

# Agenda Item 5

**From:** clare  
**Sent:** 07 August 2018 13:12  
**To:** Democratic Services  
**Subject:** Diynamic festival

I would like to add to my objections to the granting of a licence to the Diynamic festival on 8<sup>th</sup> September in Morden Park as a result of the Eastern Electric festival last weekend.

Despite many reassurances from the organisers of Eastern Electric that they would improve on their performance of last year this was not the case. Despite having a year's lead time and the experience of last year's festival to learn from the impact on the community this year was as bad as last. With such little notice it seems unlikely that Diynamic will be able to prevent these problems.

Although, following pressure from us, there were security barriers and security guards outside the church (as well as a rota of church people from 10:30am-midnight on both days) the public nuisance and crime and disorder just moved across the road to Hatfield Mead and near Morden Primary School.

There was Public Nuisance as men and women urinated and worse in public. There was blatant drug use, with NO capsules littered around the area, many festival goers inhaling from balloons. Broken glass and litter, while cleared from outside the church after a phone call request was everywhere round Hatfield Mead and towards the Harvester. There is little that the organisers can do to regulate behaviour outside the site. Body searches on entry just mean that alcohol and drugs are consumed outside and the empty bottles and capsules are strewn around the surrounding area. Public nuisance of noise – this year the festival could be heard in Cheam, Ewell, Worcester Park, Motspur Park and Sutton. The topography of the park means that it is not necessarily those nearest who are most impacted. The music was barely audible in the church porch (very audible in the Rectory garden) but so loud in Worcester park that a child's birthday party had to be abandoned. Despite assurances that Diynamic sound would be within reasonable limits the unusual sound scape of the park, varying wind and weather conditions and the density of population within a 2 mile radius mean this will be impossible to ensure at such short notice – even given the smaller number of stages. Those most affected by the noise knew nothing about the festival and many were not even within the borough.

Crime and Disorder – NO is illegal to use for recreational use. Many festival goers were blatantly inhaling it. The police have proudly shown how much was confiscated - a value of £10000. A large bagful was deposited in the churchyard and handed to security by one of our volunteer stewards. NO capsules and balloons are the most obvious sign of illegal drug use. There was also a pervading smell of marijuana along the route to the park. What else? There were numerous traffic violations over the weekend. Speeding cars down London Road, cars stopping on the dual carriageway etc. The police were called to Hatfield Mead following a disturbance. Despite reassurances that there would be a police presence throughout the area we only saw police vans driving around. Again any festival organiser is unable to ensure that criminal activity does not take place outside the site. Even in the small area of Morden where I was stewarding it was clear that if one area was secure the anti-social behaviour and criminal activity just moved elsewhere. Unless all of Morden was surrounded by security barriers and guards it is impossible to guarantee that crime and disorder will not occur as a result of such festivals.

Protection of children from harm – Over the weekend children saw drugs being publicly consumed, adults – men and women - publicly urinating and defecating exposing them to influence that any parent would be unhappy with. The cars speeding down London road put all pedestrians, but particularly

children, at risk of harm. The flats at Hatfeild Mead have no private gardens, so on a summers day the children were outside playing and so witnessed drug taking and dealing, drunkenness and aggression. A man exposed himself to a young child. Children in Morden should not have to experience this! At any festival an excess of drugs and alcohol will be consumed with people behaving badly as a result and so putting children at risk of harm.

Promotion of public safety – If the council is interested in “Promoting” public safety a licence for this festival should be denied. Despite reassurances to the contrary the Eastern Electric festival put public safety at risk this year as much as last year. Fights, speeding, drunkenness, the sheer volume of people in a small area and the use of police who could well have been needed elsewhere put the safety of local people at risk.

I am aware that this is a different festival with different organisers, but any event of this kind will bring similar problems, particularly with such short notice.

Having been assured by the organisers, at the public meeting, that they would contact us immediately to work with us to minimise the impact on our daughter’s wedding, we heard nothing. They had our contact details we did not have theirs. After us contacting the council they finally got in touch. I immediately emailed my reply, but nearly a week later have heard nothing. This makes me dubious about their other promises and conciliatory statements. Words are cheap!

Clare Heath-Whyte