

The Warren
Green End
Sandon
Buntingford
Herts
SG9 0RQ

3 November 2019

Licensing

North Herts District Council

Council Offices Gernon road

Letchworth

Dear Sirs

Re Licensing Application No 10184 Hyde Hall Farm, Mill End Sandon

I am very concerned with the application for a two-day music festival at Hyde Hall farm in June 2020.

The applicant has tried to arrange a number of festivals in the middle of the village on a much smaller scale. At the last event [REDACTED] conditions were imposed by licencing [REDACTED]. These ranged from highways being blocked, a waste management plan that did not deliver (rubbish still needs to be removed some 9months later). Security fencing was missing in places, no ongoing monitoring of capacities of people within each area as required, underage drinking, drinking outside the event. [REDACTED].

Prior to the event Environmental Health officers expressed concerns about the management of the egress of the visitors. False promises were made and Environmental officers were so disturbed with what they saw and asked for the licence to be revoked. In other words, the applicant has a track record which should preclude from holding a much larger event.

The application is for 5000 visitors plus 800 tents. Such an event is likely to attract drug dealers and rogues.

Even well organised festivals generate lots of waste and whilst this waste may be cleared away it does not obviate the actual generation of the waste in the first place.

From an environmental health point of view the event will generate significant human waste and demand for water.

The event is due to run until 2am which means that many visitors, all those not camping, will be leaving the site having "partied "all day ang night sometime after 2 in the morning.

The roads around the site are narrow and are too narrow for two-way traffic in broad daylight and for "tipsy" strangers in the early hours of the morning even less suitable.

The proposal also shows a temporary traffic restriction making the main entrance route one way. If this is for the two days of the event it will be bad enough but if it extends for the setting up and take down period it will cause a public nuisance and inconvenience.

The proposed emergency access route will at times clash with other event traffic. The application suggests that the proposal is for a reoccurring event. We are due to suffer the effects of the new wedding venue for which you have granted a licence. There is a possibility that both venues could have events at the same time which would cause even more problems. The proposed event will put a significant demand on Police, EH and other resources which are all currently under resourced.

I have not mentioned the disturbance to the neighbouring residents [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In conclusion the proposal is not suited to the area and given the proposers track record we strongly urge you to reject the application.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Roberts

The Warren
Green End
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[REDACTED]

In conclusion the proposal is not suited to the area and given the proposers track record we strongly urge you to reject the application.

Yours sincerely

P.A.Roberts

Dear Sirs,

**Licensing Application No. 10184 Hyde Hall Farm, Mill End, Sandon
Entertainment Licence for Sandon Fields Annual 2 day Music Festival**

I wish to make a **strong objection** to the above application on behalf of my wife Joan and myself.

Others from Sandon village and elsewhere have already made objections and argued eloquently on matters such as traffic, noise, crime [REDACTED] etc., so we won't labour the point other than to confirm that we share their concerns.

The applicant for this event has already demonstrated severally that the unfortunate occurrences that accompanied and followed the two Sandon Fields events he organised on Roe Green, failed to satisfy the Licensing conditions in numerous instances BUT he is now applying for an even bigger event — two-and-a-half times BIGGER - at Hyde Hall, Sandon.

[REDACTED] The opportunities for breaking the law in a badly controlled situation are numerous: causing disturbance, noise level, litter, distribution of drugs (especially to minors), underage drinking, damage to property, disruption, drunkenness and other anti-social forms of behaviour.

We live in Mill End which has 20 households, all are within 1,000 yards of the proposed site (average age of residents estimated 62 years); other nearby hamlets in a similar distance include: Green End, Lye End, Chipping and Buckland.

[REDACTED]

An event such as the proposed 'Sandon Fields, Mill End' would not be welcomed by my wife or I nor by our neighbours. There would be no benefit to the residents of the surrounding household nor to those in Sandon Village. [REDACTED]

It would be an awful blow for us and our fellow villagers who enjoy the year-round tranquility in our homes of this beautiful rural area.

We ask that the Application be emphatically **refused**.

Yours sincerely,
Joan and Christopher Hoefkens
Grassmere, (1,000 yards distant from Hyde Hall)
Mill End, Sandon, Herts. SG9 0RN

Jubilee House

Rushden Road

Sandon

SG9 0QS

4 November 2019

Dear Molly,

We wish to object to the licence application for the music festival, Sandon Fields at Hyde Hall Farm Sandon.

We feel it is far too big an event to be held in a small, relatively remote rural village like Sandon.

There is no public transport to the village so the vast majority of attendees will have little or no option but to arrive by private transport and most will arrive by car. The local roads are narrow, winding and unlit. Because of run-off from the surrounding farmland they are subject to frequent potholes and erosion. The roads are often muddy due to farm tractors travelling down the roads from field to fields and after heavy rainfall the roads become flooded in places. Locals are used to the roads and know where the passing places are but visitors to the area often travel too fast for the road conditions and ignore passing places forcing traffic travelling in the other direction to brake suddenly and pull onto rough ground at the side of the road. Most music festivals suffer from a constant stream of traffic to and from the venue around the opening and closing times and we feel that this event, which could have some 1500+ vehicles arriving, will also have a continuous stream of traffic going in one direction through the village, possibly driving too fast, making it impossible for traffic to go in the other direction and creating a danger not only to themselves and other vehicles but also to walkers, cyclists and horse riders who all use the road, particularly at weekends, as there are no footpaths or cycle tracks along most of the roads.

If the junction to the A10 via Mill End is made one way for the duration of the festival, this would considerably inconvenience us personally and the many other villagers who regularly use this route, especially at the weekend. Many villagers use Buntingford for shopping and leisure activities as well as having their GP, pharmacy, dentist and optician located there, as it is the nearest town to Sandon. In addition, our local Royal Mail delivery office is located at Ware and this is where we have to go to pick up any parcels or letters that could not be delivered.

Up to 5000 people attending the event will swamp village residents by 10 to 1 as there are only about 500 residents in the village. It is inevitable that with such a large

number of people in such a small area there will be an increase in crime and disorder especially if alcohol and possibly drugs are involved over a long period of time. It is not acceptable if all that the event organisers will do is to eject disorderly individuals from the event itself with no consideration as to what might happen once the individual has left the venue. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] considerable damage could be done to either property or residents before the police could arrive to deal with the matter. Allowing up to 800 tents and consequently possibly 2000 people to camp in an area with no facilities will compound the problem, especially as no food or beverages will be provided on site between 2.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. on Sunday. It is to be expected that some of the campers will leave the site in search of food and drink.

In terms of public nuisance, noise does travel considerable distances in the countryside. We did hear noise from the previous festivals held at in Roe Green, which were much smaller in scale. Sandon village is very quiet, particularly after 11.00 p.m. when most houses are in darkness. Those that are not in darkness are quiet. Garage and bass music unit 2.00 a.m. would be extremely intrusive as would a large amount of traffic on the roads in the early hours of the morning.

Can we end by saying that we are not opposed to music festivals as such. We are well aware that not all young people who attend music festivals take drugs and cause trouble but equally most do drink alcohol sometimes to excess and incidents do happen. We just feel that music festivals should be held in appropriate locations and Sandon is not one. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards

Derek & Lydia Pollard

LICENSE for SANDON FIELDS 2 DAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Dear Ms Shiells,

I write to endorse all the comments and points made by Sandon Matters Group about the above application and would like to add a few points of my own:

CRIME AND DISORDER

The applicants are asking for 5000 attendees and 800 tents, and inevitably there will be some who may behave in a disorderly manner on their way home. Previously there were people walking along the local country lanes trying to get a taxi etc. , a car driver I know who had been at the concert , said it was very disorderly , she had come on groups of singing and drunk people heading for Baldock (7 miles) . This was when there were 2000 people. The route proposed goes through Sandon village, when there are normally very few cars late at night.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Our roads are narrow and winding with no allotted passing places. Locals know the roads, but strangers may well get involved in accidents, as not all will be camping, especially after drinking or taking the inevitable drugs at these events.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Of course there is no public transport, so once again I will mention the people walking on the roads, unable to get enough taxis after the concert ends.

PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

Weekends in Sandon see many groups of cyclists on the roads, also walkers and riders who have to go partly on the roads to get to the Footpath and Bridleways network.

Noise also comes into the considerations, as we witnessed before that it jumps across country, people in Rushden heard the Festival, also in outlying parts of Sandon. It is the bass boom that travels. The campers will also want to play music and talk and there will be lights all over the site.

The Festival equipment will be arriving over 5 days beforehand, with unusual traffic. At the end , it will take several more days to take away and hopefully clear up the site.

PREVENTION OF HARM TO CHILDREN

There are many Public Footpaths crossing and near to the site which the public are at liberty to walk at any time, and in the summer we have masses of walking parties and families on these paths.

Yours sincerely ,

Anne Cottam

~~Address needed~~

Millsted, Green End, Sandon.

We wish to object to the above application,

We feel that 5000 people arriving in Sandon is more than the road system can cope with.
The lanes are narrow and in many places only room for one car.

Also the organiser of this event has failed three times [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] at the venue in Roe Green Sandon, and this was for far less people, and no
Camping. Also the music continuing until 2:00am seems very excessive for local people.

Would you please note my Objection.

A Linard

Address needed

OBJECTION

A change of venue is no justification for granting a new license for this event. If the organisers couldn't manage it properly at Poplars Farm they are not going to do so at the much larger Hyde Hall Farm.

We, as do most of the residents of Green End and Mill End, live very close to Hyde Hall and know from past experience how the sound carried from Roe Green when the event has been held there, so we would expect it to be very much louder and intrusive. It is also intended for the event to be much larger this year, catering for many more people, resulting in large numbers of vehicles negotiating our quiet country lanes generating noise, pollution and inconvenience to local people trying to go about their business, particularly if they are going in the opposite direction.

I object to the granting of a license on the basis of the above.



Beverley Dowler, The Cottage, Green End, SG9 0RQ

Attn Molly Shiells

I object to the granting of a license for this event.

I live close to Hyde Hall

Therefore if the license is not approved the event will probably not take place and we can all have a quiet weekend!

Chris Dowler, The Cottage, Green End, Sandon, SG9 0RQ

I would like to register my concerns with the event taking place on the above dates.

As a Green End, Sandon, resident I support the points made by the Sandon Matters letter recently sent to you.

Kind regards,
Carolyn Downing, Dowsetts, Green End,
Sandon, Buntingford, Herts SG9 0RQ.

Hello

Licensing Application No. 10184 Hyde Hall Farm, Mill End, Sandon
Entertainment Licence for Sandon Fields Annual 2 day Music Festival

I am writing to strongly object to this application:

Sandon is a small rural village consisting of hamlets connected by narrow, windy country lanes which are one track in places and unlit at night. There are about 150 houses and 500 residents in total. There are almost no facilities or services, no shops, no pubs, no public transport. People choose to live here for its peacefulness, tranquillity, rural nature [REDACTED] This event with proposed 5,000 people is totally unsuitable. [REDACTED]

Public Safety

Public Safety around the event has not been addressed at all. Visitors will not be used to driving around the narrow lanes – the route planned in from the A10 has totally blind corners and is used by local businesses 7 days a week.

The route out is misleading with the red arrows just stopping in the middle of nowhere and not showing that traffic could then clash with the emergency route in and out to the A10.

This A10 junction at Buckland is already a hazard with parked cars which causes those driving from the A10 being on the wrong side of the road as they overtake and unable to see cars coming up the hill.

The map also neglects to highlight that cars will turn west back through the centre of the village for the A1 and A505, causing more disturbance

Many cyclists use the quiet roads because they are quiet as do horse riders and walkers, there are no pavements or cycle lane and all are at risk from a large influx of drivers unused to the road network. [REDACTED]

The exit route from the event – which is only a farm track has a number of registered footpaths across it and alongside it which villagers will use to walk to the event. The emergency route also has footpaths across and alongside it.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Number of cars generated by an event this size will create a huge amount of cars, the only method of transport to the village – upwards of 1600 cars all arriving within a short peak time and leaving all at the same time. No consideration has been given to the impact of this volume on villagers, not only those that live along the border of Hyde Hall but also the rest of the village. A large number will be arriving from the A1 and A505 and will travel through the village [REDACTED]

It is not only the cars with visitors but all the trucks/lorries for setting up and dismantling the event – 17 days in total.

Noise

A considerable public nuisance. Music to finish at 2am - what an antisocial hour! Let alone the noise generated by 5,000 people. Campers – up to 800 tents with how many people – the size of the tent is not limited so could be upwards of 1600 people overnight and then all hanging around Sunday morning with nothing to do. There's noise created by children's fairground, food outlets, bars, all the vehicles travelling to and from the venue, the set up and take down of structures.

There is very little noise in this rural part of the country and so it will have a significant impact and travel much greater distances. We regularly hear the music from FarFest held at Bygrave 5 miles away so it won't only be Sandon that will be affected but other local villages such as Throcking, Buckland, Wydial, Chipping, Rushden and Buntingford.

The plan states that there is only one night of camping – the music however goes on until 7.30pm on Sunday evening – after a day of drinking will campers be in a position to take down their tents let alone drive home causing further noise and public nuisance.

Light Pollution

The whole area is very dark with no public lighting, it is inevitable that there will be light pollution with the tower lights, stage lights, food vendors etc. This is [REDACTED] a nuisance to local residents [REDACTED]

Crime & Disorder

With so many people attending this proposed event, the possibility of some crime and disorder occurring is inevitable with alcohol being on sale for such a long period, drugs will be sold, [REDACTED]

Most worryingly is the fact that in the management plan, the event organiser Richard Maskell keeps stressing his experience of running festivals – however he has already had 3 attempts at running this Festival at Roe Green, one of Sandon's hamlets which were all a disaster. These events were on a smaller scale too – limit of 2,000 people and no camping allowed. The issues were sufficiently serious that reviews of the licence were granted – one instigated by local residents resulting in more conditions, another by Environmental Health that wasn't completed because the applicant surrendered the licence prior to the hearing.

Why should this applicant be given yet another chance – he has continually made false promises [REDACTED] ranging from highways being blocked, waste management plan did not deliver (rubbish still needs to be removed months later) security fencing was missing in places, no ongoing monitoring of capacities of people within each music area as required, underage drinking, drinking outside the event, drug use and drug dealing was widespread within the event and outside and this event was promoted as family orientated/community/village fete. [REDACTED]

I urge you to totally refuse this application once and for all

Thank you.

Regards
Gay Ayton
The Six Bells
Sandon
Buntingford
Herts SG9 0QX

I would like to raise an objection to the proposed licence for Hyde Hall on the grounds that it is not a suitable venue for this type and size of event due to the single track roads in the surrounding area, this is particularly relevant to the proposed access road which is a very narrow stretch of the lane with multiple unmarked blind bends which would cause a danger to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders who use this very popular route both at the weekend and during the week. I am very surprised that the venue organisers have suggested this as an access route as there are already notices restricting access to Hyde Hall industrial units from this lane, I would like to think that this is due to their awareness of the hazardous nature and unsuitability of this lane to large and or numerous vehicles. This concern regarding access to the event is not restricted to the period of the event as I also have concerns with the amount and type of traffic during the setup and take down that will inevitably be trying to access the event venue.

I have bullet pointed other issues that I have concerns about that I believe need to be considered during the derision process.

1. Concerns about pedestrian access onto unlit single track lanes with no pedestrian foot paths.
2. Access roads not suitable for increased traffic volume during the set up and take down.
3. No facilities for large numbers of campers, toilets, shower facilities, water.
4. Risk to water cause contamination if appropriate facilities are not provided.
5. How the proposed one way system is to be managed and enforced.
6. How event traffic is going to be forced to only use the proposed access routes.
7. How is the venue to be secured when the venue is crossed by multiple rights of way.

I would also like to question the suitability of the applicant to hold the licence as it would seem that the applicant has failed to run smaller events, of a similar nature in the area, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As the proposed event applied for is more than twice the number of attendees over two days I have serious concerns over safety issues and any conditions stipulated for the event being applied or adhered too.

Alastair Hazlewood
Brewers Cottages
Mill End
Sandon
Hertfordshire
SG9 0RW

Ian Dell
Clare Cottage
Roe Green
Sandon
Herts
SG90QG

4 November 2020

FAO: NHDC Licencing department

This is an objection to the application, Richard Maskell, for a perpetual (year on year) Premises Licence at Hyde Hall Farm.

As the application and supporting documentation submitted by the applicants refers to "experience of past events" and "previous Sandonfield events" it should be taken into consideration the unbiased and factual historical incidents such events, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

However, the following issues cover the reasons why any licence is detrimental to the local community, the local vicinity and the reputation of all authorities engaged in the approval procedure.

They cover the 4 key Licence Objectives:

Prevention of Crime and Disorder
Prevention of Public Nuisance
Public Safety
And the Protection of Children from Harm

Background:

There is a continual sequence of episodes of poor management, the same management, an unchanged/consistent team requesting this licence that provide a consistent pattern of the 4 key objectives being breached or failing to be delivered, and why the approval of the licence will lead to the same consequences.

The Licence will fail on the following:

TRAFFIC AND NUISANCE

1. The build of the event starting weeks before the 10 days allowance on the licence and the nuisance that it will cause will be extensive, over weekends, evenings and Bank Holidays. These activities causing public disturbances will be reported to the police.
2. The clearing up taking more than 5 days to be completed, with rubbish in the local vicinity.
3. Highways will be blocked prior to, during and after the event.

SECURITY



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. Trespass will prevail

DRUGS

7. Evidence of Drugs will be found

8. The Waste Management will not deliver for the event nor in the local vicinity.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ALCOLHOL

15. There will be underage drinking

16. There will be drinking outside the event. The Licence holder will claim this practice will not be allowed

[REDACTED]

NOISE and Child Safety

[REDACTED]

21. Children will be subjected to a damaging environment

22. Child Safety will be a cause of concern

[REDACTED]

25. There will be a Public disturbance issue after the event due to noise

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EGRESS and OTHERS

27. There will be a concern of the number of people on the road at egress including families with children

28. Welfare of all attendees, and the local residents, during egress will be disregarded and not managed

[REDACTED]

32. The dark lanes of the vicinity will have event attendees fearing for their safety

[REDACTED]

34. The type of music being played according to the site plan are drum and base, garage and anthems, "This type of music would not normally be associated as family orientated. This raises concerns over the type of event that is in fact planned"

35. People using Public footpaths close to the event location will be put at risk by abnormal traffic

The demographics of the 2018 event supplied by the Licence holder, shows less than 30 children under the age of 18 actually attended, it confirms the concerns on the type of event that is being held. It is not family orientated.

[REDACTED]

Background for fact

As already stated the applicants of this licence were also the holders of the Sandonfields licence for 2017-19, but due to a NHDC application for a review, based on poor management and which was summarised, "It is recommended to the committee based upon the evidence above that the licence is revoked", the organisers chose to surrender the licence."

It can be expected that the organisers having had 3 attempts already to run a well managed and orderly event, with more than 1 warning on their ability to deliver that the following will hold true once again.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to **STRONGLY OBJECT** to the above application.

I understand that the applicant has previously run events in Roe Green, Sandon and the last event run there suffered [REDACTED]:

- Major public safety risk with no segregation from vehicles
- Highways being blocked
- Ineffective waste management plan (some rubbish has still not been removed 9 months later)
- Security fencing was missing in places (the proposed site for this application is far bigger)
- Underage drinking
- Drug use and drug dealing was widespread within the event and outside

I have no faith that this new event will be run any better and I expect it will suffer from the same risks, dangers, and impact on the community. However, I realise that this is a new application and therefore the history of the previous event may sadly be ignored, but there are still many reasons why I feel that this event would have a very negative impact on the community.

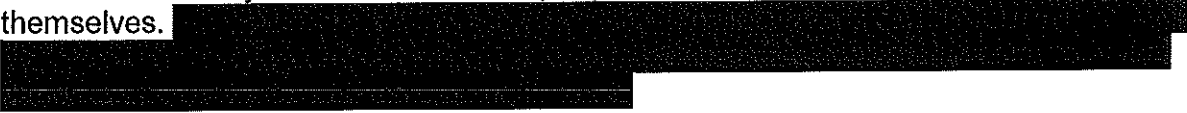
ROAD SAFETY

The routes into and out of the venue are all very narrow, twisty roads and totally unsuitable for additional traffic. There are many blind corners very few places where two cars can pass each other. Drivers who are not familiar with these roads introduce a huge risk to other road users. These roads are also not limited to cars. They are regularly used by tractors, horses, cyclists and walkers. Mixing these users with a high level of traffic going to and from the event is just asking for an accident to happen. Local wildlife, particularly deer, are a common risk and can pop out of the hedges and bushes quite unexpectedly. Visiting drivers will not be familiar with such risks so are unlikely to be driving with the required caution.

There are no pavements or lights along the roads in the vicinity of the venue but there will be pedestrians, including locals, going to and from the event as well as local walkers. I fail to see how the mix of pedestrians and road vehicles on these roads and tracks can be considered safe.

I note that the best and safest route to and from the event has been reserved for headline acts, forcing attendees to drive on the narrower, more dangerous roads to get into and out of the event. Surely this cannot be a sensible move.

As there are no accommodation options near the venue other than camping, this will force many attendees to travel daily, thereby increasing traffic volumes even further. Taxis are also very difficult to obtain so people will have no option but to drive themselves.



PUBLIC NUISANCE

An event such as this is almost guaranteed to cause public nuisance. 5000 revellers and a campsite for 800 people will lead to a very noisy environment well into the early hours of the morning. In addition, with such a big site it is very unlikely to be sufficiently well fenced or marshalled to stop attendees being able to wander on to adjoining lands and properties. This is particularly the case when people arrive early and the entertainment has not started so they have nothing better to do. With many neighbouring barns, houses and outbuildings, these are a prime target for both burglary, damage and for dealing / taking drugs.

I am extremely concerned that if this application is approved it will introduce a major risk of road accidents and significant nuisance to the locals. There is also likely to be an increase in crime. Even if stringent conditions are put in place, history suggests that these will not all be met.

I sincerely hope that this license will not be granted.
Yours faithfully

Jim Farquhar
Harrowdene
Green End
Sandon
Herts
SG9 0RQ

Letter from

James de Uphaugh
Danyells
Sandon
Buntingford
SG9 0RF

Licensing Application No. 10184 Hyde Hall Farm, Mill End, Sandon
Entertainment Licence for Sandon Fields Annual 2 day Music Festival

I write to OBJECT to the licence terms applied for by Sandon Fields at Hyde Hall.

Looked at through just one of the four licensing objectives – prevention of public nuisance, I would argue that the amount of people applied for (up to 4999) is highly likely to cause nuisance to the village and neighbouring area. This is particularly given that the closing time applied for is 2.30am on the Sunday morning and the serving of alcohol is applied for up until 1.30am.

In calibrating the scale of nuisance likely, the applicant makes reference to their experience in the EMP [REDACTED] is it really sensible to grant yet another licence to that applicant in the same village.

Furthermore the application is for any one weekend in a three month period. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] From the perspective of Sandon residents this open timeframe creates a nuisance and if a licence were to be granted we respectfully ask for a degree of certainty on what period an event is likely to happen because if a village resident is planning an event they will not want it to clash with this mayhem. So we would ask any licence to be restricted to a two week window that the applicant needs to decide on by 1st January 2020. That would provide a modicum of certainty for villagers.

Kind Regards

James

James de Uphaugh

Dear Sir/Madam

Regarding the above application I **STRONGLY OBJECT**.

As this is a "new" application from a man who has an "existing" licence to hold this event in Sandon, I understand that the council has to view this application without any pre-determined bias.

However, the Council also has a duty of care when it comes to the **PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE, CRIME & DISORDER AND PROVIDING PUBLIC SAFETY.**

There is enough evidence that these key areas were previously disregarded by this applicant – so the warning signs are already there that this will happen again. Surely the council has to take this into account with PREVENTION being the main aim?

At the last event, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]:

- Major public safety risk with no segregation from vehicles
- Highways being blocked
- Ineffective waste management plan (rubbish still needs to be removed 9 months later)
- Security fencing was missing in places (the proposed site for this application is far bigger)
- Underage drinking
- Drug use and drug dealing was widespread within the event and outside

[REDACTED] let me point out my concerns as far as the new application stands:

PUBLIC SAFETY

Sandon is a rural village and all lanes in and out of Sandon are dangerous to navigate at the best of times. The planned route in from the A10 has several blind bends, is only wide enough for 1 vehicle and is dissected by existing public footpaths. The planned exit route is along a farm track, also traversed by existing public footpaths. There are cyclists, horse riders, walkers [REDACTED] that use these lanes and footpaths and their lives will be in peril from the increase in traffic.

There are no pavements or lights along the roads in the vicinity so the safety of pedestrians joining and leaving the site could be at risk of vehicles travelling on unfamiliar poor roads.

There are no accommodation options in the village or nearby which encouraging attendees who are not camping (approx 4,200 people) to come by car. [REDACTED]

Although the plan states there will be "one way in and one way out", how can this possibly be implemented on a site that is vast and doesn't have adequate fencing to stop pedestrians leaving by whatever route they want to, at whatever time they want to?

PUBLIC NUISANCE

The proposal for 5000 revellers and a campsite for 800 people is ludicrous. What are these people who arrive early going to do with their time before the festival starts? There will be no deterrent to stop them wandering all over adjoining lands – lots of which have crops which will be ruined.

The overall site is vast with lots of surrounding hedgerows, neighbouring barns and out buildings – these can not possibly be marshalled and are a prime target for both burglary and for dealing / taking drugs.

I am extremely concerned that if this application is approved there will be an increase in crime and public safety will be put at risk no matter how many conditions are put in place. The proposed site is vast and an extensive well managed plan will be required to be developed and fully implemented. All the evidence is that this plan will not be forthcoming to enable such an event to go ahead without significant intervention of the police and local authorities.

Yours faithfully

Kate Farquhar
Harroddene
Green End
Sandon
Herts
SG9 0RQ

Dear Ms Shiells

I would like to express my grave concerns regarding the application for Sandon Fields at Hyde Hall Farm next summer. The sheer size of the event and the extremely long licensing hours applied for will mean that Sandon will effectively be under siege for a period of up to two weeks which I feel is unacceptable.

There is an enormous amount of traffic coming in and out of the Hyde Hall Farm on a daily basis in relation to businesses already there.

I would like to draw your attention to the recent "Sandon Matters" letter, all of the points contained within that letter I concur with entirely and therefore, I OBJECT to the granting of a licence for this event.

Yours sincerely

Kerry Jarman

Cedar House
Beckfield Lane
Green End
Sandon
Herts
SG9 0RL

Dear Licensing Officer

I refer to the above application and object on the grounds of public safety, public nuisance and potential for crime & disorder.

The proposed road management plan is inadequate – access-in route off A10 is too narrow and will endanger local residents travelling westbound. A10 southbound traffic turning right will create a highways danger on the A10.

Vehicle access leaving the venue is along an unfenced unmade farm track, crossed by public footpaths – see attached plan – not designed or meant to take any traffic apart from occasional farm vehicles, let alone the volume of festival traffic. Applicants road plan fails to show how traffic then disperses. In reality, all A1 bound traffic will then go through the centre of Sandon, creating public nuisance and endangering public safety. A10 bound traffic will route back to Whiteley Lane which creates 2 major problems - which is why the applicant has stopped the red hatched route on the road map in the middle of nowhere – a) a bottleneck at the junction with A10 at Buckland and b) this conflicts with the emergency “blue route”.

Applicant refers to the experience of the event management team in running such events as one of their key factors in meeting the 4 licensing objectives – this has to be called into question given the same team’s dismal record of running Sandon Fields in previous years and in a different location - but in the same village – and for significantly smaller numbers. I appreciate this application should be considered solely on its own merits, but a series of statements by applicants in the management plan stating they have the necessary experience is completely meaningless if it is not backed up by any firm evidence of successful or woeful previous event experiences.

Event management plan provides no credible plan on staff numbers to properly manage a 5000 person event.

Proposed max capacity of 5,000 is therefore not sustainable.

Provision for 800 tents for 1 night’s camping is unrealistic. As the event is not scheduled to finish until 19.30 on Sunday evening, there is no way that campers will be in a fit state to leave the site by then after a day’s partying, drinking and drug taking.

Proposed licence operating hours to 2am will create noise and nuisance for people living in the surrounding area.

Plan for eviction of miscreants is inadequate – will they just be evicted from site and left on the nearest country lane?

There are no public transport services in the area.

There are no safe pedestrian routes along the country lanes leading to and from the venue.

There will be substantial public nuisance from noise from the event – and noise from various sources: from the playing of live music to 2am; noise from campers carrying on in the campsite after the event and on Sunday morning before the 2nd day’s events start; traffic noise at unsociable hours of the evening and night when attendees leave; steady incessant and unrelenting noise from the music events throughout the 2 days; noise carries in the countryside, there is no natural sound proofing, and will affect all the surrounding hamlets and villages, some more so than others depending on the wind direction and weather at the time.

In short, it is difficult to find any reasonable justification as to why this event should be held in this location, it brings no benefit to the local community. The above issues highlight the simple fact that the proposed event will fail to meet the key licensing objectives and I would ask that you take these comments into account and refuse the application.

Thank you.

Mike Ayton

The Six Bells, Sandon, Buntingford, SG9 0QX

Dear Molly Shiells,

Licence Application 10184, Sandon Fields Music Event to be held at Hyde Hall Farm, Sandon

I live in Sandon and write to raise several objections to the granting of a licence for a yearly two day event detailed above, to be run by the Sandon Fields team who have organised previous events in the area.

The proposal is to bring some 5,000 people and their vehicles, with overnight camping into a very small, rural area. Sandon has a population of around 400 people. An ENORMOUS increase.

TRAFFIC and PUBLIC NUISANCE

The only way to access the proposed site is by car/minibus/taxi, many of the vehicles coming from the A1/A505 across winding country roads unsuitable for such a volume of traffic. From the A10 vehicles are to be directed to the site along a lane so narrow that it could not possibly be so used except as part of a one way system. This would involve closing or severely restricting the use of the road to normal road users including the residents, the vehicles from the farm along that lane, as well as the many cyclists who regularly use the normally quiet roads in our area, especially in the summer and especially at weekends. While a new route is suggested across fields to take the traffic from the site at the end of the event, once clear of the site, drivers will choose whatever route home is best for them, but all of them will involve small, country roads. For anyone driving home after attending an event outside of the village there will clearly be a greater risk of an accident with such an increase in traffic, particularly but not exclusively after dark. Many of the event goers will be unused to winding, narrow roads and unaware of local hazards, quite apart from the fact that, at an event of this kind, most people will have been consuming alcohol of some kind and in varying quantities

The public nuisance from traffic would not be confined to the two days of the event. The 10 days build up and 5 days break down proposed would, in my experience, be a minimum and would involve heavy lorries with the hazards already outlined to other vehicles, horse riders and pedestrians. There is a particular risk to pedestrians since there are very, very few sections of pavement or even accessible road verges, so walkers are obliged to use the road.

NOISE and PUBLIC NUISANCE.

Perhaps the most obvious source of public nuisance from a music festival is noise: noise from the bands, noise from the generators, noise from the crowds, as well as the noise from the lorries, cars, taxis etc getting people there and getting them home again very late at night. While most of the surrounding areas would be adversely affected by most of these, it is impossible to predict which would be most badly affected, since so many variables are involved, including the wind direction, the weather more generally and the direction of the speakers. However, there would undoubtedly be public

nuisance from noise which travels long distances in the quiet of the countryside. The proposed running times for this event, from 12.00 until 2am on the Saturday would subject residents to quite unreasonable public nuisance. The proposed 2am finish, with refreshments served right up to 2am would mean that people would still be exiting the site and driving through the villages until closer to 3am.

In addition, 800 camping permits are requested. Would this mean 1600 people, two people to a tent, or 2,400 people if there were three to a tent, or possibly even more, camping overnight. It would be foolish to ignore the fact that drugs and music festivals tend to go hand in hand, even if for only a minority of the audience. Drugs and alcohol are a potent mix. Given this and the fact that there is nothing to stop the partying on the campsite going on all night, the potential for public nuisance and the possibility of crime and disorder is very real.

I have no faith in the ability of the Sandon Fields management team to run a well ordered event of this nature.

Mary McElroy, Polyanna Cottage, Sandon, SG9 0QG.

3 November, 2019.

**THE OLD VICARAGE
SANDON
HERTS
SG9 0QX**

4 November 2019

LETTER OF OBJECTION

Also by email: licensing@north-herts.gov.uk

Dear Sirs

Premises licence application Hyde Hall Farm, Mill End, Sandon – ref 10184

I am writing to lodge my objection to the above premises licence application.

My wife and I have lived in Sandon since 1994. Our house is located close to the church in the Church End area of Sandon, just a few hundred yards away from the proposed site for this huge event. We are close to the road leading from this part of the village to the A505, and any traffic coming to the proposed venue from that directions will pass our house, creating noise and further damaging the surface on that section of road, which is already poor in many places.

This letter addresses each of the four criteria by which I understand all premises licence applications are to be assessed.

1. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder.

As the Committee will – or should – be aware, the applicant and the person who I understand is organising the event, Richard Maskell, has been associated with applications to hold a similar event at a different venue in Sandon (Poplars Farm on Roe Green). This event, which is known as Sandon Fields, has been objected to by many villagers and many conditions attached to it. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and this can give no confidence that the organisation of the 2020 event would, if granted a licence, take appropriate steps to ensure that whatever conditions are imposed are complied with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This application is the organiser's next equally inappropriate attempt to run the event in this village.

As far as the prevention of crime and disorder at the new site is concerned, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the previous maximum number of people allowed to attend the event was just 2,000, and no camping was allowed. In contrast, this application is for two and a half times as many people and seeks permission for 800 tents.

There can be very little doubt that even if – as I would argue it should be if a licence is granted at all – the number of people was reduced the likelihood is that many people will drink heavily and take drugs and (as they are not driving home later in the day) and fights will break out or other forms of disorder will occur. Even if the event is well policed the few officers who are there (and the number is likely to be reduced after a certain time of day) will be unable to stop all such incidents and the chances of multiple offences being committed are very high. If there is overnight camping and late availability of alcohol there is a substantial

risk that people will take the view that as they are not driving home they can get drunk and this will greatly increase the chances of crime and disorder breaking out both within the site and outside it in the village.

The application seeks a licence to serve alcohol from midday on Saturday until 1.30 am on Sunday morning (with opening hours lasting until 2.30am). That is a very long period, and this increases the chances of drunkenness and offences being committed. Similarly, the long proposed hours on Sunday risk further drinking – or just a continuation from the day before – encourage people to drink. I would argue the hours should be substantially restricted, particularly on the Saturday.

2. Public safety.

The huge increase in traffic – including the many deliveries ahead of the event and the collections afterwards - will substantially increase the risks of accidents on the narrow roads that lead into and out of the village. These roads were not designed to take such increased traffic levels and are unlit at night. They are used extensively by walkers, runners, riders and cyclists all of whom will be at much greater risk from the delivery vehicles and visitors who do not know the roads and may not take appropriate care. Despite the organisers' efforts to create an approved route in and out many will come through the village on one or both of their journeys with all the attendant increase in risks of accidents.

3. Prevention of Public Nuisance

This is an important issue. The protection of the amenity of the local residents is a heavy weight in the scales when the pros and cons of allowing the event to go ahead are weighed up. There is an overlap here with the prevention of crime and disorder in that with so many visitors to the village the risk of incidents, of whatever nature, is greatly increased.

The noise from the event will on any view be significant and if the application was to be allowed without amendment would mean that music would be played until 2am. I have no confidence in the organiser's ability – let alone willingness – to take steps to minimise that noise since, at best, it will be coming from a band or recordings being played in a marquee, which cannot be effectively sound insulated. At the very least a condition ought to be imposed that requires a noise limiting system to be employed which would simply cut off the power or otherwise disable the source of the music if it exceeded the permitted limits. Those limits ought to be lower after midnight so that the residents nearby, and those of us who will hear it across the fields, will not be disturbed unduly when trying to sleep.

Given the numbers who may attend the event there will be many who will not be camping but will be leaving late at night. As stated above, the roads leading away from the venue are narrow and unlit and not suitable for the many vehicles that will seek to use them to get away from the venue. Many will ignore the recommended departure route and come through the village, creating noise and disturbance both before and, more significantly, after the event closes late at night. There is very little traffic at that time on a normal weekend and the extra noise, lights and activity will undoubtedly disturb much of the village.

4. The protection of children.

The event has been and will no doubt next year be marketed as a family affair that parents can safely bring their children to. If anything like the number of people attend the event as the organisers hope I do not see how the organisers can be confident of giving the children appropriate protection particularly when there will inevitably be drunkenness and drug taking. Impressionable teenagers will be drinking and irresponsible parents will not stop them, or worse not supervise them at all. The long licensing hours proposed do nothing to limit these risks and the length of time that music is proposed to be played will make it more likely that incidents will occur. Again, for this reason, I would ask that the licensing hours be restricted to reduce these risks.

For all of the above reasons I believe that this site is totally unsuitable for an event venue and ought not to be granted a premises licence. If despite my concerns the licencing authority is minded to grant a licence I respectfully suggest it does so subject to the most careful and thorough conditions that as far as possible mitigate these concerns and protect both the visitors and the village. I have made some suggestions. Others will address different issues and make proposals and I would urge the authority to take these seriously to ensure that if allowed at all the disruption to the village of Sandon that this venue will inevitably cause is kept to a minimum.

Yours faithfully

Peter Laskey

**North Hertfordshire District Council
Licensing Authority – Licensing and Enforcement
P.O.Box 10613
Nottingham
NG6 6DW**

Sandon Fields premises License application Hyde Hall

We wish to object to the above application,

We feel that 5000 people arriving in Sandon is more than the road system can cope with.

The lanes are narrow and in many places only room for one car.

Also the organiser of this event has failed three times previously to meet all the health and safety Requirements needed at the venue in Roe Green Sandon, and this was for far less people, and no Camping.

Also the music continuing until 2:00am seems very excessive for local people.

Would you please note my Objection.

PAUL LINARD,
BIRDS NEST FARM
MILL END
SANDON
BUNTINGFORD
HERTS
SG9 0RN

Good morning,

I live in Green End and I wish to strongly object to the above plan, ie, prolonged event for 5000 people, and 800 campers. Please consider the wholly unsuitable roads, and undue safety pressures such an event would cause. I support the objections outlined in Sandon Matters.

Yours sincerely

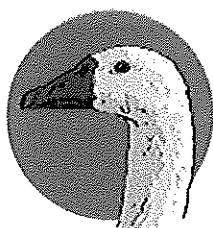
Pauline Millhouse

Blagrove

Green End

Sandon

SG9 0RL



Sandon Parish Council

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

Chairman James de Uphaugh

Steven Cobb
NHDC Licensing Officer
Council Offices
Gernon Road
Letchworth

4th November 2019

Dear Mr Cobb

Sandon Parish Council concerns over the application for a license for a festival at Hyde Hall, Sandon SG90RU application. No 10184 submitted 9 October 2019

Sandon Parish Council has concerns that the criteria set out in the Licensing Act 2003 will not be met by this application. Moreover that it is **unfair** for a license to be granted in perpetuity for such an extended period of the year (June to September annually)- a rural community needs to organise its activities (farming related, local school matters, community activities) and if it must factor into those arrangements a major festival then in fairness the period should be narrowed to one calendar month.

The specific grounds of the concern are as follows:-

1. Public safety.

In the application the applicant states as a general comment the "DPS is a experienced License personnel" (sic). Whilst the Parish council accepts that each application should be judged on its own merits because the applicant has based his application partly on his experience or track record the Parish council thinks it fair to set against that general comment the findings of the NHDC when attending last year's (smaller) festival organised by the same DPS at another venue in Sandon. This illustrates that the "experience" for which the applicant contends and puts up as a reason why the application should be trusted, is not a good

The present application

uses much of the same criteria as used at the previous Sandon Fields festival- including the same number of staff even though the event is for many more attendees.

The Parish Council's main concern however, both in respect of public safety and to prevent a public nuisance, is the proposed traffic management plan the most recent version of which that the Parish Council has seen is dated 21 October 2019. The plan proposes that to best protect other road users (which in the area includes walkers, dogs, cyclists, horse riders as well as vehicles) on what are largely single track roads, there should be for the duration of the festival effectively a "one way" system that directs traffic from the A10 just north of Buntingford, along a one way system up to the drive to Hyde Hall, then along a newly created farm road, and on exiting to continue up a farm track departing the venue on the county road to the west of Five Houses and being directed to turn right only along that road and from there to the A10 at Buckland. The Parish Council concede that if such a plan were to be fully effective it would have the effect of keeping traffic away from the village centre although they are concerned to see a new road being created at Hyde Hall on what appears at present to be virgin arable land.

The Parish Council do not believe that such a plan will be effective, unless Traffic Management orders are obtained to this effect for the duration of the event, which the Parish Council would support subject to suitable arrangements being in place for residents. Without such orders there remains the strong probability that signage notwithstanding, traffic heading to the venue from Stevenage or generally from the North and West will cut down from the A505 through Sandon to try to access the venue and meet the one way system head on at the access point causing chaos. There is no public transport to Sandon so private vehicles or taxis will be the only way of accessing this site. That places a strain on the road system and will endanger other road users unless effectively managed on terms more stringent than are currently proposed. Unless and until more effective safeguards are in place the Parish Council objects to the application on grounds of danger to public safety and public nuisance.

The [REDACTED] document reporting egress problems last year illustrates the kind of danger to public safety that a poorly managed exit strategy poses, in particular as it seems as if late night egress tends to be understaffed. The present Traffic Management Plan does not specify the number and roles of staff to manage the egress late at night except to state that an "adequate" number of staff will be in attendance. Given that the number of attendees is already known more specific proposals should be in place.

The staff/public ratio is insufficient to ensure public safety. Para 1.8 of the Traffic Management Plan states that for 4769 public attendees there will be 230 staff, vendors, artists/performers (in other words "others"). Given that the event includes a fun fair and food festival as well as a music festival it seems likely that most of the 230 "others" will NOT be staff, and the Parish Council is very concerned to ensure that the event is adequately staffed for the protection of the public and the effective

management of traffic especially late at night. Even 10 Acts (and there will be more) would generate a least 50 people accounted for in the "others" category, to say nothing of the food stalls etc etc. A fuller break out of the staff to be on duty at all material times and their duties to protect the public and reduce the likely hood of nuisance from late departures should be specified.

2. Prevention of Crime. The application states that problem people will be removed either to the police or that they will be "settled by staff". There is considerable concern that trouble makers will simply be removed from the event and the problem will then become one for the village to resolve and may endanger the safety of the ejected person or persons who may find themselves in an isolated location. The Parish Council would like to see a condition requiring the applicant to manage trouble makers in a compassionate and safe way and to take ownership of the problem and find a better remedy than simply relying on the police (who may become stretched) or some unspecified "settlement" by staff. The present proposal is not adequate.
3. Public nuisance. The Parish Council repeats the concerns set out above about public safety in particular in relation to the traffic management plan. There is an additional feature of the proposal that gives rise to concern about the nuisance that may be created and which could be avoided. That there will be a large ingress and egress of traffic during the festival itself is foreseeable. The Traffic Management plan ("TMP") also advises that there will be additional local traffic over a longer period of time namely for 10 days before and 5-7 days afterward (see para 1.1 of the TMP). This will be for setting up and for taking down and is therefore of its nature likely to be heavy vehicles (as confirmed by for example para 2.1 TMP). This spread of dates should be regarded as minimum periods of likely disruption. Creating a condition which makes travel unsafe or highly disagreeable is an example of nuisance threatening the public convenience. That is what the impact of the set up and demolition traffic will be on the single track roads that lead to the site. This disruption could be reduced in its impact if all "pre" and "post" festival traffic were to be restricted to the private road that during the festival itself is restricted to emergency vehicles and artists and then exits to the A10 via Whitely Lane. That is the route that businesses at Hyde Hall currently use. The Parish Council would like to see a condition to this effect.

The polluting impact of the large number of vehicles that will attend the event is another nuisance that the Parish Council would wish to see diminished or overcome by a better and more enlightened TMP. The use of coaches picking up from railway stations for example has not been considered nor any other method of transport incentivised.

4. Child protection. The Parish Council has no particular observation to make at this stage about the adequacy of Child Protection measures save to say that the site has a number of public footpaths and other rights of way crossing it or crossing nearby so the effectiveness of closing the site in the case of a lost child can not be ensured.

There are doubtless a number of conditions that should be attached to any application such as this which the licensing authority will impose. The above comments are those of most immediate concern to the Parish Council and until satisfied on these matters and on the applicant's ability and willingness to comply the Parish Council opposes this application.

Yours sincerely


Helen Stubbings
Clerk, on behalf of Sandon Parish Council

From:

Gannock Thatch
Gannock Green
Sandon

Dear Sir/Madam

I note that the above application has been made with the same event organised that has spectacularly failed 3 consecutive times to run an event not even half the size of the one proposed.



I would also like to understand what consideration has been given in relation to highways. The impact on traffic through this quiet rural village for 3-4 weeks will be significant and as a resident of the village I know how inadequate and unsafe these roads would be for such use. I would be grateful for further information on this please. For example, I could understand if all traffic to and from the site were directed via the A10 so that it does not flow through the village.

I would object to this proposal until I can be re-assured that the above considerations could be adequately mitigated.

Many thanks
Simon
Simon Bray

Sandon Matters

Increasing well-being for all inhabitants.

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

4 November 2019

Dear Ms Shiells,

Licensing Application No. 10184 Hyde Hall Farm, Mill End, Sandon

Entertainment Licence for Sandon Fields Annual 2 day Music Festival

The Sandon Matters Group wishes to comment on this particular application because it is the latest in a number of licensing applications made for this event in Sandon which seem inappropriate for its location and a number of villagers have expressed concerns to us about all the applications [REDACTED]

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. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. 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 tranquillity, the wildlife and the views. The demographics of the area are not indicative of a need or desire to host a music festival here. [REDACTED]

There have been numerous complaints made about the previous Sandon Field events to all the Responsible Authorities. Despite a large number of conditions being placed on the previous licence and extensive support from the Responsible Authorities, the applicants were not able to ensure that the licensing objectives could be met. The issues were sufficiently serious that two reviews of the licence were granted. The first review, instigated by local residents, resulted in yet more conditions being added to the licence. The second review, instigated by Environmental Health, was not completed because the applicants surrendered the licence prior to the hearing. The previous events were held on a much smaller scale than what is now proposed.

Admittedly the site for the proposed event has moved to the other side of the village but the hamlets near to the site consist of mainly older people and we have great concerns about it having a significant adverse impact on their well-being and will prevent them from going about their daily life.

A number of residents have contacted Sandon Matters to express their concern about this latest licence application for Sandon Fields.

Consequently 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. There are a number of business premises on the Hyde Hall Farm estate close to the event fields. These will be vulnerable to possible break-ins or vandalism which they could not have reasonably anticipated when setting themselves up there. Residential properties, particularly those nearby are also vulnerable. Whilst the event security staff 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 [REDACTED]

Given that this application is for a much larger festival, 5000 people for two days compared to 2000 for the previous 2 events, 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. All the evidence obtained from the previous events indicates that the applicants will struggle to manage an event of this size. The Event Management Plan deals solely with managing events within the festival grounds and makes no acknowledgement that incidents could and, based on previous experience, are likely to, occur outside the festival grounds. It is therefore highly likely that there will be a large increase in crime and disorder in the area and it will not be possible to deal with it in a timely and effective manner. Further, it is difficult to see how it will be possible to prevent such a large number of people from swamping the local population when visitors to the festival will outnumber residents 10:1.

2. Public Safety

Whilst the Event Management Plan may address public safety of attendees on the event site itself, it does not address public safety in the surrounding area which is directly related to the occurrence of the event. The roads around Sandon, particularly in the area around Green End and Mill End, 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 deer and badgers, which can suddenly appear and cross the roads unexpectedly causing road accidents. 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 road accidents, especially if they have consumed alcohol or drugs and there is heavy traffic on the roads, as there will be. Any pedestrians

walking to or from the event, [REDACTED] are even more vulnerable because there are no footpaths alongside the roads and no road lighting.

We are aware that Hyde Hall Farm Estate has two discharge consents and two potential contamination notices listed close to the events venue. We wonder whether the implications of these have been considered as part of the public safety assessment of the site.

There are three registered footpaths that cross the main exit route, one of which travels alongside the exit route for a distance (see Appendix 1 and Appendix 2). Similarly, there are four registered footpaths that cross the emergency/artists route and two footpaths that run alongside this route for a distance. These put both the attendees and the public at large at risk of accidents. Also it is possible that people without tickets will attempt to gain access via these footpaths as this occurred at previous events, making it impossible to know with any certainty exactly how many people are in attendance.

3. Prevention of Public Nuisance

Of particular concern to us is the number of cars that the application must be expecting. Given the size of the car parking area [REDACTED] we anticipate that more than 1600 cars will arrive on site. This is unheard of in the area. [REDACTED]

The applicants do not appear to have considered the impact of traffic attending the music event 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 with approximately 40 in total being in the Green End and Mill End Hamlets. Whilst it is possible that Highways may agree to a one way route from the A10 to the entrance, as is proposed in the Traffic Management Plan, residents who live along that route will still have to be allowed access to and from their homes. Similarly existing businesses will have to be allowed access to their premises.

We have to assume that the cars carrying attendees 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. Regardless of what the Event Management Plan states, given the relative position of Sandon and the site itself to the major roads and large town in the area (see Appendix 3); it has to be assumed that at least half the traffic is likely to go through the centre of the village. Even if you assume there will not be a peak it means at least 750 cars going through the centre of the village over a 2 hour period which equates to car every 10 seconds for 2 hours. This is a considerable increase on the handful of vehicles that would normally be travelling on these roads at weekends. Traffic surveys have identified that during the period 23.00 p.m. to 02.00 there are normally just 2 to 3 vehicles in total on the roads in the area.

At weekends, particularly in summer, there are also 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 no footpaths beside them so it is normal to see both pedestrians and cyclists on the roads. As the roads are narrow and at best only just passable by two vehicles going in opposite directions, a stream of traffic going in one direction can make it

impossible for anyone else to use the road. This has been the experience when, for example, the A505 has been blocked and traffic has diverted through Sandon

In terms of noise, it is difficult to see how there will be no public nuisance. The applicants' practice is to only consider the noise produced by performances and sound checks in their Noise Management Plan. No account is taken of noise from other sources. 5000 people just talking can make a considerable amount of noise, not to mention the noise created by a fairground/children's entertainment area, the food outlets, the vehicles travelling to and from the venue, 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 as residents have experienced at previous events. Further, the Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts produced by the Noise Council does state that associated noises such as these should be taken into account when setting the sound limit for the music level.

Evidence from the previous events has shown that it is difficult to predict the direction in which noise travels as it is very dependent upon the weather conditions with the result that it is not always the nearest neighbours who will suffer the most from the noise created by the event. Noise can and does travel some distance. During last year's event, the Environmental Health officer advised residents that it is not unusual for noise to be heard 2 miles from a music event so not only is Sandon and its hamlets likely to be affected by the noise of the event itself but Buckland, Chipping, Wyddial, Throcking, parts of Buntingford and parts of Rushden could also be subjected to it.

As the area is generally very dark and there is no public lighting in the area, it is inevitable that there will be significant light pollution, not just from the tower lights and the lighted walkways but also from the lighting used by the food vendors and individuals during darkness. This is [redacted] irritating for the [redacted] residents; [redacted] [redacted] The amount of traffic travelling on the roads late at night will be a particular nuisance. Not only with the continuous noise disturb residents trying to sleep but the lights from vehicles will repeatedly light up their houses in marked contrast to the normally dark surroundings.

It is hard to see how having an event involving 5000 people with 2000 or so [redacted] [redacted] camping overnight [redacted] will not inevitably cause a public nuisance in a parish where there are just 500 residents and which has minimal facilities,. Apart from anything else, where are these people camping going to obtain food and drink from, if the on-site facilities are closed for a period of time as is planned? 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 that they no longer require. How will the applicants ensure that the area will be left completely free from waste and anything harmful, to humans, [redacted] given the sensitivity of the area? Residents' experience of the previous much smaller events, which did not involve camping, is that waste was not fully removed from one event to another. 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? 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 and land?

Although the event is billed as a 1 and ½ day event, the applicants have allowed some time for building and dismantling structures, which indicates that the residents will be inconvenienced for a total of 17 days. Given that it is to be expected that large vehicles will be travelling to the site for 15 days or so it will be difficult for local residents to go about their daily business during that period.

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.

As there are numerous public footpaths over the land and access to these cannot be restricted there is the distinct possibility that children could leave and enter the event unaccompanied or accompanied by adults who do not have their best interests at heart. This could expose them to inappropriate adult behaviour and/or make them vulnerable to inappropriate adult attention, particularly if the adults are under the influence of drink or drugs

There is also the possibility that the attendees will use the footpaths and leave alcohol and/or drugs paraphernalia on the footpaths, further putting children at risk.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Villagers are concerned that a regular event of the size proposed will decimate the village and that there will not be an effective complaints procedure in the event that there is disruptive behaviour or excessive noise. [REDACTED]

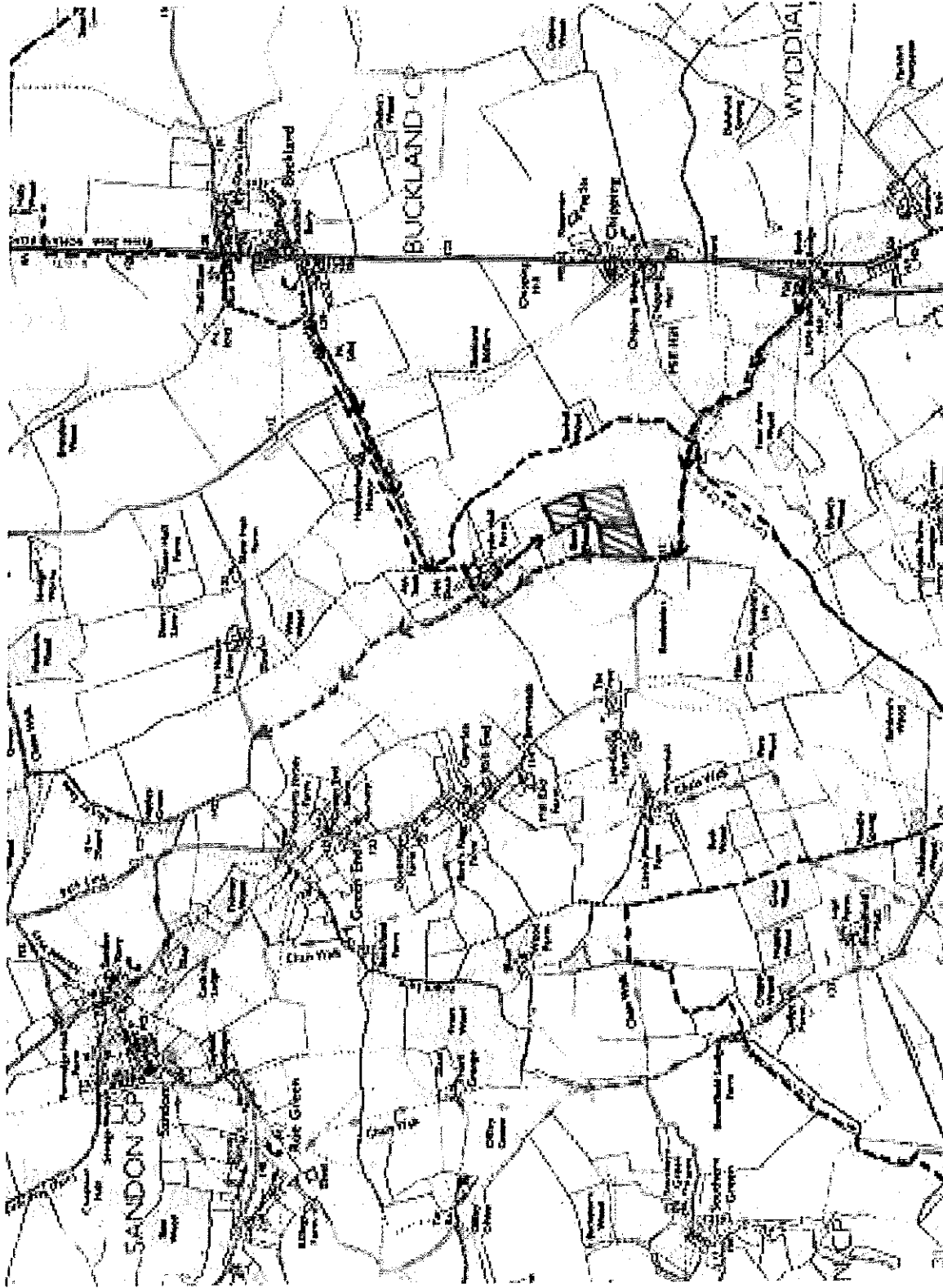
[REDACTED] we have difficulty in seeing how this application minimises any adverse effects to local residents, public safety [REDACTED] in any way. Indeed, on the face of it, we would claim that it considerably increases the adverse affects [REDACTED] and would urge you not to grant the licence without receiving satisfactory evidence to demonstrate that all the obstacles can and will be overcome.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Lydia Pollard
on behalf of
Sandon Matters

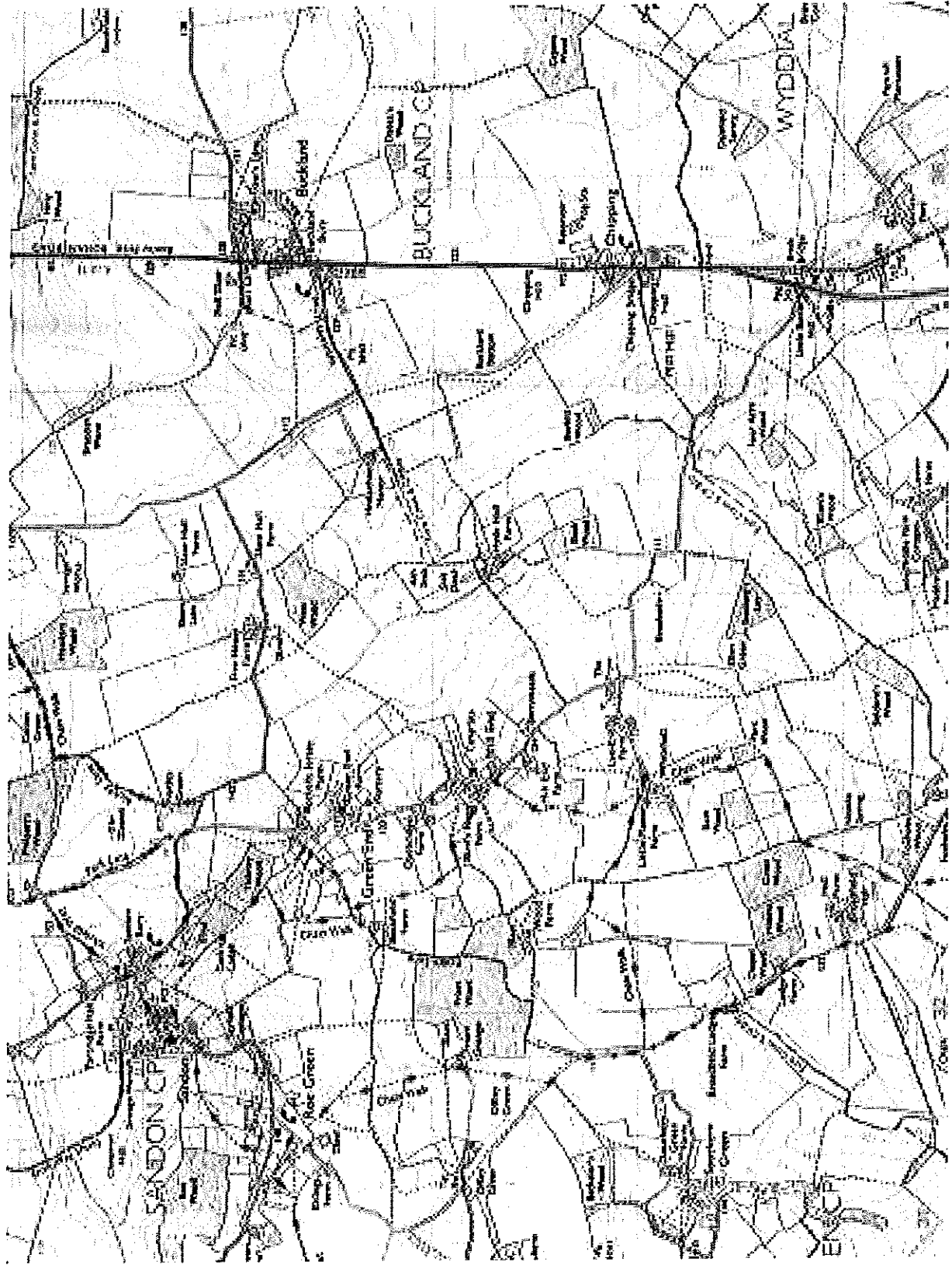
Appendix 1 Extract from OS Map showing Entrance/Exit routes to Event site



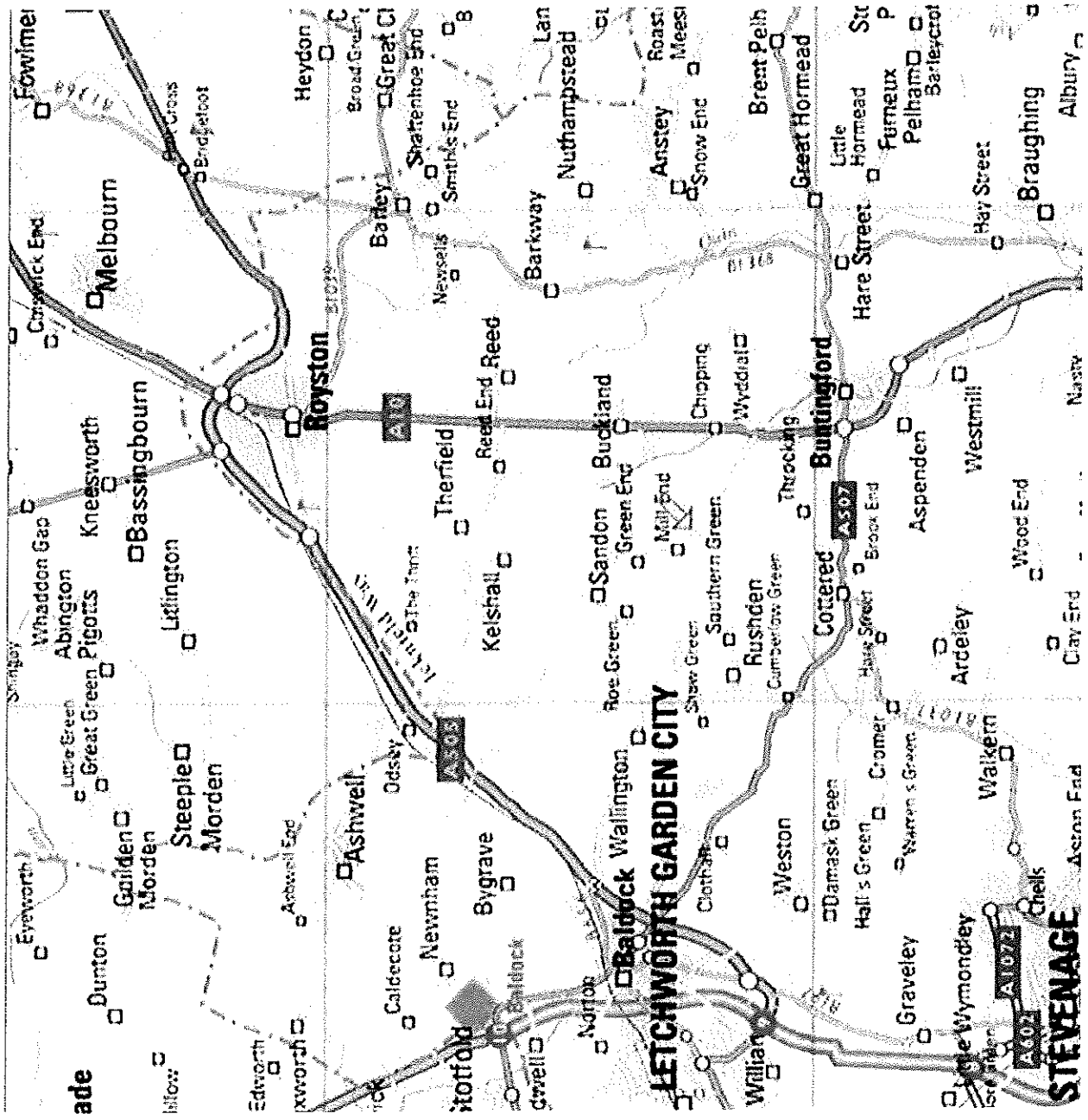
Key

- Red arrowed dashed line Exit route one way
- Purple arrowed dashed line Entrance route one way
- Blue arrowed dashed line Emergency route Two way
- Black dashed line NHertsDC boundary
- Orange hatched area Main arena
- Green hatched area Camping area
- Pink Hatched Area Parking area

Appendix 2 Original OS Map section showing Footpaths in vicinity of Events Venue



Appendix 3 OS Road Map showing relative position of Sandon to large towns in the area



Dear Ms Shiells

Regarding the above application we would like to **STRONGLY OBJECT**.

As this is a "new" application from a man who has an "existing" licence to hold this event in Sandon, we understand that the council has to view this application without any pre-determined bias.

However, the Council also has a duty of care when it comes to the **PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE, CRIME & DISORDER AND PROVIDING PUBLIC SAFETY**.

There is enough evidence that these key areas were previously disregarded by this applicant – so the warning signs are already there that this will happen again. Surely the council has to take this into account with PREVENTION being the main aim?

At the last event, [REDACTED] conditions were imposed by licencing and we believe there were [REDACTED] breaches – ranging from:

- Major public safety risk with no segregation from vehicles
- Highways being blocked
- Ineffective waste management plan (rubbish still needs to be removed 9 months later)
- Security fencing was missing in places (the proposed site is far bigger)
- Underage drinking

[REDACTED], let us point out our concerns as the new application stands:

PUBLIC SAFETY

Sandon is a rural village and all lanes in and out of Sandon are dangerous to navigate at the best of times. The planned route in from the A10 has several blind bends and is only wide enough for 1 vehicle. The planned exit route is along a farm track which is traversed by existing public footpaths. There are cyclists, horse riders, walkers [REDACTED] that use these lanes and footpaths and their lives will be in peril from the increase in traffic. None of the routes have any lights and pedestrians will be put at extreme risk from vehicles using the same routes.

Although the plan states there will be "one way in and one way out", how can this possibly be implemented on a site that is vast and doesn't have adequate fencing to stop pedestrians leaving by whatever route they want to, at whatever time they want to?

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

PUBLIC NUISANCE

The proposal for 5000 revellers and a campsite for 800 tents is preposterous. What are these people going to do with their time on the surrounding days before the festival starts? There will be no deterrent to stop them wandering all over adjoining lands – lots of which have crops which will be ruined.

The overall site is vast with lots of surrounding hedgerows, neighbouring barns and out buildings – these can not possibly be marshalled and are a prime target for both burglary and for dealing / taking drugs.

We are extremely concerned that there will be an increase in crime and that public safety will be put at risk – because there is existing evidence that can't be argued with. It doesn't matter how many conditions are put in place – they will not be managed or enforced.

Yours faithfully
Steve Wilson
Green End Farm
Green End
Sandon

Yew Tree farm,
Green End,
Sandon,
Buntingford,
Herts
SG9 0RG

2nd November 2019

Objection

Licensing Application No. 10184 Hyde Hall Farm, Mill End, Sandon
Entertainment Licence for Sandon Fields Annual 2 day Music Festival

The Licensing Officer,

In responding to Local Council Applications of any sort, "one" must appreciate that when one is making what one feels as constructive comments it can be taken in all sorts of ways and quite easily end up with neighbours who are quite comfortable with each other ending up as arrogant enemies.

I make these comments with trepidation but feel that the applicant has no knowledge or feeling for residents in the proximity of this proposed event application

My Properties adjoins Hyde Hall Farm's many hundreds of acres as stated in the application for a total of approximately 1800Mtrs.

I have many concerns of the proposed application in the application and what they are applying for.

The number of months proposed, for a potential annual event being 4 months is not acceptable and should be restricted to no more than the first 3 weekends in June. The potential Fire risk of exceptional weather conditions is exacerbated after the 19th of June as experience shows that there is in most years a big weather change after the 18th of June.

I feel the numbers applied for, over 4700 event attendees, cannot be accommodated on the site, or Sandon Lane into the site. This is approximately 1600Mts long and when access on site is 5Mph the back up to the A10 will quickly present grid lock at the A10 junction as say even 10Mtrs per Car length means max 180 cars on the road of the potential 1175 cars at 4 people per car.

The application implies there will be a one way traffic system in place and I ask the question how can my business traffic movements be accommodated? Ok they can get to my site (Lye End Farm). that for over 60 years has been running as an intensive agricultural

operation and has in the past had as many as 36 Articulated lorry movements in any 24 Hr, period. These lorry movements up and down Sandon Lane are controlled by phone contact between lorries on site and coming or leaving site, this could just happen over any period of time day or night, on erection, dismantle or even the event weekend. I will in these circumstances especially on the event days need un inhibited access through Hyde Hall and out through Whitley lane (back drive to Hyde Hall) designated as emergency vehicle access. The egress route also concerns me. On the "Hyde Hall Estate" the egress route indicates that a new road will be established keeping the traffic leaving, from affecting the owner of the site. It will have 2 * 90Deg corners imposed on the leaving traffic, one being uphill. The application has no concerns for those that will be effected off the "Estate", by this said leaving traffic on others in the area, as potential 1175 vehicles will leave through the Village of Sandon. The Herts. Highways route, has egress from Hyde Hall business units via Whitley Lane every week day which causes concern to the Villagers I am informed.

If the Egress route is allowed as proposed I feel that it should have a "Metalled"(solid surface) for the last 100Mtrs, in case of very inclement conditions.

Recently NHDC Licence committee has imposed conditions on another site, less than 3000Mtrs away, that finishing times in the rural area should not go on beyond midnight at weekends and all visitors should be off site by midnight and no alcohol be served after 11;30 pm, these conditions should also apply to any other licensable activities in the Sandon Area.

[REDACTED]

Yours Sincerely

Robert Wornham.