

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

Objection to the proposed licence application.

In regard to the proposed annual licence request to put on a 2 day festival including music and alcohol (music until 1.30 am on the Saturday night/Sunday Morning) I am formally stating my objection. There are many factors that I will bring up but in summary it is far too close to our home and a large number of other residents. We have had the misfortune to endure one "pilot" festival that was apparently "well received" (on what basis was this derived from?) from Poplars farm and based on this experience alone we are horrified that another festival is being planned at ours and our neighbours expenses once again.

~~The application made in December was thoroughly refused by the council after the hearing for many reasons. Most of which cannot be changed by rewording the documents or supplying more documents as simply the location is completely unsuitable for such an event. So little has changed that much of my objection remains the same however there are also some additional and obvious inconsistencies I would point out with the data being submitted.~~

NOT
RELEVANT

I am afraid I share a very different opinion to that laid out by the Event Management Plan (which for the sake of brevity I will refer to as the EMP from hereon in) submitted by the event organisers in regard to potential noise and and "successful staging" of the pilot.

The prevention of public nuisance:

As stated in the EMP "To listen and respond to the needs of residents and communities." We can only assume that the applicant intends to put this on with little regard for those it affects as sadly no attempt was made for the last festival to speak with the residents/local community and alleviate any concerns or hear our point of view before, during or after the event.

~~I have since found out another TENS licence was applied for and refused in December 2017, again with no consultation of the local resident. This was followed by quickly another licence application again with no attempt made prior to the hearing to meet with the residents (apart from the request being submitted and subsequent hearing).~~

We did however receive letter after we submitted our objection offering to pay us for loss of earnings (as my wife was considering cancelling an Art fair) and to accommodate us if we had decided to stay away or free entry to the festival. Sadly the organisers have misjudged whether or not we are people that can be bought and as we did not respond or accept this offer. For reference I have added a copy of the letter to this objection and highlights the sections in the last paragraph.

Some fairly concerning statements have been made on social media as well which I will highlight and directly quote. After the February application was rejected a post was made on facebook (3rd feb) by Sandon Fields and the following are quotes from this.

"38 people in the village don't want the event to happen and we have to respect that! Over 75 people from Sandon attended the event last Sep and a further 80 people from Rushden and Buntingford. We truly believe that this event is for the benefit not detriment of Sandon. It's only 1.5 days! Not Glastonbury."

The 38 who rejected it made up the overwhelming majority of neighbouring properties. It is largely irrelevant if people from neighbouring villages attended - they are not affected by the

noise and public nuisance. Also seeing as they are continuing to apply for another licence I take it the statement "we have to respect that!" is not clearly not being respected.

Then on the same post follows a statement:

NOT RELEVANT

"We were actively engaged in doing good for the community (not just for our own gain) Rebuilding rotten kissing gates across the famous public walkway and raising money for Sandon JMI school."

I would challenge Sandon Fields to inform us:

- to what extent is the festival rebuilding the rotten kissing gates, if they are on their land is it not their responsibility or the local authorities responsibility to repair these anyway?
- What money has been raised for the local school by Sandon Fields festival? As my children attend this school I am clearly interested to know. To my knowledge no money has been donated to the School in proceeds from this festival. No promise was made during the last application.

I am aware that at the meeting they held it was discussed if they would donate money to the school at which point they stated they would give £5000 if they broke even which meant selling half the tickets. I would strongly urge before this is taken into consideration that if any such pledge is made it is watertight and does not revolve around making a profit. Sandon Fields company exists and would assume will run as a company taking in funds from tickets and stall rent, and then paying all the bands and outsourced companies (which will include the bars being run by Mr Alderman and event management company run by Mr Maskell) and that it is not implausible to think a situation could arise where profits are made by the outsourced companies (leaving the applicants in profit) and the festival company is left in debt or breaking even and therefore bypassing any need to make a charitable payment all the while allowing them to say their intentions are virtuous. For this reason I would further challenge Sandon Fields to make any charitable donations a percentage of the ticket price, thus holding them to their word, if their intentions are as charitable as they claim this would not be a problem:

- A watertight commitment of donation as a percentage or fixed amount of ticket sale to the school. If the event is now for 2825 public to attend then for them to make their commitment to give £5000 if they break even and sell half the tickets donating £3.50 per ticket will generate £4942 if they sell half. As I am sure they would expect to sell more tickets than this maybe the figure could be revised but this is just to illustrate my point.

This same post then links to an online petition which then has the following text:

"As you may or may not know, we recently had a premises license refused due to a very small percentage of the village objecting against the event."

Sadly this is misinforming the public. Firstly it was the overwhelming majority of residents in the close vicinity who objected. But it was the council who refused the application and there were multiple reasons for this. These kind of statements cause hostility towards those who objected and I would suggest is fairly passive aggressive behaviour.

From the comments left, Lee T.:

"This shouldn't be looked on in a negative attitude that I have been reading from the minority of people that do not want this festival to happen"

And Hayley C.:

"It would be a shame to lose such a well thought out event because of a handful of people."

Clearly these 2 are influenced by the misinformation given by the organisers that it is a minority of people.

It goes on:

"Bigger and better acts, more to do for the family, just an all-round better event that would in turn allow us to do more for the local community."

As before - I would challenge the organisers to clarify when they say "do more for the local community" suggesting they have done something already what might it be that they are already doing that they want to do more of?

As before in the comments:

NOT RELEVANT

~~Robyn G.:~~

~~*"Raise money for the local community"*~~

~~Clearly now believes they have raised money but no evidence has been provided for this; influenced by misinformation.~~

Now This petition clearly states to say if you are local - at this point in time (17 March) it has been active for 42 days, it has 178 signees. But firstly there is nothing to evidence if any of these people are real, or if they were actually there, and when they say they live in Sandon if they actually do live there. Even after all this only 1 says they actually live in Sandon, 1 has a sister here and 2 grew up here. So I can say with the full support of the evidence provided by the organisers themselves that even when the data's authenticity could be called into question only 2 of the 178 could be classed as local which is to be fair at best insignificant.

On the 26th Feb they post that they have hired the village hall for a consultation and Mr Alderman who owns the land sent an email to a select few people on facebook and it was forwarded to us (attached for reference).

"So far, they have had nearly 3 times as many people - who all live in the vicinity - give their support as opposed to object to the event happening. "

Based on what statistics, from their petition I count 2?

"All those that attended last year had a thoroughly fun time and many neighbors did not even hear the music or witness any issues"

We complained to him directly about the noise by email (attached).

This effort was made to hear the views of the local residents by emailing a few people and posting it on facebook of which was then to an extent passed by word of mouth. Sadly the organisers did not actually reach out to us directly for dialogue (which I find strange seeing as they managed to write to us directly to offer us money as referenced above), and I would point out many of the objectors are from older generations and they should not assume facebook is the defacto method of communication for the local residents.

However it would clearly create an environment that would be more hostile to those who oppose as anyone could attend therefore meaning supporters of the event (no matter whether it affects them or not) would be mobilised by the facebook posting and could potentially have their views heard in equal with those whom it actually affects who are sure to arrive in the minority due to the methods used to advertise which I do not feel would be fair or relevant. Moreover they have been spreading misinformation on social media as outlined above adding to the feeling that this will be a meeting hostile to objectors. I work in London and will have to leave work early for such events and seeing as I have already lost time attending one hearing and now potentially another I don't think it is fair on me, or my employer to be continuously taking my time up for the applicant to be heard yet again.

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

In summary the engagement of the local community has contained misinformation alienating those who felt strongly enough to stand up to the application. They have made statement that appear to be suggesting they have done something for the community when they have not and they have attempted to make out that they are engaging the community while creating one a sided community event that will be hostile to those who oppose by suggesting that the councils previous decision is not theirs and is actually the will of the minority.

Noise concerns:

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

The location is completely unsuitable, there are many other locations that are far more suitable and after the last application was rejected so thoroughly I am surprised that they are continuing to try to use the same location and not find a more suitable one. By comparison the Farr and Wilkestock festivals which are also local have managed to find far more suitable locations and looking at the locations of these 2 festivals there are massive differences in the vicinities of residential properties to the festival sites which I highlight below.

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

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

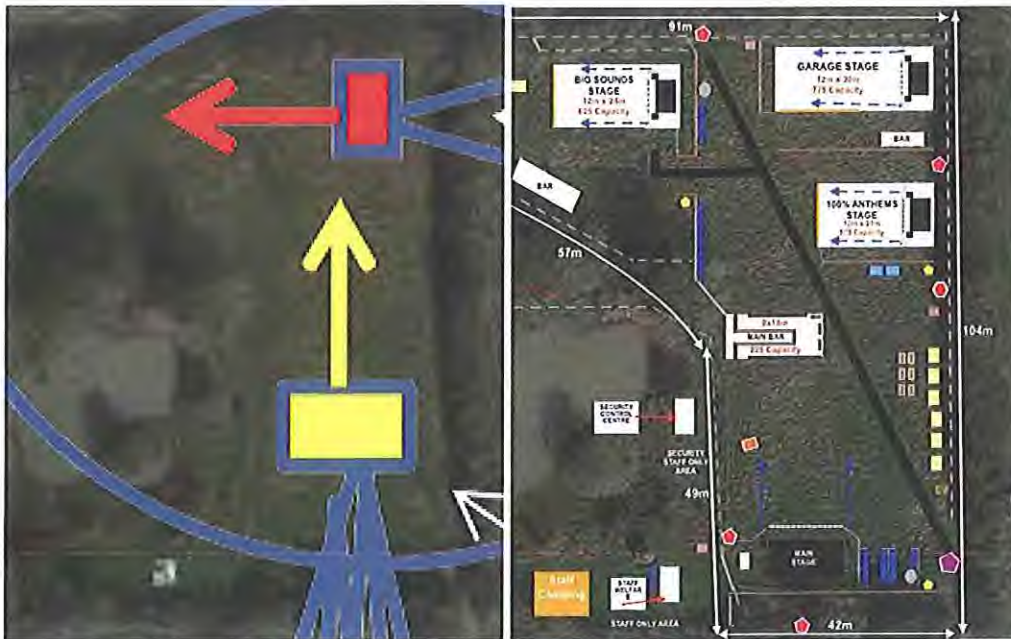
1. Was the location selected because it is suited for an event and what other options were looked at if any?
2. Was the location chosen because the person who owns the land specifically wants a festival on their own land and is trying to make a case regardless of who it affects effectively trying to put a square peg in a round hole?

NOT RELEVANT

~~Seeing as this is the 3rd attempt at a licence here (the first failed TENS in Dec 2017, followed by the refused premises application in Feb 2018 and now this one) I believe that the planning for this revolves around the location rather than the event as I am sure the council would allow the event to go ahead if the location was suitable and seeing as it has already been refused and the location remains the same the applicants seem adamant not to look for a more suitable location.~~

NOT RELEVANT

During the last hearing it was made very clear by the objectors that the planning for the noise disturbances was woefully inadequate and the distances to the properties poorly mapped out. This time around Roscco have been employed to provide a more detailed analysis (Appendix B) however yet again the distances to the closest properties are very inaccurate, maybe it could be argued that the position of the stages is not 100% decided but then this raises the question of whether we should trust the report anyway? The drawings for the site map and the sound calculations show the stages in completely different places to the event map both of which are included in the same document and the sound calculations are all built around these inaccurate maps, by my calculations by 20 metres.



I notice that the report also states:

"All three of the dance stages will be facing Easterly firing into woodland and miles of open countryside."

Surely they are all facing Westerly?

The 2 properties chosen as noise sensitive also happen to be directly behind the main stage and directly behind the dance stage. **The analysis completely ignores all the properties not behind the main stage or Dance Marquees.** I would question why only these 2 were used and why all the other properties were omitted. I believe I will explain below as I will illustrate that they will all be exceeding the critical level.

The calculation table seems to contain a myriad of inconsistencies and errors:

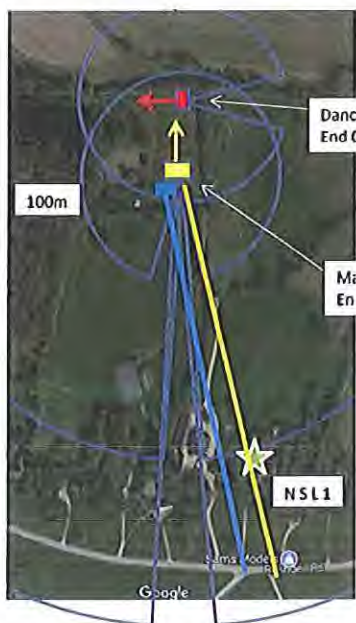
- They have marked the Dance Marquee's as the same distance as the main stage from both NSL1 and NSL2 which is not possible
- It states there are trees blocking the sound from the Marquee's to both NSL1 and NSL2 but not the main stage, either they are in the same place or they are not, they cannot be both. Looking at the maps there are no trees between the Dance Marquee's, and the main stage which are the only places they could be regarding NSL1.
- The topography has also changed for NSL1 to a "2" for the Dance Marquee's. When the final figures are so close these adjustments of 1 are the difference, I note this is an estimate but looking at the map I cannot see the difference between this and the other 3 figures in the row (other than this was one area where they are very close to the critical level and this brings it down).
- The ground surface row also has 3 figures at "1" and the final one at "0". As far as I can tell it is all farmland and all on similar inclines. I am again not sure why these would be different and would question the logic behind this figure.
- Moreover I have saved the most surprising till last what is far more worrying is they have included the "*Effect of being off axis with the subs when in Cardioid Array*" as "12dB" for NSL1 from the Dance Marquee's. As stated in appendix B "*The subs will be configured in a `cardioid sub array` so as to reduce rearward low frequency emissions by upward of 12dB*". However **this property is not rearward** but sideways on and as far as I can tell should not have been included in the calculation. Correcting this and removing this 12dB adjustment from the calculation puts it **9dB over the critical level for NSL1!**
- Equally NSL2 from the main stage has been given an "*Effect of being off axis with the Mid high Enclosures*" of "20dB". But again Appendix B states "*Behind the speaker will drop as low as -25dB for higher frequencies and -20dB for lower frequencies if a cardioid sub array design is deployed.*" but **NSL2 is not behind the main stage**, it is in front and the the right. Removing this from the table puts the sound from the main stage for **NSL2 2dB over the critical level!**

I would leave it to the organisers or Rossco to explain these apparent errors.. Please see below table where I have highlighted the sections in question in yellow.

Sandon Fields - Predicted Noise Levels At Various Locations (See appendix 1)					
	Main Stage 12.00 - 23.00			Dance Marquees 23.00 - 01.30	
	FOH Mix @ 25m	NSL 1 @ 280m	NSL 2 @ 426m	NSL 1 @ 280m	NSL 2 @ 426m
Source Level at 1m	123	123	123	105	105
Attenuation due to:					
Distance (-20LogR)	28	49	53	49	53
Effect of being off axis with the Mid high enclosures	0	0	20	0	0
Effect of being off axis with the subs when In Cardioid Array	0	12	0	12	15
Trees	0	0	0	1	1
Ground surface	0	1	1	1	1
Air	0	1	1	1	1
Buildings	0	0	0	0	0
Topography (estimate)	0	1	1	2	1
Background Noise Level (Avge)	35.2	35.2	35.2	27.7	27.7
Criteria Level (Maximum)	95	65	65	42	42
Predicted Level	95	59	47	39	34

They are only treating 2 properties as Noise sensitive when there are approx 75 within 500 metres, the radius' drawn are from the inaccurate mapped locations conveniently managing to just miss a large number of properties that would fall under the same distance as NSL2 and the axis for sound reduction behind the stage is conveniently positioned to show that the closest property would just be affected by being off axis reducing the sound just enough to claim NSL1 would not be affected.

Please see below map - however I have marked on the map in yellow the original line extended for the sound travel hitting NSL1 and then I have drawn in the light blue a parallel line and location of the stage as per the site maps and you can clearly see the difference in effect Appendix B is trying to make it seem like NSL1 will be benefiting from reduced sound when it will not.



Also to my understanding the sound should not cause any disturbance to neighbours but the report states:

"negligible disturbance between the hours of 23.00 and 01.30 on the Sunday morning."

While I appreciate this also states: *"the music sources will be attenuated until such time as the MNL at NSL1 and NSL 2 are acceptably low. This additional agreement protects local residents from the adverse effects of wind, temperature inversion and cyclic beat effects, all of which are very hard to predict"*.

If it gets too loud the organiser will be responsible change the levels until they are acceptable? This is not really the answer and in practise on the day I have little faith they could adhere to this and keep the festival goers happy. But also they are confirming there will be disturbance between 23.00 and 1.30 no matter how minor and also that there are even other factors that can create more issues that are not being accounted for.

I would also point out that all the calculations, no matter how accurate or inaccurate are very close to the critical level and that sound from crowds, fun fair, stalls etc... would need only to add a couple of dB here and there and the sound will have reached the critical level for NSL1 and NSL2. Appendix B states: *"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."* I would point out they have split this sound from everything else to state on its own right it will not cause a nuisance, but **sound is cumulative and no reference to this has been made**. This sound will not be alone while the music and fun fair are active and cars entering and leaving. Also it says that they would note any observations for future events. I am not concerned about any future events right now just this one and would appreciate it if this experiment was not permitted to go ahead.

Moreover I have recalculated using the same methods as Rossco using the correct measurements to the stage as per the site plans for both the main stage and the closest Dance Marquee the sound levels and correctly applied whether or not the properties are behind the stages and marquees. You will see that the sound goes above critical levels for **all properties checked by 5-10dB** and much worse for the **Dance Marquees after 23.00 where it is fairly consistently 9-10dB above critical levels** and this is not taking into consideration the +/- 3dB tolerance, or possible wind and/or weather or crowd, fun fair and cars. I have allocated trees and ground surface as did Rossco and most measurements are so far over the critical level that you could remove a few more dB for trees, topography etc... and still be comfortably above the critical level. Meaning that ultimately the outcome Rossco have come to depends more on misleading data built on convenient errors and being creative with where the stages might be than actually using data that cannot be contested.

I have measured the following distances using Google Maps and the closest neighbour to the main stage is 260 Metres, the next 2 are 276 and 279 metres, 3 more 280-90 metres approx. one at 309 metres, and another at 348 metres (my own home being 407 metres and

many others will be within similar and comparable range to the event in the same row of building as us). Please also note these measurements were included in the last objection and at no point were they questioned by the objectors, the council or the applicants for accuracy. They are and were uncontested as accurate and can be verified by anyone using google maps.

Please refer to the attached document - "measurements and sound" for the measurements and sound calculations, you will see the map, measurement and sound calculations. I stopped at 8 specific measurements but there were many more I could have done.

I have recalculated the sound by the same calculations provided by Rossco. I appreciate I am not a professional and I would leave this for the professionals to correct my calculations if they are questioned during the hearing. I have used the sound degradation calculator found here <http://www.sengpielaudio.com/calculator-distance.htm> to work out the dB levels at specific distances, you will see the results are very different from those submitted by the event organisers. For the sake of this I presumed all properties have the same effects from trees, ground surface, topography as there is almost not difference between them, also you will see that an adjustment of one or two dB will not change the fact that all are very much over the critical levels.

Below is a map showing 500 metres (0.31 miles) from the main stage and I have marked all the properties as best I can, this is the illustrate and please note the markings are not exact as the the locations of the houses as it is not so easy to do this with the technology I have available. But you will see my estimation of the amount of homes within 500 metres is accurate, furthermore you will see the close proximity of the rest of Sandon in the North East corner.



Please note when using sound degradation calculators the predicted sound will be level with the critical level at approx 595 metres for the main stage, if we are generous and reduce it by a couple more dB to take into account trees or topography it is more like 500 metres. For the dance marquees it will be approx 1000m before the predicted levels are the same as the critical levels or again 800 metres if we allow a couple of dB to be removed for trees and topography. We could also rule some properties out of exceeding the critical levels as they would be benefiting from being off axis but the amount is actually very limited also a few dB could be removed for additional trees but not much. All the below area would potentially be affected by sound above the critical levels for both stages and double that distance for the dance Marquees.

Here is the table supporting this:

	Main stage 1200-2300		Dance Marquees 2300 - 0130
	FOH Mix @ 25m	Noise sensitive location	Noise sensitive location
	@25m	@595m	@1000m
Source level at 1m	123	123	105
Attenuation due to:			
Distance (-20LogR)	28	55	60
Effect of being off axis with the mid High Enclosures	0	0	0
Effect of being off axis with the subs when in cartoid array	0	0	0
Trees	0	1	1
Ground Surface	0	1	1
Air	0	0	0
Buildings	0	0	0
Topography (estimate)	0	1	1
Critical level	95	65	42
Predicted Level	95	65	42
Amount over or under the critical level	0	0	0

Judging by the lack of evidence collected from the "pilot" relating to noise samples taken during the event at any of the approx. 75 properties within 500 metres one would have to assume no surveying was done or if they did take samples they would not support their case, whether the pilot could be deemed a "success" or "well received" in relation to noise disturbance at residential properties can be only opinion whereas I can say for certain it dominated our home and my first hand experience was that it was a terrible incursion on our private space by noise disturbance and was not a success nor was it well received and I am

extremely concerned for the new proposal of a bigger, longer and later event. To my knowledge they have only taken background noise samples and generated a misleading and erroneous report as outlined above.

Antisocial behaviour:

I am also concerned about the potential for additional antisocial behaviour during the event; for example what would happen to those who leave by foot (possibly intoxicated), who are evicted or just simply came to cause trouble and/or attempt to gain free entry and never managed to get admitted?

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

Having a security team to deal with any trouble is pretty much confirming there will be trouble and it is an exercise in damage control. No matter how good they are it is increasing a risk to those in the vicinity.

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

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

Given the nearest train station is 4.5 miles away (by road) and there are no buses to the village the only way to access the site is by road and there is pretty much one road to the site. There is no way around the only road being used for access and/or people travelling by foot. The traffic management plan suggests no right turn on the A505 which is a very long way around. The main right turn from Baldock north on the A505 is over a blind summit which seems inevitable there will be a potential for dangerous queues in the right hand lane of a dual carriageway over a blind summit regardless of sign posts.

I suspect one station would be designated for taxis and ferrying. This would require additional ticket inspectors to deal with the influx of travellers and potential fair dodgers, and also additional police stationed to deal with any trouble. This is not only an assumption but

also what I have seen first hand at baldock station the weekend of the farr festival so I can only presume there will be an additional burden on the police and Rail staff which has not been addressed in the EMP.

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

The main entrance is now also opposite the playground that does not have a barrier to the road, I feel that increased traffic next to an area where children could be playing next to the road is also unwise.

Essentially transport to and from the event is not ideal and public transport is wholly inadequate. The chances of people being stranded in the village after the event must be higher than they have anticipated (they do not have appeared to have taken this into account at all).

There is also a public right of way through the land the event is held on, from the last hearing and the current EMP it seems that this will remain open but going right through the event which is itself seems to open the question of how will this affect security at the event. Will it affect people travelling through on the path, surely it opens up methods to bypass security and gain access to the car parks etc... which is a security risk/burden for the travellers and the festival goers.

Summary

For all of the above reasons, however especially the noise disturbance and antisocial behaviour mentioned above I am extremely concerned and unhappy that this may go ahead and I would strongly urge you to take my concerns and those you will likely get from other residents and neighbours seriously and to not let this event take place. This has been thoroughly rejected once already not enough has changed i.e. the location will never be suitable and so I strongly urge you to reject it again.

References:

Sandon Fields facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/sandonfields/>

Sandon Fields petition:

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/215/779/540/sandon-fields-festival/>

Measurements and sound calculations:

For the purpose of the below the location of the stage has been matched to the plans submitted (not the erroneous sound maps), please see the below map submitted showing the location of the main stage:



I have marked this point on the map and drawn a straight line to all the closest properties and stated the distance also the distance to the closest Dance Marquee, I have not drawn this on the image as it would take too long however please feel free to check my measurements.

Distance to the closest home from the main stage (260.66m), closest Dance Marquee (320m):

	Main stage 1200-2300		Dance Marquees 2300 - 0130
	FOH Mix @ 25m	Noise sensitive location	Noise sensitive location
	@25m	@260m	@320m
Source level at 1m	123	123	105
Attenuation due to:			
Distance (-20LogR)	28	48	50
Effect of being off axis with the mid High Enclosures	0	0	0
Effect of being off axis with the subs when in cartoid array	0	0	0
Trees	0	1	1
Ground Surface	0	1	1
Air	0	0	0
Buildings	0	0	0
Topography (estimate)	0	1	1
Critical level	95	65	42
Predicted Level	95	72	52
Amount over or under the critical level	0	7	10



2nd closest (Main stage 276.28m and closest Dance Marquee 336m): I appreciate this property may or may not benefit from the effect of being off axis from the main stage depending on where exactly it is, as the diagrams are so vague I cannot make a judgement, however they do look like it could just miss out on these benefits, however if it does benefit then it will fall within the acceptable level from the main stage, but still the Dance Marquee will exceed the critical level.

	Main stage 1200-2300		Dance Marquees 2300 - 0130
	FOH Mix @ 25m	Noise sensitive location	Noise sensitive location
	@25m	@276m	@336m
Source level at 1m	123	123	105
Attenuation due to:			
Distance (-20LogR)	28	49	51
Effect of being off axis with the mid High Enclosures	0	0	0
Effect of being off axis with the subs when in cartoid array	0	0	0
Trees	0	1	1
Ground Surface	0	1	1
Air	0	0	0
Buildings	0	0	0
Topography (estimate)	0	1	1
Critical level	95	65	42
Predicted Level	95	71	51
Amount over or under the critical level	0	6 (if it does not benefit from being off axis)	9



3rd (main stage 279.45m, Dance marquee 339m):

	Main stage 1200-2300		Dance Marquees 2300 - 0130
	FOH Mix @ 25m	Noise sensitive location	Noise sensitive location
	@25m	@279m	@339m
Source level at 1m	123	123	105
Attenuation due to:			
Distance (-20LogR)	28	49	50
Effect of being off axis with the mid High Enclosures	0	0	0
Effect of being off axis with the subs when in cartoid array	0	0	0
Trees	0	1	1
Ground Surface	0	1	1
Air	0	0	0
Buildings	0	0	0
Topography (estimate)	0	1	1
Critical level	95	65	42
Predicted Level	95	71	52
Amount over or under the critical level	0	6	10



4th (main stage 285.10m, dance Marquee 345m):

As with property 2 this does appear that it will benefit from being directly behind the stage and off axis however the diagrams are so vague we cannot be sure. But still the Dance Marquee will exceed the critical level.

	Main stage 1200-2300		Dance Marquees 2300 - 0130
	FOH Mix @ 25m	Noise sensitive location	Noise sensitive location
	@25m	@285m	@345m
Source level at 1m	123	123	105
Attenuation due to:			
Distance (-20LogR)	28	49	51
Effect of being off axis with the mid High Enclosures	0	20	0
Effect of being off axis with the subs when in cartoid array	0	12	0
Trees	0	1	1
Ground Surface	0	1	1
Air	0	0	0
Buildings	0	0	0
Topography (estimate)	0	1	1
Critical level	95	65	42
Predicted Level	95	71	51
Amount over or under the critical level	0	-26	9



5th (main stage 296.20m, Dance Marquee 351m):

	Main stage 1200-2300		Dance Marquees 2300 - 0130
	FOH Mix @ 25m	Noise sensitive location	Noise sensitive location
	@25m	@296m	@351m
Source level at 1m	123	123	105
Attenuation due to:			
Distance (-20LogR)	28	49	51
Effect of being off axis with the mid High Enclosures	0	0	0
Effect of being off axis with the subs when in cartoid array	0	0	0
Trees	0	1	1
Ground Surface	0	1	1
Air	0	0	0
Buildings	0	0	0
Topography (estimate)	0	1	1
Critical level	95	65	42
Predicted Level	95	71	51
Amount over or under the critical level	0	6	9



and 6th (Main stage 309.89m Closest Dance Marquee 364m):

	Main stage 1200-2300		Dance Marquees 2300 - 0130
	FOH Mix @ 25m	Noise sensitive location	Noise sensitive location
	@25m	@310m	364m
Source level at 1m	123	123	105
Attenuation due to:			
Distance (-20LogR)	28	50	51
Effect of being off axis with the mid High Enclosures	0	0	0
Effect of being off axis with the subs when in cartoid array	0	0	0
Trees	0	1	1
Ground Surface	0	1	1
Air	0	0	0
Buildings	0	0	0
Topography (estimate)	0	1	1
Critical level	95	65	42
Predicted Level	95	70	51
Amount over or under the critical level	0	5	9



7th (Main stage 348.93m, Dance Marquee 409m):

	Main stage 1200-2300		Dance Marquees 2300 - 0130
	FOH Mix @ 25m	Noise sensitive location	Noise sensitive location
	@25m	@349m	@409m
Source level at 1m	123	123	105
Attenuation due to:			
Distance (-20LogR)	28	51	52
Effect of being off axis with the mid High Enclosures	0	0	0
Effect of being off axis with the subs when in cartoid array	0	0	0
Trees	0	1	1
Ground Surface	0	1	1
Air	0	0	0
Buildings	0	0	0
Topography (estimate)	0	1	1
Critical level	95	65	42
Predicted Level	95	69	50
Amount over or under the critical level	0	4	8



The distance to my property (Main stage 407m, Dance Marquee 467m), please note there is a whole row of houses almost in a line to the same distance from the event (approx 10) which will all have similar results give or take 1dB:

	Main stage 1200-2300		Dance Marquees 2300 - 0130
	FOH Mix @ 25m	Noise sensitive location	Noise sensitive location
	@25m	@407m	@467m
Source level at 1m	123	123	105
Attenuation due to:			
Distance (-20LogR)	28	52	53
Effect of being off axis with the mid High Enclosures	0	0	0
Effect of being off axis with the subs when in cartoid array	0	0	0
Trees	0	1	1
Ground Surface	0	1	1
Air	0	0	0
Buildings	0	0	0
Topography (estimate)	0	1	1
Critical level	95	65	42
Predicted Level	95	68	49
Amount over or under the critical level	0	3	7



Hannah Sweetman

From: Alexandra Carlton
Sent: 21 March 2018 19:17
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Objection to Poplars Farm License Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Hannah,
Hope all's well. This is just a quick email to confirm my objection to the new Sandon Fields license application. My Husband Sam has written a full objection on behalf of both of us and I agree with all of his concerns. I also support the objection that Lydia Pollard has kindly put together.

Thanks and Regards,

Alex Carlton
1 Roe Green Cottages
Roe Green
Sandon
Herts
SG9 0QE

Sandon Fields Festival

Richard Maskell - Event Director

Date: 22/01/2018

1 Roe Green Cottages
Roe Green
Sandon
SG9 0QE

Dear Mr & Mrs Carlton

I have just received the paper copies of all resident objections relating to the 'Sandon Fields' event, that I've proposed to take place on June 9th and 10th of this year. Some objections are only a paragraph or so and some, like yours, are very detailed (many pages) I've read through your own objections thoroughly. The danger in responding back to objections via letter, text or email (rather than face to face or over the phone, which I find always sits better) is that I'll only incense you further, especially if I attempt to counter or argue against specific parts of individual statements, it's a slippery slope! I think it'd be better on my part to focus on the obvious and universal concerns (noise, traffic, litter, anti social behavior and so on) as well as give updated info and actual facts.

Before I go any further I'd like to point out that if, at any time, you'd like to contact me, please feel free to on the details above. I think a 30 minute face to face meeting with me sharing certain updated documents and other event planning details might appease your bigger concerns some. I have already reluctantly conceded that you are very much against the event and I respect your decision. But I'm open to discussing some of the more in-depth parts of your objections. If you don't want to meet personally pre the hearing, then I think to add some credibility and allay suspicions of ulterior motives on my part, it'd be prudent to organise a meeting at the Sandon village hall in April and invite any objectors (and other members of the public that might have concerns, but haven't objected officially) This is of course assuming I am granted the license! I believe this action will demonstrate clearly that I am listening and am not just here trying to ruin village life for the certain residents who are objecting. I'd love for this event to actually be a highlight of the year in the village, rather than something to be dreaded!

The initial problem with the licensing application process is that, the documents you have seen (V1 / draft event management plans, appendices and so on) and the original application are already out of date the moment they are submitted! Due to this, you are partly objecting based on what you can (or can't see) in the documents. It's only after submission (and the 28 day blue notice / consultation period starts) that the police, environmental protection & health, licensing, highways, fire departments and other responsible authorities approach me with their 'conditions' and concerns, that we then start meetings, both on the event site and at SAG

(safety advisory group) The final versions of these documents (V3) for the most part aren't required until 28 days before the event. They are constantly evolving documents (almost daily) If the above responsible authorities aren't (or weren't) happy with my paperwork (and if I didn't agree to certain key 'conditions' relating to the 4 licensing objectives) including the results of the individual meetings and negotiations, they would also have objected to my license within the 28 day consultation period and would have put in 'representations' against the event at the forthcoming hearing. This is not the case and neither the Hertfordshire Constabulary, Environmental Health & Protection or Fire & Rescue have put in objections / representations against my application as they are happy with the tireless work I've carried out since the original license application. There has been significant progress made recently on the main event management plan (the version you've seen is the V1 draft) noise management and traffic management plans (the TM plan you have seen is not even a TM plan, it's just a map of the signs we'd put out to divert traffic!) I have also hired a health and safety expert, a traffic management firm (who oversee far bigger musical events than the proposed one) A 3rd party noise management team (to monitor volume levels and take and log readings throughout the event) and a dedicated waste management team.

Having spoken to several objectors personally already and having read all the other objections before starting on these written replies I believe it's important to clear up some facts / info and realign what has maybe been misconstrued...

Before embarking down this route, an applicable personal statement is that at no point do I want to make this a mini Glastonbury! It's only 1 night and half a day per year and at all times have I been very aware of the residents' feelings on the matter (both those for and anti the event) At no point did I ever have it in my plans to run a 3-4 day event until 4-5-6am like other local festivals. In fact my original plan was to run the event for one day and night only (on the 9th) albeit to a later finish time than year one. Post meetings with the respective responsible authorities, the decision was made to have overnight camping for a number of reasons...

Latest event facts and further info:

1) The event capacity will be 3000 not 4999 (I agreed this with the police post application submission)

This includes all staff / artists and vendors. Year 1 (Sep 2017) we had 1200 capacity and 920 attended.

2) There will only be overnight camping from Saturday 9th until Sunday 10th.

The event site is closed to the public until Saturday 12 noon. There won't be any festival goers arriving early on Friday to pitch up, or leaving on Monday 11th. The consideration and logic here is to not impact on Mon-Fri village life, school runs, the use of public walkways, a noisy Friday night after work etc. The site build and deconstruction will be spread out the

week before and a day or so after the event and at sensible hours (i.e start at 10am finish at 4:30pm) **There are several offshoot motives and actual police / environmental health license conditions for camping, which I will outline below as they tie in with other factors!**

3) The main (open air stage) will finish at 10:45pm. The stage is firing sound away from Roe Green an Sandon village this year and down hill (it was the other way around last year) Then each of the remaining enclosed marquee stages will shut down in staggered formation (so 1:30am - 2am - 2:30am) In other words. The loudest stage (the main open air one with the family headline acts) will be finished at 10:45pm and the other stages won't all be playing at once all of the time, as it gets later the volume levels will drop and drop and the last marquee open will be tucked into the furthest corner, firing away from Roe Green and Sandon Village. There are also significant updates to the noise management plans and how we contain the noise to the marquees, the most obvious being (time aligned delay stacks) smaller, less powerful sound systems, that spread the sound evenly from the front to the back of the audience, instead of blasting the front few rows of the crowd and the rear of the audience hears a much lower volume, this means we can have a much lower overall volume. The second part to noise containment is to build temporary fences around each marquee. Essentially joined together 8ft x 4ft A frame stands, reflective, painted ply wood faces on the outside and non flammable "rockwool" padding on the inside. Rockwool is used for acoustic dampening and isolation and is far better (and safer) than straw or hay bales of the same density and mass. We have the human aspect of how much sound a human body absorbs.

I could write an essay alone on the last paragraph, it's very detailed with lots of caveats, again, I'd be happy to discuss this in detail with you at anytime! Please feel free to call or email me direct. All of this is designed to make as little impact as possible to the closest residents in the respects of noise and we have quite strict conditions in place on this matter. I've only gone to this level of plan detail with yourselves, there is a lot further depth here as well, beyond the scope of this letter.

3.1) We'll be ushering day ticket holders out of the event in groups, rather than all in one go at the end of the event. The above ties in with camping on multiple levels because, of the 3999 capacity, we can only sell 2000 day tickets (per day) the rest have to be camping tickets. This is a double edged sword, but it's the only way to meet certain criteria. The police don't want potentially 2000-3500 people leaving the site at once (naturally) nor do I! And environmental health (noise related) don't want 3999 people staying on a campsite. The balance needed to be found and as such, there have been a number of conditions put in place (post original license application) that I must adhere to. A good example of this is that (unlike last year) we have an on-site taxi / minibus rank and drop off collection point, well away from the main road We are laying on several 16 and 24 seater minibuses to collect and drop festival goers (non walking distance villagers) to the nearest towns (Stevenage, Hitchin, Baldock Letchworth etc) We'll

also have a dedicated taxi firm running at the event. Of course there will also be designated drivers who don't drink and then the collections as well. We've also asked for a police presence (like last year) The taxi / mini bus rank & pick up points will be at all times be patrolled and manned with SIA badged security guards and marshalls. Again, there are many layers of info deeper than this, I'd welcome a discussion with you on them.

3.2) The bulk of the main family headliner acts (**I will share these below with you**) are on in the day time and pre 10:45pm. Last year we had approximately 50% of families with young children leave before 9:30pm, most by car, some locals on foot. The remainder with older children after the main headliner finishes (11pm) Then we are left with the relatively local attendees who want to stay later (but will go home) and people who want to camp overnight. The crowd staying until finish, will be attended to and escorted to by full badged SIA security. And the campsite will have a 24 hour patrol and fire marshalls. We are also fencing off the main campsite with acoustic barrier matts, see here: <https://www.heras-mobile.co.uk/fencing/noise-reduction>

These will reduce the after hours vocal noise considerably! As will the security patrols. Honestly, I don't expect that even half of the attendees will camp.... It's only 1 night, not a weekend event (arrive Fri, leave Monday) So don't expect the '2nd campsite' to be in use realistically.

4) We are hiring in a dedicated "waste and litter team" to clean up both during and after the event and both on-site and off site. By not having patrons being picked up outside on the main Rushden road, we aim to minimize litter leaving the site. After the event finishes the litter team will do a 20 min 100m sweep of the area outside and then again at 10am before the festival reopens on the Sunday at 12 noon if required.

5) Traffic management: We have employed a specialist TM team to make sure everything runs smoothly. Stop and go boards, multiway radio contact and so on. They run TM at other bigger music festivals and football stadiums.

We also have 2 entrances and exits this year (a main public entrance and a production / artist entrance)

There will also be a dedicated "blue route" for emergency services. Last Sep, there was only 1 entrance and exit and as confirmed in the SAG debrief in Nov 2017, the whole site was cleared by 11:50pm

I think realistically we can expect everybody off site (that is leaving) by 3:30am at the very latest.

I also don't foresee any real delays with village traffic (just like last year) as we have a 250+ meter track way onto the main site, all of which is off road (via anti slip track matt) and again, all pick up / drop off points and dedicated taxi and minibus ranks are well off the main roads. Not everyone is going to arrive by car at the same time, artists and production have a separate

entrance, locals will arrive on foot using the public footpaths (more on this below) and not everyone will leave at the same time.

5.1) We will have experienced traffic marshalls in high vis jackets on the road side to stop people parking on the roadside or up the embankments (we'll be discussing with the Parish Council other measures here, like putting up traffic cones or temp fences (red and white tape) to barre access to the embankments either side of the Rushden Road) All of our traffic signs and website info will direct festival traffic from the A505 / 507 and not down the smaller country lanes and blind bend past Dark Lane (happy to divulge this in more detail as well, the traffic management plan is being worked on as we speak and is evolving every few days)

5.2) We will be offering Minibus / shuttle bus services as add on's to ticket purchases. There will be a constant bus serviced to the main local train stations for forward journeys: We'll also be advising it is better to get a lift to the festival and pre book taxis in advance (even though we will have a dedicated taxi service)

6) Public footpaths aren't being closed and can be utilized by the local residents. To actually get into and see the main festival site would requite a ticket and wristband, but this isn't on a public route.

7) Security (extracted from the current unseen EMP) The site will be manned with up to 30 SIA badged security at any one time and also many safety stewards and traffic marshalls. At 2:30am (site close for non campers) a number of these SIA officers will be patrolling the local area around and outside the site to make sure no one is loitering / hanging around. We'll also have a welfare tent for attendees of the festival.

8) The "Cow Shed" Barn on Mr Alderman's land isn't being used as a live stage this year (like it was last year) So no music at the barn. It wasn't the music from the barn that I was concerned about (the venue is extensively sound proofed) It's the noise from the crowd outside the venue, which is situated close to other neighboring houses. A good thing to also point out here, is that it is me, not Mr Alderman that will hold the premises license. I can categorically state right now, that I have no intentions of running any further events in Sandon in the year, just this one event once a year.

The above is just the tip of the iceberg and I have so much more to divulge and again would be happy to. Out of a village of more than 450, 87 attended the event last year and I have over 45 emails, texts and letters from other residents of Sandon, Rushden and Buntingford saying how good the event was and that they are attending this year with their families. I've only had 38 objections in total. Even the ex chairman of the Parish Council remarked that the event was well attended and well organised last year. You've mentioned that you've been to many

festivals in the past, would you both not consider attending the event this year as our guests? (no fee) There is truly something for everybody at Sandon Fields. The Sunday is very much a "community event" no dance music. Just acoustic bands and classic acts. Such as 60's band "The Kinks" We have 50's rockabilly, right through to 'now'. Jazz, blues, rock & roll, soul and classic covers acts. The Sunday will be more like a large village fete with food and will end promptly at 6pm. There is no chance that 3500 people will be there on Sunday (more like 700-1200 max) 90% of the band headliners are on Saturday night. This is not a flash in the pan for me, YES of course I'd like to make money! But I'll be giving back to the local community (happy to discuss in more depth this as well)

As a closing note, I'm sorry you feel so strongly against the event. I will endeavor to make it as painless and unobtrusive as possible for you (sincerely) It's only for one night and half a day. and If I do obtain the license, I will still hold a meeting in the local Sandon town hall in April for the residents to see what can be done to appease the situation. Any suspicions and ulterior motives concerns will then be removed, as if I do have the license I've no obligation to this. I hand on heart have no interest in upsetting you or disrupting your life in Sandon. It will only be very temporary if I do. The offer is open for your family to attend the event (free of charge) as our guests. I have offered this to all of the other objectors and of course certain other residents who haven't objected but are very much for the event taking place. The reason for going bigger is of course to make more money, not for greed, but in order to get bigger acts. We approached UB40 / Status Quo (what's left of them) and several other big acts this year.

If Alexandra needs compensation for the potential loss of trade fair earnings, please email over the details. If you do both feel the need to go away for the weekend rather than endure a potential late night at 2:30am from Saturday into Sunday am. Then I'm also happy to compensate you for this cost. I would also reaffirm that there will be a lot of SIA badged security around the site and your bordering your property, we have also (like last year) requested a police presence.

Best Regards

Richard Maskell – Event Director
Sandon Fields

From: Alexandra Carlton
Sent: 17 September 2017 20:28
To: Lawrie Alderman
Cc:
Subject: Re: Festival Noise

Thanks for your reply.

We may have been the only family to have contacted you directly but there are many others who who did not appreciate the noise. It would've perhaps been more understandable and tolerable if at least some of the profit were going to a charity or back into the community.

Our children had a much later bed time than usual and were tired today. We didn't appreciate the disruption at all and were extremely glad the event ended on time.

Most of these events happen on larger farms where there is a much greater distance from neighbours. It seems however, that we are totally powerless and that you will continue with these events no matter what. Please let me know when you plan to do something again and we will do our best to vacate our home for the duration.

Also please can you make sure the bottles and cans are collected from the playground if you haven't already done so.

Regards,

Alex.

From: Lawrie Alderman
Sent: 17 September 2017 18:26
To: Alexandra Carlton
Cc:
Subject: Re: Festival Noise

Hi Alexandra

I write in response to your email.

I am extremely sorry that you were affected by noise from the festival. We actually went to great lengths with the positioning of the PA to keep noise to a minimum.

I would be interested to know where your house is so that we can monitor that for future events.

I had hoped that I was putting something on for all the villagers to enjoy and have been pleased to note that yours has been the only complaint to me personally as I have also received 21 emails today complimenting me on the event and how well run and fun it was. We made very sure that we complied with the terms of our licence and stopped the music at 11pm.

We feel that one day a year out of 365 days is not too much for a great deal of local people to enjoy some good music without having to travel a long way away. We were very pleased that over 150 village people purchased tickets for the Sandon Fields Festival.

Best Regards

Lawrie Alderman
Poplars Farm
Roe Green
Sandon

On 16 Sep 2017, at 13:35, Alexandra Carlton

Hi Mr Alderman,

Your festival is quite a lot noisier than we had hoped it would be. I really hope it isn't this volume when my children go to bed as I doubt they will get to sleep and the day time noise is bad enough.

I feel unwell myself today and don't feel like complaining to the council as there is enough to do already. At the same time I wanted you to know that your actions are already disrupting our weekend. If it was me I wouldn't dream of inflicting this noise on people and I can't understand why you would think it OK?

Alex.

Dear Villagers

As you may have heard, the first License Application was turned down for this years Sandon Fields Festival, at a hearing at North Herts Council - a couple of weeks ago.

The organisers have since however, been overwhelmed by the majority who live in Sandon and surrounding villages, that would very much like the Festival to happen again this year on June 9th and 10th.

So far, they have had nearly 3 times as many people - who all live in the vicinity - give their support as opposed to object to the event happening.

The organisers therefore feel they owe it to those that would like an alternative event, to currently those on offer in the village.

From my own standpoint, I really don't think one night per annum and a Sunday afternoon should really ruin everyones lives – in fact quite the opposite should be true!

The organisers are hosting a Public Meeting in the Village Hall for all to air their views at 7.15pm on Monday 5th March and make suggestions to help the event run smoother for all concerned.

I purposely took a back seat on this last time, which perhaps was a mistake in hindsight.

I have lived on Roe Green for nearly 27 years now and was the Founder of another event 20 years ago on Roe Green that raised enough money for a new Classroom at the School.

The event was called "Rock on Roe Green" (I was a school Governor at the time) We will be doing something along the same lines to support Sandon School at this event and also my personal Charity "The Samaritans" (of which I am a member) in Hitch

We would be most grateful to get all the village's support for this event this time and to that end I would like the opportunity to see everyone at the meeting on the 5th. It is important that everyone who supports, or has certain reservations about the event, comes along to the meeting.

The next Festival was planned last year for June 2018 as some band bookings had to be made well in advance. Consequently, for timing reasons, the organisers have had to go ahead with another application without the chance to meet with Sandon Villagers, as we don't want to start selling tickets without a License - However the Event Management Plan can be amended up to 28 days before the event, so if any issues were raised at our meeting, these could be put in place, even after a

successful application. The organisers have taken on many of the issues raised from individual objections at the hearing, and made some serious concessions to, the numbers of people attending, finishing times and adjusted positions of the camping site to alleviate any disturbance or nuisance. The Saturday event is planned to have a number of hit DJ's and Bands for the younger at heart element and Sunday for some "family nostalgia" on (hopefully!) a Sunny Sunday afternoon with the Kinks! (At least 3 original members playing)

Finally, on a personal level – It was never my intention to cause discord in the village – quite the reverse. All those that attended last year had a thoroughly fun time and many neighbors did not even hear the music or witness any Issues. It is my intention to oversee a well-run, trouble free and neighborly event for everyone in Sandon to feel justly proud of and especially for those who live on Roe Green.

You never know, it could well raise demand for people to come and live here!

We would like to talk to everyone personally and present the Event Management Plan with Richard at the meeting and particularly to show how traffic is being managed away from the village.

We will make sure refreshments are provided.

Best Regards

Lawrence Alderman

On behalf of the Organisers of Sandon Fields Festival

PS Please could you re-distribute this to anyone else you may know in Sandon and surrounding villages as we want to reach as many people as possible.

Many thanks!

Hannah Sweetman

From: Mike Ayton
Sent: 20 March 2018 22:31
To: Hannah Sweetman
Subject: Sandon Fields license application

Dear Ms Sweetman

We refer to the Sandon Fields license application to hold a music festival in June this year. We note that the details provided by the applicants propose a 2 day event for up to 3999 festival goers with overnight camping and activities running to 2am.

Sandon is a peaceful rural village and the proposed location is in the heart of Roe Green surrounded by other residential properties.

There is therefore a very strong likelihood of disturbance to the village - particularly in terms of noise and traffic. The narrow country lanes leading to Sandon are not appropriate for high concentrations of vehicles arriving and leaving the venue. There is mention of a traffic management scheme but this appears to imply that only 1 route will be used. There are 4 access lanes from the surrounding trunk roads into the village and it is most likely that all will be used, affecting the whole village.

Noise is also likely to be a major issue - amplified music can be heard over a wide distance while the residents of Roe Green will be particularly affected by noise generally. *NOT RELEVANT*

The applicants are seeking to build up the event from the 1 day festival held last year. This proposal is on an entirely different scale and in our view completely inappropriate for this location and we trust you will have regard to our comments, as residents of Sandon.

Yours sincerely

Mike and Gay Ayton

The Six Bells

Sandon

Buntingford

SG9 0QX

Lye End Farm
Sandon
Buntingford
SG9 9RS
20 March 2018

Application Number LC 6845 Sandon Fields.

Dear Licensing Officer,

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

The Application has no number stated on it so one can only assume that the application could be for as many as 4999 even though within the supporting Event Management Plan under "1.6" there will only be 2000 day tickets per day. This figure I am sure will be a debatable one if permission is given for it to be an annual event. Further in the EMP documentation they are saying under 2.1.1 The maximum event capacity have been set at 2825 Public. So what will be the Number set on any potential permission?

Under 2.1.3 Car park capacity they are expecting 1125 cars in the Public Car park and a further possible 100 in the staff area with room for 200. With more space to cope with worst case scenario of not 2.3 people per car.

Under 2.1.6.5 Public transport they are supposedly encouraging attendees to use "The Shuttle Bus service yet are expecting the car numbers stated above. In a public meeting it was said that attendees would be from the local area so why would they expect them to arrive by "Train"

In a separate document published by Mr. Alderman (the site owner) he has asked for support of the application to which supporters would have access to the first tranche of tickets at the best rates with special offers at the event.

Further to this document and at the public meeting the organisers have committed a contribution to the Village School of £5000. No indication was made that this would be an annual donation or for the whole community in future years.

Emphasis was put out at the meeting also that the Police had indicated that Camping should be held on site I have seen no evidence to indicate this.

Sandon is a Village I have lived and worked in all my life, very small in population some 200 houses spread over some 4000+ Acres so quite spread out. The site in Question "Poplars Farm" backs on to the Village Sports ground/common and even if one were to get every household to have "a" member to attend that would account for only 200 attendees.

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

I object to the application in its entirety. I find the Timings unacceptable. I find the licence numbers unacceptable as they are not even stated on the application, more over I find that the application for an annual ongoing licence unacceptable for our Rural community.

Yours Sincerely



Robert Wornham

NOT
RELEVANT

Sandon Conservation Group

Increasing well-being for all inhabitants.

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

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

20 March 2018

Dear Ms Sweetman,

Licensing Application for Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Entertainment Licence for Annual 2 day Music Festival

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

NOT
RELEVANT

NOT
RELEVANT

Whilst we would encourage rural enterprise that provides local employment and is of benefit to the local community we do not believe that the provision of such a licence will serve the local community. Sandon is a very small parish area of approximately 150 houses and 500 residents in total. There are virtually no facilities or services in the area. For example, there are no shops, no pubs and no public transport. Most people choose to live in the area because they value the tranquility, the wildlife and the views. The population of the village is such that the number of older people far outweighs the number of young people. In order to survive, the school is heavily reliant on children from other villages and towns as far away as Baldock attending, the children from the village being in the minority. A number of vulnerable single elderly people live within the immediate vicinity of the proposed venue.

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

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

NOT RELEVANT

~~When the first application was applied for, an increasing number of residents contacted Sandon Conservation Group to express their concern about the application and we submitted an objection which identified those concerns. That licence was refused.~~

Even more residents have contacted us about this latest licence application to express their concerns. We should stress that it is not just the elderly raising concerns, parents with young children and people who attended the pilot event have spoken to us about their concerns. As well as reports of trespass and break-ins at properties within the immediate vicinity of the venue, we have received reports, from parents attending the event last year, of extremely strong smells of cannabis in the Family Area whilst other attendees have told us that their bags and wristbands were not checked. Others reported seeing a lot of drugs being used at the festival. Also, at about 6.00 pm. in the evening a member of our group was passing by the entrance and noticed that it was not manned so she entered, went to the bar and purchased alcohol and remained there for some time. At no time was she challenged.

Having reviewed the latest licence application and the supporting documentation we feel that ~~whilst there have been a few changes, in all important aspects it is essentially the same as the previous application. Further we feel that~~ some of the proposed changes will make the situation worse for the residents.

Our main concerns are:-

1. Crime and Disorder

We would stress that Sandon is a very quiet, small, very rural area with virtually no public facilities. The 2011 Census showed the population of the civil parish of Sandon to be just 495. Policing is generally only provided by PCSOs on an occasional basis as there is normally very little crime and disorder in the area. Sandon is some distance from the towns where full time police officers are located so in the event of a situation arising, it is likely to take the police some time to arrive unless they are present for the duration of the festival.

On these particular premises there has been at least one incident at a large private party where the police and paramedics had to be called because of fighting. Whilst the event security may be able to deal with incidents within the perimeters of the festival grounds and control the situation until the police arrive, they will not be able to do this outside the grounds and there were a number of incidents that occurred outside the premises at the event in September. Given that this application is for a much larger festival, 5000 people for two days compared to 1000 for just one day last year and will include overnight camping, it has to be assumed that there is likely to be a large increase in the number of incidents both at the festival itself and outside. No facilities are being provided for the campers between the hours of 2.00 a.m. and

12.00 noon on the Sunday so the impact of at least some of them leaving the site during that time to search for food and drink has to be considered. Further the latest change to the application means that the main entrance to the site for both pedestrians and vehicles is now through the front entrance to the premises. This entrance is in the middle of a residential area and very close to neighbouring residential properties. Any disagreements or scuffles on entering or leaving the venue cannot but impact on the nearest neighbours.

The documentation provided by the applicants remains lacking in detail and provides no evidence to show that such a sized event can be managed successfully on this site which is in the middle of a residential and conservation area. The Event Management Plan, the Crowd Control Plan and the Security Policy deal solely with managing events within the festival grounds and make no acknowledgement that incidents could and, based on previous experience, are likely to, occur outside the festival grounds. For example the Security Policy simply states that it has a duty of care to customers but makes no mention of a duty of care to nearby residents. It also indicates that if a customer has been requested to leave for violence and leaves without requiring physical ejection from the event, as far as the event managers are concerned that is the end of the matter. It is therefore highly likely that there will be a large increase in crime and disorder in the area and it will not be possible to deal with it in a timely and effective manner. None of the documents give any indication of how it will be possible to prevent such a large number of people from swamping the local population when visitors to the festival will outnumber residents 10:1.

2. Public Safety

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

Of particular concern to us is that if the licence is granted according to the applicant's calculations over 1400 cars could arrive on one day for the event in any one year, which is unheard of in the area, yet the Traffic Management Plan does not consider the impact of such traffic on the area and how it will be managed entering and leaving the public road to the site. The whole of Sandon Parish only consists of 150 or so houses spread out over three main areas. We have to assume that these cars will arrive and leave over a short space of time as happens at all music festivals. So most will arrive and leave within say 2 hours of the event opening and closing with a peak occurring when there will be a continuous stream of traffic off and onto the public road. At least half the traffic is likely to go through the centre of the village regardless of the signage and possibly more if cars are prevented from turning right from the A505 onto Slip End as is proposed in the Traffic Management Plan. Even if

you assume there will not be a peak it means at least 750 cars going through the centre of the village over a 2 hour period which equates to car every 10 seconds for 2 hours. At weekends, particularly in summer, there are a number of walking and cycling groups who travel to and around the area. They are likely to be in the area when the majority of traffic is entering and leaving the site. There are no cycle lanes along the roads and very few footpaths beside them so it is normal to see both pedestrians and cyclists on the roads. In addition there are a number of horse riders both local and from further afield who exercise their horses in the area and have to use some of the roads because the bridleway network is incomplete. As the roads are narrow and at best only just passable by two vehicles going in opposite directions, a stream of traffic going in one direction can make it impossible for anyone else to use the road. This has been the experience when, for example, the A505 has been blocked and traffic has diverted through Sandon. Further, as the applicant is planning to implement a no waiting zone along both sides of Rushden Road from the School to the venue premises presumably for the two days of the event, this will have an impact on public safety on other local roads. A number of residents living on Rushden Road have either no parking or very limited parking provision on their own properties so ordinarily park cars on the road. For the duration of the festival they and their visitors would be forced to park their cars on narrower side roads which will in turn endanger public safety along these roads especially as these roads are generally very quiet.

Having viewed the Risk Management Assessments we also have real concerns about Public Safety at the event itself and the consequential effects any failure to provide adequate public safety at the event will have on the local residents, particularly the immediate neighbours. The Risk Assessments are very general and indicative of being produced by someone with a limited experience of risk management in this particular field. They are not easy to follow for people with no experience of risk management because they consist simply of a table with no explanations and a very limited key guide. Whilst the assessments may identify the major risks and the harm they may cause in general, there is no indication as to how the risk matrix is calculated and without it, it is difficult to determine whether the assumptions made are sensible. Assuming the overall risk factor is calculated by multiplying the likelihood of the risk event occurring by the impact of the risk if it did occur, there is no indication as to how the values assigned to the likelihood and impact of the risk were determined. It is surprising to see fire risks reduced from a red catastrophic 20 to an acceptable blue level of 5 when the control measures do not take into account all the factors that could have an impact. For example, under Fire Risk 1 Lack of Fire Safety, how do you prevent petrol generators being admitted to site if cars are not searched? Why does Fire Risk 2 Electrics, which is more controllable than Fire Risk 1, only go down from 20 red catastrophic to 10 yellow requiring action if Risk 1 Lack of Fire Safety goes from 20 red catastrophic to 5 blue monitoring? The same can be said of the Site Risk Assessment, how can Local Residents being Unaware of the Event be categorized as a level 20 catastrophic event which would affect the general public? What would the consequences of that be for the general public? Presumably if it is regarded as catastrophic event it must mean the public are at risk of physical harm. How does sending leaflets informing local residents 2 weeks before mitigate this risk and reduce that down to 10 yellow,

an adequate risk? It could be argued that if the residents didn't know and the fear was that they would be so angry that they attack people visiting the festival then giving them 2 weeks notice to prepare could cause more harm than if they were caught unaware. Why does the site risk assessment only have 3 levels in the risk matrix when the fire one has 5?

The Emergency procedures identified in the Event Management Plan are lacking in clarity. There is no clear chain of command. It states both the Production Manager and the Security Control Room have overall responsibility for managing emergency situations and the Production Manager or Head of Security will be responsible for the decision to conduct an evacuation. What happens if they disagree? The evacuation procedure requires attendees, if they are in the area of the stages to leave the site by two gates which open out onto fields consisting of rough grassland. The attendees then have to make their way, possibly in the dark, through these for some distance and then work their way back to the front of the premises. We do not believe it will be possible to evacuate the site in 8 minutes and question how this figure has been estimated. Locals would not walk through the fields in the dark. The theoretical assumptions made on escape route capacities and evacuation times take no account of the terrain over which attendees would have to travel and the physical condition that some of them might be in. There is no indication of where protected spaces, if any, for disabled people will be located

The access road for emergency vehicles is over Roe Green, a conservation area consisting of rough grassland and through farmland fields in Landscape Conservation Area LC2 which also consists of rough grassland. Both areas can become boggy so, if tracking is not laid, vehicles, particularly heavy ones, could have difficulty moving. The access road cannot be widened because it is next to a public footpath and the field entrance is of a limited width so there will not be sufficient room for two emergency vehicles to pass each other. In an emergency situation there is a danger that members of the public using the footpath could be injured by emergency vehicles rushing to the scene especially as access to/from the emergency access road from the public highway is close to a bend.

Given that we received numerous comments about the shortcomings in security last year and there has been no indication as to what went wrong last year and how this is being addressed to prevent such issues arising at future events we have no confidence that the security provisions proposed will be adequate to ensure that capacities are not exceeded, that drugs will be confiscated, alcohol consumption will be adequately monitored and attendees, particularly those under the age of 18 will be safe from harm. The security policy is very general. It does not adequately address the issues.

3. *Prevention of Public Nuisance*

NOT RELEVANT In their previous application the event managers admitted that they had very limited experience of organising an event of such a size at such a venue; their experience essentially being limited to organizing events in towns rather than in very small rural

villages. So it is very difficult to believe that in a matter of weeks they have gained any more experience than they had then, given that it is not music festival season. Nor do the documents that they have produced indicate that they have much experience. There is no evidence to support their claim that the third party consultants are experts in their field. The Health & Safety Consultant is not listed amongst the 1535 consultants on the Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register (OSHCR) which is the register that HSE recommend small and medium organizations use to find a suitable H&S consultant. The register contains an up-to-date list of health and safety advisers who have a recognised qualification. The minimum standard for entry on the register is a degree level qualification, at least two years' experience and active engagement in a continuing professional development scheme. From his CV we cannot see that the applicant's H&S consultant has any experience in H&S for music events. Similarly, the Acoustics Consultant's qualifications on their own do not make him an expert and as we have no information about his experience we have to assume that he is not. ISCE Associate Membership is for those with an interest in the sound and communications industries, but not actively employed within. Associate Membership of the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) is not sufficient on its own to show the individual is a suitably qualified acoustician (SQA). The following is stated on the IOA website about Associate Membership; *'this class of membership is aimed primarily at persons who have obtained the appropriate academic qualifications for the grade of Member but who do not (yet) have the relevant period of experience in the profession for the grade of Member.'*

In terms of noise, it is difficult to see how there will be no public nuisance as the Noise Management Plan only addresses the noise produced by performances and sound checks and makes no mention of the noise created by the fairground, the food outlets, the large number of visitors and the vehicles, or the set-up and take-down of structures. In towns some of the noise created by such things just adds a little to the background noise whereas in a quiet rural area it has a much more significant impact and can travel much greater distances. Further, the guidance that the Noise Management Plan refers to does state in section 3.11 that associated noises such as these should be taken into account when setting the limit for the music level. No evidence has been provided to show that this has been done. The same guidance also states in section 3.2 ***that for events continuing or held between the hours 2300 and 0900 the music noise should not be audible within noise sensitive premises (which includes residential buildings) with windows open in a typical manner for ventilation.*** It does *not* say with windows slightly open and on a summer evening it is not reasonable to assume that this will be the case. The evidence provided to show that the nearest neighbouring property will not be affected by noise relies on predicted noise levels which are calculated on the basis of a number of assumptions. No justification has been made for the assumptions made in the report. For example, is frequency related attenuation due to air a predictable quantity? A study of physics at A level and above would suggest that it is not. Attenuation on a fine summer's day and evening is likely to be considerably less than attenuation on a miserable winter's day and evening. If attenuation due to Topography is difficult to predict then why make an estimation? It would be better if the assumption was that as it was difficult to predict it would not be included in the assessment so that there was no risk of giving a false 'positive'. As it has been

presented, it looks like figures for the attenuation due to topography have just been selected in order to show that the noise at the neighbouring property will meet the requirements.

Further the noise assessment only reports results for A weighted measurements. There are no figures given for C weighted values yet most complaints about entertainment/music venues relate to the low frequency content of music which can travel for some distance and through closed double glazed windows. Given the type of music intended to be played, particularly between the hours of 11.00 and 01.30 it is highly likely that there will be a lot of low frequency music played at the event. Consequently we do not feel that the Noise Assessment can be relied upon to give an accurate assessment of the noise likely to be generated by the venue and it underestimates the noise nuisance. We do feel that the noise report should have been written in plain English with clear explanations as to why particular assumptions were made so that anyone reading it could understand the information and make an informed decision on the contents for themselves rather than having to rely on 'experts' to interpret the jargon. Further, the report leads people to question whether there will be a conflict of interest if the author of the report will also be the person monitoring the sound at the event itself and question how reliable the reported sound measurements for the event will be.

NOT RELEVANT

~~In addition to the public nuisance of excessive noise on residents, in rural areas public nuisance can be caused by damage to the environment and by preventing the public enjoyment of the nature of the countryside. If this licence is granted substantial damage could be caused to Roe Green Common (a conservation area) and the surrounding countryside (a landscape conservation area). These areas have been designated as conservation areas so that people can enjoy the natural beauty of the countryside and in particular the flora and fauna of the area. Many people visit Roe Green in the summer to see it in its full glory full of long grass and wild flowers and, of an evening, quietly observe the large groups of Fallow deer and other wildlife wandering over the Green and through the fields. Great care is taken to ensure the land is not damaged by any form of pollution so that the flora and fauna of the area, particularly the wild flowers will continue to flourish.~~

If the license is granted we have to assume that at least 1500 people could be camping on land valued for its uncut rough and natural grassland, ancient woodland, natural hedgerows, wildlife and wild flowers. We also have to assume that even if day tickets are limited to a maximum of 2000 and there are 4000 attendees rather than the 5000 applied for, based on the applicant's figures, this would result in up to 6000 people and possibly more than 2000 cars travelling over Roe Green in just one weekend. By anyone's standards that is likely to cause both pollution and damage to the environment and thereby prevent the public enjoyment of the nature of the countryside because it is relatively speaking such a small area of the countryside that will be invaded by such a large number of people and vehicles over such a short space of time. In the vicinity of the venue there are no concrete or tarmaced paths or roads off the public highway. All the paths are just trodden earth. In addition, the proposed emergency access route will cut across fields where there are currently no paths so, in the event of the emergency services being called out, further damage will

be done to the environment by heavy vehicles travelling across fields not intended for their access.

The Icknield and Hertfordshire Ways run through the proposed site. Icknield Way is the oldest road in Britain extending from Norfolk to Wiltshire and consists of prehistoric pathways dotted with archeological remains. This part of Icknield Way is used not just by local people but also visitors from all over the world, who make special plans to walk the whole route and wish to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the area as well as the views over the fields.

As the area is generally very dark and there is no public lighting, it is inevitable that there will be significant light pollution, not just from the tower lights and the lighted walkways but also from the lighting used by the food vendors and individuals during darkness.

Finally, it is hard to see how having an event, which includes over 1500 people, with no particular environmental interest, camping overnight in a Conservation and Protected Area, where there are just 500 residents in a parish which has minimal facilities, will not inevitably cause a public nuisance. Apart from anything else where are these people going to obtain food and drink from if the on-site facilities are closed for a period of time as is planned? Will the utilities such as electricity, water and sewerage be able to cope with such an influx, given that residents already have to cope with fairly frequent drops in water pressure and blockages in the sewerage system and frequent short term losses of power and power surges? As the site is on a hillside where the water table is already high will there be problems with run-off? How will the sewerage, used fuel and waste of such a large number of people be disposed of? There are only plans for a very limited litter pick-up around the site but not further afield. Will the applicants repair any damage caused to surrounding properties?

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

4. *Prevention of Harm to Children*

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

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

Given that security was found to be lax at last year's event particularly relating to bag searching and wristband checking and the fact that parents reported a strong smell of cannabis in the family zone there also has to be concern regarding the protection of children at the event itself.

Unfortunately whilst the applicant has communicated extensively over social media with previous attendees, the vast majority of whom are not from the village or surrounding area, seeking support for this licence application; there has been very limited communication with local residents both over this licence application and the previous licence applications. It is true that this time the applicant did hold a 'consultation' event for this application but as he had failed to provide any information or documents to residents about the proposed event prior to the consultation it cannot be considered as a genuine consultation. Many residents with concerns did not attend the consultation partly because no information had been provided prior to it and partly because communications on social media from the applicant and his supporters discouraged them from attending. Further, concerns raised at the meeting were generally dismissed or trivialised and attempts were made to shut down any detailed questioning of some of the statements made by the applicant's team. For example the applicant claimed that he could only recall one complaint and that was trivial as it was about someone peeing over one of the near neighbour's garden fence. When it was pointed out to him that whilst his statement that none of the responsible bodies consulted had objected to the previous application was true, they had required a number of conditions be applied to the licence, the applicant's team and supporters vociferously claimed that these were all standard conditions and trivial and shut down any discussion about them. There is increasing mistrust about the application because the applicant has made comments and statements, known to be untrue, on social media and in public at both his consultation event and at the parish council meeting which followed a few days later. For example he unequivocally stated at both meetings that all the supporting documentation for this licensing application was submitted with the licence application itself, even when he was informed that the licensing department had confirmed that the supporting documentation was not submitted with the licence application.

The documentation provided in support of this application is lacking in detail, missing crucial elements and of very poor quality. There is evidence that the contents have been copied from other documents without consideration as to whether they are relevant to this particular application. For example the Crowd Management document refers to the Gardai having to be called to an incident. Statements are made in the documents without any evidence to substantiate them. For example, according to the Event Management Plan, the audience profile for this event is defined to contain 30% children and just 15% 18 to 25 year olds. This is apparently based on data obtained from the pilot event for last year's much smaller event

but the data for that event has not been presented anywhere and the pre-publicity for this event, the stages that are planned and the acts publicised on social media together with camping suggest that the targeted audience is likely to be young people in the 18 – 30 age group. For whatever reason, site plans were not included with the application. Nor were they provided at the consultation meeting.

Villagers remain concerned that a regular event of the size proposed will decimate the village and that there will not be an effective complaints procedure in the event that there is disruptive behavior or excessive noise. As little attempt was made to seek feedback from those residents who were likely to be most affected by the event and no evidence has been produced from other sites in similar areas to show that they can be successful, we have difficulty in seeing how this application minimises any adverse effects to local residents, public safety and the environment in any way. Indeed, on the face of it, we would claim that it considerably increases the adverse affects on all three and would urge you not to grant the licence without receiving satisfactory evidence to demonstrate that all the obstacles can and will be overcome. As more information has come to light we have increasing concerns about the team's ability to manage such an event and fear that if a licence is granted there could be a major incident that they are totally unable to deal with.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Lydia Pollard

On behalf of Sandon Conservation Group

Address for Correspondence: Jubilee House, Rushden Road, Sandon, SG9 0QS

19th March 2018

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

Dear Hannah Sweetman,

I am writing to you with regards to the Premises licence application which has been submitted by Richard Maskell, location Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon and being named Sandon Fields. As a direct neighbour I would like to lodge a formal objection to the application and the event proposed on site. It is going to have a significant impact on our everyday lives as did the pilot event. We did not complain last year as we are a good neighbour but this is now being used against us. The applicant is forcing his choice of entertainment on us and other local residents regardless of if they like it or not. There will be no escaping from the disruptions and disturbances. The applicant doesn't live in the village or have any family connections, he has shown little regard or consideration for properties in close proximity and the location. There appears to be a lack of knowledge and understanding of the layout of the local area, physical environment and any potential risk. If he had, he wouldn't be applying for a third time to run an event within the proposed times and location.

NOT RELEVANT

The previous premises licence was completely rejected by the licensing authority on all four licensing objectives. There appears to be little change on this new application, times have been manipulated, number of attendees manipulated, some movement on zones and a few changes on the event management plan. The applicant and landowner fail to recognise that the venue is just not suitable in anyway for a music festival and camping of such a size. However Mr Maskell has made it clear that he is being considerate by not running a 4-5 day festival with music playing day and night with a constant supply of alcohol like many. All four licensing objectives have still not been understood or met by the applicant.

Four licensing objectives

Prevention of crime and disorder:

- **Security and CCTV will be in place.**

CCTV alone does not prevent crime or keep the public safe it just records it. Who are the security firm, what experience do they have working in outdoor sites, how many, what level of qualifications do they have? No mention of how residents will be kept safe at all. This was a major concern for myself and my family last year. No measures were put in place to keep us safe, we had trespassers on our property as did another neighbour and when politely asked to leave we had verbal abuse thrown at us. We

were assured prior to the pilot event security would be excellent and nobody would be where they shouldn't. Children were also found on our property unsupervised, child protection issue. On the site plan a fence is shown this time but only on part of our boundary, there are still areas easily accessible, very often people take no notice of signs and fences and do what they want to do as proven last year with trespassers, where was the security then? One of our neighbours who decided to have a look at the pilot event entered the premises in the evening and was not challenged.

- **Attendees that causes a nuisance will be settled, ejected from premises or handed to police.**

If no police present where are these people going to be held whilst waiting for the police? If they are already causing a nuisance they are hardly going to wait quietly and be compliant. If ejected where are they going to go? Left to wander and cause trouble in the village, in the EMP it does state several times attendees could be refused entry, ejected from site. On the other hand if they are on the public footpath through premises how can they be ejected as they have a legal right to be there and could stand their ground.

- **Stewards.**

How will different levels of staff be distinguishable? Anyone could just enter wearing a hi Vis top who would challenge this? Last year's pilot event had adverts on Facebook asking for volunteers to steward, what training or understanding of procedures would they have had, last minute requests for volunteers doesn't evoke confidence.

- **Underage drinking.**

Wristbands will not prevent underage drinking, other people can purchase it for them. What measures will be in place to stop this? Would all liquids be confiscated at gates as water bottles can be easily filled with alcohol? Challenge 25 scheme will be in place but no mention of how it will be implemented and what information will be recorded on those refused so that all staff are aware. Attendees purchased tokens last year in exchange for drinks but was not monitored particularly well according some people who went their age was not challenged, attendees were exchanging tokens amongst themselves. So confidence in the drink policy is low. With camping overnight and bar closing at 1.00am what is to stop attendees stock piling alcohol in their tents or bringing in their own from their cars.

- **Searches.**

How thorough will searches be? Body searches or just a bag search and will it be carried out every time someone enters the gates regardless of whether they have just gone back to their car or walked off premises? Will people camping have their belongings searched? How will potential build up of people at gates be dealt with while searches take place?

What will happen to anything confiscated and where will it then end up, will police be called if weapons, drugs, psychoactive substances found? Are staff doing the searches adequately trained and will there be male and female staff?

Will children be searched? Searches at last year's event were inconsistent according to some people who went, and I have been told that drugs were brought in on site. (Another objector has written confirmation). Very worrying as it is a so called family event and it's in such close proximity to my property and children.

- **Bomb threat or terrorist attack.**

What procedures are in place for residents in close proximity to event if a threat is made or attack takes place? Unlikely I know but procedures need to be in place. No mention of how us as close neighbours or the wider community would be notified.

- **Trespass.**

No mention of this other than the fact that fencing will be up. Last year fencing was put around landowners house. My boundaries consist of post and rail fence as do other properties, we had trespassers on our property as did our neighbour. When politely asked to leave we received verbal abuse. I was assured prior to event that security would be excellent and nobody would be where they shouldn't. Children were also found wandering on our property unsupervised, child protection issue. Attendees were also seen wandering the fields out the back of Poplars and headed towards the back gardens of houses in the centre of the village.

- **Crowd management.**

Potentially 5000 people will be in close proximity to my property with no accurate means of counting and making sure they stay where they should. A clicker system has been mentioned but all staff need to be included in this count and with people coming and going all the time how can this be accurately done? Certain areas due to their size will have capacity limits which there is no clear procedure to maintain. There is no clear procedure in how crowds are going to be managed off site or prevented from being off site and minimising the impact around neighbouring premises and the village as a whole. Last year approximately 1000 people which is significantly different to 5000, the local village is suddenly increasing by 4000 or more in just 2 days.

- **Footpaths.**

Footpaths stretch across the proposed event site with no mention of closure or application to do so. That being the case how can the applicant provide a safe and secure sight? Last year public footpath gates on site were cable tied to prevent use without the appropriate permissions. Walkers were prevented from using footpath, this all being actioned by people with no legal powers. Sandon does attract a lot of hikers and young people in training for their Duke of Edinburgh award so what procedures are in place to deal with this? With young people in the area it also becomes a child protection issue too. Equally attendees have an equal right to use these paths and can access and exit the site as they please with no control or powers by the security to prevent this. With hikers using these paths they will be technically on site so should be included in the clicker count, my point being this would be difficult to do and numbers could easily be exceeded. There is also the likelihood of attendees entering the site on these paths being unnoticed. These footpaths lead through neighbouring properties increasing the possibility of nuisance and crime.

According to the proposed site map parking is in a field which has a public footpath going straight through it. This has not been taken into account, being the Ickneild way it is used frequently and no measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of people using it. The organisers have set up their main entrance and the children's zone in the area where the footpath crosses through the property too.

Public safety:

- **Plastic glasses.**

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

- **Parking, entrance and highways management.**

The main entrance and exit for vehicles of attendees, staff, artists, vendors, deliveries, emergency is Poplars farm single track drive as it was for the pilot event last year. With up to 5000 people how can this be safe. There will be no doubts that a build up of traffic will be inevitable and how would any emergency have a clear thoroughfare?

~~Roe Green is within a conservation area and we have permission to access our properties over the common land using only a single track drive for domestic use, does a music festival fit the remit of domestic use?~~

Parking will be at the back of our property so we will have the constant noise of traffic coming and going out the front and then through Poplars property to designated parking areas. One of those being along our boundary at the back of our property, the same as last year meaning we are unable to use our own paddocks for our animals. Last year the event organisers attached tape to our fence before the event without consulting me whilst my ponies were in the paddock, I hadn't realised and found my ponies at the bottom of the field in the rain frightened and unable to shelter under the trees closer to the stables because of the flapping tape. No courtesy or consideration was given to us as neighbours.

Bus and taxi rank are also being proposed on that site too. Potential chaos on property and at entrance/exit site and no clear plan with regards to keeping the public or residents safe around vehicles on the move.

The highways management plan is basically a map with a lot of signs on it with no real meaning or detail. Attendees will put the venue's postcode in their sat navs and follow those as opposed to signs so traffic will inevitably come from different ends of the village.

An emergency route has been marked on site plan through another landowner's field. I asked the landowner if she had granted permission for this and she said no. Work on removing a hedge at the point where it meets the venue's land has already commenced.

- **Volume of traffic.**

With the potential of 5000 people can the rural roads of Sandon cope with the numbers of vehicles. Attendees will be driving on narrow unfamiliar lanes with the

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potential of meeting slower road users such as farm vehicles, cyclists, horse riders, pedestrians etc putting locals in danger and themselves. Queues will gather along and through the village blocking driveways and preventing local residents going about their everyday life. There are no clear plans in place to deal with the quantity of traffic. Last year's event saw cones placed along Roe Green restricting the road to a single lane causing inconvenience to local traffic and again no permissions sought or granted. Although last year there were Marshall's/ stewards at the end of the drive traffic did build up and that was with just over the 1000 what will it be like this time. Marshall's tried to stop me even though I had no intention of going down to Poplars drive I was going down my own drive.

- **Emergency procedures.**

What detailed procedures are in place for emergencies and evacuation? In the event of fires, security alerts, terrorist attacks, out of control festival attendees what happens if there is no clear plan, how are the public being kept safe, where are they going to go? What about residents are they to be included in emergency procedures as any emergency could effect them, fire and terrorist attacks being the most worrying. Last year's pilot we were not given any information about emergencies, I have children, animals and a Thatched property to be concerned about, no thought was given to that considering we are the closest house to the site. Are all event staff trained in dealing with such emergencies?

~~Why has a medical company in Gloucestershire been hired rather than St John's? I attend many craft events, Steam rallies, Country fairs and all have St John's in attendance. There is no medical vehicle and are relying on dialling 999 for emergency help.~~

- **All equipment on site.**

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

There is a complete lack of detailed information on the implementation of fire regulations, food safety, disabled facilities, health and safety, insurance, risk assessments, medical provisions plan, traffic management plan, major incident plans, emergency protocol plans, detailed crowd management plans, waste management plans, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, no bar management and alcohol policy, clear management of music, children's zone, campsite and no clear operating schedule, so how will the applicant keep the public, staff, attendees and residents in a close proximity to site safe and secure. An attempt has been made to cover some of these areas but not in sufficient detail to suggest that it's been fully thought out and will be professionally actioned. A good example is the risk assessment, when reading, it looks like someone has thought of an idea written it down and then thought of something else. There is no structure so therefore how could they follow it through.

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A good understanding in these areas would be evident in the applicants policies and procedures and would therefore be evident in an events management plan with regards to keeping everybody safe and secure.

Prevention of public nuisance.

- **Noise**

I was assured by the applicant and the land owner that I would not hear a thing at the pilot event last year, a bold statement. Needless to say I knew that statement would not be true but I was prepared to tolerate it through the day as the music was due to finish at 11pm. However the noise of the music was very intrusive. I live in a grade 2 listed thatched property so walls are thin and windows single glazed. The fact that they said they took readings from closest property is astonishing especially when they have never entered the premises. I would like to see the evidence of these recorded statistics of last year's event. The distance of my property to the event and activities is also incorrect we are closer to the stage than they are suggesting, this can easily be sourced on Google maps. Music outside did stop at 11pm last year but continued in the barn for an after hours party far later, this was advertised on the landowners daughter's Facebook page. Noise continued throughout the early hours. The proposed times for this event seem to be totally unreasonable and do not take into consideration the location and well being of the residents or local community, many other festivals which take place finish around 11pm so why do they feel the need to extend these especially as its being advertised as a family event. The church clock ceases to chime after 11pm. My husband is a shift worker and weekends are included in his rota pattern, his well being is going to be compromised depending on the shift he's on. If on nights how can he sleep during the day and likewise if he's on days how is he to sleep at night. These weekend shifts are 12hrs and he has to travel to Ipswich and back. Also if he is at work I will be home alone with children and feel vulnerable.

My confidence in the noise management plan and team is low as the ambient noise recording taken was false due to the microphone being set up against the boundary hedge and attached to my fence with no consultation. The recording is falsely high. See my husband's objection for more detail of this. They did not follow statutory guidelines which is puzzling as they are supposed to be professionals. The microphone was set up with no consultation or explanation against our boundary which I feel was an invasion of our privacy. It was reported to the police ref 234240218

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

- **Nuisance**

As mentioned before trespassers on land last year how will this be prevented? I don't see why I have to be regularly checking my boundary's making sure the applicants attendees are not on my property. Congregations of people were on my drive drinking whilst waiting for taxis, I witnessed this myself as I walked home from a neighbours house at around 11.15pm, the police were also there. Cars turning in drive, lorries blocking drive loading and unloading before and after event this all occurred last year, no courtesy or consideration given. My children witnessed an attendee toileting on our boundary whilst they were in the garden, how can we be assured that these things won't happen again? Camping is a concern as how will noise/nuisance be kept to a minimum especially when attendees will be high spirits and probably fuelled with alcohol. How will camping be prevented off sight before the event too, this is a concern.

- **Light pollution**

Obviously there will be a need for light and significantly more than last year, how will these be managed and will they be on over night? Last year one was set up shining right on our house all night as the event was supposed to finish at 11pm why was it left on? The site plan shows a light in a similar place and one out the front so our property will be lit up again. Roe Green is going to be glowing, there is no information about how this is going to be controlled, we are used to darkness and enjoy not having bright lights in the area.

- **Noxious smells**

Last year we had the car park on our boundary so lots of car fumes. Looking at the map we have the same issue again and with a campsite close by. There will be continual comings and goings of cars and attendees going to their cars day and night. We were unable to put our horses in the paddocks last year and that will be the same again. Our daily routines will be impacted on by the applicant and landowner.

- **Litter**

As mentioned before litter was an issue and still continues to be one. Litter was on my land after last year's event which was unsightly and a danger to my grazing ponies. I was assured that all litter would be picked up first thing the following morning but it wasn't like other assurances. There appears to be a very basic waste management plan especially with regards to rubbish and bins. With so many more attendees more adequate provisions need to be provided, a far greater amount of wheelie bins than they have suggested will be required and regular emptying to maintain a high standard of cleanliness if that's what they intend to use as suggested in EMP. Toileting facilities seem to be short on numbers too especially with a higher attendance level expected, no mention of regular cleaning or emptying.

- **Publicity**

It states in the EMP a letter drop will be carried out to all immediate local residents with times and contact numbers to help combat public nuisance. This did not happen for the last event. In fact as a direct neighbour the landowner or applicant did not tell me anything about last year's event until I approached him 2weeks before the

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event, where he dismissed my concerns and was rude because I didn't agree with him. We did have a short meeting where he showed me what he was intending to do and gave me assurances which turned out to be worthless and there was no communication after the event. ~~Again applications for an even bigger festival have been applied for and again no communication until after the application had been applied for.~~ With regards to the previous premises licence application the landowner made contact 2 days before Christmas asking if he could come round and talk about concerns of the festival and coincidentally he wanted to talk about the rent we pay for using his paddock. He wanted to appease our concerns by letting us have the paddock we rent for free this year, we told him we no longer require it but would be happy to talk about the festival. His response was we have nothing to discuss then, but he did suggest he would help finding my ponies somewhere to go during the event. My ponies will be staying on our property close to me as they require regular attendance. There has been no communication since. Again with this premises licence application there was no communication prior to application but the landowner did make contact and asked to discuss the proposed event. I responded by reminding him of his last statement that he had nothing to discuss with us, his response by text was a smiley face. I did agree to meet unfortunately due to bad weather at the time my husband had to work late and we had to cancel, but no other contact has been made. I was unable to attend the public consultation due to commitments with the children and my husband being at work. As the application had been submitted prior to the meeting input from the local community was not required.

Protection of children from harm.

There are no clear steps to protect children, no clear operating schedule about activities and times when events take place to determine what's appropriate for children. Last year's music had explicit language content really not suitable for children. There appears to be no restricted areas or times to protect children from this content on or off premises. I have a two children and as explained before we could hear the music and the inappropriate lyrics, what procedures will be in place to protect my children and other children on Roe green and any children at the park opposite Poplars Farm? The increase traffic is a real concern with regards to the park and recreation ground opposite as well as the large volume of people. The whole event is based around the consumption of alcohol which again is this suitable for children who could potentially witness totally inappropriate behaviour. The EMP refers to parents/ guardians to remain with their children at all times but as we had children on our property alone and a reference has been made on Facebook Sandonfields site that a parent was happy to let their children wonder off alone this was not policed. As the site is not totally secure due to open boundaries and public footpaths these incidents could have become very serious very quickly. No mention of open water around Roe Green either, there are many large ponds, one being at the front of Poplars. No thought has been given to these and could be very dangerous for unsupervised children or people under the influence of alcohol.

There appears to be no detailed lost child procedure or adequate safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. What trained staff will be present to deal with any child protection issues and how many as it is a 2day event?

Conclusion

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This whole event ~~as was last year's~~ is being advertised as a community and family music festival, in my opinion there is little evidence of this. Looking through this new application there has been no significant change. The application has many omissions and does not have any regard for the tranquil, rural local community we live in. The village has few amenities and that's why we live here. There are many locally, well organised, cultural, musical events at more suitable venues where the community can attend. ~~The applicant and landowner appear to have disregarded why the application was rejected last time,~~ the venue is just not suitable due to close proximity of residents, it can't be secured and access is unsuitable. My letter contains a few of my many concerns and questions about the poor application and these have been deemed petty and trivial by the applicant and landowner. We have the right to enjoy our property and possessions peacefully. The application doesn't competently meet the four licencing objectives, which in turn makes me worried about the organisational abilities of the applicant and designated person, so therefore I have no option but to object to the premises licence. The council has a duty to focus on the direct impact of proposed activities on persons that may be affected in relation to the licensing objectives. Disturbances and risks need to be considered.

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

Below is an image of our house which we found on Google and Instagram with Sandonfields banner in front of it. I politely asked for it to be removed as I have no association with the event or organisers.



Since the event is advertised as Poplars Farm and this photo is ages old, not taken by me and I can't even find it on a Google search, do you not think this is all a bit petty? No wish to offend, I'm just being honest (or at least saying it how I see it?)

Above was part of Mr Maskell's response, full email can be made available if required. I didn't feel that this was an unreasonable request asking it to be removed, as we have no wish to be associated with the event. I know Poplars farm was the address for venue

however it's my property shown in picture. ~~However sign is more evidence of complete lack of regards to the local community as it contravenes local bylaws of Roe green common.~~

Debbie Williamson
Thatched Cottage,
Roe Green,
Sandon,
HEAS,
SG9 0QG.