Krempel

Elm Tree House, Roe Green, Sandon