

Hannah Sweetman

From: Anne Cottam
Sent: 15 March 2018 06:20
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields Licence Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Mrs Anne Cottam, Millsted , Sandon, Herts.

Applications for a Licence for Food and Music Event at Poplars Farm.

NOT RELEVANT

~~I write to once again draw your attention to some facts about this application, which you will be aware was rejected by your Committee on Thursday February 1st.~~

~~I attended the NHDC Hearing on that occasion and was impressed with the thoroughness of the Committee. Although the applicant has put forward some changes this time, I still think that the proposed Festival is in the wrong place and too big and the objections remain the same.~~

~~I also think it is unfair to the residents of Sandon that the application asks for permission for the following years ad infinitum. If the Licence were to be granted, there should be a Break Clause to allow the village to take stock after each year.~~

On the point of Public Safety and Public Nuisance, the proposed numbers have been reduced by 999 for this year, but the application still remains at 4,999, far too many for our small village of about 500 people. The applicant states that only 499 people at a time will be within the licenced area. Where will the other 1000 be? I don't understand how 499 people can be kept in each area at all times!

It is well reported, by the immediate neighbours of Poplars Farm, the experience they had last September regarding Public Safety, Public Nuisance and Crime and Disorder, also potential Harm to Children, (one adjacent neighbour has children), and the Village Children's Playground is right by the entrance to the site. It may be difficult to contain campers in their areas also.

We are told it would be a Family Event, however it now appears that that will be on the Sunday, and the main Saturday event will still have extremely noisy music, and it is well documented that the bass sounds are very hard to eliminate and carry far afield, as we experienced last time - in fact they were heard as far away as Cottered and Throcking , far beyond us in Beckfield Lane.

However, recorded music will go on with a DJ, and is proposed to go on until 1.30am on Sunday, in marquees which are notably hard to insulate for sound. This seems too late - as after that there will be inevitable noise from people leaving for long after. A Manager of Festivals, a Sound Engineer, has told one village meeting in Sandon that most Festivals finish at 11pm. He also stated that it should not state "does not cause a Public Nuisance" but that it should "cause NO Public Nuisance". He also said that , in his experience of 20 years of involvement of Festivals, the proposed Event is "inappropriate in this location".

Evidently it will take 15-20 big lorries to bring in and take away all the equipment needed, over 2-3 days before and after the event. This extends the disruption in our village to nearly a week, not just the weekend.

~~I suspect that many of those in favour of another event here may not know the official reasons for your rejection, and think it is a fuss about nothing by a lot of killjoys. If this should become an Annual Event it will inevitably get bigger, as all other Festivals have done, and there are already three -Standon Calling~~

NOT RELEVANT

(started as a family party 2001, 10,000 people in 2010) Farr Festival (6,700 in 2017 - 8th year) and Wilkestock (30 people 10 years ago, now thousands) - within 12 miles of Sandon, to which people could go.

In conclusion,

NOT RELEVANT.

1. The site is not a suitable location for such an event, it is too "in the village".
2. If permission is granted for 2018, it should only be for that year and NOT subsequent years (paras 8.7, 8.15)

Anne Cottam

Hannah Sweetman

From: Nicholas Cottam
Sent: 15 March 2018 04:10
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields application ref: LC6845

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Mr N Cottam. Millsted Sandon SG9 ORL

NOT RELEVANT

~~I wish to make a further objection to this proposed annual event, which has been put forward. I was present at the hearing on the previous proposal on Thursday 1st February at the Foundation House in Letchworth. At this hearing the three councillors had evidently looked at the application details carefully, and after listening to the objections gave a reasoned response, which rejected the application on four grounds. These grounds for rejection would seem to be still valid on this new application.~~

The local residents of Roe Green and Church Green in Sandon need support in their contention that this event may cause them disturbance from noise, traffic disruption due to the influx of the proposed number of people attending the event on the relatively narrow roads leading to the venue.

The proposal to have extended licensing hours into the night may well lead to unruly behaviour and noise, with a potential threat to private property/gardens in the vicinity.

The level of bass noise being emitted from the various musical events is known to travel over considerable distances, difficult to limit and control, and therefore annoying to the local residents especially going late into the night.

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 19 March 2018 09:19
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Sandon Fields Poplars Farm Roe Green Sandon OBJECTION LC/6845
Attachments: IMG_20180224_165711.jpg; IMG_20180224_172235.jpg; IMG_20180224_172224.jpg; IMG_20180224_165533.jpg

From: _____
Sent: 16 March 2018 22:42
To: Licensing
Subject: Sandon Fields Poplars Farm Roe Green Sandon OBJECTION LC/6845

I wish to raise an objection to the license application for Sandon Fields Poplars Farm Roe Green Sandon.

~~The license applicant has not made any attempt to contact us prior to the application (we are next door at Thatched Cottage)~~ *NOT RELEVANT* We had the intrusion of a microphone being installed against our boundary fence with no explanation or consultation, which we feel was an invasion of our privacy (reported to police ref 234240218). I was unable to attend the public consultation as I am a shift worker and was a t work, but as the application was submitted prior to the meeting, input from the local residence/community was obviously not required.

The supporting documentation submitted on the 5th March meant that only two weeks were given to study the proposed plans in depth. I live next door(Thatched Cottage) to the proposed venue which is a quiet rural residential area. My house is a grade 2 listed building with thin walls & single glazed windows. Noise from the proposed event will be loud & very intrusive, looking at the event plan my house will be approximately 280M from the main stage. We will also have the cumulative noise impact from the traffic outside the front of our property on the road, and using the private single track access driveway to the right of our property(approximately 40m from our property) across Roe Green Common to Poplars Farm. Behind our property is a proposed car park so this too will generate more noise and pollution. The risk assessment documentation seems to omit close neighbours & access to site issues.

I am a shift worker who works weekends so this will leave my wife & children alone during the day if I am on a day shift or night if I am on a night shift. Likewise with the proposed times of the event it would be highly unlikely that I would have any chance of sleeping day or night. I believe the council has a duty of care for my health & safety. I have two school age children and the language used by the artists at last year's event suggest this is not aimed at a family audience. The proposed venue has a public footpath running through the site making it impossible to secure the site. The footpath has been diverted but still runs adjacent to the children's zone raising child protection issues. The campsite is also located alongside the footpath creating security issues for the campers & local residence as anyone can wander in and out of the venue. The number of campers will create yet another noise issue which will be impossible to control, and will stretch local resources, we already have low water main pressure.

For a proposed event where noise will be a major issue the ambient noise levels recorded by the applicant have not been recorded correctly. The microphone was placed 33cm from a laurel hedge which when the wind blew rattled against a wooden fence panel behind the hedge generating noise. The weather for the weekend when measurements were taken was strong easterly winds Fri23/sat24/sun25/mon26 blowing the hedge directly into the fence(Beast from the east weather system). BS4142:2014 is the statutory guide for measuring ambient noise as stated by the applicant in the report. This guide states the statutory industry standard. 3.5m from reflecting facades & microphone 1.5m to 1.8m high not 33cm & 2.2m as carried out (photographic evidence attached). I am sure the applicant has a very good reason for ignoring these statutory

industry standards and inventing their own. But if they cannot stand a microphone in a field, controlling an outdoor music festival in a residential area will be way outside their capabilities.

The road access to the site is via small c class roads, this will massively increase the traffic volumes and will be hazardous to local traffic, cyclists, pedestrians & horse riders and of course increased noise and pollution. People attending the site will be using sat navs so will be ignoring the advised route. At last year's event the road was coned off outside the venue restricting through traffic to single file. There is a child play area on Roe Green Common at the end of the access track to Poplars Farm which also raises an issue with child protection, stranger danger & traffic.

At last year's event we had trespassers on our property, litter in our paddocks and in front of our property on Roe Green Common, We also had intoxicated people leaving the event loitering outside our property restricting our access as they seemed to assume we were there to pick them up. We had attendees toileting on our boundary in front of our children when in our own garden. Flood lights illuminating our house and garden all night Saturday/ Sunday and also Friday evening until 22:30. Constant traffic noise & generators running all night. Intrusive loud music played constantly, crowd noise, car & generator exhaust fumes due to close proximity. We even had an afterhours party held in the barn, ignoring the 23:00 licence end time, creating noise. This was not spontaneous as it was advertised & tickets sold. The landowners daughter posted the details on face book.

~~Both the landowner & the licence applicant did not have the courtesy to advise us about the event. It was not until my wife enquired two weeks prior to the event that any communication occurred, he said he had been away a lot and had not had the opportunity to mention it. Likewise with this year's applications. He gave assurances which none were upheld regarding noise, security, litter and made no attempt to check after the event. The landowner has stated asking for 24 hour security is an unreasonable request and last year's issues were trivial. He has no respect for the neighbours or local community.~~

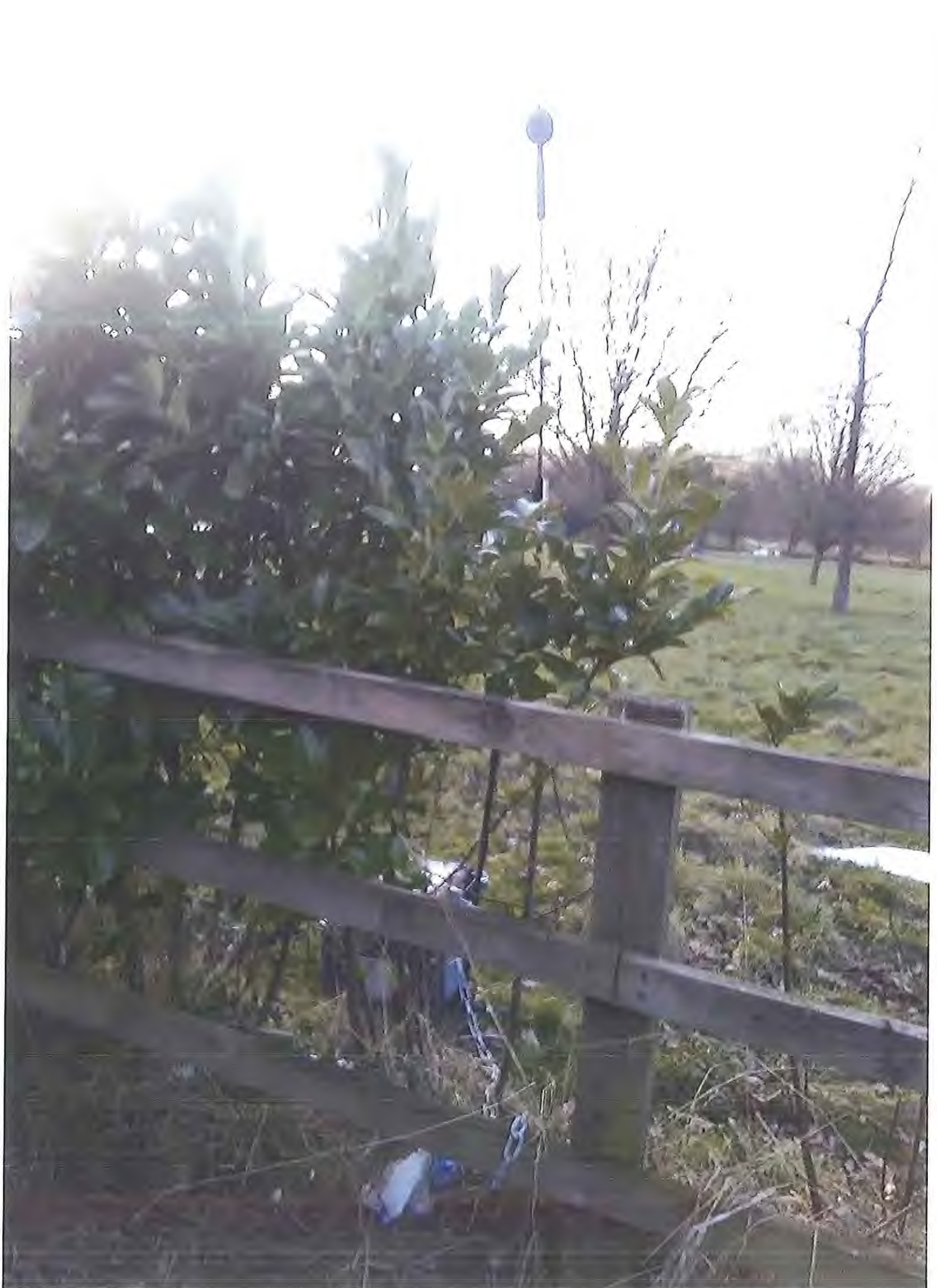
The proposed times and proposed number of attendees is very unreasonable, the proposed venue falls short for providing a safe and secure environment for people onsite and the local community. We do have the right to enjoy our property and possessions peacefully

Yours sincerely John Williamson
Thatched Cottage
Roe Green
Sandon
Buntingford
Herts
SG9 0QG









Hannah Sweetman

From: George Wallbridge
Sent: 07 March 2018 10:30
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields License Application /LC/6845

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Ms Sweetman.

Reference Sandon Fields License Application Number LC/6845

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed Rock / Pop event at Poplars Farm .

The access road across the green is too narrow to allow a long queue of cars awaiting access to the site through the very narrow access / exit gateway. There will be no room for non-site traffic to pass across the green in either direction if the access to the site forms a bottleneck. While it may be possible for residents to get out of their properties going to the west towards Baldock, it will not be possible to go to the east towards Buntingford without having to join the queue trying to get on site.

The stop time for the music is too late. Quite apart from the disturbance caused by the volume of the music, Roe Green is very dark at night, we have no public transport and although busses are to be provided, do the organisers seriously expect several hundred / thousand well oiled revelers to stand in line quietly waiting for the busses to return from wherever they are unloading their passengers? How are these people to get home? At the much smaller event held last year, concert goers were found trespassing on adjacent properties and even still wandering about in the dark hours after the event had finished

While the organisers claim that most / all of the traffic will come from the west across the green, many people will trust to their Sat Nav's which will mean traffic queueing from the east around a sharp blind corner in order to cut across the queue coming from the west.

There is no way the noise from the site can be kept within the site area. Those of us who live next to or very close to the site will once again be forced to stay in our homes with the windows and doors shut tight to keep out the noise and protect ourselves from trespass and possible damage. Based on previous experience we have no reason to trust the organisers to provide effective protection from their event goers.

Yours Sincerely,
George Wallbridge

Dear Ms Sweetman. Thank you for the reply. In addition to the points I raised in my letter, further complications have come to mind.

Roe Green has a VERY high water table, we often have standing water a foot deep after heavy rain. The idea of strangers wandering about in the dark, possibly intoxicated and falling in to either one of the several small ponds or the standing water should be taken into account.

I understand that the applicant has decided to use the main drive to his property as access and exit. This drive opens onto a road junction, thousands of cars trying to get in or out at once will cause major chaos.

Yours sincerely
George Wallbridge
The Chapel

Hannah Sweetman

From: Ellen Manchester
Sent: 19 March 2018 15:31
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Objection to Premises licence application for Poplars farm - Sandon fields music festival

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make it clear that I strongly object to the licence being granted for the above Sandon fields events.

As a resident at Mill End, Rushden I have great concerns as to the increase in traffic through our narrow road. We already have speeding issues and without a doubt this will add to our problem. Sat navs do not know of temporary signage they will show the quickest most direct route to a postcode or village name. Thus making our tiny roads chaotic and dangerous.

Another point is that people do not consider how sound travels, such noise not only affects the village of Sandon but all those around. We can here noise from events in Baldock if the wind is in our direction.

~~Similar events like this historically grow bigger and bigger each year. Who will enforce such events in the future? Numbers could grow and the plans put in place will unfortunately no longer be suitable nor kept in place. There will be no control as to what goes on.~~

NOT RELEVANT

Unfortunately from my own experience Mr Alderman the owner of poplars farm, who is also the licence owner of the Moon and stars pub Rushden has very little regard for licensing and planning laws and has blatantly breached both planning and licensing laws within the last year. Both licensing and planning complaints have been reported to North Herts councils relevant depts and the investigations are on going to date.

The thought of a licence being issued to poplars farm is a major concern and ask that you will take my concerns seriously.

Regards
Mrs E Manchester
The Old Mill Cottage
Mill End
Rushden
Herts. SG9 0TA
Sent from my iPad

Premises Licence Application LC/6845 - Sandon Fields, Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon

We have now received the information in relation to the above licence application and, having reviewed these documents we would like to object to the licence application under the individual headings of the four main licensing objectives.

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

1. The Site Risk Assessment (SRA) says in the section on security that cash handling must be avoided and valuables should not be left unattended. In the same section it also says that signage to the venue must be adequate, presumably to try and ensure that people go straight to Poplars Farm and straight home again afterwards, although this cannot be enforced. The applicant obviously cannot vouch for the honesty of visitors and the risk of this potential dishonesty is recognised as it is noted within the SRA as 'Red 16' which states it has a 1 in 10 probability of happening.

We have been burgled twice since moving to Sandon, as well as having criminal damage and other theft sustained to our property. Bringing thousands of unknown people into this remote area is an invitation for criminality. We know from last September's pilot event that neighbours had attendees wandering into their premises. With a proposal for thousands more people to attend this year's event, and hundreds camping overnight, we believe the likelihood of theft is increased. The boundaries of both Poplars Farm and properties in the vicinity of the venue have merely stock proof post and wire fencing, intended for keeping animals in, not revellers out.

2. The land adjoining Poplars Farm is quite open, especially from Roe Wood and the adjoining fields. Access to the site is therefore easily available to gatecrashers as there are multiple places where people can enter (for example from the public footpath which goes through the middle of the site) and we are sure that security and CCTV would not be able to oversee every part of the perimeter. This presents a problem not only from keeping people out, but also from keeping children in.
3. We understand from someone who attended the pilot event last September that alcohol could not be purchased with cash but visitors had to buy tickets and then redeem these against drinks. The bar shut suddenly and left people with unredeemed and worthless tickets in their pockets for drinks not purchased or consumed. For people who have been drinking for many hours this would be likely to cause anger and resentment leading to crime and disorder.
4. The Event Management Plan (EMP) states, under the heading of Prevention of Crime and Disorder: *'We operate a strict zero tolerance policy on drug use and possession. All guests to the event will be searched upon entry....'* The Event Security Policy (ESP) says *'it will be a condition of entry to the event premises that customers acknowledge the right to conduct searches prior to entry'* although under item 12 it states that it has a *'random search policy'*.

A random search policy does not indicate the zero tolerance on drug use and possession as mentioned by the applicant in the EMP. This difference of approach between the EMP and ESP illustrates the difficulties involved with keeping drugs out of the event; especially an event where it is stated within the EMP that 30% of attendees would be under 18.

5. The ESP states under item 10: *'Covert staff may be used to help reduce Drug dealing.....'* It was our understanding from comments made at the last premises licence application hearing that operating covertly (i.e. without an SIA badge on display) was not permissible.
6. The applicant belatedly decided to involve the community in his latest plans by calling a public meeting on 5th March to which all were invited. Following the last unsuccessful premises licence application the applicant, in an effort to solicit favourable comments from past and future attendees, posted a message on the Sandon Fields Facebook site stating: *'38 people in the village don't want the event to happen. It's only 1 ½ days, not Glastonbury!'* The landowner also sent an email to villagers with the flippant comment *'I really don't think one night per annum and a Sunday afternoon should ruin everyone's lives....'* These comments elicited many unpleasant posts and ageist comments on the Sandon Fields Facebook site about the objectors (us) from people far and wide such as:
 - o *Miserable old b.....s.*
 - o *If they are that opposed surely they can go away for the weekend.*
 - o *Miserable village pensioners.*
 - o *Sadly not all the moaners are pensioners, I've been shocked at younger people complaining.*
 - o *A few people ruin it for everybody else.*
 - o *I really feel sorry for the miserable 38 residents of Sandon – shame on you.*
 - o *Boring idiots, like buying a house near an airport then moaning about the planes.(!)*

There were twenty or so similar negative comments; we felt intimidated. However, on Friday 2nd March there was a very sinister and threatening post from someone along the lines of *'I am starting to get f.....g angry now. Let me know what you want me to do and I will f.....g sort them out.'* We cannot recall exactly the whole message and it was removed almost immediately before we had time to copy it, but we were left in no doubt that it was a threat of physical violence against the 38 objectors. We therefore did not attend the meeting.

The comments by the applicant on Facebook were ill advised, have stoked up anger and promoted threats and fear of crime and disorder, rather than prevented it. These threats were drawn to the attention of the applicant by us at a meeting of the Parish Council on 7th March, but no apology was forthcoming from him for making the 38 objectors scapegoats for the refusal of the premises licence application.

7. If the application were successful then we would have to consider the suggestion of one internet 'troll' by going away for the weekend. However, why should we go away, at our own expense, to avoid the noise, stress and inconvenience of the event? In any event, we would be too concerned to leave our property with the potential for burglary and damage.

Public Safety

8. The Medical Provisions Plan (MPP) indicates there would be no ambulance on site and they would be relying on the services of the overstretched NHS. Whilst there would apparently be paramedics on site, the remoteness of Sandon from the nearest ambulance station and/or hospital means that it would take some while for an ambulance to reach the venue and then take the patient to hospital.

The Google map on the MPP indicates a 17 minute journey to the Lister Hospital from Roe Green. The Google plotter does not take into account the additional traffic caused by thousands of extra vehicles on the narrow roads in and around the village on the day of the event or the fact that there could be hundreds of people walking along the narrow lanes in the road, because there are no footpaths. We do not believe this is safe, either for visitors to the event, or for villagers. What happens if someone has a heart attack or stroke, where time is of the essence and makes the difference between life and death in conveying the patient to hospital?

9. On page 9 of the EMP it states that the bar would be open on Sunday until 18:00. On page 21 of the EMP it states that the bar would be open on Sunday until 16:00. Would the bar be open until 18:00 or 16:00 on the Sunday?

On page 10 of the EMP it states that food would be served on Sunday until 18:30. Under section I of the premises licence application it states food would be served on Sunday until 19:00. Would food be served until 18:30 or 19:00 on the Sunday?

The difference in timings is important because in the MPP it states that there would only be medical cover from 12:00 on the Saturday until 18:30 on the Sunday and they state that no cover would be provided during the build/breakdown element of the festival. It would also appear there would be no medical cover after the bar closes on the Sunday whilst food was still being served. What would happen to any first aid emergencies during the half hour between 18:30 and 19:00?

10. On page 10 of the EMP it states: *'During all non-operating hours whilst the public are still on site (e.g. leaving the site after closure or in the camping areas) the provisions put in place to meet the various licensing objectives (and conditions) will be upheld regardless of the activities taking place on site, for example, security provisions and medical/first aid provisions will have a 24 hour staffed operational outpost/presence.'*

From this statement it would appear that the first aid post should be open until the last person has left the site, whereas the authors of the MPP (the first aid providers) have only been contracted until 18:30 on the Sunday. Reducing the budget on the provision of medical cover is dangerous for public safety at this type of event.

11. The EMP states on page 18: *'The main event site is naturally shielded from wind due to it being enclosed from all sides with thick hedgerow and a woodland area.'*

The applicant must be unfamiliar with Sandon, and especially Roe Green because, located at the top of a hill, it is nearly always windy in and around Roe Green. Whilst it is true that the woodland will protect the north west corner of the site, it will not protect the whole of it. Hedgerows do not appear to stop the wind to any great extent here either. The prevailing westerly wind which we have in this country blows uninterrupted over open countryside, up the hill, past the rear of our house and right across open fields to the village. Between our house and the village is the land of Poplars Farm. The view from the rear of our house used to be of dense trees and hedgerows to the east; many trees have been blown down in recent years by the wind and we now have a clear and uninterrupted view of the village centre, the church and green outside the church over the fields of Poplars Farm.

There would be a serious risk to public safety if temporary structures, especially bouncy castles, were blown away if these were not tethered down sufficiently because the wind often starts suddenly with little warning in Sandon.

12. The SRA suggests that elements of the event should be located as far away as possible from trees. The north western boundary of the site (zone 1), location of the main stage, would be a few feet from the edge of Roe Wood which would present a risk to public safety, especially in the wind.
13. Within the EMP it states that as the event is taking place on high ground there is minimal risk of flooding. The applicant must be unfamiliar with Roe Green because it resembles a swamp for much of the year, in fact there have been ducks swimming on it over recent weeks. Despite being on high ground, there is an undulating layer of clay close to the surface, which means that accumulated surface water does not drain away but relies on evaporation. The applicant has made the comment about the objectors on Facebook - *'this isn't Glastonbury'*. Glastonbury is usually held in June and it normally resembles a swamp, so the applicant may wish to re-consider the possibility of flooding.
14. The risk of fire is considered within both the SRA and also the Fire Risk Assessment (FRA), but only from the point of view of portable structures and equipment being brought onto site. The fire fighting solutions suggested are various within the event area, but fail to take into account that the venue adjoins Roe Wood, which in summer could be dry. Buckets of water would be positioned around the perimeter of the site but these would be of little use if dry brush around the perimeter of the wood catches fire from a discarded cigarette end. The EMP identifies two fire marshal posts, which would be located in the camping zones, but none appear to be located near Roe Wood.

Concern in respect of fire as a hazard has been assessed within the SRA as 'Red 20' which means a 1 in 3 probability of catastrophe. This is a serious risk to public safety.

15. Page 17 of the EMP mentions Heras fencing would be used to screen off non-event areas and from the plan on page 6 of the EMP these expanses of temporary fencing would create walkways to corral people into certain areas between and around zones. Whilst it is assumed that this fencing would be weighted down with concrete blocks, how safe would it be in the event of a serious emergency and a need for immediate evacuation with thousands of people corralled into wire walkways, pushing and shoving to get out? Would they be denied exit by the sheer volume of trapped people, or would the fencing give way, crushing people and causing injury, suffocation and death? If permanent structures can give way with the force of a crowd moving forward (for example at Hillsborough) what chance does a temporary structure have of staying upright with a crowd of frightened people pushing?

Gates and zones are apparently identified on Appendix A-A1, A2 and A3, but these appendices are not attached to the EMP and have not been provided. Also, the plan on page 6 of the EMP identifies on the legend to the plan a purple hexagon shape which is denoted as the 'main public gate'. Unfortunately, there is no such purple hexagon on the actual plan so we do not know where the main gate is located. However, the EMP states that public footfall emergency gates are 2m wide. Is this deemed wide enough if a crowd was pushing to escape?

16. Is the '*air transparent breathable scrim*' (page 17 of the EMP), which would apparently cover the Heras fencing in places, fire retardant?

17. This type of temporary fencing is usually intended to keep people out (such as on building sites) rather than penning them in, for example around the camp sites. Would the fencing present a potential hazard to anyone in this application?
18. By way of reassurance, the SRA does deal with the question of the erection of temporary structures, but only from the point of view that the contractors should be insured, compliant and competent, and have previous experience of erecting these structures. What control would these contractors have over the positioning of the structures and what is the competence of those who have designed the site and the positioning of these temporary structures? Who is responsible for ensuring that the designers have not created bottlenecks and death traps by placement of the structures?
19. The applicant has made a number of claims about the great desire for the event amongst villagers and assumes they would be walking to and from the venue. There are only two pedestrian walkways (to the east and the south) identified on the plan on page 6 of the EMP. Three lighting towers are in the centre of the event areas, but there is no indication of lighting to these walkways.

Sandon is pitch black at night with only a couple of street lights in the centre of the village. Pedestrians exiting to the south would spill out on to the grass on Roe Green; however, pedestrians exiting from the eastern exit would step out through a gap in a tall hedgerow directly onto the road. There is no footpath, bank or area of soft landscaping here, just hedgerow and then a tarmac road. Even taking this walk during daylight hours, you have to be careful when stepping through this gap because of approaching traffic. This is very dangerous, especially if pedestrians were a little the worse for alcohol.

20. Page 33 of the EMP states: '*A bomb threat is usually in the form of a verbal or written threat to detonate an explosive or incendiary device*'. Whilst that may have been the case many years ago, that has not been the situation in recent years and it should not be assumed that because no warning is given, there would be no device. Whilst Sandon is a sleepy little village, terrorism is a very real threat that needs to be taken seriously irrespective of location.
21. The Traffic Management Plan (TMP) indicates that all traffic would be directed away from the village of Sandon and the sign posted journey would take traffic off the A505 at Slip End and onto the C5, then left and eastwards up the hill and onto Roe Green. The applicant anticipates 1125 vehicles for spectators and then there would be vehicles for 200 staff, mini-buses and taxis and also the set-up and break down lorries and vans. Each vehicle would make at least two journeys with more for mini-buses and taxis. This would equate to over 3000 vehicles/journeys.

The EMP on page 27 anticipates there would be no problem with queuing traffic. With this volume of traffic arriving over a short period of time on the Saturday and Sunday there definitely would be traffic jams and this presents a serious risk to public safety on a road with no footpaths and many people walking or riding in the roads because of the lack of footpaths.

22. Whilst the applicant, or the traffic management company, has chosen this route because the road is the widest one available leading to Roe Green, that is true for only part of its length. Travelling south, the C5 narrows down significantly after Wheat Hill Farm, then goes over a

hump back bridge and round a blind bend with high banks either side a few hundred yards before the junction leading to Roe Green. Assuming there would be traffic also travelling along the C5 from the other direction (Wallington, Redhill and Rushden), the C5 at the other side of the junction is even narrower. Whilst it is possible for two cars to pass each other with care on this narrow section, for anything larger than this (i.e. a van or a 4 wheel drive for example) meeting on this lane, one of them will have to give way or reverse. There have been a number of head-on collisions on this road (one witnessed by us on the blind bend) because people think it is straight and wide and they can put their foot down. Unfortunately, it is a very dangerous road and presents a risk to public safety.

23. People enjoy cycling and horse-riding through the village but there are only a couple of small areas of footpath in the village around the village centre. For the remainder, people have to walk in the road or on the bank. As villagers we drive slowly in the anticipation of meeting horses or cyclists. Strangers to the village would not be aware of these dangers and this would be a real cause for concern.
24. The TMP states that stop/go signs could be utilised at the C5 junction with the road up to Roe Green. This would cause chaos at this junction because it means any villager wishing to escape the noise and leave the village towards the direction of the A1 (north or south) would be caught in queues of traffic. Alternatively, we would be trapped in the village all day.
25. The TMP indicates that traffic travelling to the event from the A10 south would be required to travel north past roads signposted to Sandon and instead go up to Royston and then across in a westerly direction on the A505 and then turn south to access Sandon via the C5. We suspect that most people attending from the A10 south would follow their satnav, which will lead them off the A10 along one of the usual narrow twisting and dangerous lanes. This does mean that traffic would be approaching the venue from both directions, leading to queuing and impatience and a risk to public safety.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

26. We live between Poplars Farm and the C5 which means (if all traffic were to travel on the approved route) all vehicles would be passing our house, causing a nuisance and disturbance to us during the daytime and also in the early hours of the morning, which would deny us a peaceful night's sleep.
27. On the occasion of the pilot event last September we were denied the use of our garden for the duration of the afternoon and evening of the event as the noise was just too loud. Like many people, we like to spend time in our garden in the summer months, especially the weeks of extended daylight in June, but we would be unable to do this if any further events were organised. If the weather were warm we would be unable to open windows during the day or overnight which prevents us enjoying the peaceful enjoyment of our property in one of the warmest months of the year.

Last September the first few songs were fairly innocuous (albeit loud) but the 'music' quickly degenerated into thumping bass noise which went on and on and on, with the only respite being the loud shouted introduction of the next song. It was, to all intents and purposes a 'rave' rather than a music festival.

28. The Noise Management Plan (NMP), within its conclusion on page 3 states: *'I conclude that it will be possible to conduct the proposed event. This means delivering a sound level that is acceptable to the guests without significant disturbance to local residents during the day, and with negligible disturbance between the hours of 23.00 and 01.30 on the Sunday morning.'* However, the Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts states: *'For events continuing or held between 23:00 and 9:00 the music noise should not be audible within noise sensitive premises with windows open in a typical manner for ventilation'*.

There is a difference in meaning between 'negligible' (which is subjective) and 'not audible'. Whilst negligible may mean insignificant that would also mean more noise than inaudible, which means no noise at all. In fact the author of the NMP states the Code of Practice on page 5 and agrees that the *'noise should not be audible'*. As the author disagrees with himself it might be useful to understand which level of noise he would be trying to achieve because, as far as we are concerned, any noise in the early hours from this event would be too much and would cause a nuisance to us.

29. The NMP states on page 8: *'Crowd noise is the final factor to consider as a possible source. It is impossible to predict the magnitude of this. As the maximum audience size is 2999, experience leads me to assess that whereas we shall note down all relevant observations during the event for the benefit of future years, it is highly unlikely that in its own right it will constitute a nuisance.'*

The event held last September has been stated by the applicant as a pilot event. Why were these measurements not taken then? We can confirm to the author of the NMP that the crowd noise was loud last September and constituted a nuisance although there were substantially fewer people than 2999. It would be anticipated that crowd noise would again be a nuisance with this far greater number of people.

30. The NMP states: *'the orientation of the main stage will be Northerly, so as to avoid any noise sensitive location being directly on axis with an amplified music source. All three of the dance stages will be facing Easterly firing into woodland and miles of open countryside'*.

This narrative does not match the Google map attached to the report; Appendix 1 shows the three dance stages facing in a westerly (not easterly) direction into the wood. In any event, at the recent Sandon Parish Council Meeting held on 7th March the applicant/landowner stated that the main stage (not the dance stages) was facing west towards the wood. Which direction would the stages be facing because our house is in a south westerly direction from the stages and anything blasting into Roe Wood would be likely to cause a significant nuisance and disturbance to us?

31. Appendix 1, a marked up Google map attached to the NMP, is intended to identify the noise affected properties. This document is very misleading. The map shows two small circles surrounding the source of noise; one round the main stage and the other round the dance stages. These small circles are each apparently drawn at 100m from the source of the noise. There are then two larger circles indicating 280m and 426m points which 'cascade out' from the main stage only but not from the dance stages.

The authors of the document have placed a large green star on the 280m line, directly over the nearest house to the main stage. There is then a rectangular sign stating 'NSL 1' over two further properties, both of which are located very close to the 280m line. The author has thereby completely hidden three noise sensitive properties with this icon and label.

The second small 100m circle, which is located around the dance stages, does not have further 280m and 426m lines cascading out from it. By omitting these further lines they have hidden the fact that some properties would be noise sensitive from more than one source (i.e. the main stage and the dance stages) and also the omission of these lines from the dance stages hides the fact that several properties in Rushden Road and round into Dark Lane would also be included as noise sensitive properties.

32. Our house is located between the 280m and 426m lines. The noise was invasive throughout the event last September and, with all our windows closed and double glazing we could still hear it really loudly, especially the continual thumping bass notes. If the stage was to be placed in a westerly direction this year then the noise would impact us even more.
33. The Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts states: *'Assessment of noise in terms of dB(A) is very convenient but it can underestimate the intrusiveness of low frequency noise. Furthermore, low frequency noise can be very noticeable indoors. Thus, even if the dB(A) guideline is met, unreasonable disturbance may be occurring because of the low frequency noise'*.

The music, and specifically the bass, from last September's event was so loud that it created a frequency which caused sound waves which made our house and windows vibrate. No amount of Rockwool on A frames (as suggested by the applicant) is going to stop this problem because these screens won't keep out the lower frequencies as the bass is causing the ground to move and thus causing our property to shake. Our house is timber framed, over 200 years old and built with no foundations. When the ground moves with sound waves, so does our house. It shook for the duration of the last event and this was a nuisance and disturbance to us and we are concerned about potential damage to our house.

34. The Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts also states: *'Account should be taken of the noise impact of other events at a venue. It may be appropriate to reduce the permitted noise from a concert if the other events are noisy'*. I cannot see that the author of the NMP mentions reducing the noise from the main stage, in view of the presence and further noise of three dance stages with recorded music nearby, plus the additional noise from fairground rides.
35. It is known that young people will stockpile drink just before the bar closes in order to carry on drinking later. With people camping on the site it would therefore be very likely that 'the party' would continue for many hours after the bar has closed. Noise echoes around Roe Green and it would be unfair and unreasonable for us to have to suffer hours of loud music all day and into the early hours of the next morning, to then experience loud noise, singing and shrieking (which is what happened at the pilot event last September) after the organised part of the event has ceased.
36. The noise complaints procedure sets out a process for complaint for noise affected properties which would involve ringing a land line, which would then be diverted to a mobile phone. As I'm sure the landowner can confirm, mobile reception is patchy and often non-existent on Roe Green which means that noise affected properties would not be able to get through on the line and would then either have to go to the venue to complain in person, or call the police.

37. The event team is noted on page 10 of the Event Management Plan and the Event Directors are noted. On page 11, the roles and responsibilities of each team member is set out by title. The Event Directors do not appear to be responsible for anything but full responsibility for the event is with the Event Controller and Deputy Event Controller. Who are these people and should they be shown on the event team list? Alternatively, should it be that the Event Directors have full responsibility and calling them Controllers is an error? There are several other instances where the event team does not match the titles of those with roles and responsibilities.
38. The SRA states, under the section on car park stewarding: *'Match day control to be notified and advice sought'*. Is it the applicant's intention to hold a sporting event at the venue, or have pro forma documents been used in the preparation of this application?
39. The Crowd Management Plan (CMP) states that an incident report will be required when *'the Gardai'* have to be called to an incident. We are uncertain why a member of the Irish Police Force should be required to intervene on the British mainland, or have pro forma documents been used in the preparation of this application?

The Protection of Children from Harm

40. On page 36 of the EMP it states: *'Parents will not be allowed to drop children off and leave them for the day...'* How will the applicant know whether the parents are leaving or not? It may be easy to enforce this ruling if a parent pulls up in a car, opens the door, lets the child out and attempts to drive off. However, how would they deal with a situation where a parent walks in with the child, stays for a few hours, leaves the child at the event on their own whilst the parent goes off (perhaps shopping), and the parent returns later in the day to collect the child or children? Whilst a young child would be distressed and would become known to security, most young teenagers do not consider themselves children and they would therefore spend the day quite happily on their own or with their friends and no adults or parents overseeing them.

Would people taking children have a different colour wristband from those without children? Would those people with the different colour wristband be challenged if they leave without taking their children? Would people without the different colour wristband be challenged if they did leave with (someone else's) children?

Bearing in mind the applicant intends to have numerous different colour wristbands applicable for all the different zones, it would probably be very difficult to then have another set of different colour wristbands for those with and without children attending making this proposal difficult if not impossible to enforce. We believe there is insufficient control and protection for children, especially in view of the presence of alcohol and potentially drugs.

41. Directly opposite the entrance to Poplars Farm is a small equipped children's play area which stands on the corner of a 'T' junction. There is no fence protecting children in the play area from running out into either of the roads forming the junction at this point. The speed limit through the village is 30mph; the speed limit through Roe Green is 40mph. Because this road is the straightest and probably widest stretch of road leading to/from the village there is a tendency for visitors to 'put their foot down' and it is not uncommon to see vehicles driving at 60mph or more. With hundreds of cars driving past and turning into and out of Poplars Farm (right by the play area and on the 'T' junction) we are concerned for the safety of other road users and especially children using the play area.

Conclusion

NOT RELEVANT

Since the last premises licence application was made in December 2017, ~~only minor changes have been made within this new application, for example the position of the stages, although the orientation remains unclear from the information provided.~~ However, the number of stages remains the same, the decibel level from the music will be the same and it will still cause nuisance and disturbance to us, denying us a peaceful night's sleep, and vibration and potential damage to our house.

The village remains remote and there is still inadequate traffic infrastructure for thousands of vehicles. The roads leading to and through the village remain narrow, high banked and dangerous; there are still no footpaths and very little lighting. The roads are unsuitable for this amount of traffic and we are really concerned that there will be an accident.

The previous inadequacies of the site and its location remain the same and the site is still in close proximity to residential properties.

We also have concerns with the supporting documentation supplied with the application as there are inconsistencies in information and guidance and the use of pro forma documents. It would appear that this has been a box ticking exercise rather than a demonstration of the subject matter.

We are most strongly objecting to the granting of a premises licence and would be grateful if our objections could be taken into account when considering the application.

Colin and Lavinia Mitchell
Roebury Cottage
Roe Green
Sandon
SG9 0QG

no dup ✓

N.H.D.C.

15 MAR 2018

Dear Ms Sweetman,

I wish to oppose the granting of a Premises Licence for ~~Poplars Farm, Roe Green~~ Sandon, applied for on 21 February 2018 by R.Maskell for a weekend in summer 2018 and yearly after that.

I have lived in Sandon all my life and know Poplars Farm well. The area is not suitable for an event of anything like the size being suggested. The village is very small and we would be swamped by the huge numbers coming into it from mainly much further afield and travelling on our narrow roads and lanes and leaving very late. They would be a danger to everyone from walkers to cyclists and horse riders as well as people in cars. The heavy vehicles needed to build the stages etc would be travelling over 3 or 4 days before and 3 or 4 days afterwards.

The noise from not just the bands until very early on a Sunday morning but also the very many people during the event and leaving it between 2 am and 3 am on a Sunday is just not acceptable in what should be, and normally is, a very quiet, rural place.

Yours sincerely,

P Baring

4 RUSHDEN Rd

SANDON

SGM 09R



Sandon Parish Council

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

NHDC Licensing

Sandon Fields LC/6845

Dear Hannah

19th March 2018

Please see below the motion passed at its recent Parish Council meeting regarding Sandon Fields.

Motion of Sandon Parish Council regarding Licensing application LC 6845

Based on a maximum daily total headcount of 2,999 persons attending a single annual event at Poplars Farm, Roe Green Sandon:

For sections E, F, I & J the Parish Council believes;

1. that the licensing hours for live music until 1.30 am Saturday night as stated in Section E of the application is excessive and opposes any live music after 11.00 pm Saturday night.
2. that the licensing hours for pre-recorded music until 2.00 am Saturday night as stated in Section F of the application is excessive asks for an earlier finish time for Recorded music on Saturday night
3. that the provision of refreshments and non-alcoholic drinks continuing for 30 minutes after the cessation of pre-recorded music as stated in Section I is appropriate.
4. that the sale of alcoholic drinks ceasing 30 minutes before the cessation of pre-recorded music as stated in Section J is appropriate.
5. Section M

The application adequately addresses the 4 licensing objectives of Prevention of Crime and Disorder; Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance, and Protection of Children.

6. The Parish Council wish to stress the importance of the applicant maintaining community involvement and feedback before, during and after the event.

7. ~~As this application is for an annual event the Parish Council wishes to be granted the Right to review any continuance of the license on an annual basis.~~

NOT RELEVANT

I would be grateful if you could keep me informed of any developments regarding this application.

Yours sincerely

Helen Stubbings
Clerk, Sandon Parish Council

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 12 March 2018 14:53
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Popllars Farm / 'Sandon Fields' application

-----Original Message-----

From: Anne Chamberlain
Sent: 06 March 2018 15:56
To: Licensing;
Subject: Popllars Farm / 'Sandon Fields' application

I write regarding the application for a premises licence, made on 21st February 2018 which has been made by the above.

I object to the application on the following grounds:

NOT RELEVANT

~~Sandon folk fear that the application is the thin end of what will be for them a very unpleasant wedge. They believe that the plan is for the festival to grow in size and frequency over the coming years.~~

The noise from the festival will go on half the night and will disturb people on the green and further away.

5,000 people arriving in Sandon and staying overnight would have an adverse affect on the character of this small village with its narrow lanes. People will not be confined to the site and can roam around the village looking for something to do.

The set up and pack down of the festival will lengthen the noise, traffic and disruption to several days.

~~This is not a village/family event but a noisy commercial enterprise for people who do not live here.~~

NOT RELEVANT

I believe this festival is insupportable on the grounds of Public Nuisance, Crime and Disorder, Protection of Children from Harm and Public Safety.

thank you for considering the above.

Anne Chamberlain

4 Dark Lane, Sandon SG9 0QT

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 13 March 2018 14:48
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Poplars Farm Premises Licence application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: duncan coates
Sent: 13 March 2018 08:26
To: Licensing
Subject: Poplars Farm Premises Licence application

To whom it may concern

I wish to object to the Poplars Farm, Roe Green, premises license application, on the grounds of public safety and public nuisance.

In particular the application does not effectively address the traffic management, inevitably resulting in safety issues. The roads through both Sandon, and the surrounding villages are too narrow and struggle to accommodate existing traffic, without the added pressure from festival attendees, organisers, bands and caterers. This additional traffic will lead to safety issues, as drivers will ignore the speed limits and won't drive with an understanding of the narrow lanes.

Any routes chosen will compromise safety, but suggesting that traffic be directed through Mill End, Redhill or Wallington will lead to considerably greater issues than using the road from the A505 to Sandon

There is an additional issue of public safety with few footpaths along the lanes. The extra traffic will add to the difficulties already experienced by the Young and Old, dog walkers and horse riders, who already have to have their wits about them when walking through the villages.

In summary, I don't feel that the roads in any of the villages around the proposed event are able to cope with the additional traffic, whilst encouraging traffic to drive through Wallington, Mill End and Redhill is considerably less safe than people entering via the A505 and Sandon option, which is apparently not supported by the police.

The event will also lead to greater public nuisance. The application does not address the issues raised last year, where attendees did not stay within the confines of the event. There is a significant danger that crime and public disturbance will increase during the event, even if the security within the application is improved.

The Premises Licence Application should therefore be rejected

Regards

Duncan Coates

Charlotte Cottage, Redhill, Nr Rushden, Nerts, SG9 0TH

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 14 March 2018 09:33
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Premises Licence Application LC/6845 , Sandon Fields, Poplars Farm, Roe Green, dated 21/2/2018

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: peter spriggs
Sent: 13 March 2018 17:10
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Premises Licence Application LC/6845 , Sandon Fields, Poplars Farm, Roe Green, dated 21/2/2018

As a resident of 39 years of one of the many small hamlets that lie on one of the narrow, winding single carriageway country lanes with passing places, that would provide the **ONLY** access to this site/event, I strongly object to the granting of this application. My primary concern/objection is that all these winding country lanes with many long sections of road that can only take one vehicle at a time, blind bends, banks, hedges & trees severely restricting the view of oncoming traffic cannot safely take the increase in traffic that would be generated by an influx of some 5000 people & a great deal more & traffic in future years - even for one day, let alone for two days these events nominally last, but realistically impact for a week including setting & clearing up times. Such numbers would swamp the indigenous population in this one of the last & least populated areas in Hertfordshire & the surrounding counties. **And all this during the busiest time of the agricultural year**, June to September, when the farming activity is at its peak with massive modern farm machinery trying to move around these lanes!!! Many exposed lane users such as ramblers, walkers, cyclists & horseriders, who frequent these areas, would be made more vulnerable.

NOT RELEVANT

~~The state of all these lanes have declined dramatically in last year or so with the ever increasing number & size of vehicle using them; 40ton trucks with trailers & many transit vans/lorries servicing increasingly large numbers of commercial/industrial units on the local farms and online shopping deliveries. Its not just the many dangerous, large potholes in the roads either. The banks on either sides of many of these lanes have been destroyed by large, heavy vehicles going over the edge of the tarmac road creating large, dangerous, long deep muddy gutters, some a foot deep, which if you are forced into, can cause severe & costly damage - I know from personal experience. And these also leave large amounts mud on the road with dangers of losing control if you have to manoeuvre suddenly & unexpectedly. I would suggest road safety personnel look at the state of the the roads for example; around Five Houses Farm on Sandon Road; Whitely Lane at the junction with the entrance to Hyde Hall; Sandon Lane Green End/Mill End; the lane from the A505 up to Sandon Church particularly between Gannock Green & Sandon; and Rooks Nest Lane from Therfield to the sewage works at Chapel Green, which has become a quagmire since Rooks Nest Farm was granted a licence to run a heavy-goods vehicle there - as typical, but not the only examples of the roads concerned; before any such application is considered.~~

~~This application is not for a local village family event, planned for & by the local community, but a massive commercial musical enterprise planned to grow year by year, which even at the start is totally out of proportion to the many small, greenfield villages and hamlets it is centred on. If allowed it would heavily impact to the detriment of the characters of all these villages & hamlets for miles around, **not just Roe Green & Sandon**. I for example live approximately 1.5 miles by road but only 0.2 miles from the site as the crow flies and expect also to be affected including noise & light pollution. It is not that as if there is a lack of a suitable site for such an event locally - Therfield Heath, immediately springs to mind.~~

NOT RELEVANT

I ask **that this licence application is refused in totality** on the basis that the local communities cannot sustain these events in terms of; Public Nuisance, Crime & Disorder; Protection of Children from Harm and Public Safety and the more detailed points made above, and as totally unnecessary & inappropriate.

Yours sincerely,

P J Spriggs

Mistral, Mum end, Sandon, Nr Bunangerford, HEAS, SG9 0RW.

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 13 March 2018 14:47
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Poplars Farm - SandonFields/Music Festival - Premises Licence Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard & Bernadotte
Sent: 12 March 2018 21:54
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Poplars Farm - SandonFields/Music Festival - Premises Licence Application

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to register our objection to the proposed festival.

We acknowledge these festivals are on the increase in the UK and promoted as being family friendly, community building events and a great platform for local musical talent. The great majority of these events however, are not in such close proximity to their home as is the case in Sandon.

Last year's event left local residents picking up litter outside of the event area in the village plus, of more concern, removal of bottles in the children's recreation area on the green. Thankfully due to resident's diligence, no children using the recreation area were injured.

The prospect of this application allowing up to 4999 people into the area with bars open to 1:00am and overnight camping is nothing short of a nightmare to local residents. The roads are already under strain with urgent pothole repairs needed. This will introduce unnecessary traffic stress into the area. The local police are already stretched and there will be an extra pressure on them to police the area which is an unnecessary expense paid for by us, the tax payer. 4 young teenagers were in charge of the entrance to the event in 2017.

NOT RELEVANT

We have lived in this village for only a year but have witnessed in that time hundreds of cyclists passing through, runners, marathons, horse riders, all traversing through the village. Cricket and football on the green, our own annual village fete and seasonal school fetes.

We do have worrying concerns that this event is far too large for the area and with it now being extended to over a weekend period with camping, is totally unsuitable for hosting by our small village.

I trust you will consider our concerns and reject the application.

Yours faithfully,

Richard & Bernadette Johnson
The Folly
Roe Green
Sandon
SG9 0QG

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 13 March 2018 14:44
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Application for a Premises Licence for Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon - 21st February 2018 by Richard Maskell

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Bridget Rigby
Sent: 12 March 2018 18:01
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Re: Application for a Premises Licence for Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon - 21st February 2018 by Richard Maskell

Dear Hannah Sweetman

I am writing to voice my objection to the granting of the above licence.

I live on Roe Green, almost opposite Poplars Farm. When the festival was held last year, I was well aware of the music playing until 11pm in the evening and the noise could be heard from inside our house very easily. Many houses surround Poplars Farm not only Roe Green, but further into the village and many houses will undoubtedly be affected by the noise and light pollution being created by festival goers travelling to and leaving the event early on the Sunday morning.

The country lanes leading to Roe Green are windy and narrow. The huge increased traffic flow arriving and leaving Roe Green at very unsociable hours will be a danger to other road users, as well as a public nuisance with queues likely to be forming close to a dangerous bend.

There is a children's play area just opposite Poplars Farm. Heavy trucks and vehicles will be entering and leaving Roe Green the week before and the week after the event, making this a danger to children in this area. There is also a football and cricket pitch opposite Poplars Farm, another potential hazard. The event will cause at least 7 days of disruption to the village with increased traffic and heavy vehicles which our lanes are just not built for.

The huge number of people attending and camping will open up opportunity for crime and disorder. This would be very difficult and expensive to police. Roe Green is not a suitable location to host such a large event which will disturb and be a nuisance to so many Sandon inhabitants.

Yours sincerely

Bridget Rigby

Red Fearn, Roe Green, Sandon, Herts, SG9 0QJ.

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 14 March 2018 11:23
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Poplars Farm - Sandon Fields Premises Licence Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

-----Original Message-----

From: Helen Coates
Sent: 14 March 2018 11:10
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Poplars Farm - Sandon Fields Premises Licence Application

To Whom it may concern,
I wish to object to the above application particularly on the grounds of public safety and public nuisance.

I believe this application would have an impact on the character of Sandon and the surrounding villages. The very nature of the villages means that there is really no satisfactory access for an event of this sort at Roe Green. The Traffic Management Plan does not effectively address this issue. The roads through Sandon and the surrounding villages are too narrow and struggle to accommodate existing traffic, without the added pressure from festival attendees, organisers, bands and caterers. The event overall will cause disruption for at least 7 days with the increased size and volume of traffic.

There is an additional issue of public safety with few footpaths along the lanes. The extra traffic will add to difficulties already experienced by those walkers, horse riders, cyclists etc, who already have to have their wits about them when walking through the villages.

Other concerns I have are the proximity to residential properties and the open nature of the site with several public footpaths crossing it. I do not believe it is possible to make the campsite secure enough to avoid potential crime and disorder.

Helen Coates
Charlotte Cottage
Redhill

Nr Rushden.
HEAS.
SG9 0TH.

Hannah Sweetman

From: Nikki Webber
Sent: 13 March 2018 09:46
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Premises licence for Poplars Farm dated 21.2.2018

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Ms Sweetman,

I moved to Ashwell three years ago after 31 years living at the Old Manse on Roe Green. I am horrified that it should even be considered appropriate to hold a music event for nearly 5,000 people adjacent to that beautiful and tranquil conservation area. Quite apart from the logistics of getting that many people to the site on narrow country lanes, the noise pollution of two nights of music and crowd noise until 1.30 on the Saturday is completely unfair to the residents. As alcohol will be served until 1am, the noise will undoubtedly continue for quite a while after that. In Ashwell we have the Farr Festival once a year and despite it being a couple of miles away, unlike the proposed Roe Green event which is max 500m away, we still all sleep with windows shut as the base notes are deeply unpleasant. I understand from friends at the west end of the village that the noise disturbs children. I am upset that my previous neighbours may have this inflicted on them. Please consider them before considering granting this licence.

Yours sincerely,

Nikki Webber
4 Whitby Farm, Silver St, Ashwell

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 12 March 2018 14:54
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Sandon Fields

From: Chris Garwood
Sent: 07 March 2018 10:35
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Sandon Fields

Hi,

I live very close to the proposed music festival weekend at Poplars Farm. Roe Green, Sandon. Herts.

I have the following concerns;

Noise; This will mainly be from the possible 3k people camping in the fields next to my house. There have been parties at the farm in the past and the noise was very loud the whole evening and night.

Public nuisance; Where are the visitors going to park, there will be a possible 1,000 to 1,500 cars coming over the weekend. Also what are all the campers going to do between the closing on the Saturday to the festival opening on the Sunday? There are no amenities in the village for such a large number of people.

Crime and Disorder; Is there going to be a police presents? What security is being arranged to monitor any issues during the event?

I have friends that live in Standon where a similar event started 5/10 years ago. They all say there is considerable noise and disruption over the whole weekend. They feel they cannot leave their houses unattended and have to keep their children and pets inside the whole time.

I feel this event should not take place in such a small rural location. There will be a lot of people walking around the village at all hours, we can't look after them properly, most of the village doesn't even have pavements!

Kind regards

Chris

Chris Garwood
Managing Director

Solution House, Sandon Road, Therfield, Hertfordshire, SG8 9RE

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 12 March 2018 14:54
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Poplars Farm-Sandonfields/Music Festival - Premises License Application

From: Heather Jackson
Sent: 06 March 2018 17:48
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Poplars Farm-Sandonfields/Music Festival - Premises License Application

I am writing in objection to the above licence being permitted.

I have lived in Sandon for 25 years it is a quiet peaceful and safe place to live. To allow this activity would bring an insecurity to those who live alone and to the wellbeing of the children, the increase in volume of traffic on our roads which already struggle with local traffic and for those who live in Roe Green the fear of intrusions to their property as well as coping with the noise which can be heard here in Mill End.

Heather Jackson Mill End Cottage Sandon SG9 0RN

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 12 March 2018 14:52
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Poplars Farm-SandonFields/music festival-Premises Licence Application

-----Original Message-----

From: Julia
Sent: 06 March 2018 12:06
To: Licensing
Cc: Jeff Collins
Subject: Poplars Farm-SandonFields/music festival-Premises Licence Application

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to tell you that we (myself and my partner Jeff Collins) of Ivy Cottage strongly object to the Premises Licence application at Poplars Farm to hold a music event. This is certainly not suitable for Sandon village to have this scale of event set up and for the number of people it is to accommodate.

NOT RELEVANT

As discussed and agreed at the last hearing the reasons for rejection still stand. This will cause an immense public nuisance to to the village with the excess traffic it will incur, bad behaviour amongst some of the festival goers due to excess alcohol and drugs (which is a known fact at music festivals). Also we are not confident that the children of the village will be safe.

Being present at the last hearing we have no confidence that Mr. Maskell and his colleague are competent enough to organise and run such an event.

This type of event should take place in a much bigger area possibly on the outskirts of a village and not near to other residents properties.

Regards
Julia Howard
Jeff Collins

Ivy Cottage, Roe Green, Sandon, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 0QE

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 12 March 2018 14:52
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Pillars farm sandonfields music festival premises licence application

From: carol.locke2
Sent: 05 March 2018 21:22
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Pillars farm sandonfields music festival premises licence application

Dear sirs

I am horrified to learn of the application to hold a music festival for up to 5000 people over a 2 day period. Sandon is a small, quiet village with narrow roads. Not to mention there are many horse riders on these roads. The village will not cope with this number of visitors and we therefore object strongly on the grounds this will create a public nuisance, and increase the possibility of crime and public disorder. There is also a local park and with the lack of footpaths children are walking in the road, this amount of traffic will put them at risk.

Carol & Dave Locke
Waterford house
Rushden road
Sandon
Sg9 0qs

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 12 March 2018 14:51
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Poplars Farm-Sandon Fields/music festival

From: Jules Davidoff
Sent: 04 March 2018 21:28
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Poplars Farm-Sandon Fields/music festival

This is to object to the application for a Premises Licence to hold a music festival at Roe Green, When a 1 day music event was held at the venue, the noise was so great that it could be clearly heard at our house over 1 mile away. It must have been unbearable for those nearer. The present application will be a straightforward public nuisance.

Yours sincerely

Jules Davidoff and Robyn Farquhar
Old Inn House Redhill SG9 0TH

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 12 March 2018 14:51
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: OBJECTION to Poplars Farm Sandon Fields Music Festival-premises licence application

From: jo lyness
Sent: 04 March 2018 10:15
To: Licensing;
Subject: OBJECTION to Poplars Farm Sandon Fields Music Festival-premises licence application

Dear Steve and North Herts DC,

I would like to object in the strongest terms to the application made by L Alderman and Richard Maskell for a premise license dated 21st February 2018, to hold a music festival with license to serve alcohol and food and stage music until at least midnight.

My ground for objection are as follows:

1.Noise

The village is small and the area where the proposed event will be held is a tiny part of the village with residents living very close to the venue.

The noise would cause a huge nuisance to the neighbours.

Previos events held at Poplars Farm have been able to be heard well past 11:00pm in my part of the village which is approx 2.5 miles away.

2. Traffic

The event sets up will involve a substantial number of cars, vans and lorries travelling on small country roads where residents walk dogs, cyclists ride and horses are ridden. I am very worried that drivers who are not used to country lanes will speed and accidents may happen.

The roads already suffer weather deterioration and further traffic will exacerbate potholes and erosion of the sides.

3. Crime

Opportunist crime has been growing in this and other lace villages. I am concerned that up to 5,000 people travelling through the village may include those who are looking for opportunities to burgle sheds, tack rooms and gardens, or indeed break into homes.

NOT RELEVANT

~~4. Precedent to grow~~

~~If this licence is accepted and passed the event(s) could grow unchecked year on year, making life in this village very difficult for the reasons above without recourse to reverse a decision.~~

I hope that you will consider my objections as real and well-founded.

I am a resident of Mill End Sandon and have been so for 15 years.

Yours Truly

Jo Lyness

2 Flint Cottages, Mill end, Sandon, SG9 0RN.

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 12 March 2018 14:37
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Music Festival - Premises Licence Application

From: Nicola Fisher
Sent: 12 March 2018 14:18
To: Licensing;
Subject: Music Festival - Premises Licence Application

Dear Sir

Please find below an objection to Poplars Farm – Sandon Fields Music Festival Premises Licence Application. This objection is for and on behalf of my mother, Mrs Sheila Fisher who lives in a property neighbouring to the proposed venue.

Sandon Fields Music Festival

As my home is very close to the site of the proposed music festival I wish to object on the following grounds:-

Public Safety and Public Nuisance

As the rear of the properties backing on to Poplars is open (we have never had cause to fence or otherwise secure them) the thought of 4,999 people free to roam at will is cause for concern. The likelihood of trespass, litter, use of hedgerows as loos (all of which happened last year) cannot be ignored.

Crime and Disorder

There is the additional worry of excess drinking as it is allowed to go on until the early hours of Sunday morning; not to mention drugs which I am assured by every youngster I have spoken to "are bound to be there"

Yours Sincerely
Mrs S Fisher.

The Cuckoo, Roe Green, Sandon, Herts, SG9 0QG.

5, Sayfield Cottages,

Sandon.

Herts.

SG90QL

12.3.18.

Dear Ms Sweetman,

'Sandon Fields' licensing application.

Thank you for sending me all the information I requested about the application, which I have studied.

Yet again I strongly object to the application for a premises licence at Poplars Farm 'Sandon Fields' submitted in February. ~~A similar one was refused on all 4 licensing objectives at a hearing I attended on February 1st 2018.~~

NOT RELEVANT.

The proposed site is totally unsuitable in this small rural village where the access roads and lanes are very narrow and would not cater for the huge traffic influx proposed!

Traffic and noise was a problem last year yet the numbers are said to be hugely increased if this goes ahead. The immediate neighbours experienced anti-social behaviour last year and certainly we who live close to Roe Green were forced to stay inside with windows closed to avoid the loud thumping noise. Only when it rained did we have some light relief. The fact that it will go on into Sunday too fills me with dread.

The proposed extension of the music and alcohol sales hours means that the disruption will be even worse.

I was not impressed with the presentation and answers given by the organisers at the February 1st hearing to the Licensing Committee and the public who attended. They seemed totally unconvincing on matters relating to the chief concerns we all had on safety, crime, noise pollution, emergency services and potential traffic problems. Reading the new plan it looks as though minor adjustments have been made to ease the passage of this new application but it still remains totally inconceivable that an event such as this should be countenanced in this rural setting with no public transport.

Yours faithfully,

Jean M. Handley (Mrs)

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 12 March 2018 10:51
To: Molly Shiells; Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Objection: Sandon/Poplars Farm licence application LC/6845

From: pat sinclair
Sent: 11 March 2018 21:51
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Objection: Sandon/Poplars Farm licence application LC/6845

PS

11/03/18

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to comment on the latest premises licence application, forwarded by Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon, Hertfordshire SG9 0QG, which is numbered LC/6845.

This application is for a licence to enable a music festival at the above premises for one event per calendar year spanning two consecutive days and held in June. Applicant: Richard Maskell.

~~As a resident of Sandon my objection to the application mirrors the decision made by the North Herts District Council sub-committee (licensing) regarding the previous, similar, application from Poplars Farm, made in December 2017 and rejected by the council on 1 February 2018.~~

~~The licensing objectives of public safety, prevention of crime and disorder, and prevention of public nuisance, were not met by the application of 12/17.~~

~~Licence application LC/6845, I believe, should be rejected on the same grounds (including with regard to the pertinent sections of the Licensing Act 2003 [2017 version], referred to during the North Herts council rejection of the December 2017 licence application).~~

The main criterion for rejection of LC/6845 I believe should be the proximity of the entertainment site to the residential areas of Sandon.

NOT RELEVANT

Although Lawrence Alderman, owner of Poplars Farm and a previous applicant regarding these premises, has written publicly to say the position of the associated camping site at the Roe Green venue would be adjusted "to alleviate any disturbance or noise", the entire venue site remains within the residential area and constitutes a near-neighbour for other properties on the green.

~~North Herts Council sub-committee wrote in its previous response to the 12/17 application: "The proximity of the site to residential properties was a matter of concern to the sub-committee, and it was not felt that any conditions could be included on the licence that would promote the licensing objective of prevention of public nuisance."~~

NOT RELEVANT

NOT RELEVANT

~~The same position of objection must prevail since the entire entertainment venue remains at the same geographical site.~~

The other previous objections - concerning inadequate traffic infrastructure of Sandon, presenting a public safety risk; and number of attendees being too high for the site, raising issues of public nuisance, should also stand as still relevant.

~~The sub-committee concluded that no conditions for the application of 12/17 could be imposed that would promote the necessary four licensing objectives. I assume that would be the case with application LC/6845.~~

NOT RELEVANT

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Sinclair-Fearnhead (Ms), Hill Side, Rushden Road, Sandon SG9 0QN.

Hannah Sweetman

From:
Sent: 11 March 2018 04:21
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Fwd: RE: Proposed Sandon Fields Music Festival

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I understand a fresh License application has been made relating to an entertainment "festival" on a non-specified date at Poplars Farm, Sandon. I set out below, the representation I made to Sandon Parish Council on the matter. I believe, for the reasons stated therein, that the venue is not suitable for an event of this type. The lack of a specified date encourages the holding of repeat events, which will exacerbate the significant discomfort and inconvenience experienced at the initial event held in 2017.

NOT RELEVANT

I understand that the owner and/or organiser has stated at a public meeting held in Sandon that any objections raised against the previous license application were trivial. This is a clear misrepresentation of the facts and appears to demonstrate a cavalier and dismissive attitude towards those who have experienced inconvenience, noise and other nuisances issuing from the venue at the previous event in 2017. This, in turn, casts doubt on the sincerity and effectiveness of any undertaking to avoid and minimise disturbance to those not partaking in the proposed event.

NOT RELEVANT

Incidents of trespass and misuse of drugs on neighbouring properties, reported in the Hearing into the previous license application, demonstrated that the venue was not secure; further, bearing in mind the Public footpath crossing the site, it cannot be made secure. Sandon village has no way of absorbing the pressures caused by attendees who may leave the venue in an unorthodox manner and, further, has no way of accommodating, off-road, any vehicles left outside the venue.

The highway infrastructure around Sandon village is limited, with narrow lanes, mainly no footways or street lighting and few passing places. The road across Roe Green is a crucial east-west link. At the previous event in 2017, with an attendance significantly smaller than is now proposed, the road access was obstructed and journeys past the venue were appreciably delayed. Appreciable traffic tailbacks must therefore be anticipated with the proposed increase in attendance. If any persistent blockages occur in the road, a diversion of seven miles will be required to avoid it.

I request that the application is refused.

Yours faithfully

James Stuart Latta
Willowdene
Green End
Sandon

I was affected adversely by the original "Festival" at Poplars Farm last year by noise inside my home at Green End. The music was clearly audible through the closed double glazed windows at a distance of 0.9 linear mile from the venue. If the windows needed to be open, e.g. in hot weather, the noise would be very oppressive. Contrary to claims by the organisers, sound containment did not work and clearly affected a large area containing residential properties.

In conditions of reasonably still air, it is relatively easy to hear noise generated from Roe Green in Green End; the sound seems to carry very easily. Roe Green is an area surrounded by residential properties, has limited vehicular access, no public transport and no large scale public facilities. It is entirely the wrong place to hold an event involving the attendance of thousands of people from other areas.

Obstruction of the highway at that point would involve a seven mile detour for locals; the road structure cannot handle heavy traffic; there are no parking facilities outside the venue; there is no way of coping with thousands of incomers if they left the venue; and general disruption would be severe.

It is totally inappropriate for a private venture to be attempted at that location. The only way for a Music Festival to work at Sandon would be with the active co-operation of the whole Village; otherwise significant disturbance would be imposed on most residents.
It needs to be in a far less obtrusive location.

Yours faithfully
Stuart Latta
Willowdene
Green End
Sandon

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 09 March 2018 11:25
To: Molly Shiells; Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Poplars Farm- Sandon Fields Music Festival

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Fiona Day
Sent: 09 March 2018 11:04
To: Licensing
Subject: Poplars Farm- Sandon Fields Music Festival

Objection to Poplars Farm- Sandon Fields Music Festival

I am writing this letter of objection to the above planning as I strongly feel it will have a negative impact on the quiet character of the village of Sandon. An event of this size will lead to a vast increase in volume of traffic with people unaware of how dangerous the unfamiliar country lanes can be.

Thousands of people will be roaming the village over a two-day event many likely to be drunk. The preparation days before and after the festival will again bring more traffic, noise, pollution and disruption to the local community.

To conclude village cannot sustain such a big event for the following four reasons:

Public Nuisance.

Crime and Disorder

Protection of children from Harm and Public Safety

Fiona Day

Tichney, Green end, Sandon, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 0RG.

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 09 March 2018 08:51
To: Molly Shiells; Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Poplars Farm - Sandon Fields Music Festival - Premises Licence application

From: Nigel Beaumont
Sent: 09 March 2018 08:38
To: Licensing
Cc:
Subject: Poplars Farm - Sandon Fields Music Festival - Premises Licence application

My property is located approximately 250 yards from the fields which would accommodate this event, based on our experience of a similar, but smaller event 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, and constitutes a significant public nuisance.

Traffic – The anticipated attendance will attract visitors by car which will overload the rural roads, and increase the dangers to local horse riders, ramblers and dog walkers and the wildlife which frequently overnight on Roe Green – drivers unfamiliar with rural roads are unaware of these risks. The preparation and dismantling of the event will extend the dangers over a number of days. This will compromise the health and safety of the public as this traffic will be in addition to the normal day to day load.

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.

Health & Safety of children and the public – Opposite the entry to the event is a children's play area, any litter or discarded bottles, drug related items representing a significant risk to the health and safety of the public and in particular children who use the village facilities.

In summary, this application is inappropriate to the village location, it will disturb the peacefulness of the area and represent a significant public nuisance and danger to local residents.

Nigel Beaumont
Woodcot, Roe Green, Sandon

Hannah Sweetman

From: Licensing
Sent: 08 March 2018 10:06
To: Molly Shiells; Hannah Sweetman
Subject: FW: Poplars Farm Premises Licence Application L/C6845

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen Spalding
Sent: 08 March 2018 09:59
To: Licensing

Subject: Poplars Farm Premises Licence Application L/C6845

I wish to object to the above premises Licence application.
My main objections are as follows:-

*Sandon is a small rural village and to host an event the size of that proposed with the potential of four to five thousand people attending is ridiculous.

*The road system in Sandon is made up of narrow and winding country lanes, which can not cope now let alone if the volume of traffic were any where near that which would occur given the expected number of attendees.

*The proposed finishing time of 2am is totally unreasonable given that Sandon is a rural village.

*The disruption before and after the event would be totally unacceptable.

*Policing the the number of proposed attendees must be have a large question mark Who is going to pay for the Policing *This proposal is trying to bring a large scale commercial event to a small rural village

In summary the proposed event and scale of it, is just not on for a small village the size of Sandon

Allen Spalding and Brenda Spalding
The Holt
Mill End
Sandon

Hannah Sweetman

From: Richard Nall-Cain
Sent: 07 March 2018 11:58
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Poplars Farm, Roe Green

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Hannah,

Premises Licence Application LC/6898

Please take this email as my objection to the above application for a Premises Licence at poplars Farm for an unspecified 2 day event in 2018 (and beyond?).

1. The Prevention of Crime & Disorder

The 2017 event clearly had examples of crime and disorder – such as attendees relieving themselves in neighbours' gardens and trespassing on neighbours' land. Control of attendees last year was poor – I have no evidence that it would be any better in 2018 – indeed with larger numbers my guess is the situation would be even worse.

2. Public Safety

Last year the highway became intermittently clogged and obstructed by vehicles entering and leaving the site – not helped by traffic cones which reduced the road to one-way traffic; this road is used by many cyclists, runners and horse riders – and all are put at risk by such an event. I am also concerned at the safety of attendees, especially children; there seemed to be little stewarding last year and the site is on a considerable slope (which would cause difficulties for people like me who are disabled). I also feel that should there be any emergency (whether first aid or fire) the site would be very difficult to access by the appropriate emergency services.

3. The Prevention of Public Nuisance

Last year the noise was significant and clearly heard in our house; that event was one-day and ended at 2300hrs – this year I understand it will end at 0100 hrs and last for 2 days. In my view the event cannot be held without causing local residents substantial disturbance – and I am not persuaded that anything can, or will, be done to limit the music noise. I am also concerned about litter and damage to the highway – as well as the safety and security of local homes. Last year people were in our driveway when the event closed (wondering how to get to Baldock!); I am also aware that people wandered off the site onto local resident's property. With the proposed increased numbers and the overnight camping there is also bound to be increased nuisance from smell (camp fires/cooking etc.) and light pollution.

4. The Protection of Children from Harm

As a past NSPCC officer I have concerns about the number of children that will be on the site – including overnight – and their safety; I am not aware of what enforceable and verifiable precautions are in place to ensure that all minor attendees are adequately protected, whether from alcohol, drugs, offensive language and/or physical abuse. It seems to me that an overnight experience with adult entertainment and drink is not an appropriate place for minors.

The proposed site is entirely inappropriate for the event planned; I urge the Council to reject the application – noting that a similar application was rejected in February 2018 and TENS were rejected

NOT RELEVANT

in December 2017 It would appear that the current re-submission has learnt nothing from the previous objections; any suggestion that the Applicant has local support, or that it is for the benefit of the community or that it has raised funds for the local community should be closely scrutinised – in opinion none of them stand up to examination.

NOT RELEVANT

Yours sincerely,

Juliet Nall-Cain
Roe Green House
Roe Green
Sandon SG90QE

POPLARS FARM, ROE GREEN, LICENCE APPLICATION
Premises licence application number LC/6898 dated 28.2.18

Introduction

1. It is unclear if the Application is only for a 2-day 'festival' event per annum; this Objection assumes that it is – if it is for longer and/or more frequently 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 south, north and east to most of the village of Sandon (including Roe Green).
3. At the event in 2017 (which was never described as a 'pilot' event) 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 – especially as it appears that pedestrians will be dropped on a blind corner about 100m west of Springer's Cottage.

5. ~~I wonder if the desire of one resident in this community to make money from his property should 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.~~

6. The experience of 2017 suggests that this event will be hugely detrimental to the local residents – and it should not be allowed; ~~this was reinforced by the huge number of detailed objections (given the size of this community) to the December 2017 application (which, in all material ways, seems to be similar to the current application).~~

Specific Observations

7. The event in 2017 received many complaints (although the Applicant seems not to be aware of these).
8. The Applicant has stated 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 or the Farr Festival).
9. The applicant has stated that the 2017 event was a 'Pilot' attended by 1,000 people; i] this event was not trailed as a 'Pilot' and ii] if a smaller number of attendees caused disruption, aggravation and consternation how much worse would a much larger number be – for a longer event.
10. The Applicant has also stated that the event was 'well received' by Sandon and Roe Green and that many residents attended – i] many (most?) residents did not attend; ii] those that did were offered free tickets (as they are being again) 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

NOT RELEVANT

11. The 2017 event caused significant inconvenience to the local residents – for my personal observations see attached the Note I submitted to NHDC 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.
12. The applicant has also stated 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 have told me that the noise was unbearable inside their homes.
13. In 2017 the weather was inclement; many vehicles had difficulty exiting the site. In inclement weather it is likely that many vehicles will be unable to exit unaided and mud will be left on the road. Access/egress will cause significant problems for locals on the roads – even last year I was stopped on the highway by a steward who (mistakenly) assumed I was queuing to enter the event.
14. 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 – and particularly where the pedestrian access/egress is located on a blind corner.
15. The Camp Site and Funfair/Family Zone are in close proximity to residential buildings – it is likely that these will disturb the local community, including beyond the ‘performing’ hours.
16. In addition the late running of the proposed festival – to 0100 hrs on Sunday morning (although many attendees will not leave then so it can be assumed noise will continue past this time) – is entirely inappropriate for such a small rural community and setting.

Conclusion

17. ~~It seems that this owner wishes to make a commercial gain at the expense of the local residents; he ran a smaller event in 2017 (without local 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. As far as I am aware there is no local wish for such an event.~~

NOT RELEVANT

18. 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.

19. ~~This is not the location for such an event; the application, which is almost a repetition of the application rejected by NHDC in February 2018 (TEN applications for the same event having also been rejected in December 2017); should be rejected. It still fails all 4 licensing objectives, as NHDC found in February 2018.~~

NOT RELEVANT

Richard Nall-Cain
Roe Green House, Roe Green, Sandon SG90QE

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.
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.
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

NOT RELEVANT

NOT RELEVANT

Roe Green Barn
Sandon
Herts SG9 0QE

North Herts District Council Licencing Authority
Licencing and Enforcement

Sent via email to: licencing@north-herts.gov.uk & hannah.sweetman@north-herts.gov.uk

12 March 2018

Our Ref: KGJ/SD

Dear Sirs

Licence Application - Sandon Fields/Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon
Premises Licence Application: LC/6898

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

NOT RELEVANT

- ~~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 "Pilot" that took place in 2017 was of a much smaller scale (approximately 1,500 people), yet this still caused noise issues in the village. The current application allows for up to circa 5,000 people. By scale alone, noise will increase further.
3. Public safety has not been addressed and increased traffic in the lead up, during and post-event, is also a concern and would substantially increase traffic flows in a rural location. In 2017, a car was abandoned on the public highway for a number of days after the event and by the proposed scale for 2018, this would likely be exacerbated.
4. On grounds of general nuisance, irrespective of what the organisers say, we found litter and empty aluminium beer cans on both the common and our property after the event in 2017. Not only is this a nuisance, but also a danger to local wildlife.

I trust the above will be taken into consideration in determining this licence application.

Yours faithfully



Karl G Judd

CLARE COTTAGE

ROE GREEN

SANDON

BUNTINGFORD

SG9 0QG

20th March, 2018.

North Hertfordshire District Council,
Licensing Department,
Council Offices,
Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City,
Hertfordshire.
SG6 3LF

For the attention of Hannah Sweetman, Licensing Officer

Dear Sirs,

Application for a Premises Licence at Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon , SG9 0QG

I write to register my objection to the above.

During the past 26 years private *happenings* next door at Poplars Farm have been bravely borne by the residents of Clare Cottage, with not a single complaint; *au contraire* with good humour and great fortitude (I am perhaps not overjoyed at having to "glamp" in my stables all night to protect my horses and property from trespassing revellers, but I'm sure the cold, the damp, the cramp, the spiders, the thumping music and the fear of my hay barn being set on fire are all character-building stuff).

I am not a killjoy. Nor do I object to people trying to make money for themselves. Nor am I opposed to music festivals *per se*; indeed, I am an ageing "rock chick"! I have been attending music festivals since the age of 16, and I still travel all over the UK and Western Europe to music events, indoor and outdoor. BUT – and it is a big BUT - these events are held in SUITABLE LOCATIONS (away from residential properties) and are PROFESSIONALLY RUN.

~~The previous application was rejected on all 4 objectives (1st February 2018) and I read nothing in the current application to convince me that any of the 4 objectives could be met. ...~~

NOT RELEVANT

On a personal note, prior to the "pilot event" in September, 2017, my neighbour, Lawrie (Alderman) from Poplars, rang me to assure me there would be no trouble; security fencing would be erected between his barn and my stableyard. He did suggest I should move MY horses from MY paddock

because "you know what children are like when they see horses"! Surely it is his responsibility to keep his guests off my land? However, I did shut the horses in the stables for the duration of the event (to protect them) but, again, drunken trespassers needed to be evicted from my stableyard. On this occasion, for the first and only time, I did complain, politely, to Lawrie, and, shortly afterwards, I submitted a formal complaint to NHDC.

Incidentally, the security fencing did not materialise, BUT – and another big BUT – NO security fencing can keep festival attendees from my premises, owing to the PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (which cannot be closed) crossing Poplars Farm and adjoining Clare Cottage land. Potentially, any or all of the festival attendees can enter my premises at any time.

In the light of my previous comments, my objection could be construed as a Not In My Back Yard situation, but, actually, the proposed venue IS virtually In the Back Yards of some residents of Roe Green. If the organisers could find a SUITABLE venue for their festival, I for one would wish them all the best.

Yours faithfully,

Dawn Dell.