

Licensing Team

London Borough of Merton  
Merton Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden  
SM4 5DX

**VW - Merton Borough**  
**VW - Wimbledon Police Station**

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6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## **Police Representations – Application for New Premises Licence**

**Morden Park – Blue Fox Events Ltd**

**Eastern Electrics Music Festival**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018, I received a copy of an application for a new Premises Licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 for Morden Park, London Road, Morden.

The application can be summarised as follows:

An open air Music Festival to take place annually, over a three day period. Music to be performed by DJs from multiple stages with an expected attendance of 29,999 people. Licensable activities to include sale of alcohol from multiple bars.

The applicant seeks authorisation for:

The sale of alcohol from 11am to 10pm on the Friday and Saturday, and from 11am to 9:30pm on the Sunday.

Live and recorded music from 11am to 10:30pm on the Friday and Saturday, and from 11am to 10pm on the Sunday.

Premises Open from 11am to 11:30pm on the Friday and Saturday, and from 11am to 11pm on the Sunday.

**The Metropolitan Police Service wishes to make representations with regard to three of the four Licensing Objectives:**

- 1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder**
- 2. Prevention of Public Nuisance**
- 3. Public Safety**
- 4. Protection of Children From Harm**

This application relates to a music festival known as **Eastern Electrics**. Playing House and Techno dance music to a young adult audience over the first weekend in August. This event had previously taken place in Hertfordshire prior to coming to Morden Park in 2017.

The first Eastern Electrics festival in Morden Park was licensed as a **one-day event** and took place on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to around **15,000 attendees**. We recorded 3 Thefts, 1 Sexual Assault, 5 calls to police regarding Anti-Social Behaviour, and No arrests.

In 2018, Eastern Electrics had grown to a **two-day event** and took place on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018 to around **20,000 attendees** on the Saturday and far less on the Sunday. Over the two days, there were 9 calls to the Police regarding ASB, 8 Thefts recorded, 1 assault and 1 drugs offence recorded, in addition to 3 arrests for Possession of Drugs with intent to Supply and an arrest of a male wanted for burglary.

A number of concerns arose from the 2018 event in relation to high visibility stewarding (or lack of), Anti-Social Behaviour outside the event site, and noise complaints. These have been discussed with the organisers and assurances have been made to our satisfaction that should address these issues if the event continues into 2019. It was noted that Merton Council received over 400 complaints about noise even though volume levels were kept to below the agreed limits.

Communication between the organisers and the relevant authorities has been excellent and we have held several meetings and discussions prior to this application being submitted. We have been in general agreement with the content of this application, and conditions offered in Part M are acceptable to the Metropolitan Police. However, after further reflection into potential risks to Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, the Met Police have concerns about the proposed event that are yet to be addressed to our satisfaction.

We are concerned about the significant level of noise complaints received from the 2018 event considering that the decibel levels were found to be within set limits that were

deemed to be acceptable. Two days of noise nuisance to local residents may not have been a reason for the sub-committee to refuse the 2018 application, but I think that it is too much to expect local residents to endure three consecutive days. I am also concerned that an event on a Friday would impact on people working nearby, and commuters returning home from work. The local transport infrastructure has proven that it is capable of dealing with up to 20,000 people attending the event on a Saturday. It was pointed out by Morden Underground Stn management during a SAG meeting that weekends are very quiet for the London Underground network, and it could cope with the large numbers on a Saturday as this did not clash with weekday commuters. A Friday event will place extra strain on the transport infrastructure that will already be operating at capacity. This will cause nuisance to local residents returning home from work.

The Eastern Electrics Festival is growing rapidly, from a one-day event to two days, to three as proposed. With expected numbers of attendees doubling from 15,000 to 30,000 in two years. The first year was quiet, and relatively free of crime and ASB, but the second year was not so, and raised some concerns. The 2018 event was sold to the relevant authorities as a House and Techno Dance music festival, with the Sunday event being smaller, appealing to a slightly older audience, but still playing similar sub-genres of dance music. Unfortunately, the Sunday's event in 2018 headlined "Grime Royalty" and a notorious "Drill" artist called "67". The presence of "67" necessitated additional emergency Police resourcing to deal with an enhanced risk of violence from followers. Complaints were received about misogynistic and racist lyrics. This does not fit comfortably with the organisers' responsibilities under the Licensing Act to promote the four licensing objectives.

This application requests that the Premises Licence is granted on a permanent basis, for one three-day event every year. The applicant has pointed out that the Review process should be sufficient for the licence to be granted as such, which is true to an extent, but I am concerned about how fast that the event has grown in Morden Park. I feel that a further probationary period is necessary for the event to settle down.

The site plans submitted with the application show a swimming pool. There are obvious very serious risks with the presence of a swimming pool at an event such as this. I have asked for full details to assist with a risk assessment but the applicant is not yet in a position to provide these as the pool supplier will not be selected until/if the Premises Licence is granted. There is extremely limited history of swimming pools at music festivals to draw on, so whilst not objecting to this element, I would ask the sub-committee to consider imposing a number of Conditions to the licence if granted, to specifically address the swimming pool risk.

From my experience of the operator and the quality of the Event Safety Management Plans submitted to the relevant authorities for the 2017 and 2018 events, I am confident in the applicant's ability to produce satisfactory Management Plans for Eastern Electrics going forward. That said, there are a number of additional measures that I believe will tighten up the event safety further.

**The Metropolitan Police Service objects to this application in its presented form.**

If the Sub-Committee are minded to approve the application, I ask for the following amendments and conditions to be added to the licence, if granted. I also ask that all of the offers made in Part M of the application be turned directly into conditions.

- ) That the Premises Licence, if granted, specifies that the event must only take place over the last weekend in July or the first weekend in August.**
- ) That the Premises Licence, if granted, will be limited to an event in 2019 and an event in 2020 only.**
- ) That the Premises Licence, if granted, will be for Saturday and Sunday only.**

Additional conditions:

1. The event site shall be closed and clear of patrons / members of the public by 23:30hrs on the Saturday and 23:00hrs on the Sunday.
2. The capacity for the event shall not exceed 29,999 persons on the Saturday, and 8,000 persons on the Sunday.
3. An Event Safety Management Plan (ESMP) shall be developed to address the method by which the premises licence holder proposes to manage the potential risks for the following matters in accordance with the four licensing objectives:
  - a. Crowd Safety
  - b. Procedures in the event of an emergency
  - c. The reduction of crime and disruption of the supply and possession of drugs and illegal substances from inside and outside the venue
  - d. Regulation of the number of persons attending the event at any one time
  - e. Stewarding of the event inside and outside the venue
  - f. The responsible sale and supply of alcohol
  - g. The welfare of persons working at the event site during the build-up, break down, and open period of the event
  - h. Missing persons, vulnerable persons and children's' safety
  - i. Ticket sales and conditions of entry
  - j. The provision of First Aid
  - k. Accident reporting procedures
  - l. The control of noise and the prevention of public nuisance
  - m. Fire Safety
  - n. The use of pyrotechnics and special effects
  - o. The safety of food
  - p. Control of litter
  - q. Sanitation and the disposal of waste materials

- r. The safety of temporary structures and amusements
  - s. Traffic Management
  - t. Provision of facilities for disabled persons
  - u. The structure for the operational management of the event, including the composition and functions of the event liaison team
4. The premises licence holder, or their appointed representative, shall present, by oral and written presentation, the draft ESMPs to the London Borough of Merton's Safety Advisory Group no later than three months prior to the date of the event. Following this presentation a second presentation shall be organised and take place no later than six weeks prior to the event whereby the premises licence holder, or their appointed representative shall present, by oral or written presentation, the final versions of the ESMPs to the LBM SAG.
  5. Electronic Identification Scanning Equipment shall be used to check the proof of identity of all persons attending the event.
  6. Anyone found in possession of any drugs and/or Nitrous Oxide having passed the last amnesty opportunities, to be ejected / refused entry to event.
  7. Swimming Pool Conditions:
    - a. No entry will be granted to the Swimming Pool area to anyone who is drunk
    - b. Only drinks in coloured paper cups to be allowed in the swimming pool area
    - c. Users of the Swimming Pool must wear suitable swimwear. Underwear is not suitable.
    - d. Nudity is not permitted in the swimming pool
    - e. Pool capacity will be set at 1 square metre per person
    - f. Qualified life guards and water trained security guards will be present at all times that the event site is open
    - g. Lockers and changing cubicles will be closely monitored by staff
    - h. Pool chlorination and water testing will take place regularly throughout the event

Yours faithfully

**ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION DEPARTMENT**

Chris Lee - Director



The Licensing Officer  
London Borough of Merton  
Licensing Team  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden  
SM4 5DX

**Licensing Section**  
London Borough of Merton  
Merton Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden SM4 5DX

**Direct Line:** 020 8545 3798  
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**Email:** [licensing@merton.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@merton.gov.uk)

**My Ref :**  
**Please Ask For:** Barry Croft  
**Your Ref:**

**Date:** 6 December 2018

Dear Sirs,

**Blue Fox Events Limited Morden Park London Road Morden London  
SM4 5QU –New Premises Licence Application No. WK/201809200.**

**Licensing Act 2003**

On behalf of the Licensing Authority, as a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, I write to object to the application for a new premises licence, which seeks to authorise licensable activities at an open air event to take place annually over a three day period at **Morden Park, London Road, Morden, London SM4 5QU** on the last Friday and weekend in July or the first Friday and weekend in August each year. The anticipated attendance/capacity of this event is expected to be 29,999 on each day of the event. The basis of this objection is made on the ground of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and the Prevention of Public Nuisance objectives.

The application submitted seeks the following:

**Supply by Retail of Alcohol (on the premises only)**

**Friday from 11:00 to 22:00 hours;**  
**Saturday from 11:00 to 22:00 hours; and**  
**Sunday from 11:00 to 21.30 hours.**

**Live Music (indoors and outdoors)**

**Friday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours;**  
**Saturday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours; and**  
**Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00 hours.**

**Recorded Music (indoors and outdoors)**  
Friday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours;  
Saturday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours; and  
Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00 hours.

**Performance of Dance (indoors and outdoors)**  
Friday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours;  
Saturday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours; and  
Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00 hours.

**Anything Simliar to Music and Dancing (indoors and outdoors)**  
Friday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours;  
Saturday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours; and  
Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00 hours.

**Films (indoors and outdoors)**  
Friday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours;  
Saturday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours; and  
Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00 hours.

**Plays (indoors and outdoors)**  
Friday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours;  
Saturday from 11:00 to 22:30 hours; and  
Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00 hours.

**Hours the Premises are Open to the Public**  
Friday from 11:00 to 23:30 hours;  
Saturday from 11:00 to 23:30 hours; and  
Sunday from 11:00 to 23:00 hours.

Upon reflection the Licensing Authority has concerns with this application, in particular the proposed days of operation for licensable activities, the proposed anticipated attendance of 29,999 people over the three day period.

Having considered the points offered and addressed in the applicants operating schedule, which forms part of their application for the new premises licence, the Licensing Authority asks for the following conditions to be applied and points to be considered, should the Licensing Sub-Committee be minded to grant this application:

**Additional conditions as requested by the Licensing Authority and not offered as part of the applicants operating schedule.**

1. If the Licensing Sub-Committee is minded to grant a premises licence for this event, we seek the grant to be limited to a **time limited premises licence** for the last weekend in July or the first weekend in August for 2019 and 2020 **only**.
2. The Licensing Authority does not support this application for the grant of a premises licence, time limited or otherwise, for licensable activities on a Friday as applied for. Friday's are a work day and we say the granting of a premises licence for a potential large number of people to attend will have a major effect on the public transport and road

infrastructure in the locality as well as a disturbance to nearby local residents.

3. The event site shall be closed and clear of patrons/ member of the public by 23:30 hours on the Saturday and 23:00 hours on the Sunday.
4. The capacity for the event shall not exceed 29,999 persons on the Saturday and 8,000 persons on the Sunday.
5. An Event Safety Management Plan (ESMP) shall be developed to address the method by which the premises licence holder proposes to manage the potential risks for the following matters in accordance with the four licensing objectives:
  - Crowd safety;
  - Procedures in the event of an emergency;
  - The reduction of crime and disruption of the supply and possession of drugs and illegal substances from inside and outside the venue;
  - Regulation of the number of persons attending the event at any one time;
  - Stewarding of the event from inside and outside the venue;
  - The responsible sale and supply of alcohol;
  - The welfare of persons working at the event site during the build up, breakdown and open period of the event;
  - Missing persons, vulnerable persons and childrens safety;
  - Ticket sales and conditions of entry;
  - The provision of first aid;
  - Accident reporting procedures;
  - The control of noise and the prevention of public nuisance;
  - Fire safety;
  - The use of pyrotechnics and special effects;
  - The safety of food;
  - Control of litter;
  - Sanitation and the disposal of waste materials;
  - The safety of temporary structures and amusements;
  - Traffic management;
  - Provision of facilities for disabled persons; and
  - The structure for the operational management of the event, including the composition and functions of the event liaison team.
6. The premises licence holder, or their appointed representative, shall present, by oral and written presentation, the draft ESMPs to the London Borough of Merton's Safety Advisory Group no later than three months prior to the date of the event. Following this presentation a second presentation shall be organised and take place no later than six weeks prior to the date of the event whereby the the premises licence holder, or there appointed representative shall present, by oral and written presentation, the final versions of the ESMPs to the London Borough of Merton's Safety Advisory Group.



7. Electronic identification scanning equipment shall be used to check the proof of identity of all persons attending the event.

**Conditions taken and offered as part of the applicants operating schedule:**

The applicant has offered a substantial number of conditions as part of the operating schedule to address the four licensing objectives. These proposed conditions, to address the four licensing objectives, are set out in part M of the applicants application form. If the Licensing Sub-Committee are minded to grant the application, the Licensing Authority seeks these conditions to be applied to the premises licence in additional to the points set out above.

The Licensing Authority reserves the right to submit further supporting evidence in connection with this representation, and to assist in oral evidence to be given at any Licensing Sub-Committee hearing organised to determine this variation application.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Barry Croft.

**Barry Croft**  
**Licensing Manager**  
**Licensing Team**  
**Part of the Regulatory Services Partnership serving the**  
**London Borough of Merton and the London Borough of Richmond upon**  
**Thames.**

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## MEMORANDUM

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To: Licensing

From: Andrew Pickup, Principal Environmental Health Practitioner

Tel: 020 8545 3887

Date: 3 December 2018

**BLUE BOX EVENTS LTD  
EASTERN ELECTRICS, MORDEN PARK**

Further to your consultation in relation to the above licence application, Environmental Health wish to make a representation on noise grounds.

The details regarding the event are documented in the application and supplementary papers.

The event has resulted in multiple noise complaints from local residents during the periods it operates. The event occurs predominantly over a weekend period therefore it could be realistically assumed more people would be at home.

The event organisers propose that they employ a suitable qualified Noise Management Consultant and develop a Noise Management Plan that would include having representatives on site during the course of the event. Whilst this plan has to date not been submitted or perhaps developed there is still not a basic concept to this plan, with the exception that there will be a telephone number for residents or businesses to make use of, although to what extent this complaints hotline aims to achieve again lacks substance.

The use of open space should be available to all including festival events bringing levels of diversity into the Borough of Merton but this should also be subject to some limitations to provide a suitable degree of protection for residents who have likely lived in the area for some time and are used to not being unduly disrupted during their own leisure period.

Whilst from an Environmental Protection aspect we do not raise an outright objection, nor expect the event to be inaudible but do expect some degree of mitigation which will offer some protection for residents without the detail of a current environmental noise management plan Environmental Protection

proposes some conditions which would enable some protection against noise pollution for residents should the Committee grant the application.

**Condition 1**

The MNL expressed as an  $L_{Aeq}$  should not exceed 65dB over any 15-minute period when measured at the boundary of a residential premises, a class 1 sound level meter shall be used

**Condition 2**

A level of up to 70dB in either 63Hz or 125Hz shall not be exceeded at any time when measured at the boundary of a residential premises, a class 1 sound level meter shall be used.

**Condition 3**

All noise monitoring data captured during the event shall be made available at the time of the request by an Authorised Local Authority Officer.

**Condition 4**

It shall be the duty of the applicant to undertake the noise monitoring for the event during performances.

Andrew Pickup  
Principal Environmental Health Practitioner



Mr Barry Croft  
Licensing Manager  
London Borough of Merton  
Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden SM4 5DX

Our Ref: SI38188

11 December 2018

Dear Mr Croft,

**Re: Eastern Electrics festival 2019 – application WK/201809200**

I have been contacted by a large number of constituents and I write to oppose the above application on the basis of noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour experienced by residents in Morden.

As you may be aware, during and following the Eastern Electrics 2018 festival, my office received a huge volume of complaints about the festival taking place in Morden Park. Constituents expressed their concerns about the level of noise reaching unacceptable levels, anti-social behaviour from festival goers, a lack of policing and a lack of environmental controls put in place.

I was particularly concerned about the impact of the festival on the security of St Lawrence's Church, Morden's oldest parish church, built in the seventeenth century. I understand that members of the congregation felt it necessary to police the site of the church in order to prevent the graveyard being used as a toilet and any damage to the building itself.

While acknowledging the council's very difficult financial position, there is always a need to balance the impact of the events on the quiet area of the park by local people. I therefore write to oppose this application.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

**Siobhain McDonagh MP**

**From:** Councillor Dennis Pearce

**Sent:** 11 December 2018 14:19

**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Proposed, Blue Fox Events Ltd (Eastern Electrice Festicxal Morden Park, London Road, Sm4 5QU.

To Licensing Committee Members and officers

I am writing to lodge my objection to and request permission to speak at the committee meeting about the new application premises and alcohol licence by Blue Fox Events Ltd (Eastern Electrics Festival) for Morden Park, London Road, Sm4 5qu.

First a point of information both parts of the application State, one weekend only each year. Then Friday Saturday and Sunday, sine when has any Friday been part of a weekend?.

Prevention of Crime and disorder, My understanding is that at least one day a request for up to 29,000+ will be ask for even if this is not the case the existing limit of approaching 20,000 begs the question not will there be crime but how much and what level does anybody fine acceptable inside or outside the perimeter, a skill criminal or small group of criminal in a large crowd sell drugs, pickpocket etc The possibility of violence which we would regard as more serious, spontaneous or with deliberate intent is there.

Public Safety No extra provision for public transport plus the possibility for larger audiences could lead to over parking at crossovers, on corners.at crossings at main road junctions potential for accidents is increased.  
If next years weather mirrors this years the possibility for grass fires is increased.

Public Nuisance/Protection of children from harm, at the festival of 2018 there was drug dealing in plain sight around the area and the age limit on the inside may be 18 but not in the rest of the park area or the local street, and the dealers did not ask to see the young peoples birth certificates before selling there ""goods"" all of which was much higher than the year before  
Adults were seen in full view urinating and defecating around the area of the festival

Councillor Dennis Pearce

Local ward Councillor and Resident of Holne Chase a short walk from the event

## **REPRESENTATION AGAINST LICENSE APPLICATION**

**Eastern Electrics at Morden Park Open Space, London Road, Morden**

**Applicant(s):** Blue Fox Events Ltd

**Application Type:** New Premises License

**Application reference:** WK/201809200

**Closing date for Representations:** Tuesday, 11 December 2018

**Representation from Cllr. Nick McLean (Cannon Hill Ward)**

**nick.mclean@merton.gov.uk**

Date: 11 December 2018

I am writing in my capacity as a Councillor representing Cannon Hill Ward on Merton Council.

I attended the public meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 by the event organiser and I thank them for taking the time to present their plans to residents.

However, I do not think that their proposals were convincing in the need to mitigate the massive disturbance that the residents in Cannon Hill experience.

I was also disappointed that the promoter did not consider it important enough to attend the public meeting in person as this would have shown that their concerns for the residents were sincere.

I also consider that, given the level of disturbance to residents caused by last year's event, the event organiser's response, i.e. to apply for a licence to extend the festival from 2 days to 3 days, to apply for a five-year licence and to admit to plans to increase the capacity to ca. 30,000 people, underlines the point that they do not fully acknowledge the anti-social behaviour, criminality and unacceptable noise levels that the Festival brings to this residential area.

Therefore, I strongly object to the license application and my reasons are as follows with regard to Merton Council's four licensing objectives.

In addition, I also conducted an online survey to ask residents their views, and the overwhelming response was against the granting of the application. The comments can be found in Appendix 1 of this submission.

### **The Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the London Borough of Merton, as a Local Authority, has a duty to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder within the Borough.

Attracting thousands of people to a residential area - a location that is unsuitable for this type of festival (where alcohol and drugs are freely taken) encourages criminality

and anti-social behaviour rather than preventing crime and disorder, which is indirect contravention of this policy objective.

## **Public Safety**

The Park is in use by the public (families, young children and dog walkers) throughout the set-up of the festival site, during the event and the dismantling of the site after the event. However, despite the assurances from the event organiser, the following debris remain and are not removed in a timely manner:

- broken glass,
- litter,
- nitrous oxide capsules and drug paraphernalia.

The above poses a direct public safety risk to users of the park as well as the surrounding residential areas.

The festival also attracts large numbers of vehicles to the residential streets that are already congested, increasing the likelihood of traffic accidents.

## **The Prevention of Public Nuisance**

Given the evidence of previous events, the event organiser has been unable to control the number of people and prevent the large-scale public nuisance and anti-social behaviour. This included:

- urinating in front gardens and on the pavement and public highways – both men and women,
- blatant drug use, with nitrous oxide capsules littered around the area, many festival goers inhaling from balloons,
- unacceptable noise levels forcing residents to spend the day inside their properties with windows shut and unable to enjoy their own properties,
- atrocious language from the performers,
- a large amount of litter and broken bottles all around the area – both on public highways and private property.

It is simply not acceptable and unfair that residents are required to put up with the level of public nuisance over a two-day festival. For the promoter to be considering a three-day event and doubling the capacity shows a blatant disregard towards the residents.

## **The Protection of Children from Harm**

Protecting children from harm is an extremely important objective because of their vulnerability and susceptibility to be attracted to adult behaviour – in particular alcohol and drug use.

It is widely acknowledged that the use of nitrous oxide is a gateway drug to more serious and addictive drug use.

The blatant use of nitrous oxide at the festival, with many people inhaling from “balloons” and the chucking of capsules all around the area, is not something that the borough’s children should witness, for fear of drug use being normalised.

At the aforementioned public meeting, it was reported that staff from surrounding schools were required to clear school playgrounds and found young children playing with the nitrous oxide canisters on the Monday after the Festival.

In summary, this festival violates the London Borough of Merton’s four core licencing objectives and therefore should be refused in its entirety.

Yours faithfully,

**Cllr Nick McLean**  
**Cannon Hill Ward (Conservative)**



<p align="center"><b>The Following Comments Are From Residents Who Responded To A Online Survey Asking If They Supported The Licensing Application, Their Comments And Post Code</b></p> <p align="center"><b>This Appendix is In Addition Cllr Mclean's Submission of Licencing Application</b></p> <p align="center"><b>WK/201809200</b></p>		
<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>POST CODE</b>
No	"The second day last year was very noisy and the following day there was drug related litter on local pavements and gutters. The best field for informal children's football games is unavailable for about half of the school summer holidays."	SM4 4ET
No	I am concerned that this year the event has been extended to 3 days and will also open the door to other similar events being held on a regular and more frequent basis in future. We live in Churston Drive and we couldn't enjoy the use of our garden due to the very apparent loud noise. This is not acceptable.	SM4 4JD
No	I totally oppose this event. The noise and rubbish left was horrendous. A lot of the park was shut off which greatly inconvenienced me as a dog walker. Worst of all was the noise which was far too loud and the inconvenience of not being able to open our windows on very hot summer days. One night the noise definitely over ran the stop time. The bass noise carries right into our home and even made light fittings vibrate in our kitchen. Please oppose the granting of this licence. Thank you.	SM4 4BX
No	"1) Too much rubbish left after this years event including drug paraphernalia. No one held them accountable to clear up as they should have. 2) Noise is too much. This is a quiet residential area. The event over one day was bearable but two was too much and three is unacceptable. 3) For the newts and other wildlife, this is disruptive to their habitat and no consideration seems to be given to such issues. 4) The event is not suited to this quiet family area and as such the event stops local families using the park."	SM4 4EQ
Yes	I think events like this are a real positive for the area and also a fantastic opportunity for local festival goers, young and old, to have something on their doorstep and not have to travel far and wide. Providing it's properly organised, stewarded and policed then I am all for this and other events in the park. For what it's worth I live opposite the park on Hillcross and am a married Father of two young girls so am not trying to respond at all from a perspective of pure self interest	SM4 4EU
Yes	The parks in Merton need the cash! Where else can they get it from? They have a competitive contractor who needs to be paid for the upkeep of parks.	SM4 5RD

No	"Having attended the meeting on 22nd November it was clear that the majority of councillors present, and in particular one particularly vociferous individual, were more interested in the income that might (no guarantee) benefit Morden Park than any of the residents very real concerns. Given the council's inability to negotiate anything other than a miserly sum from the Wimbledon Tennis fortnight park and ride scheme (and of course free tickets for council employees only)the figure of £50-55k suggested to me by another attendee is also probably only a small fraction of the profits generated by Eastern Electrics and in no way compensation for the nuisance to residents."	SM4 4BQ
No	This years event was incredibly loud and I was told when I called to complain that the decibel limit was not being breached, my mother could hear it in Worcester park so it most definitely was, also the foul language being repeatedly screamed by the DJ was completely unacceptable	SM4 4BN
No	The Eastern Electrics event held in August 2018 was incredibly loud until late into the night over two nights. My six-year-old son was in tears because he was tired and couldn't sleep for the noise - it was a hot night and we were forced to shut all the windows but could still hear every word. If this event had been staged in Wimbledon Park I feel very strongly that it would never be allowed to happen again as the residents of Wimbledon would not allow it. Is Morden Park however seen as fair game by Merton Council and Eastern Electrics as the residents here are not as wealthy and influential as in Wimbledon? We shouldn't be treated any differently and deserve to enjoy our homes and gardens in peace and quiet.	SM4 4BQ
No	The noise and language heard four streets away from the park near Cannon Hill Common was unacceptable.	SM4 4BN
No	It is too loud for being held in a built up residential area. I have experienced excessive noise from the music in our back garden and house during the last Eastern Electric event together with actually hearing swearing from the stages-not acceptable in a family residential area and not suitable for my two year old son. We could hear the loud music even with the doors and windows closed. There was excessive litter all around the park and local streets, including our front garden-this includes beer cans/take out containers and gas canisters! I have not had any of these issues with any other event held so far in Morden Park.	SM4 4AY
Yes	"I think the festival is a great opportunity for Londoners to attend an event and get home again. The noise in 2018 was bearable esp as I didn't have to get up for work. I was concerned about the number of nitrous oxide capsule around the park and local streets. There didn't seem to be any specific clean up apart from in the park itself. I also heard about people urinating in front garden on their way back to the station - could more toilets be provided on the route?"	SM44BH
No	"This event was such an awful disturbance for not only my family but all our neighbours last year. We live on Thurleston Avenue, so not directly adjacent to the park, yet the noise was so loud we could feel the bass in our house and garden. We have an 11 month old, and on the Saturday the noise became so loud at 7pm that he woke up crying and distressed, and we could not get him back to sleep for 3 hours. It was no coincidence that before and after the event he slept through the night as normal. My husband tried to call the noise complaint line, to get through to an	SM4 4BN

	answerphone to which he left a message with contact details. He received no response. He then tried calling again on the Sunday after the same thing happened, and the answerphone was full. This event resulted in an extremely upsetting weekend for my family. This event should not be held in such a built up residential area when the event organisers have already shown such disregard for the residents. "	
No	Too much disruption caused the local residents by the lack of respect and understanding by the people attending the music festival.	SM4 4JE
No	"I can't quite understand why such an event needs to take place in a highly residential area. I have no objections to an event like this but it needs to be properly managed. The sound was horrific and I heard colleagues talking about hearing it over in Worcester Park! On our street we had groups of guys using people's gardens as a toilet, groups of teenagers just sitting on the verges with beers in hands for hours outside peoples houses. If it has to happen again it doesn't need to be three days and ruin our weekends completely! The disturbance is only going to be worse. Perhaps its because we don't like this style of music and if it was anything else we might be less bias but I'm sure the elderly folk and young families are also objecting regardless of the style/type of people that will visit it."	SM4 4ET
No	The festival is far too large Circa 20000 people to be held in the middle of a high density family residential area. My home backs onto the park and sound volume was intolerable as was the foul language coming at the level from the sound stages. The music was so loud it set off car alarms by our garages. Added to this we had to put up with young people urinating and defecating on the grass outside our homes. Over the two days there was no sign of any festival security or police in Hillcross Avenue.	SM4 4BX
No	Last year the noise from the event was very loud and could be heard from our house which is a long distance away. Given the event is over a number of days and capacity is due to be significantly increased this will have a more determinantal impact to the surrounding residents.	SM4 4DS
No	"Last year there was people urinating in my drive, by the bus stop. Empty bottles were left up and down the street. The noise from the actual music meant that you could not open your windows on some of the hottest days of the year. Regardless of how much money they pay to have the festival in the park it should not be held there again"	SM4 4ET
No	"These are notes from the representation that I sent to the council: The event disturbed the sleep of my son. The legal decibel levels for events are not fit for purpose in an area with such close proximity to homes. Make no mistake, the event was loud. On the Sunday I was in my back garden with my 2 year old son. We could clearly hear an MC repeat the refrain: ""put your f [REDACTED] g hands in the air"" five times.  We saw increased litter around the park entrances on Hillcross. This included the drink cups from the festival, empty cans and lots of Nitrous Oxide capsules. While Nitrous Oxide capsules are a more common sight nowadays, the event bought a huge amount more onto our streets and around our park.	SM4 4AY

	<p>We also had lots of footfall and traffic on Hillcross post the event on the Sunday evening which went on well after 11pm. I had to work the next day and this disturbed my sleep as the people walking past my house were not quiet!</p> <p>Following feedback from residents, the solutions they put in place to deal with past problems (public urination, security/stewarding, litter, etc) are not making an impact- the same problems remain. The growth of the festival in size will outpace the solutions they try put in place. This is not sustainable and will cause further deterioration to residents quality of life.</p> <p>Another festival of similar nature was due to be held in Morden Park on 8th September, 2018 (not long after Eastern Electrics last year). The Licensing Sub-Committee's decision (notice dated 17th August) for refusing the license for this other event was largely based on the bad experience with Eastern Electrics. Why should the license for Eastern Electrics be granted when another music festival license has been rejected due to the problems caused by Eastern Electrics?"</p>	
No	It was insanely loud. I literally heard it from miles away and my friends in the area were really disturbed	KT3 6BD
	It was hellish enough last-year over two days!! Open drug dealing in our road, urination drunkenness and vomiting both here and down in Morden and on buses. Naked people, rubbish everywhere and couldn't open windows it was so loud. Am disabled and don't see why I should be driven from my home because I simply couldn't cope (can't afford to go away anyway). When they EVENTUALLY answered the complaint line last year was met by rudeness and indifference PLEASE oppose it, its hell	SM4 4BW
No	Living in Hillcross Avenue it was a nightmare, we were unable to open windows due to the very loud music. There was a lot of anti-social behaviour and unbelievable mess.	SM4 4BU
No	"I am appalled that this kind of festival is held anywhere near a residential area, The noise and disruption is completely unacceptable to council tax paying residents who live anywhere near this event. It's an ALL day and evening event over an entire weekend. The constant noise levels are outrageous, I can only assume council members who approved of this event do not live anywhere near Morden. This year we had 30 degree+ temperatures during August and I couldn't use my garden and had to have all my windows closed to try and avoid the constant booming and repetitive chanting. This event should be held in a country suburb which does not impact the residents of Morden. My house directly backs onto Morden park and the constant noise levels are completely unacceptable "	SM4 4BU
Yes	Great addition to the area	SM4 4BN
No	Far too loud, my house backs onto the park. We ended up having to go out every day. We are next to Bow Lane and had volumes of drunk noisy people outside our house on the Saturday till about 1 am waiting to be picked up by cabs & coaches. Not suitable for such a residential area. This year they seemed to turn the volume up the later it got.	SM4 4BY
No	Three days is too much! Especially on a Thursday	SM4 4JF

	Hillcross Avenue was filled with carrier bags full of drink bottled on the day after the Festival ie Monday morning. Bow Lane had a rubbish bin that was full to the top and all around it in a large area ie on the corner of Lower Morden Lane. It was very unpleasant. The noise from the music was also very loud. 2 days was bad enough this year, we certainly do not want 3 days, we do not want it at all!	SM44JE
No	They have yet to prove that they can effectively manage this event. Residents have had to suffer 2 years of unacceptable noise levels, antisocial behaviour and drug and alcohol related rubbish across the whole of the park.	SM4 4AY
No	We walk our dog on Morden park. My husband says its a disgrace the mess its left in and a lot of grass is churned up. Also general rubbish along Hillcross is worse then normal on this particular weekend.	SM4 4BW
No	The noise created this year was far in excess of the previous year. Assurances that it would be carefully monitored came to absolutely nothing. To ignore what happened with the sound level late on the Sunday would be a gross dereliction of duty by the Council.	SM4 4BN
Yes	I support the event being held but I think it should either end earlier on Sunday or not run on the Sunday. As it finishes late enough that children going to bed have to try and sleep through it with their windows closed in the summer. A Friday and Saturday night everyone is more forgiving of but for those who have to get up- midday or late afternoon finish on Sunday would be a good compromise.	SW20 9HN
No	As a resident of Hillcross Avenue I was appalled by the behaviour of women of the concert goers. Not only did they urinate in the street they also fouled the grass verge after emerging from a mini bus. This behaviour is totally unacceptable. The volume was also an issue which was increased during the evening. I am totally against another concert next year and thereafter.	SM4 4EB
No	"Ruins the park and restricts access for residents about a week before and after the event. Upsetting for wildlife and mess around the area was shocking for quite a few days."	SM4 4TD
No	We live on Lynmouth Avenue and the noise well into the evening was unbearable. Our two young children did not get to sleep until the music had stopped!	SM4 4RY
No	This event is not suited to a residential area. The noise, anti-social behaviour including blatant drug abuse was bad enough. I am also very concerned about the environmental damage and the distress caused to wildlife. I strongly oppose this event. It's pure greed fuelling this decision and it is totally wrong for the many residents, including myself to be completely ignored and our views dismissed!!	SM4 5RB
No	Too noisy. People leaving rubbish in front gardens, vomiting, urinating, drug needles & canisters. (This is not cleared by the Council)	SM4 4SZ
Yes	It's good for the community and why not! My family (ages between 19 - 74) sat in the garden listening to the music last year, thoroughly enjoyed and was silent by 10pm. The fireworks they hold there are more annoying!	SW20 9EF
No	The last event showed a total lack of planning and no consideration for the impact on those who live close to the park. We on Derwent road could not sleep or even be in our gardens in the heat due to the noise and bass levels. Our pets	SW20 9NH

	were highly stressed because of the noise. It was highly unpleasant being subjected to the anti-social behaviour observed over that weekend, not to mention trying to answer questions about the lewd lyrics of the music being played to our 8 year old! And we live on Derwent Road!! That clearly shows just how loud the music was!!!	
No	"Too much noise late into the night which kept our 11 month old son (at the time) up. This will be worse next year as he is obviously older and therefore it will be much more difficult to get him to sleep. There is also the fact there are a lot of drunk and disorderly people wondering around the streets and a lot of anti-social behaviour. The local area does not gain anything positive by hosting such an event!"	SW20 9EG
No	it is not a natural user of the quiet park; the noise is overpowering; drunkenness is transported into Morden; drug dealers come to Morden for the event and could well find it a 'nice' place to frequent; litter abounds in local roads as do beer cans and bottles; there is public urination despite the promises of EE that they would take steps to prevent it last year; the whole area is a 'no go' for the Environmental Enforcement Officers for fear of violence against them (local residents would be arrested) ; it is difficult to describe the attire of some of the women as clothes, not a good example for our young children; we are denied use of a sizeable part of the park for several weeks; some areas of grass resemble a ploughed field for months after the event;	
No	This is a very residential area and not a place for rock concerts. The music is not even to the liking of the demographics in this area.	SM4 4BX
No	The noise is excessive and little control over the event.	SM4 4HX
No	Last year was too loud & went on too late. I live in Tudor Drive & the noise was horrendous.	SW20 9NH
Yes	Not everybody's cup of tea but we need this type of thing to breathe life into the valley of death that is Morden. I think there is a lot of nimbyism at play here as it's not the type of music that appeals to our demographic. My house backs onto the park and I shall throw my patio doors wide open and welcome this gust of life into my world. Oh and I think it's a two day event - maybe check that out.	SM4 4AY
No	Music too loud and people parking anywhere they want , find somewhere that's not residential	SM4 4JQ
Yes	"I welcome large events like this in our community- in fact I would like to attend myself if I can! It's an experience I would not have considered had it not been so local to my home. However, the money raised MUST be used to ensure the safety of the area both during and after the event and this spending MUST be transparent so that the local community can see in advance how this will be managed. This includes the protection of wildlife as much as possible, control of anti- social behaviour and clean - up operations. Other community events in the park are welcomed (such as the fireworks displays) but may not cause such an enduring amount of noise- so it may be a good idea to ensure that noise blocking walls are put up around the whole of the event. I am sure if nearby residents were not disturbed too much then there couldn't be too much of an objection... so is this possible? Can you make it possible? "	SM4 4BN

No	"The noise level was unacceptable this year. Have any weddings been booked for the date of the event or have Merton Council taken this into consideration this time?"	SM3 9HY
No	We have been absent for the events of the previous two Augusts so cannot make a comment based on personal experience but have picked up on the comments of those neighbours that were present. They tell me the event of this year was particularly offensive. That was a 2 nighter. The 3 nighter being considered here would be exceptionally objectionable. We live in a residential area, a dormitory suburb not planned for such assaults on our lives and places of habitation. To visit such potential chaos and disruption on the district is to be avoided. So Nick, I'm against it .	SM4 4EQ
No	The disruption and noise for the residents was intolerable	sm4 4st
No	Last year, I witnessed first-hand, Morden and the surrounding area swamped with intoxicated and abusive people. They openly littered everywhere. The peturbing aspect was the police and security people ignoring it completely, especially around Morden Station. As a family we felt intimidated and disgusted	sm4 4an
No	We live on thurleston avenue and the music was so loud this year it felt like they were in our back garden! I'm not opposed to the event being held as I totally understand the need for this kind of event, however the noise levels were completely unreasonable considering the area is highly residential. I have a young daughter and having to keep the windows shut in one of the hottest summers on record (which still didn't help much with the noise) was very difficult.	SM44BN
No	<p>"Following our experience of the Eastern Electric festival this year we strongly oppose renewal of their licence and certainly will not tolerate the proposed expansion of this event. The event also drew considerable opposition from others in the local community on the NextDoor social media site although it was clear that owing to the geography people were affected differently. There were also some very vocal supporters and it is not clear what their motives were. The noise and offensive language audible in our home made the entire weekend unpleasant to say the least.</p> <p><a href="https://www.wimbleonguardian.co.uk/news/16405416.eastern-electric-morden-park-music-festival-divides-community/">https://www.wimbleonguardian.co.uk/news/16405416.eastern-electric-morden-park-music-festival-divides-community/</a></p> <p>Morden Park is essentially a wild, open space that offers a peaceful sanctuary for wildlife and the surrounding community that includes many families with young children. The understated description on Merton Council website reads: ""A beautiful park dotted with mature trees, useful facilities, and some features of historical interest.â€</p> <p><a href="https://www2.merton.gov.uk/environment/openspaces/parks/parks_in_the_morden_area/mordenpark.htm">https://www2.merton.gov.uk/environment/openspaces/parks/parks_in_the_morden_area/mordenpark.htm</a></p> <p>The intrusion of Eastern Electric festival represents the very antithesis of this. Aggressive, obscenely loud music, offensive lyrics and a generally aggressive uncaring attitude among those attending do not belong in this park. There</p>	SW20 9HH

	<p>were also many people in the community who experienced drunken and / or drug-induced behaviour including people urinating in their gardens from attendees during this event and in 2017. Domestic pets and wildlife were distressed. This is not a cultural event - or at least not one that offers anything positive to the community. We would very much support any cultural events in the area including Morden Park that had some positive cultural value even if there was some acceptable level of noise generated.</p> <p>We are aware of the noise management- we have ears to hear for ourselves though.</p> <p>We are aware that the event brings in money to the council but do not feel that this is fair value at any price for council-tax payers. There also doesn't appear to be transparency about the commercial side towards council-tax payers who pay for the park and should have the right to use it especially during the summer."</p>	
No	I leave in Cannon Hill and, while not affected by the antisocial behaviour, I do feel it is unacceptable for me and my two young children to be exposed to racist and obscene language during a weekend afternoon. If I said some of the things that I could hear, I am sure I would be arrested!	SW20 9ED
No	The noise and disruption from the event in 2017 was so overwhelming that in the hottest month when families could be enjoying the warmth of the sun in their own gardens and home. They were met with the loudest base, explicit lyrics being shouted out through out two days. Where by even with windows shut it was near impossible to hear above the TV. Along with this at the top of Monkleigh Road there was such behaviour as people urinating and the roads around here were strewn with canisters from their legal highs.	SM4 4BE
No	The noise was unbearable. I was unable to have doors or Windows open on the hot weekend. Even my children (9 and 5) asked if I could get the music stopped as it was stopping them enjoying their weekend!	SM4 4QN
No	"During and after the event last year there was anti-social behaviour - urinating in the streets, drug dealing, litter in the streets which was not cleared up by the organisers and blighted the area for weeks. No one at the council took responsibility for permitting this behaviour and the organisers are unaccountable to the residents. "	SM4 4TD
No	"I did not mind the first year. It is only one weekend a year and it helps Merton financially I don't mind some noise. However, this year was not good at all and I am far less supportive. We had an incident the Saturday afternoon where an Uber cab pulled up outside our door, these lads got out with loads of beer, some bottles were dropped and one of them proceeded to walk down our ally and urinate up there. Then the following day I had to sweep up broken beer bottles they have left in the road/our drive. Loads of little kids walk up and down Hillcross to go to school we don't want glass everywhere. Walking the dog around the block that same morning there were dozens of these mini capsules like gas cylinders only tiny ones - I am told they are some kind of legal high thing. I have no objection to people doing what they want - I do object to it all over the floor. I have lived here over 30 years and I don't feel safe in Morden any more anyway - this event does nothing to help that feeling."	SM44EU



No	The festival was intolerably and loud and disruptive. The rubbish and mess (including human waste!) left behind for weeks was not acceptable.	SM4 4TB
No	"We live on Parkway on the edge of Cannon Hill Common on a rise facing towards Morden Park with no buildings between to baffle the sound we get the full blast even from that distance. It is amazingly loud and a nuisance. Sound travels. 1 day is ok, 2 days very uncomfortable but 3 days intolerable. "	SW20 9HF
No	I live on Lower Morden Lane. Last year I could not stay in my house. Could not stand the noise. Had to go and stay with friends. Which was not much better. I am dreading next August. I should not have to worry about things like this. It is an intrusion on my privacy and affects my quality of life.	SM4 4SE
No	Very disruptive antisocial behaviour. No policing of all the substance misuse/drug dealing	SM4 4DB
No	The volume was way too loud.	SM4 5QS
No	I am concerned about many aspects - the noise, mess, and drug dealing, the lack of concrete data about what they intend to do, the steady expansion of the event, and the inappropriateness of an event like this in a quiet residential area. I'm also concerned about the impact on the wildlife in and around the park - not only does it limit the hours of daylight in which animals can forage, but the litter is dangerous to smaller mammals.	SM4 4EF
No	We live in one of the roads opposite Morden park and during last year's 'event' suffered from having to keep all our windows closed so that we could hear our TV, litter on our road which was not cleared up for days, dozens of discarded nitrous oxide capsules and even people sleeping in a van opposite the house. This event is not suitable for such a built-up area. We are also regular users of Morden Park as we have dogs but had to find an alternative walking area as during the festival and for days after the debris made the park less safe	SM4 5QB
No	This event has complete disregard for the local residents. Last year the noise was unbearable and residents were lied to by so-called council officials who hadn't got a clue what was going on. The fact that emergency services were opposed to the event happening speaks for itself	SM4 4NW
No	"Apart from the considerable noise in the park last year, I had the unpleasant task of dealing with an elderly neighbour's alleyway which had been used to urinate in. The anxiety caused to my neighbour was truly unfair and unnecessary as they saw a van pull up outside their house with several drunken males getting out walking up the alleyway and urinating against the wall. I cannot believe the council wish to support an event that obviously increases anti-social behaviour. I also cannot believe the council wish to support an event that will encourage an increase in crime in the borough. An event of this nature will obviously encourage drug use which in itself will encourage drug dealing which has the knock-on effect of increasing crime. Again last year Morden town centre had literally dozens of nitrous oxide littering the streets after the event, and this was only from my walk from the underground station to the bus stop opposite Crown House. It appears Merton Council have turned away from being tough on crime and have decided to help promote drug use. "	SM44EU

No	"it is not policed, I live right next to the park and the music was so loud especially the backbeat it was a form of torture going on for hour after hour. The mess that was left from small gas canisters was appalling, the distress that it caused to myself and the residents in my road was unacceptable. "	SM4 5QB
No	"This year the festival caused lots of mess and noise. We rang the council about the noise and were told the volume was within limits. Clearly it wasn't. I had to keep all windows and doors closed to hear my TV. Also the rubbish and gas canisters everywhere. The park was full of rubbish for 2 days after. I walk my dog in Morden Park and he was continually picking trying eat stuff that had been thrown down and not collected. That included Condoms."	Sm44sz
Yes	Undecided - it must be a good income bringer for council funds, but I would object to this being held longer than 1 day.	SM4 4JE
No	I live in Greenwood Close, so not close to the park but the noise last year was in excess of 80 dB (sometimes peaking even higher). It was really unbearable. If it were one day only I would accept but a whole weekend in midsummer when we want to be in our gardens is just too much.	Sm4 4hx
No	It causes a lot of unnecessary pain during those two days in what is a highly residential area. Quality of life goes down during that time and unfortunately, the people who attend lack respect for the people resident to Morden. In 2018, I was very relieved that I was away that weekend. Not the sort of event I can tolerate every year. Isn't it possible to get bids for Coldplay or Passenger? Entirely different vibes.	SM4 4JF
No	There is a huge noise disruption & can't rest throughout , the wild life in the park suffers enormously, there are too many drugs & booze around and the mess afterwards is impossible. The whole neighbourhood is unhappy and doesn't want the festival but it still goes on!	SM4 4TA
No	Amenities are lost to residents for the best part of 3 weeks.	SM4 4DJ
No	Poor planning, antisocial behaviour, unlimited license, now 3 days, poor security, concerns for health and safety of residents and concert goers and the list could go on.	SM4 4AZ
No	My thoughts in no particular order. Excruciating constant noise. Its like someone shouting in your ear with no escape. Wrong location it is on the highest point of area. Its anti social to the people in the area. Forcing people to leave there homes for a break. We did leave last year only to hear the noise at Angle Hill Sutton. If people start to leave their homes to escape the noise (like the wife and me last year) it's burglar heaven. My Health and Wellbeing was effected because my ears blocked/popped (same as when you fly). They cannot be trusted at the meeting they said it was 2 days with the option to have the 2 days during a 3 day period. The park has not been returned to how it was from 2017. It must be made impossible for them to make money by keep demanding more safety services etc. Demand that the police be present for drug and drink and public Urination related problems. Lastly there were in my opinion a quite a few stooges at the meeting, probably interested parties.	SM4 4
No	The event held last year in Morden Park was terrible. As a resident of lower Morden i was disturbed by the exceptionally loud thumping music for hours. I could hear the music over the radio and television and i was unable to	SM4 4PF

	<p>enjoy peace and quiet in my own home. The organisers were completely unconcerned on the impact of 2 days of thumpingly loud music on local residents and when you finally got through to their hotline (which was barely answered), contrary to a condition on their licence, all they could say is that they were within the prescribed permits on their licence. Clearly the condition was imposed with limits completely inappropriate given the type of music and that Morden Park is situated in a highly residential area. They were not complying with the Licensing Act 2003, licensing objectives specifically the prevention of public nuisance, protection of children from harm and prevention of crime and disorder. The fact that the noise could be heard in most of Merton and in neighbouring boroughs (i tried to get away from the noise by visiting my parents in Sutton but we could even hear it there). Other public nuisance include the vomit, faeces and rubbish left in and around Morden. The language of the artists performing was at times extremely offensive - not something that young children should be subjected to. I have worked in Licensing for nearly 25 years and am both shocked and disgusted at the licence holders / applicants blatant disregard of basic licensing legislation, i am also very disappointed that Merton council would allow such an event to take without the proper conditions on the licence and that there wasn't one council Environmental Health noise officer on duty to deal with such a massive event and to protect the interests of Merton hard working local residents</p>	
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## **EASTERN ELECTRICS/BLUE FOX EVENTS – Ref: WK/201809200**

On behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (AMA) Liaison Group, I write to object to the application for the above licence for a 3-day event by Blue Fox Events.

The AMA Liaison Group works to ensure harmonious relations between the Baitul Futuh Mosque in London Road and its neighbours in the surrounding community, both residents and stakeholders. The Mosque is the worldwide headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community with 15 million followers. Its motto is “Love for All, Hatred for None”. The Mosque is sited on the boundary of two wards, St Helier (pop. 11,093) and Merton Park (pop. 9,619). I chair the AMA Liaison Group as an Independent councillor for Merton Park Ward in conjunction with colleagues from St Helier Ward.

**FORECAST GROWTH** – the inaugural Eastern Electrics event took place in 2014 and attracted an audience of 12,000. Numbers have grown each year; 15,000 in 2015, 17,000 in 2016, 17,000 in 2017 (when it first took place in Morden Park) and 20,000+ in 2018, when it expanded to a 2-day event. The current application is for a 3-day event and the organisers anticipate attendance growing from 20,000 to 30,000 on any one day over the next five years. This forecast growth has material implications for the licensing objectives:

**1. PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER** – the police recorded a significant increase in reported crimes over the two years the event has been held in Morden Park:

**2017** – 5 reports of ASB, one of sexual assault by touching

**2018** – 7 reports of ASB, one common assault, 4 thefts, one possession of drugs, and 3 of possession with intent to supply.

(Borough Commander’s report to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018).

The evidence of drug dealing this year is particularly disturbing as the police fear the emergence of this new market, well publicised in advance, will attract rival gangs seeking to supply it in future years.

Taken together the rise in numbers attending, expansion to a 3-day event and emerging drug culture will have a deleterious impact on crime and disorder.

We Are the Fair admit that back packs of drugs were thrown over the perimeter fence by criminal gangs at this year's event, (although security staff retrieved most of them).

An informal survey of retail businesses in Morden carried out recently for the weekend of the event found an increase in shoplifting in Iceland and Sainsbury's, and damage to toilets in cafes and pubs.

- 2. PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE** – reports at a public meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and on social media complain of the sound being audible as far away as Worcester Park, while windows and doors vibrated with the noise in nearer residential properties. (Note that proximity to residential properties was one of the grounds on which the recent MJMK application for a more modest one day event was refused.)

There are few public toilets in Morden since the station toilets were closed years ago, and the organisers did not make toilets available *en route* until 3pm. Consequently festival goers (many of whom appeared to be intoxicated already upon their arrival in Morden) were seeking out places to urinate between the town centre and Morden Park on their way to the event, and to vomit on their return journey.

Provision of litter bins both inside the event and from Morden Park to the town centre was inadequate, so abnormal amounts of litter were left in the Park and on London Road.

The new £13m Morden Leisure Centre opened its doors in November this year. The site is extremely open, and in direct line from London Road to the event (unlike the old pool), so it is vulnerable to vandalism unless temporary fencing is erected, at a cost to the council.

- 3. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM** - persons under the age of 18 are allegedly not admitted to the event, but the lyrics were loud enough to be heard at a distance. Some were provocative, violent and misogynistic – not what local residents wanted their children to hear.

Nitrous oxide canisters were discovered in the playground of nearby Morden Primary School at the start of the autumn term, and had to be cleared by staff before the pupils could be admitted.

Morden Leisure Centre will be open throughout the three days of the event, from 06.30 to 19.00 on Friday, 08.00 to 17.00 on Saturday and 08.00 to 15.00 on Sunday, with family swim sessions on each day. So pool users with young children and toddlers will cross paths with potentially rowdy festival goers.

Butterfly Patch, a new nursery, will be opening in the Park this month; this will pose safeguarding issues for very young children if it is to operate year round.

- 4. PUBLIC SAFETY** – the police opposed granting the licence for the 2018 event, and had only limited resources to maintain order outside the enclosure. Consequently they could not respond effectively to reports of NO canisters being sold, and much of this activity went unchecked. Intoxicated festival goers were observed walking down the middle of London Road after the event, causing vehicles to swerve to avoid them – a danger to themselves and to others.

Eastern Electrics/WATF acknowledged failings after the 2017 event and promised local residents they would be rectified. Yet the same failings recurred this year, and on a bigger scale. Based on two years' evidence **we fail to see how the organisers can guarantee these failings will not recur in 2019 – and beyond – if the licence is granted.**

Cllr Peter Southgate  
Chair, AMA Liaison Group  
c/o The Civic Centre  
London Road, Morden  
SM4 5DX

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

## **REPRESENTATION AGAINST LICENSE APPLICATION**

### **Eastern Electrics at Morden Park Open Space, London Road, Morden**

Representation from Mr Sean Cunniffe, Head of Customer Contact and Proper Officers  
Representative for Registration Services, London Borough of Merton, Civic Centre, London  
Road, Morden, SM4 5DX

[sean.cunniffe@merton.gov.uk](mailto:sean.cunniffe@merton.gov.uk) 020 8274 4901

Date: 11 December 2018

**Applicant(s):** Blue Fox Events Ltd  
**Application Type:** New Premises License  
**Application reference:** WK/201809200

**Closing date for Representations:** Tuesday, 11 December 2018

Morden Park House is the wonderful grade II listed building within the boundaries of the park and hosts Merton's Registration Service. Part of its function is to carry out the statutory duties of Birth, Death and Marriage registration on behalf of the Home Office. Its current operating hours are Monday – Friday 09.00 – 16.30, services on Saturday and Sunday are available by appointment only. This includes all requests for ceremonial functions such as weddings, baby naming and civil partnerships.

I note that the above license application has requested the inclusion of a third day i.e. Fridays and assurances have been given that this will commence in the evening only i.e. outside of operational hours. The minutes of the Community Consultation, held on 22 November 2018 states:-

“The license is restricted to 1 event per calendar year, taking place for a maximum of 3 days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). We are applying for a third event as Eastern Electrics have aspirations to put on an additional event on Friday evening.”

This is at a variance with the actual application. Blue Fox Events Ltd have requested permission for the premises opening hours to be in operation from 11.00 – 23.30 on the Friday, the sale of alcohol from 11.00 – 22.00 on this day and live performances, recorded music introduced by DJ's/MC's (despite a claim that this would be recommended not to be taken forward by the applicants due to the level of complaints about offensive language being amplified) from 11.00 – 22.30. It is this element that I must strongly object to.

While we have worked closely with colleagues and event organisers over the years to mitigate interference with the operations of the Registry Office, including limiting availability at the weekend, the prospect of undertaking a death registration to a backdrop of loud music cannot be allowed and will certainly draw criticism from the General Registry Office.

I ask that the Licensing Sub-Committee, if minded to grant a premises license for this event, places a condition on the license that any operations being conducted on a Friday evening can only commence from 17.30. This includes all forms of entertainment, sale of alcohol and the opening hours of the premise. This allows staff and customers safe egress from the building and will not interfere with the statutory functions of the Registry Office.

Kind regards

Sean Cunniffe



**From:** Melissa Addey  
**Sent:** 10 December 2018 14:46  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Eastern Electrics Festival

I second my husband's points below.

Melissa

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## Melissa Addey

### Author & Speaker

Creative Writing PhD student at the University of Surrey

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**From:** Ryan Taylor  
**Sent:** 10 December 2018 14:40  
**To:** [licensing@merton.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@merton.gov.uk)  
**Cc:** Melissa Addey  
**Subject:** Eastern Electrics Festival

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to object to the applications from Eastern Electrics for:

- ) Performance of a Play
- ) Exhibition of a film
- ) Live Music
- ) Recorded Music
- ) Performance of Dance
- ) Anything Similar to Music and Dancing
- ) Supply of alcohol
- ) Premises Opening Hours

I am an interested party living in the vicinity of the premises - my address is [REDACTED]

My representation is based upon:

- ) prevention of crime and disorder
- ) public safety
- ) prevention of public nuisance
- ) protection of children from harm

I have two small children aged 4 and 7 and we spend most weekends spending time in Morden Park. After the 2018 event and for many weeks after, my children found gas canisters on the paths leading to the park and there was a noticeable increase in litter. I do

not particularly want to explain to such small children what these gas canisters are used for as they may think that such activities are common and acceptable.

It is also annoying that the park is out of bounds for the period of the festival and the noise that the event creates, going on long into the night and with mess and bad behaviours from attendees as they make their way away from the site.

Merton is a family friendly borough and the area around the whole park is a family area, this event does not seem in keeping with the area and the inhabitants.

To grant an annual license is outrageous, a one off license is also not desirable but at least this would keep some control from year to year should bad behaviour continue not to be addressed by those organising the festival. If this licence / application goes ahead, then sufficient event security should be in place on the pathways to and from Hillcross Avenue to prevent bad behaviour in the local area.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Taylor

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I am against the license for the EE festival and don't agree with it being licensed forever. With all of the complaints and problems from the last one. It's all about the money and not the residents as I was told. How many of the council live on Epsom road . It's easy voting yes if you are not across the street from the festival. 2 days of bass going non stop so loud you have to have your tv up over 30 volume. The traffic and people outside our homes at night waiting for there ubers for 2 hours doing drugs and urinating in our gardens. Than the trash that is dropped up and down Epsom road as the crowds walk to and from the event... they should have be responsible for the surrounding area . All my complaint emails are on record so look at those also. Karen Aleksandrowicz

To whom it concerns,

I have been a resident in Merton all my life. I am passionate about our beautiful park, our town & residents quality of life.

I use Morden Park everyday as do many people. I am extremely concerned that this rave having been given the go ahead for two years with our locals being taken into consideration, the wildlife or the impact to the park itself.

I have some points for your committee to consider.

### Health & Safety

Garbage! - In all local areas around the surrounding park - making streets impassable for people with buggies, mobility scooters, wheelchairs, unable to walk into town centre at all.

Safeguarding our children: Drug dealing, urinating, exposing themselves in front of children.

Safe Staff returned from school holidays and found the playground was covered with drug canisters, alcohol & probably more. The children were unable to go outside until the teachers had cleaned the place up.

~~people had~~ local residents had people drug dealing outside their homes, exposing themselves to urinate in front of their homes which had children in.

This is totally unacceptable behaviour which we don't have at any other time.

The rave should not be granted a ~~let~~ license at all.

after the rave & clearing '100's of Helium capsules found in the park, in the Swanding Streets, we all know this goes hand in hand with these raves & alcohol.

This is a public park, it became dangerous & a health hazard to all of us who still need to use the park.

Please, Please listen to the residents & the extreme concerns we have for local safe guarding. This company has no control over these people so put all our families & pets & wildlife at risk.

yours faithfully

Debbie Arnold.

**Subject:**Eastern Electric/Blue Fox festival

**Date:**Sat, 17 Nov 2018 16:52:32 +0000

**From:**Julie Ashbee

**To:**[licensing@merton.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@merton.gov.uk)

To Licensing, LB Merton

I am unable to attend the public meeting but wish to raise my objections regarding the proposed repeat of the festival in Morden Park.

I do not believe there was adequate policing of the sale and abuse of illegal substances, nor of the dispersal of the attendants at the end of the 2018 festival.

I feel there was intolerable noise nuisance in 2018 - the volume levels were noticeably higher and over two days (which for some are days of rest and recuperation from a busy week) instead of the previous one day in 2017. This impacts on sound sensitive people who chose to live in a quiet residential area and on young children exposed to inappropriate language audible outside the park. The festival being held during summer means noise nuisance impacts on residents' right to enjoy their own gardens.

There was substantial debris (including alcohol containers and evidence of illegal substances) left in the park and neighbouring residents' properties following the 2018 festival, which gives rise to concerns about children coming into contact with potentially dangerous substances and a negative environmental impact on the park and it's wildlife.

I can only speak for myself that the one day festival with lower sound level limits in 2017 was bearable at the distance I live from the park. I found the 2018 festival a much more unpleasantly intrusive experience with the concerns listed above, and therefore do not wish for it to return in that format.

Julie Ashbee

**From:** Dodie Barnie  
**Sent:** 24 November 2018 10:31  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Eastern Electrics Festival Morden Park

Your full name: Elodie Barnbrooke

Your full address inc. postcode: [REDACTED]

I'm sending an e-mail to object to the published license application dated 13/11/18 for Eastern Electrics festival via Blue Fox Events Limited. Application reference WK/201809200.

**NOISE:** We've never had problems with any other events which took place in the Morden Park. When Eastern Electrics was on in 2018 we experienced an incredible levels of noise which were highly disturbing and my family and I were not able to enjoy our day at home and not able to go to sleep in the evening. My young child was not able to go to sleep until late at night due to the noise and as a result was very upset. Unknown noises like that can be traumatic at two years old. The noise level for this event is simply too loud and very intrusive. The legal decibel levels for events are not fit for purpose in an area with such close proximity to residential homes. This causes great nuisance and disturbance to residents and impacts on sleep quality.

**USE OF THE PARK and DAMGE:** I am concerned about how the use of the park will be limited to cater for setting up, clearing up (and the associated noise and increased traffic) and of course during the event itself. My family and I use the park on regular basis and this will become impossible during the duration of the event due to the high noise levels. I have witnessed the damage to the grass in the park following 2018 event and noticed considerable increase in the litter in and around the park and adjacent streets. I am also concerned that use of the Morden Park will be limited for others-for example people planning a wedding, a family outing or simply anyone who wishes to take their children to the playground or the outdoor gym as all would be subjected to listening the loud noise from the Eastern Electrics festival. This level of noise causes great nuisance and disturbance to residents, park users and the wildlife in the park.

**Inability of the organisers to deal with issues raised by residents.** The festival organisers have run the event for two years and are planning to increase the size of the event. Following feedback from residents, the solutions they put in place to deal with past problems (public urination, security/stewarding, litter, noise etc) have not made an impact and the nuisance caused by the second event was far greater than by the first. The growth of the festival in size will outpace the solutions they try put in place. This is not sustainable and will cause further deterioration and nuisance to residents quality of life.

For the reasons stated above I therefore believe that this type of event is not suitable to take place in a residential area occupied mainly by families and elderly people and the application should be rejected and this event should not be allowed to take place in Morden Park. This goes in the way of basic human rights: the right to sleep at night undisturbed.  
Sincerely,

Elodie Barnbrooke

From: Steven Bartlett  
Sent: 28 November 2018 11:36  
To: Licensing  
Subject: Application Blue Fox Events Limited (Eastern Electrics Festival} Morden Park SM4 5QU

We are writing with regard to the above licensing application dated 13th November 2018 and would like to register our objections to the licence being granted, although we are possibly wasting our time as the applicant is already advertising the sale of tickets for this event in 2019.

We understand that the noise levels are within a permitted range, but to live with this noise for two days with the constant vibration of our windows and front door is unacceptable. During this year's event, giving consideration to the hot weather, we had to keep our windows closed and could not use our garden.

We attended a consultation meeting held by Eastern Electrics, during which they admitted the anti social behaviour that the residents have to suffer. This includes people urinating in the street and open drug dealing from the back of cars in the side roads around the park. Apart from the addition of 24 toilets and a new security company, they offered no solution, other than to suggest that the residents approach those responsible and ask them to desist. This anti social behaviour is taking place in full view of local residents and their children. There are also large numbers of the small silver gas containers discarded in the street, and, we understand, in Morden Primary School's playground, with the obvious dangers to children.

The park should be for the benefit of residents of Merton and not for profit making of an outside organisation with no connections to the borough.

We strongly object to any licence being granted. However, if the application is successful could the authority please ensure that it is only granted for 2019 and not on an ad hoc basis into the future to ensure that the application has to be renewed every year to give the residents an opportunity to object

Sally and Stephen Bartlett



**From:** Kim Birch  
**Sent:** 05 December 2018 16:49  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>; Councillor Nick McLean <Nick.McLean@merton.gov.uk>; Kim Birch; Brian Birch  
**Subject:** Eastern Electrics Licence Application - Ref:WK/201809200

Mrs Kim Birch

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the event by Eastern Electrics in Morden Park in the summer of 2018 I wanted to outline mine and my family's objections to the proposed licensing of the event for 2019.

#### PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

It soon became clear from this year that the event encouraged a generation of clubbers to the area who had no regard or respect of property and families within the location. At the top of Monkleigh Road several girls and a man were witnessed blatantly urinating on the Sunday around 10/a/m in full view of passers by, where families walk their dogs to the park along with their children.

Not only was this indecent exposure in that both the man and the women had no regard for their location but to do this in the grass area by family homes is totally unexceptable. Within the entrance to Morden park at the lower end of Hillcross near to Monkleigh Road a car had pulled into the Car Park and it was witnessed by several people that drugs were being sold from the boot. We do not want to encourage another event of this magnitude whereby Teenagers and Young Children witness this behaviour and think this is the norm when out, all of which can lead to many dangers for those young and impressionable.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Those attending this years event were obviously out to enjoy themselves however this was at the detriment of those who clearly opposed the event. My neighbour witnessed a person defecating outside their house and feared to approach them for fear of any repercussions. As you know these festivals involve other forms of drug taking not just legal highs and along with the excessive drink causes volatility in people. This along with the ability to rationalise a persons behaviour once the effect of drink and drugs take affect can cause aggression and unsocial behaviour with fights and verbal confrontation when people's senses are more heightened. This has a knock on affect for public safety in that the ordinary family who are out for a general day together by no fault of their own in protecting their children, should they say something, to someone which seems disagreeable to the party goer may end up being either verbally abused in a fight or worse.

#### THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

The noise from the event was absolutely incredible. We could feel the bass here at [REDACTED] and given it was at one of the hottest times of the year even when we had to close the windows and with the TV on we could still feel and hear the bass and noise. The songs were also explicit as most of the lyrics are today and while it its fine if you buy a CD with a notice saying Parental Guidance Advised - the families in Morden were subject to shouting all day from the DJ along with defamatory shouts from the songs that parents were not able to turn off. On the Sunday in particular the noise level rose even higher about 9pm so much so that eventually I rang the number to ask what was happening as I am sure this noise level was

such that it went way over and above the permitted level. In addition to this the event caused a severe reaction with various neighbours as to how they would get their children to sleep with the noise. The day after this event the streets were strewn with 100's of canisters every where from the legal highs and also dumped along Hillcross Avenue even down to the start of Links Avenue there were bottles and boxes of empty bottles just fly tipped where people had walked. I certainly do not pay my Tax for other people's rubbish to be thrown about.

#### THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

As you will be aware this is family neighbourhood and within the Morden Park vicinity are several junior schools which gives you a good idea of those within the area who have families. As mentioned previously there were those who were urinating within full sight of any one who walked past on the Sunday morning, and children often walk their family pet within the area and the thought of a man blatantly urinating and exposing his genitals within site of them is outrageous. Not only is this vile but the impact on children who witness this can be devastating. This amounts to a sexual act against the most innocent and along with that how do we not know that some people who come to these venues may not have a inclination towards that sort of behaviour or at least become less inhibited with their sexual activities when drink and drugs are involved. Our priority is to protect those of our most precious and innocent in our borough.

I did write several emails to Merton Council when the event was over but did not get a satisfactory reply.

I am therefore apposed to this event and regrettably due to a earlier family bereavement I was unable to attend the meeting on the 22nd November, however I would have certainly put my case across very strongly against the 2019 application.

My email will also be sent to Cllr Nick McLean,

I await a response,

Kind regards,

Kim Birch (Mrs)

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

From: Martin Bishop-Apsey

Sent: 05 December 2018 16:01

To: Licensing

Subject: Eastern Electrics Festival Comments

I did not mind the first year. It is only one weekend a year and it helps Merton financially I don't mind some noise. However this year was not good at all and I am far less supportive. We had an incident the Saturday afternoon where an Uber cab pulled up outside our door, these lads got out with loads of beer, some bottles were dropped and one of them proceeded to walk down our ally and urinate up there. Then the following day I had to sweep up broken beer bottles they have left in the road/our drive. Loads of little kids walk up and down Hillcross to go to school we don't want glass everywhere. Walking the dog around the block that same morning there were dozens of these mini capsules like gas cylinders only tiny ones - I am told they are some kind of legal high thing. I have no objection to people doing what they want - I do object to it all over the floor.

I have lived here over 30 years and I don't feel safe in Morden any more anyway - this event does nothing to help that feeling.

Martin Bishop-Apsey

**From:** Bill Brick  
**Sent:** 11 December 2018 20:00  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Ref: WK/201809200

Dear Sir,

I would like to raise an objection to the planned Eastern Electrics event in Morden Park during August 2019.

We have had to abandon our Home on two consecutive years due to the incessant loud noise which shook our home. This noise was the equivalent of someone shouting in your ears with no break. This affecting our Health and wellbeing.

The park is out of bounds for approx. 3 weeks at the height of summer. During the build up, the vehicles crossing the park increases the chance of a serious accident, Whereas the chance of an accident is normally virtually nil. The Park has the look and feel of a concentration camp. The park has still not been returned to its self pre 2017 event.

We should be able to feel safe in our homes and the fact we are not able to be comfortable at Home or in the garden (which is also impossible) we have to leave, this increasingly as word gets out, will be a thieves paradise.

I have to point out that the organisers at the meeting on the 22nd November lied about the duration of the event. They said that the event was to take place for 2 days out of a choice of three. The organisers cannot be trusted and they will never be satisfied. Please do not give in to money. There is far more important things. Think of your residents.

Mr & Mrs WA and SI Brick

**There are two complainants in this household.**

**From:** Sarah Browne  
**Sent:** 05 December 2018 15:32  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** OBJECTION - EASTERN ELECTRICS WK/201809200

## **EASTERN ELECTRICS 2019 – Ref: WK/201809200**

I wish to object to the above licence application on the following grounds.

### **1. PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

The event this year (2018) showed a significant increase in crime and drug usage/selling particularly of nitrogen canisters. The local school, church and care home suffered damage and were affected by festival goers using their premises as a toilet. Drug canisters and bottles/cans were found in all these facilities. Selling of drugs took place on residential streets in the vicinity of Cannon Hill Lane/Grand Drive which were witnessed by local residents.

The police raised concerns about the nature of this event in the first year (2017). The police do not have sufficient funding or resources to control this event as they are now NOT ALLOWED to accept payment from event organisers. Even though the event organisers have promised additional security this is NOT enough of a deterrent as they have no powers or arrest. With the increase in numbers this will be impossible to control and an increase in crime will be inevitable.

On a more personal note I have received threats via Next Door App and in person when walking my dog on Morden Park because I object to the event.

It has divided the community so much that it is inevitable that protests will happen if the festival goes ahead which could cause conflict between festival supporters and residents.

The organisers have not provided a crowd management policy and how they would prevent thefts usage or drugs and under 18s purchasing or consuming alcohol.

### **2. PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE**

Residents experienced excessive noise and an unreasonable level of disturbance. Independent noise monitors registered above the agreed limit. This breaches residents right to quiet enjoyment of their properties. A high level of urination on private and residential property took place. Residential streets, the care home, church and nearly all surrounding roads were littered with drug canisters, broken bottles and beer cans. The usage of nitrogen canisters was at a very high level. Individuals who are high on drugs will be unpredictable and a possibility of violence will be increased. PLEASE NOTE that in the minutes of the Eastern Electrics Community Consultation they said “they can’t promise that next year will be perfect...” which strongly implies they cannot or will not do anything about it.

The organisers have not provided a detailed noise management plan.

### **3, PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM**

I know of at least one incident where a child was injured due to broken glass left after over a week from the festival, and as a regular user of the park children were seen picking up canisters. Morden Park was infested with nitrogen canisters, broken bottles and litter. This is a FAMILY park and not a common or disused wasteland. Therefore it is NOT suitable for this event. It is also exposing children to drug use and danger picking up drugs left in the wooded area. The organisers have showed no additional protection for children particularly in the neighbouring schools.

### **4. PUBLIC SAFETY**

There is a danger to both event attendees and residents through walking on a busy dual carriage way (London Road). There is danger to public safety particularly elderly, vulnerable and disabled who will not be able to go out safely with crowds of up to 30,000 descending on Morden. As result of the conflict between festival supporters and residents I would have concern for public safety.

### **5. OTHER ISSUES**

No mention of damage to the environment or the local habitat was taking into consideration at all. Despite complaints none of this was acknowledged or taken into account at the consultation meeting. Animals and birds habitats were destroyed to make way for this festival. Much damage was done to trees where owls nest.

Should this license granted then the residents and local support groups will be using the appeals procedure laid out in the Licensing Act 2003 to try and overturn any decision in favour of the festival goers.

Residents will be encouraged to make claims for all damages and disruption to their right to a quiet peaceful enjoyment of their homes..

**Sarah Browne**

**ENC:** I attach photographic evidence of drug usage and litter.













**From:** Gordon Buntting  
**Sent:** 01 December 2018 10:00  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Karen Buntting  
**Subject:** Response to Eastern Electrics licence application

Dear Sir / Madam,

Following our experience of the Eastern Electric festival this year we strongly oppose renewal of their licence and certainly will not tolerate the proposed expansion of this event. The event also drew considerable opposition from others in the local community on the NextDoor social media site although it was clear that owing to the geography people were affected differently. There were also some very vocal supporters and it is not clear what their motives were. The noise and offensive language audible in our home made the entire weekend unpleasant to say the least.

<https://www.wimbledonguardian.co.uk/news/16405416.eastern-electric-morden-park-music-festival-divides-community/>

Morden Park is essentially a wild, open space that offers a peaceful sanctuary for wildlife and the surrounding community that includes many families with young children. The understated description on Merton Council website reads: "A beautiful park dotted with mature trees, useful facilities, and some features of historical interest."

[https://www2.merton.gov.uk/environment/openspaces/parks/parks\\_in\\_the\\_morden\\_area/mordenpark.htm](https://www2.merton.gov.uk/environment/openspaces/parks/parks_in_the_morden_area/mordenpark.htm)

The intrusion of Eastern Electric festival represents the very antithesis of this. Aggressive, obscenely loud music, offensive lyrics and a generally aggressive uncaring attitude among those attending do not belong in this park. There were also many people in the community who experienced drunken and / or drug-induced behaviour including people urinating in their gardens from attendees during this event and in 2017. Domestic pets and wildlife were distressed. This is not a cultural event - or at least not one that offers anything positive to the community. We would very much support any cultural events in the area including Morden Park that had some positive cultural value even if there was some acceptable level of noise generated.

Please do not patronise us with your PR-speak about noise management as we have ears to hear for ourselves.

We are aware that the event brings in money to the council but do not feel that this is fair value at any price for council-tax payers. There also doesn't appear to be transparency about the commercial side towards council-tax payers who pay for the park and should have the right to use it especially during the summer.

I also question how it is that Eastern Electric are already selling tickets for 4/5 August 2019 when their licence application is supposedly open for community consultation?

Thanks  
Gordon and Karen Buntting

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

From: Ron CAMILLERI

Sent: 23 November 2018 09:07

To: Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

Subject: Blue Fox Events Ltd Morden 2019



Ron Camilleri

I would like to object to the Application submitted by blue Fox Events ltd 2019.

(Fri, sat, and Sunday) all the three days of last year Events were a major disruption to all properties backing off to Morden park.there was excessive noise level much higher than year before, lots of people complain by phone, but the noise level did not go down and been ignore. Vehicles parking across driveways.damage to residents vehicles. Smashed bottles on Road.Drugs. Vomiting on the streets. Just to mention a few.

These Events are too near properties backing off Morden Park. Why cannot these Events be spread out to other locations?

Yours sincerely

Ron Camilleri

Sent from my iPad

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

From: susan camilleri

Sent: 23 November 2018 10:27

To: Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

Subject: Blue fox events Ltd Morden 2019

I object to the application for Blue fox events to carry on in Morden Park for the next five years. The noise that occurred continuously for over two days vibrates throughout the house. Even with all the double glazing windows closed and the tv put up loud I could still here the thumping base coming from the park behind the house.

> This is a residential area that should not have to facilitate this kind of event when it causes so much distress to me and my neighbours.

> My neighbours are a lot older than me and do not have access to a computer to email. So I am also speaking on their behalf. They also mentioned they had people getting sick outside their house and leaving bottles and litter in their front gardens.

> Please can you reassure us that this application will not be approved.

>

> Kind regards

> Susan Camilleri

>

> Sent from my iPhone

## **EASTERN ELECTRICS/BLUE FOX EVENTS LTD/WE ARE THE FAIR – Ref: WK/201809200**

I wish to object to the above licence application.

Eastern Electrics (aka We Are the Fair – and now Blue Fox Events Ltd) have already held two music festivals in Morden Park – a one-day event in 2017 (just under 17,000 attending) and a two-day event in 2018, where 20,000+ attended.

By their own admission, there were significant failures during the first festival – failures which EE/We Are the Fair promised to address and fix for 2018. Sadly, these failures actually increased in 2018, despite their promises:

**1. PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER:** there was a significant increase in the number of reported offences, (according to the Borough Commander's report) – from 6 in 2017 to 15 in 2018. Drugs were being sold openly to concert goers, outside the venue in streets adjoining London Road, and, because of limited police resources, little action could be taken. In addition, We Are the Fair admitted, at a meeting at the beginning of November, that an organised drugs gang was throwing backpacks of drugs over the perimeter fence, into the venue. Although the security staff were able to collect most of these, apparently, they were not able to collect all of them. This is worrying for local residents: the police have said they anticipate that the existence of this new market will attract rival gangs who will attempt to supply the event in future years.

The problems experienced by St Lawrence Church in 2017 were prevented this year by members of the congregation, as well as the Rector and his wife, patrolling the grounds for 12 hours each day in an effort to prevent a repeat of last year's anti-social behaviour on their premises. In this, they were successful but the problems of the previous year simply morphed across the road to Hatfeild Mead which was in virtual lockdown the entire weekend.

We Are the Fair/Eastern Electrics had promised to supply more stewards on the routes to and from the venue but failed to do so.

The shops and stores in Morden, far from benefitting from extra business, actually had an increase in shoplifting (Sainsbury's and Iceland) while toilets in local cafes were damaged by concert goers.

**2. PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE:** although we were informed that sound levels did not exceed 73 decibels in 2018, local residents experienced an unacceptable level of noise with vibration of their windows: noise was heard as far afield as Worcester Park. In the Notice of Determination dated 17 August 2018, concerning the licence application for MJMK/Dynamic (which was refused), the Determination said *"The setting by the EHO of 70 or up to 75 decibels will result in similar public nuisance. The Licensing Sub-Committee could not consider any other conditions or measures to take to avoid public nuisance in these circumstances"*. The Notice also said *"The Morden Park site is very close to a large number of residential properties and the area is almost exclusively residential."*

Few public toilets in Morden resulted in festival-goers using the streets, *en route*, to urinate (and worse) as We Are the Fair/Eastern Electrics failed to supply enough toilets – despite promises made.

The amount of litter, not only along the routes to the venue, but in surrounding streets, was astonishing. Days after the event, calls were still being made to the organisers to "Come and clear up the mess, please!" although, to be fair, they did do their best. But it simply wasn't good enough.

Morden Park now boasts a brand new Leisure Centre: this will be on a direct route from local stations to the venue. The site is very open so will be very vulnerable to vandalism unless LBM pays money to erect temporary fencing, as well as providing security staff to protect the building and those in it.

### **3. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM**

People under 18 were (supposedly) not admitted to the festival but, on the Sunday, the lyrics of some songs were loud enough to be heard by local residents whose gardens backed onto the park. These lyrics were, at times, provocative, misogynistic and inciting listeners to violence.

Nitrous oxide canisters (thousands of which were discarded in and around Morden Park) were discovered in the playground of Morden Primary School at the beginning of September. Staff had to clear the area before the children arrived for the start of the autumn term.

The new Leisure Centre will be open during the 3-day event, with family swim sessions on all three days. Inevitably, those using the pools, with young children/toddlers, will have to negotiate, literally, thousands of festival attendees.

In addition, a new nursery school – Butterfly Patch – is due to open this month. Should the nursery operate year-round, this would throw up some serious safeguarding issues for little children on the Friday.

LBM is rightly proud of its very good Ofsted rating at the last inspection – Good with Outstanding elements. It has taken many years and a lot of hard work for the Children’s Services team to get to this stage – do we really want to jeopardise it by allowing such events to take place here in Merton?

### **4. PUBLIC SAFETY**

Because of a lack of police resources (who opposed the granting of the licence), they could not deal with the very large number of NO canisters being sold. Intoxicated festival-goers were seen wandering down the middle of London Road after the festival, weaving to and fro, causing vehicle drivers to swerve to avoid them. A danger to themselves and others.

Finally, we have heard many promises from Eastern Electrics/We Are the Fair over the past couple of years – most of which simply did not come to pass. Merton has already given them two bites of the cherry – do we really have to go through it all over again? I don’t want to stop people attending concerts and enjoying themselves. If it were simply a case of putting up with awful noise levels, I would probably shrug my shoulders and say, reluctantly, “Well, OK!” I realise LBM are desperate to raise cash but allowing such bad behaviour to recur, thus angering local residents, is not the way to go about it. We Are the Fair/Eastern Electrics already have another back-up venue lined up – please let them go there!

**Elsbeth Clarke, MBE**

**3.12.18**



***To Licensing Department, Merton Council***

Re: Eastern Electrics/Blue Fox events – Ref WK/201809200

I wish to object to the above licence application, on the following grounds.

**Public nuisance**

Noise levels were too high, despite promises that this would not occur, and could be heard as far away as Worcester Park.

Concert-goers used residents' gardens and driveways as toilets, both going to and leaving the event.

Litter proliferated along the route, and clearing it completely took days.

The wonderful new Leisure Centre risks vandalism unless fencing is erected to protect the site, which is close to the event venue.

**Prevention of crime/disorder and Public safety**

Shoplifting increased significantly at Sainsbury's and Iceland.

Drugs have been sold openly to concert-goers; apparently gangs target the event, which is increasingly well publicised.

Because of the use of drugs and alcohol, concert-goers leaving the event were the worse for wear, wandering into the roads and thus causing danger to themselves and to drivers who had to swerve to avoid them.

Residents in the area were afraid to go out because of the anti-social behaviour of concert-goers.

**Protection of Children**

Family swim sessions will take place at the Leisure Centre during the proposed three days, and the area should not be allowed to be affected by the anti-social behaviour of concert-goers.

Literally thousands of nitrous oxide canisters were found in the area. including the playground of Morden Primary School when it re-opened for the autumn term.

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The problems in 2018 were worse than those in 2017, despite promises that arrangements would be improved. To be allowed to run this event for even greater numbers of attendees over an extended number of years really is not right in this residential area. To keep Morden as an area good for families (promoted by Cllr Stephen Alambritis), this application must be rejected. PLEASE!

***Gillian V Clarke,***

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

From: Joh Cole

Sent: 21 November 2018 15:00

To: Nick.McClean@merton.gov.uk; Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

Subject: Eastern Electrics ref WK/201809200

My name is Miss Johanna Cole and I live at [REDACTED] and am virtually housebound with MS. Last years festival was a NIGHTMARE. People openly dealing drugs on the corner of my road, shouting and screaming, urinating and defaecating in the street. The noise was horrific. The whole house was vibrating, and when I rang, I was told 'well its a festival isnt it' and the phone was put down! Im hardly a fuddy duddy at 52 but this location is NOT right for a festival. Hillcross Avenue was used as a toilet/bin and public transport was unusable. People refused to close open containers of alcohol in one instance and the bus driver wouldnt move! Morden station was too crowded to use and sainsburys had men urinating outside, fights and threatening behaviour everywhere. We do not want this event held here this year as it creates misery and my legal right to peaceful enjoyment of my home is broached. Please don't grant a licence this year!!

3 December 2018

Licensing Section  
London Borough of Merton  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Civic Centre  
London Road  
SM4 5DX

To Whom it May Concern

**EASTERN ELECTRICS/BLUE FOX EVENTS LTD – WK/201809200**

I would like to object to the above licence application, on the following grounds:

We had to endure, in both 2017 and 2018, unacceptable levels of anti-social and criminal behaviour from the previous Eastern Electrics events. We had urination/defecation in the streets, drug dealing and consumption, unimaginable amounts of litter and appalling levels of noise which could be heard as far away as Worcester Park.

I refer to: Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Prevention of Public Nuisance, and Public Safety.

In addition, children saw and heard things they should not have been subjected to – this comes under Protection of Children from Harm. The playground of a local primary school was littered with discarded nitrous oxide canisters, which festival goers had carelessly tossed over the perimeter fence. That is shocking behaviour from people who should know better.

The organisers promised, in 2017 and again at public meetings in 2018, that all the problems would be fixed but conditions were considerably worse. And now they are asking for an open-ended licence, an increase of attendees on any one day to 30,000 over three days? This is totally unacceptable.

I don't want to have to go through all this again next August. Please turn down this application.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs J Coles**

**Dear council members,**

I'm sending this e-mail to object to the published license application dated 13/11/18 for Eastern Electrics festival via Blue Fox Events Limited. Application reference WK/201809200.

**USE OF THE PARK and DAMAGE:** I am concerned about how the use of the park will be limited to cater for setting up, clearing up (and the associated noise and increased traffic) and of course during the event itself. My family and I use the park on regular basis and this will become impossible during the duration of the event due to the high noise levels. I have witnessed the damage to the grass in the park following 2018 event and noticed considerable increase in the litter in and around the park and adjacent streets. I am also concerned that use of the Morden Park will be limited for others-for example people planning a wedding, a family outing or simply anyone who wishes to take their children to the playground or the outdoor gym as all would be subjected to listening the loud noise from the Eastern Electrics festival. This level of noise causes great nuisance and disturbance to residents, park users and the wildlife welfare in the park.

For the reasons stated above I therefore believe that this type of event is not suitable to take place in a residential area occupied mainly by families and elderly people and the application should be rejected and this event should not be allowed to take place in Morden Park.

Sincerely,

Christel Collier

**From:** Andrew Collini  
**Sent:** 06 December 2018 16:18  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Application reference WK/201809200

Andrew Collini

I'm sending an e-mail to object to the published license application dated 13/11/18 for Eastern Electrics festival via Blue Fox Events Limited. Application reference WK/201809200.

Last year I thought I had an antisocial neighbour and went up the road to investigate.

I couldn't believe the noise was coming from Morden. It was totally unacceptable and a number of neighbours were all asking where the noise was coming from.

Totally unacceptable. I trust the council will not allow the same again.

**From**

Maewyn Cumming

**Representation re licensing application WK/201809200**

I object to the granting of a licence to Blue Fox for events in Morden Park, for the following reasons.

**1. The prevention of crime and disorder**

Previous Eastern Electrics (EE) festival have led to many instances of crime and disorder, such as drug dealing - quite openly - from the boots of cars in nearby streets as well as near the toilets provide by the organisers. Attempts by EE staff to reduce this were ineffective – the dealers simply moved to nearby streets when stewards appeared. With the proposed increase in the size and length of the festival, this is likely to become even more widespread.

Anti-social behaviour, albeit by a minority of festival goers, has been a major issue, especially public urination and defecation, sometimes directly into people's gardens. Understandably this has caused a great deal of distress to some residents, especially where it has been done quite openly. The small proposed increase in the number of toilets is entirely insufficient to remedy this problem. EE have said that they can't provide any more toilets than the number proposed for the 2019 festival because there is nowhere for them, but if they are unable to provide enough for the current numbers, the issue will become much more serious for the greater numbers planned.

These two issues are related, as EE and others report that drug dealers are targeting people standing in queues waiting for toilets. More festival goers, longer queues, more open drug dealing.

**2. Public safety**

During the Eastern Electrics festivals, cars have been seen speeding down London Road and stopping on the dual carriageway. This is clearly a safety issue, especially if more people attend. Increasing the festival to three days means more festival-goers are likely to stay in the area rather than commute back and forth, so traffic, parking and illegal driving will become greater problems.

**3. The prevention of public nuisance**

This is my greatest area of concern.

The noise from both previous festivals has been annoying at best and unbearable at worst. At the 2018 event Eastern Electrics did not respond rapidly to calls, and did not reduce the noise even when a considerable number of calls had been made, so we residents had no choice but to suffer it for 12 hours a day. Even those at a distance found it difficult to relax outdoors as the music dominated the area. Friends in lower Morden found the vibrations particularly annoying. Those who work shifts and need to sleep during the day have in some cases needed to vacate their homes and move elsewhere for the duration.

The language used also prevented some of us from living peacefully in our own homes and gardens. I understand that the organisers want to reduce the number of DJs to reduce this nuisance, but there is a limit to the extent they do this - they cannot provide scripts or fully prevent racist, sexist or homophobic language from being broadcast around the area.

The committee will no doubt already be aware of the serious litter problem caused by the festival and the failure of the organisers to provide assurance that this will not recur; there is still mess from previous events in the shrubbery in the park from the 2018 event. The worst impacts have been on local streets where considerable amounts of litter were dropped and not cleaned up by the

organisers. This is not only unsightly and a health hazard, but also dangerous to any children or animals that happen to be passing and do not understand the risks of eating rubbish or sticking their heads into cans and bottles.

The damage to the park and loss of amenity, are also issues. Although only part of the park is blocked off, the high fence dominates the entire park and makes it a less amenable environment for walking or other family activities. The rubbish left behind means the park is unsafe for dogs to walk in – at least it is for dogs like mine who tend to try to eat everything they find – for weeks after the event.

Many of the park's regular human visitors take great pleasure in seeing the birds and animals, and this pleasure is taken from them during the festival as most wildlife goes into hiding. The hours in which daytime creatures can hunt in peace are severely restricted, not only by fear and stress caused by the noise and number of people, but many animals rely on sound to detect prey and this will not be possible with a festival as background (although I expect the rats are happy about the rubbish left behind).

The longer term effects on the park are difficult to determine, but it is clear that 2-3 days of loud music, for 12 hours a day, must damage the local wildlife, and therefore cause a slow deterioration in the value of the park to residents and others.

Artificial light at night particularly affects owls, preventing them from hunting successfully, especially at dusk when they become active. Little owls, which nest in the park, are a species in rapid decline, and knowing they are there greatly increases the value of the park to the neighbourhood, as does the presence of the current wide variety of birds, including kestrels.

The area surrounding Morden Park site is almost exclusively residential and any events held there should be appropriate for a residential area.

#### **4. The protection of children from harm (including moral, psychological and physical harm)**

I do not have children of my own, but understand the concerns of parents regarding the sight of festival goers urinating public, the impact of the very racist and sexist language used by some of the DJs, and the sight of open drug dealing and using. This not effects children using the park but those living in nearby streets. Children are also inclined to pick up interesting looking items and put them in their mouths, and they may find the detritus left in park to be too great a temptation.

#### **Additional**

The application appears to be an open-ended licence to run a three day event every year with, I understand up to 30,000 attendees. In terms of footfall, this is an increase of well over 100%, from the numbers at the last two festivals, i.e. from 40,000 (20,000 per day for two days) to 90,000 (30,000 per day for three days). Representatives of the company stated publicly at their open meeting on 22 November that it does not intend to hold three day events and only intends to run one event per year, but that is not what they are asking for in this license and not what they have told others.

Despite assurances from the Eastern Electrics organisers that issues from their 2017 event in Morden Park would not re-occur, the 2018 event was even more disruptive and caused considerable distress to some residents. Until the organisers can demonstrate that they are willing and able to run an event that does not cause disruption and distress to residents, they should not be given a license to run large events in perpetuity.

Finally, the relationship between Blue Fox, Eastern Electrics and We are the Fair to this application is not clear. My comments here relate to the Eastern Electrics events, but it is possible that Blue Fox are planning something completely different. If this is the case then residents and other interested parties should be properly informed and given an opportunity to make relevant representations before any application is decided.



**From:**

**Sent:** 20 November 2018 10:54

**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Councillor Nick McLean <Nick.McLean@merton.gov.uk>

**Subject:** EE Festival Licence

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object about any decision to grant a licence to the EE music festival planned for summer 2019.

I was at home on the weekend of this years, a particularly hot weekend, and I found the volume anti-social and a public nuisance. I mention the weather as it meant that I, along with most other residence, would have had to keep their windows open to take advantage of what little breeze there was. Consideration should have be given to the extremes of weather and appreciate controls made. Saying that when I did close all the windows, new double glazing, the noise was still so loud that it echoed around the house. For myself if noise is pervasive into my house when the windows and doors are shut to a level that it can be audible when I also have the radio on is totally unacceptable.

What is concerning is that the previous year this event has not been so audible which lead me to believe one of two things. Either you failed to monitor and enforce appropriate controls this year or that the organisers decide to ignore the standards set the previous year. Either way it was unacceptable.

Please don't get me wrong i am a music fan, dance is not my personal favourite but I appreciate other enjoy it. I welcome local music events and personally would favour more family orientated events and those reflecting the diversity and history of musical genres of the local population.

I don't believe this event did benefit the local community, it may have benefits your coffers and I would be keen to see how the profits were invested back into a musical legacy beneficial to local residence.

I sincerely hope you see sense and don't grant a licence this year.

Yours

Matt Davies

**From:** Keith Davis

**Date:** 15 November 2018 at 10:17:28 GMT

**To:** [community@easternelectrics.com](mailto:community@easternelectrics.com)

**Cc:** [sally.kenny@merton.gov.uk](mailto:sally.kenny@merton.gov.uk), [licensing@merton.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@merton.gov.uk)

**Subject:** Proposed Eastern Electrics EDM Festival-Morden Park 2019

Hi

I'm unable to attend the consultation meeting on 22 November.

I live in [REDACTED] adjacent to Morden Park. I felt that the 2017 went ok. Although I find EDM dreadful to have to listen to, it was not too loud, was only for one day and the disruption locally was minimal.

However, the 2018 event was definitely not ok, leading to much local anger and concern from residents. It was a two day event, the EDM seemed much louder, particularly after 8pm, where you had some "performer" yelling over the top of backing tracks until 10pm.

There was also clearly use of laughing gas by Festival goers, judging by the large amount of used silver canisters which were littered along local roads.

I appreciate the Council needs the revenue from such festivals, but to keep local people on side I believe a 1 day event is quite enough to endure, please.

Keith Davis

## **OBJECTION TO EASTERN ELECTRICS LICENCE APPLICATION**

**Ref: WK/201809200**

I wish to object to the above licence application for the following reasons.

The event this year was far worse for residents than last year's, despite the organiser's promises to address previous problems. I believe that if they are already failing to manage the event properly, it would be disastrous to allow them to continue, especially if the event is increased to three days with a capacity of 30,000 people.

### **1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

The behaviour of a significant number of festival-goers this year was appalling. I witnessed vandalism of cars, urination in driveways and gardens and litter being thrown into gardens. Groups of festival-goers sat on local residents' walls shrieking, drinking and throwing rubbish into their gardens. The mess and drug paraphernalia left behind was incredible and not cleared up for days. I saw no Police presence whatsoever, and drugs were openly being sold on the street. I fear that drug dealers will hear of the lucrative trade to be had at the festival and more of them may well turn up to supply drugs at future events.

### **2. Public Safety**

Some of the festival-goers I saw were clearly intoxicated and unable to safely cross or walk along the busy London Road. This causes safety issues both to the festival-goers and to drivers. Drugs openly being sold in the street constitute a safety hazard to whoever buys and takes them, whether they be festival-goers or locals. The mess left behind, particularly drug paraphernalia, is a safety hazard.

### **3. The prevention of public nuisance**

Whether or not the noise levels are within legal limits is irrelevant; the noise should be kept at a tolerable level for residents. The fact of the matter is that the noise levels this year were such that my floors and windows were vibrating with the bass. It was impossible to sit in the garden as we couldn't hear each other speaking without shouting at each other. So on one of the hottest weekends of the year, we were cooped up inside with all the windows shut. Even with closed windows, we had to put up with bass thumping through our floors, and we couldn't hear our television above the din. The noise was intolerable all the way back through Lynmouth Avenue and surrounding roads, some way up Grand Drive, and as far away as North Cheam, Motspur Park and New Malden, areas which are miles away and might reasonably have expected not to be affected by this event.

Clause 10.3 of Merton Council's Licensing Policy states the following:

*The Council recognises that it is necessary to actively protect residents, members of the public and businesses in the locality from disturbances that amount to a public nuisance. Such a nuisance can impact on the quality of life of residents ... .*

Clause 10.5 of Merton Council's Licensing Policy defines public nuisance as follows:

*It is important to remember that the prevention of public nuisance could therefore include low-level nuisance, perhaps affecting a few people living locally ... The following are some examples of problems that may give rise to concern and should be addressed where appropriate:*

- *noise and vibration escaping from the premises, including*
- *music, ... and human voices;*
- *disturbance by customers arriving at or leaving the premises;*
- *littering or glass dispersal in the immediate vicinity;*
- *the impact on refuse storage and litter ...*

Clause 13.5 states that particular areas of concern that may be taken into account by the Licensing Authority include:

- *Noise emanating from the premises itself ... that may affect residents;*
- *Behaviour of patrons in the vicinity that may result in public nuisance and/or crime and disorder;*
- *etc.*

All of the above were caused by this year's festival, and the organisers have shown themselves incapable of solving these problems as they were in fact far worse than last year, despite the organiser's promises to improve matters.

It would be bad enough to put up with over one day, but two days in a row was unbearable, and three would be intolerable. If the festival were to be held again in 2019, I would have to leave my home and stay elsewhere over the period. How is that fair to your tax paying residents?

Parking was also an issue, and is likely to become more problematic if the capacity increases.

Morden Park is entirely unsuitable for a festival as it is far too small, with a highly populated residential area immediately surrounding the park, and in some cases just inside the park. Public nuisance is clearly unavoidable in these circumstances.

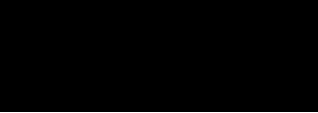
#### **4. The protection of Children from Harm**

There are three primary schools in close proximity to the park and as a consequence, there are lots of families with young children living here. Surely this type of festival and the crowd it attracts is not compatible with the area? The Council makes a big thing of Merton's excellent schools and how great it is for families, so please show some consideration to those families that you are encouraging to live here. The behaviour of intoxicated festival-goers, public urination and drug taking is not something that we want our children to see. I would also add that Sunday's event contained loud, misogynistic lyrics as well as plenty of extremely bad language, which children could clearly hear.

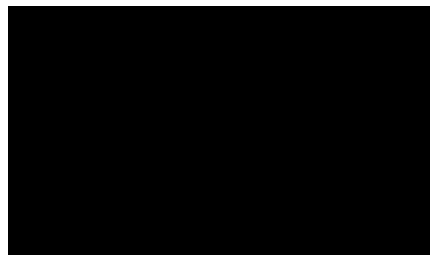
I should like to add that the damage to the park and disruption to local wildlife should be taken notice of; complaints about this appear to be brushed off by some of the Councillors, but it is very important and should not be dismissed.

It would appear that the Dynamics festival proposed for September 2018 was turned down on the basis of evidence supplied from this year's Eastern Electrics festival. If so, I don't see how this licence can possibly be granted.

**Suzanne Denne**



**5 December 2018**



25<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The Chief Executive  
London Borough of Merton  
Merton Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden SM4 5DX



Dear Sir

**Re 2019 Eastern Electric Concern in Morden Park**

We note with fear that Eastern Electric are attempting to obtain permission to repeat this concert again in 2019 only this time over THREE days.

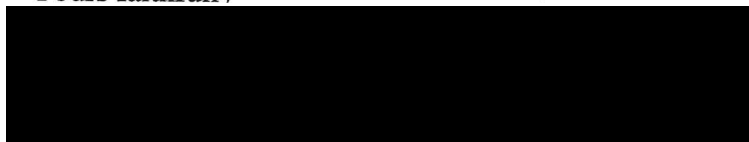
The two day concert this year was an absolute nightmare – loud and continual, “bang, bang, bang”, all day long from 10 a.m. in the morning until the same time at night. We did ring and complain only to be told that this noise was within the legal limit. They were unable to comment on the constant “thump, thump thump”. It was horrendous.

In the end it was so bad we were forced to leave our house on the Sunday and had a day in town to escape the noise.

As a resident for 40 years it is a very poor state of affairs.

We wish to strongly object to the event being repeated for ANY length of time and would appreciate your confirmation of receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully



David and Diane Desombre

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

From: Devenport

Sent: 10 December 2018 18:18

To: Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

Subject: Application reference:WK/201809200

To whom it may concern,

I would like to make my objections known regarding the application for Eastern electrics festival 2019. This years event had unacceptable noise levels and DJs screaming swear words at the crowd repeatedly, despite calling the number supplied to raise concerns, I was told noise levels were not breached, as my mother could hear it in Worcester park I very much doubt that was the case. Many of those that attend this event will openly take drugs before entering the event leaving local residents to clear the mess. This event leads to antisocial behaviour, openly taking of drugs and an unacceptable noise level, with the application being for a 3 day event it is not something that should be hosted in what is a relatively small park in such close proximity to a residential area.

Kind Regards

Stephanie Devenport

Mrs Maggie Doughty

Email: [REDACTED]

7 December 2018

Licensing Section  
London Borough of Merton  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden, Surrey  
SM4 5DX

Dear Licensing Committee

RE: APPLICATION FOR TIME-LIMITED LICENCE BY BLUE FOX EVENTS LTD, DATED 13 NOVEMBER 2018

I am writing to object to Blue Fox Events Ltd's application for a Time Limited Licence for regulated entertainment (including the sale of alcohol) operating on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The life of the Licence to be from 3-5 years.

I object to the granting of this type of licence to the applicant until it has proved to the local community/residents that it can sympathetically, considerately and responsibly run/manage a music festival whose audience is marketed at 18-30 year olds.

The Eastern Electric events for 2017 and 2018 resulted in:

- Unbearable, loud noise emanating (more so in 2018 than in 2017) continuing after it's scheduled time, making it impossible to sit outside in the garden.
- Anti-social and irresponsible behaviour in event attendees by urinating in public areas, taking drugs, discarding litter. Illegal selling of laughing gas to attendees.
- Damage to the meadows, flora and fauna within Morden Park and poor communication to the local community.

Following a community consultation/feedback meeting held 22 November 2018, it is clearly evident that local residents are very concerned about the applicant seeking to increase numbers of festival goers from 20,000 to 30,000 and thereby extending the event's footprint within Morden Park even more.

Please find attached a copy of the minutes of that feedback meeting. It provides a very good case for not granting a 'future proofing' time-limited licence until the issues raised are shown to have been substantially addressed in a 2019 event and to the satisfaction of local residents.

I cannot reiterate more strongly that, on the evidence of the management of the Eastern Electrics event held this year and last year, I am not convinced in the organiser's ability to minimise its negative impact, but I would be willing to support a one-off licence application for 2019 only keeping to a maximum of 20,000 people and a two day event.

To me, Morden Park is first and foremost a park for the residents of LB of Merton. It's an important natural habitat for many species of plant, wildlife and woodland. We finally have our new leisure centre which will attract more people to visit the area in the days/years to come. The Council is its responsible guardian and must protect it. I appreciate there is a financial gain to be had from events being held in the Park, but this must be very carefully considered against its impressive historical background and its 'future proofing' for the benefit of our community.

Yours sincerely

Maggie Doughty

Page 106

Enc: Mins of Mtg dated 22/11/18



Community Consultation Meeting  
Eastern Electrics Festival  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 19:00-20:30  
H Block Conference Room, Merton College

Pg 1

#### A) Introduction

The core team:

Sarah Tew – Event Community Manager  
Yasmin Galletti – Operations Manager  
Rami Ali – Production Manager

#### Overview & Licence Application

We have submitted our Premises Licence application to hold Eastern Electrics Festival at Morden Park. At the time of this meeting we are 1 week into the consultation period with 3 weeks remaining. The last date for the receipt of representations is Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

This year our licence application is as follows:

- For 2019, we are applying for a non-time limited premises licence for Eastern Electrics Festival at Morden Park on the first weekend in August.
- We are applying for a licence for up to 29,999 people, this will allow the festival room to grow in size in future years, although the organisers are not planning for this capacity in 2019.
- The licence is restricted to 1 event per calendar year, taking place for a maximum of 3 days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). We are applying for a third event day as Eastern Electrics have aspirations to put on an additional event on Friday evening.
- There will be no amplified music or other entertainment after 22:30 on Fri or Sat and 22:00 on Sun.
- This event can take There will no amplified music or other entertainment after 22:30 (22:00 on Sunday).
- Each year we will present the event to the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) for approval, the event will not be permitted to go ahead without approval granted but we will not have to submit a new premises licence application each and every year or go through the process of putting up blue notices and advertising in a local paper

The reason for applying for a non-time limited premises licence is to reduce administration time and save money for the promoter. Currently the cost for applying for the licence is £6,000 every year and takes about 3 months. This puts a huge amount of pressure on the promoter who has to invest large sums of money in advance of the show to secure headline acts and confirm event infrastructure without knowing whether the licence application will be successful.

#### B) Feedback from 2018

We received feedback on the 2018 event via the following channels

- Community feedback – residents hotline & email
- Local stakeholder network – Friends of Morden Park, care home, Church, local residents
- Complaints to Merton Council

From the feedback we received this year we have noted the following key areas:

- Noise – this was a much bigger issue in 2018, than 2017 and was heard in unexpected areas.
- Litter
- ASB – balloon sellers
- Public Urination

Pg 2

How we intend to address these issues and the measures we take to make improvements:

**External Event Manager** – For 2019 we will have a dedicated external Event Manager - Sarah Tew who will be based outside of the event in Merton. Sarah will deal with issues arising in the community and will check and monitor external suppliers (Security & waste management teams) to ensure that provisions have been put in place.

**Dedicated external community hub** – We will set up an external community hub in Merton and have members of our team based here. The community hub will provide a service for the local community so people are able to drop in and provide feedback about the event, and ask questions if they are unable to get through via other channels

**Resident's hotline & Community webpage** – We will operate a resident's hotline for information and complaints. We are aware that some people struggled to get through via this channel last year as we had a higher volume of complaints than in 2017. We are aware that some people will struggle to get through this year and to help to manage the level of these calls we will also have a dedicated community webpage - [www.easternelectrics.com/community](http://www.easternelectrics.com/community) which we have already set up and will continue to update in the lead up to the event and throughout the live show. The page will detail issues that we are currently dealing with which we hope will reduce the level of calls and offer some reassurance to residents that we are aware of issues and we are taking measures to resolve them.

**Community email address:** We have set up an email address for the local community – [community@easternelectrics.com](mailto:community@easternelectrics.com) to ensure that comments and complaints are received via a central database and are responded to in a timely and efficient manner.

All stakeholders will be invited to the next Community Engagement Meeting in April.

#### **Stakeholder Engagement Timeline:**

**Oct & Nov:** Consultation with local authorities and key stakeholders.

**22<sup>nd</sup> November:** Community Consultation meeting

**January:** Stakeholder Web Page Updates

**February:** First Safety Advisory Group meeting

**April:** Second Safety Advisory Group meeting

**April:** Stakeholder Engagement meeting

**June:** Stakeholder Engagement meeting

**July:** Third Safety Advisory Group meeting / Table Top

#### C) Addressing key issues

##### CI) Noise

We employ independent Noise Management Consultants to produce a Noise Management Plan (NMP), liaise with the Environmental Pollution Team and to measure dB levels both on-site and offsite to ensure compliance with the levels set. The NMP includes a strategy for managing complaints during the event and we operate a noise hotline that residents can call to log a

complaint. If complaints are received the noise consultants visit residents to take a dB reading and ensure levels are not being exceeded.

Noise was a much bigger issue at our 2018 event and was heard in unexpected areas. We received greater numbers of noise complaints on Sunday, especially related to the low bass frequencies that people felt. We have been working with our noise consultants and have identified a specific soundsystem that is located in a certain area of the park, this sound system is a bit of a marketing gimmick and popular for the style of music being played, however we have identified with our noise team that this sound system leaks the low bass frequency very poorly in comparison to other sound systems. Based on the complaints received and the feedback from our noise consultants this sound system will not be used at future events. We expect this to have a large impact on the low bass frequency felt on and off-site.

As well as complaints about the low bass frequencies we also received complaints about the MC's on Sunday who were heard far and wide, and especially their use of misogynistic and poor language that shouldn't be heard by anyone especially children. We have advised the organiser to move away from this style of music.

In addition to the measures already outlined we are also increasing our stakeholders relation team through a dedicated offsite community hub, an external community event manager and additional team to support on site.

#### C1) Security & Stewarding

We received feedback that we need to increase numbers security and stewards, and another issue raised was around police presence at the event. We are not able to dictate numbers of police at the event but we can assist with deployment. We also have a dedicated Police representative onsite who we liaise with and feed insight to.

For security we are able to dictate numbers and will increase numbers for future events, as we did this year following the 2017 event. Through feedback from this year's event we have been made aware of additional problem areas requiring security support and we will have an increased security presence at Hillcross Avenue as a result.

We are going to use a different security company to manage the external areas and community positions. This team will be selected based on their ability to engage with the local community more effectively than companies used in previous years. This company will work directly with Sarah, Event Community Manager to ensure deployment positions are effective and security staff will be continually monitored to ensure their presence is as effective as possible. In addition to static positions there will also be a response team in the form of 2 mobile units patrolling the streets including – Lower Morden Lane, Hillcross Avenue, London Road etc. These teams will be on radio and able to respond to issues quickly.

To address issues around ASB – we are looking at how we can work with Merton Council Trading Standards team to be smarter with balloon sellers who are able to offer on the spot fines. We are also looking at working with Kingdom to increase their presence on our event days. These additional measures will be at our own cost not at the cost of Merton Council.

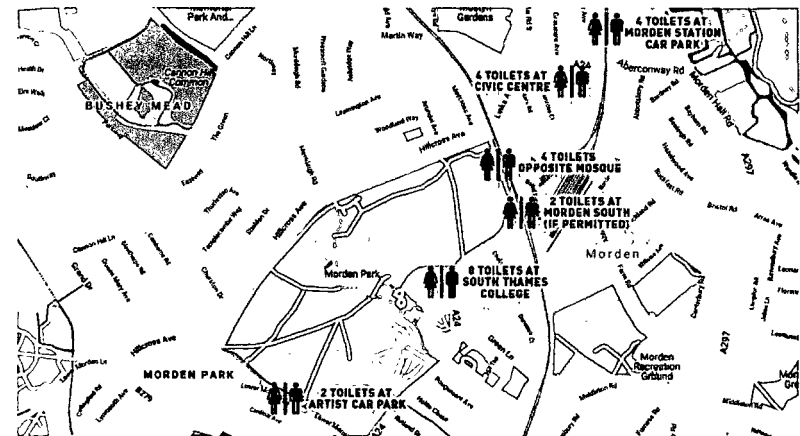
Eastern Electrics were upset to hear of the negative impact of some event goers and to try to encourage better behaviour amongst the audience they are devising a big Marketing campaign around people's behaviour in the local area and putting the onus on the people coming to the event. If we are keep having events in the park we need to keep it tidy and we need your help in order to

do that. Encouraging people not to turn a blind eye to inappropriate behaviour – if you see someone urinating in the street please tell them it's not ok to do that.

#### Civ) Litter & Sanitation

We are aware that there were issues with litter & waste management in the local area during this year's event. To improve litter clearing we intend to employ a new waste management company who will focus only on external waste management and litter picking.

We are aware that public urination is a problem and to prevent this we increased the provision of external toilet facilities for customers this year. Unfortunately we are not able to put toilets everywhere we'd like to as there rules around the placement of toilets, Merton Council are happy for us to put toilets on the roads and pavements that they own however we have struggled to gain approval from TfL to put toilets on London Road and Epsom Road pavements which they own. We are looking to increase numbers of external toilets again for future events below is a suggestion we submitted to the Council.



Toilets will be put out the night before the event or first thing in the morning depending on the permissions we receive from the council.

In addition there will be signage along the routes to the park stating where and how far the nearest toilet facilities are. Our additional security and wayfinding team will be briefed to direct people to the toilets.

#### Q&A

- Name unknown: **Why have we put the toilets at Lower Morden Lane in the artist car park and will people be able to use toilets if they aren't an artist?**  
Yasmin WATF - We received feedback from local residents that there were instances of public urination on Lower Morden Lane and that we needed to put toilets there and security will be briefed to let festival goers into the car park to use the toilet

- Name unknown: **Litter on Lower Morden Lane was obvious and overflowing, especially by the garden centre where bottles of drink had been thrown on top of the bushes. How are litter pickers unable to see this litter and use their common sense to understand that this is from the event?**

Yasmin WATF: We accept that we had issues with the speed of the litter clearance in external areas. The team were not able to cope with the volume of litter outside of the event as they were also managing litter clearance inside of the event. This year we are engaging an independent team who will be tasked only with litter picking and waste management outside of the event.

- Name unknown: **There was a young boy urinating literally from here to where you are outside of my front room window. I have a girl who was 9 at the time. I wouldn't go out to him because I'd have my windows smashed or something. I'm sure you wouldn't if you lived there and there was someone urinating 20 foot from your living room window. And the balloons and the canisters are not just on the perimeter of the park. At Cardinal Avenue last year I sat and purposefully watched someone open the boot of their car and sell out of their car. These are roads behind Lower Morden Lane so it's not just the perimeter of the park. We didn't see any security and more toilets is likely to encourage more drug dealing.**

Yasmin WATF: It was flagged that the external toilets did become hotspots for people to hang out at because of the groups of people queueing. For future events external toilets will be accompanied by a security presence. In terms of NOS this is a London wide problem and a problem faced by every festival. It's also an issue that the police are struggling to understand how to deal with because it isn't illegal in certain ways and forms. This is why we are looking to work with Kingdom and our own security team to put measures in place where people can be fined on the spot and moved on.

- Name unknown: **What is Kingdom?**

Yasmin WATF: Kingdom are present in Morden Town Centre they are a private company but, act on behalf of Merton Council. If people are publicly urinating Kingdom have the power to fine people and move them on.

- Name unknown: **How can you possibly control this with the volume of people we have at our event? It was out of control this year with people doing balloons and urinating. There could never have been enough security to stop it.**

Yasmin WATF: We can't promise that next year will be perfect but we will continue to improve year on year to reduce the impact and these are initial suggestions. We will so take feedback from this event and add additional areas including Cardinal Avenue into our plans for additional security measures.

- Name unknown: **How much profit do you make?**

Yasmin WATF: We are a professional production company who are employed by the organisers to put the event on. In terms of how much profit Eastern Electrics makes I can't speak for that but I do know that the event is incredible expensive to put on and it's a very high risk event to put on. The council make more money out the event than the organiser.

- Name unknown: **There is going to be an increase in numbers how do you propose to manage that?**

Yasmin WATF: In terms of the licence we've applied for we've put in for up to 30,000 people. We have no intention this year to go to 30,000 it's a future proofing if we can prove that each year we can cope a small increase in capacity.

- Name unknown: **This is a family area, it's not a suitable place for a festival. What made you choose Morden Park?**

New speaker (name unknown): I'm in support of the festival and I think it brings a lot of creativity and diversity to the area. I have my own family here and I've lived in Merton since 1982. This is a very good thing and very positive. I live at Leamington Avenue. If think if we work with the organisers and allow them to do what they want to do then they can resolve the issues.

*\*Interrupted multiple people talking over each other\**

*\*Inaudible\**

New speaker (name unknown): I'm very concerned about the licence from Blue Fox Events Limited. Especially because it states sale of alcohol and regulated entertainment on Friday and Saturday and Sunday. Although you've just said you'd only do 2 out of the 3 that's not specified on here you haven't got Friday or Sunday and Saturday. So for me futureproofing means that yes we can do 3 days events for 30,000 people without proving we are capable of running an event safely, securely and considerately. You shouldn't be applying for this licence until you can prove to us that you can manage it. It is not competently run at the moment and it is not considerate enough for the whole of the borough.

Yasmin WATF: I would disagree in terms of our competency in running this event.

*\*Interrupted multiple people talking over each other\**

*\*Inaudible\**

- Name unknown: **The Park was supposed to be put back into the condition it was put back to before the event. Last year's still hasn't been put back let alone this years. You can't just rotovate it you need to flatten it and properly address it.**

Yasmin WATF: We pay a damages deposit to Merton Council

Name unknown: I'm still talking would you mind not talking over me?

**The ground damages were done in 2017 because they rotovated it and left it, and now it's uneven for the kids to play on. On the outer fence in Lower Morden Lane the bottles and cans that were thrown from the event are still there.**

Yasmin WATF: If we don't know it's there then we can't deal with it *\*Interrupted\**

Name unknown: You do know because I tried phoning up ten times but honestly it's a waste of time because you can't get through.

Yasmin WATF: I hope that we've addressed the measure we're going to take to improve community relations in the presentation *\*interrupted\**

Name unknown: You say you're going to improve year on year *\*interrupted by audience, inaudible due to shouting\** you haven't solved 17's problems yet and now you're talking about having a three day event?!

Yasmin WATF: We're definitely not talking about having a 3 day event next year.

*\*interrupted by audience, inaudible due to shouting\** I'm going to address the issue of ground damages now. We pay a ground damages deposit to the council in our contract and we also say that if the damages are greater than the deposit we are liable for the additional costs. The Council work with Iverde who I believe manage the maintenance and ground of

Morden Park. They decide the reinstatement works that are required and manage this and we pay them. I can't speak about the methods of fixing the ground..

*\*Interrupted\**

Name unknown: **No you can't because it's wildlife. Flora and Fauna and that takes years to develop and it had been coming along really really well but events like the festival really put it back years. It's not something you can just relay. What the festival does is destroy it.**

*\*Interrupted by shouting\**

Yasmin WATF - As advised at the start of this meeting I can't comment on why or whether events should be allowed in the park I'm here to talk about Eastern Electrics specifically. I am genuinely sorry if we've caused damage to the park I really am. We work with the parks team to fix any damage done as best as we can at a cost to the festival.

- Councillor Nick McLean: **I'm a Councillor and I also sit on the Licensing Committee earlier in your presentation you mentioned that the promoter was very upset. Is he here tonight?**

Yasmin WATF: No, he's not in the Country today.

Councillor Nick McLean: **Oh... \*Shouting, inaudible\* I think you'd be surprised how little money is given to Morden Park from the festival. I have to say the presentation was very generic and I would go further. Of that presentation how much did you present last year of that and what have you really changed?**

Yasmin WATF: In terms of last year we said we'd add more toilets which we did, but, it wasn't as much as was needed so will add more toilets. *\*Interrupted by shouting\**

New speaker (name unknown): **There are only 24 toilets on the map \*Inaudible\***

Yasmin WATF: We're open to looking at more toilets and more locations, especially if there are hotspots that we aren't aware of. We're here to get advice.

Name unknown: **How many toilets are there inside of the event site?**

Yasmin WATF: There are about 300 toilets on site which is well above the ratio that's recommended by the Purple Guide for health & safety.

Name unknown: **What's wrong with your audience then that they can't use the toilets in the event?**

Yasmin WATF: I'm afraid I can't answer that

Name unknown: **Too much drink probably**

Yasmin WATF: To go back to the question, the other things we've addressed since 2017. We said we'd have an increased presence of security, and we did increase numbers of security.

You feel that we still need to increase it more and we agree. We didn't recommend that we'd have a separate security company and a separate waste company but that's what we're recommending now and we do see this as a solution to having the external event areas really focused on properly as they deserve. In terms of security we also consulted with individuals on the perimeter of the park who were negatively affected by our 2017 event and worked with them to put in additional measures including fencing and security that meant that they didn't have those same issues this year. I'm not saying they had no issues at all but it was an improvement for them on 2017 and we did put things in place that worked. I'm not saying that this year is going to be perfect because no festival in an urban area is but we can see the things that we need to put in place and we think they will be effective.

Councillor Nick McLean: **Ok my point is though that had the promoter turned up tonight for your presentation it would have seemed a lot more sincere.**

**Can I also say that you're on the Licensing Committee and so it would be really great as I think all of us here are really worried about the application and all of these improvements should be included in that application they put to you.**

**When it does go to Licensing Sub Committee I won't be able to sit on that because I'm a Councillor for Cannon Hill but I can certainly... \*Interrupted by someone asking - Can you feed in our concerns?\***

**Well we can't pre judge but I can certainly make sure this is considered \*interrupted - Personally I'm sure everyone thinks this is not the right time for this application to go in until you've proved you can look after the park and residents.\***

Yasmin WATF: Just to address that. I think in terms of the premises licence I've explained the reasons why we've put in for long term. It's because of the great cost to the event. That costs comes away from being able to spend on other things be that security or other things. *\*Interrupted\**

Name unknown: **What is the cost?**

Yasmin WATF: The cost of putting in a licence is £6,000 a year. I know that doesn't sound very much but that's however many more security and toilets. It's that cost to make the application then its additional costs for the licensing subcommittee, and at that point we're getting close to £15,000 which is roughly the cost. If that money can be saved it can be spent on other things and there are conditions specific in the licence that caveat things for example you could only have this many events on the weekend, a certain amount of additional toilets.

*\*Interrupted\**

Name unknown: **It's not even about that it's about that park and it being wiped out for 3 days and where are these people going to go? Are they going to go home or is it all of a sudden going to turn into a camping festival?**

Yasmin WATF: There is no intention for it to turn into a camping event.

Name unknown: **And how are you going to police that? That would be a lot of extra cost to you to ensure that there is no one on the external bit.**

Yasmin WATF: That is something we're tasked with but we've not had any issues with. No one does camp and they didn't last year.

- Elaine, local resident at Hillcross Avenue - **Thank you Yas for coming tonight I really appreciate it. You're obviously a private company and here to make a profit and that's not wrong but where are the Council tonight? Why aren't they here answering our questions? \*Interrupted by inaudible shouting\* If you want to discuss how the park should be looked after I think Mr Doug Napier should answer that for you, but that's a discussion we can have privately perhaps. Because they are responsible for looking after the park. I've got three young kids and I'm distressed to show you how much I put up with. Last year my young son had to go out and move the drug sellers, I've got a video of it and it was dangerous and socially unacceptable. We all care and we're all emotive about it and there wouldn't be so many of us if we didn't have the issues and yes you're a private company but we're not your training ground. This our lives, our homes, our properties that you have messed with, and yes I understand you're putting processes in place but what we're the Guinea pigs? An extra 10,000 people that's a huge amount of people coming into our community. Merton Council how much money do you make on this and how much money do you give back to the community? \*Interrupted - I asked that earlier and I got a snigger.\* You should hang your heads in shame and say these are our residents, they pay our wages but you are not here to look after us and support us. You've got a private company coming in and doing your dirty work. Because I'm not being funny but we all know and gut instinct tells us that this is going to be passed through. \*Interrupted - Merton Council you've got to stop this it's so antisocial\* I was told by two different companies that the bass was within**

limits, now someone in Merton that deals with sound told me that was not the case. The gentleman just here, an older gentleman he said that he could feel it. I could feel it.

*\*Interrupted - I could feel it the vibration was terrible where I live\** I understand that you're addressing it and I do believe you in your good intentions that you're going to put this, this and this in place but even you sustain that you've said noise levels you'll have a department to respond but how quickly will they respond and how much noise will you put up with? Because you're saying it's within the remits and if it is within the remits we can't complain because nothing is going to get done about it. You're saying about public urination you're going to put toilets but you can't put them on the main road so they'll go off into the paths and into people's lawns and houses. I'm sorry I've got quite a few questions and I know it's not just my show and everyone's quite upset about it but you know by all means. There are so many questions here... you're talking about the extra Friday so that's extra impact, and that will impact us, setting the park up and the kids can't play and people can't use the facilities. The car parking. There's so much that's going to affect our lives and that unfortunately for you because it's all trainings, all learnings, you can't compensate or tell us how it's going to affect us. So why should we as residents take the risk when in fact you've been shown that you can't do it for 2 years. Not just 1 but 2 years. I'm not saying I'm against concerts I've got teenage kids who want concerts but we've all seen other communities where it works. Clearly your company can't make it work and our council are letting us down by pushing things on us that we don't want. I'm going to sit down because I think everyone else needs to speak.

- Name unknown: **If the licence is going to be over 5 years next year does that mean you could hold more than one annual event? For however many days you like?**  
Yasmin WATF: No the licence has a condition stating that there will only be 1 event per year. Taking place over 1 weekend per year.  
Name unknown: **So you're saying just the weekend?**  
Yasmin WATF: It's a condition so we aren't allowed to do more than 1 weekend per year and there is no intention for that to be any other weekend than the first weekend in August.
- Name unknown: **You used to have this for three years in Finsbury Park but the residents complained about it as they've got exactly the same issues that we do and yet nothing has changed. You've managed to move it on.**  
Yasmin WATF: We've never held Eastern Electrics Festival at Finsbury Park. *\*Interrupted - Your owner did\**  
He didn't, he's never held the festival in Finsbury Park.  
Name unknown: **For three years you had it in Finsbury Park?**  
Yasmin WATF - No, before this it was at Hatfield House and before that Nebworth House.  
Name unknown: **Sorry Hatfield House, and you had it there for three years, and there you had exactly the same issues and complaints and the residents managed to move it on after three events. So what I'd like to ask you Councillors is how long it's going to take you to listen to the residents before we can get rid of this?**  
Yasmin WATF - I just want to address this, because it isn't the reason that the festival moved on. It moved because there was another higher paying event that was offering to take place over the same timeframe as Eastern Electrics. Which is why Hatfield House said we were not able to go back there and we had to find a new home.  
Name unknown: **So on the Eastern Electrics website you've quoted that it was being held in Morden which is not a residential area?**

Yasmin WATF - I'm not familiar with that but if you want to send over I can address it. Please email through to Sarah:

- Name unknown: **Why did you choose Morden Park?**  
Yasmin WATF: We chose Morden because it's a beautiful park *\*Interrupted by shouting - Not anymore\** I've just been asked a question and I'm going to answer it. Because the park is a beautiful place, because it's well connected with transport from Central London, it's on the tube network, it's got the Thames Link which goes straight into Kings Cross. It's a large space that hadn't previously been used for festivals so that means it's a unique space for the event to take place. I will again stress that I am not here to talk about the park being used as an events space because I cannot address that.
- Councillor Dennis Pearce - **Some people know me, some people don't but I'm Councillor Pearce and I've lived here since '83. I've been on the Friends group for 25 years and I have two questions to this lady. One is clear, there was a proposed festival for the 8<sup>th</sup> September and I was the Councillor there who was with colleagues and residents opposing it and most of the evidence that we used to oppose that festival was the mistakes made by Eastern Electrics. The committee turned it down on that sort of evidence. I wandered around and my son and his friends went into the festival. The stewards weren't that effective, what you need to do is pay for extra police presence as the police are the ones that would be effective. The other thing I'd say is, you've talked about not increasing site straight away but gradually, but that also means you must realise that the size of the fence and the area will expand year on year. There are large areas of the park like woodlands that will then be close to the event. Those are problems ongoing if you get the licence. Our duty as Friends of the Park is to protect the park, why would you say that I'd like to accept this because I don't think I can.**  
Yasmin WATF - In terms of the police firstly, in 2017 we paid for the police presence. In 2018 we tried to pay for the police presence but they're no longer able to accept payments from event organisers. That is not a decision of ours it's something we budget for because obviously we feel that if we require police presence we should pay for it but that's something outside of our control. *\*Interrupted - there is an answer to that, but carry on\**  
Ok, I'm happy to discuss that either separately or now again. In terms of why you'd want the event to happen I know there are some people here who feel positive about the event in Morden. We do have a number of people who get in contact with us to tell us that they do like having the event in Morden as they feel it brings some vibrancy to the area, it brings some culture. I know you guys won't see it as culture but younger people *\*Interrupted - It's an 18-30's event, really is that culture?\**  
New speaker (name unknown) - **I'm 52 and I was there last year** *\*Shouting, inaudible\**  
New Speaker (name unknown) - **I'm 42 and I loved it!**  
Yasmin WATF - We did have a number of people who were not of that 18-30s age bracket at both events and we are in touch with them and believe it or not some people who are not under 30 do like house music and dance music. In addition to this when we were putting up blue notices we were in touch with a lot of the local businesses who all had an incredibly good day of sales on our event days. The off-licences, the chicken shops, the bars, the minicab company, the guys in the station and people in the area saw sales they've never seen before or in a really long time unless something really special was going on in the area. So there is a benefit to the area. In addition to that we do pay a fee to the council. How they spend it is up to them, whether they spend it on the park or not is up to them but we do pay

quite a substantial sum to the council. We also work with local charities. So we were fundraising for St Raphael's Hospice this year. Next year we will be fundraising for another local charity. We are working with the local community to do things and we are open to suggestions about how else we can work with the community to bring improvements based on what we do here.

New speaker (name unknown) – **It's not a case of you're a bad company and all these charities. This is the wrong area.**

Yasmin WATF - That's something I'm not able to address as I've said.

**What's wrong with Wembley, what's wrong with the O2?**

Yasmin WATF - A lot of parks where other events take place, Hyde Park, Regents Park, Victoria Park also have residents which cause similar issues for the events. We're not an incompetent company that can't manage an event this is something that people feel across London. That's why I can't address the issue of Morden Park being more suitable, or less suitable than any other park. **Well why not hold it at Wembley? This is the wrong area.**

New speaker (name unknown) – **I think it's a great area!**

Councillor Dennis Pearce - **You didn't answer one of my questions. The evidence I used to speak about the other festival all came from your mistakes. What's the question? All your mistakes were used to turn down that one, why can't we use the same mistakes to turn down yours?**

Yasmin WATF - This is the consultation period for people to make comments on the licence however they wish and it's your prerogative to make those comments. We're making suggestions for how we can address the issues and impacts the event had on Morden that were negative.

Councillor Dennis Pearce: **I wasn't around in '17. I was away. But you did make promises after '17 for '18 that you didn't keep.**

Yasmin WATF: What specifically were they?

Councillor Dennis Pearce: **Well, all the things you said you were going to do around the park. They obviously failed. Listen to the audience.**

Yasmin WATF - We did have more toilets on the external like we said, we did have more security and we put security in specific positions that were requested of us. The stakeholders that were engaged with us – The Church, The Care Home, while we're not saying they are in support of the event, they did have an improved year in 2018 with the measures that we put in place. Because we worked with them, we looked at the sites... *\*interrupted by shouting - inaudible\** With Sarah in place we will be able to ensure that the people that we are employing to do things are carrying those things out.

- Name unknown: **Morden Park isn't very well used. I walk in there every day** *\*Interrupted - yes it is. I walk in there every day. We've just got a lovely new leisure centre there and that's encouraging people to come and use it\** **Let me have my say. Morden is planned to be regenerated** *\*interrupted by shouting, inaudible\** **this festival is helping people to come here and feel what Morden is like, it's arty, you've got people winning awards for their music and this is just encouraging people, young people to come to Morden.** *\*Interrupted - My kids are in their 30s and they've done all the festivals and one of them said to me that age group for that type of festival all they're coming for is to have a drink and do whatever drugs they want. It's not about the music.\**  
 New speaker (name unknown): **Excuse me you're wrong. It is about the music! I go to this festival and lots of my friends go to this festival. To assume that everyone, or even some people coming to this festival does so to drink and do drugs is totally wrong. The number**

**is probably around 5%. I can go down to any park in Merton and find those gas cylinders. They've got security at the event, people are being searched. This woman has come here to learn from the mistakes and she is stating that ways that she is going to improve.**

*\*Interrupted - but they didn't learn from 2017\**

Yasmin WATF - I've explained how we learnt from past events and that we've proven how we did take the comments on board in 2017. I appreciate that wasn't enough particularly for that event or that number of people and now we're going to increase on that. These aren't making empty promises these are things we are going to do, and we did do the things we said we would in 2017. They weren't as effective as we thought they would be in that way so we are looking at improving on those again.

- Name unknown: **How many people coming to the event live locally?**  
 Yasmin WATF: We do have postcode data on that and people living locally do come to the event. We'd be happy to share this data but we don't have it to hand now. You might be surprised that a lot of people who live locally within the area do buy tickets and come to the event. We also get a lot of uptake on the resident's tickets that are discounted and free for the event. These are people from the local area who are applying to come to the event and who like the event.
- Name unknown: **I understand that the Police are not supporting this event next year because they feel that they can't police it properly. Have you got a comment about that?**  
 Yasmin WATF: We've been talking to our liaisons at the Police in regard to our application and have been working with them on what we put into the application. We are have not been made aware yet that they are not supporting it. But when they contact us we'll address that with them.  
 Name unknown: **I've been told they are not supporting it but the council have overruled them.**  
 Yasmin WATF: That's not how I believe this process to work.  
 New Speaker (name unknown): **The Police can make a comment and say they don't agree with it but the council can override it. We've heard all the people here and most are against it. But you're still going to agree to it.**  
 New Speaker (name unknown): **Most of the people here in this room are against it. You're absolutely right.** *\*Interrupted - Well are you going to stop it then?\** **There aren't more supporters here possibly because they're a bit afraid** *\*laughing\** **Being talked over makes me feel** *\*interrupted inaudible\** **well there you go see. Being talked over makes me feel a little bit scared** *\*laughing and shouting - inaudible\** **I'm not telling you if I'm for or against but that gentleman at the back spoke in favour and was shouted down. People don't come to these meetings because of this sort of thing. If you were to have a debate that didn't shout and actually put forward real questions then you'd get some real conversation going** *\*shouting - inaudible\**
- Name unknown: **One thing that hasn't been mentioned is about the little owls and kestrels in the park** *\*applause\**. **Those who observed them from mid-June onwards, now I have to say it's not just the EE fest which disturbed the adults and the juveniles at a critical period it was also park and ride. But there were two trees that were cut to accommodate the arena.**  
 Rami WATF: It's not to accommodate the arena.

Yasmin WATF: Before you go further can I mention about that tree?

Name unknown: **Can I finish my point actually?**

Yasmin WATF: Of course, go ahead.

Name unknown: **Well you're obviously going to respond that's what we're here for. But people observed that owls were in this tree and its home was reduced to a monolith and their home was reduced and with the kestrels luckily they did return to the base because the trees hadn't been cut so aggressively. But in your presentation there was nothing too address this. So what's your response?**

Yasmin WATF: When we arrived on site for the first day of our build some people from Ideverde came onto site and began cutting down the trees. This was not at our request and actually caused us some difficulties as things we wanted to place in those areas had to be moved while the works were taking place. We were not informed that the tree would be coming down and we contacted the council to express our concern about the timing of these works as we felt that people would wrongly assume that the tree was being cut down because of us and it wasn't. That's all I can say on the matter, we did not request the tree to be cut down and we had no reason for the tree to be cut down.

Name unknown: **So are you saying I need to take this up with Ideverde?**

Yasmin WATF: Yes with Ideverde or the council or parks team. As they may have reasons to have cut the tree down. We liaise regularly with David Lofthouse concerning tree protection in the park.

Name unknown: **Is this Doug Napier next to Nick? Perhaps you'd like to contribute to this?**  
Doug Napier Merton Council: **The trees were surveyed around May time and it was decided that they needed felling**

Name unknown: **Yes but you knew there were little owls and kestrels being observed there.**

Doug Napier Merton Council: **Not in that specific tree, the issue at that time was about light in relation to Park and Ride**

Name unknown: **Ok so Doug who do I take this up with?**

Doug Napier Merton Council: **We can take this offline**

Yasmin WATF: We've got 15 minutes left so we'll take final questions in that time. In terms of trees we work with David Lofthouse, we do site visits with him before every event and we look at trees and tree protections including fending off vulnerable trees. No one has brought wildlife issues to our attention with regard to special consideration at Morden Park. However, we will take this up with David Lofthouse.

- Councillor Pauline Cowper, Cannon Hill - **I'm Pauline Cowper I'm a Councillor from Cannon Hill. A number of residents were certainly affected, the reason why neither I nor my fellow councillor nor I believe Nick Draper can go to Licensing Sub Committee on this is because we would all have to recuse ourselves because we all live in wards which have been affected. I know the reasons why you want to come to Morden Park and with all the cuts to the budget by Merton Council green spaces comes right at the bottom and has been squeezed and squeezed. I do know that your festival takes some of the burden off this. Although I can't say I'm that affected by the festival I can appreciate why the council is more or less in favour. Given your upgrade to security arrangements which I do know raised quite a lot of problems last year. That basically is it, we do quite a bit of money from Eastern Electrics and that helps with all the other green spaces.**

- Name unknown: **About the noise, surely the council must give a direction on how many decibels you are using and the thing is you went over that level this year. Because in the other years and with other events in the park I rarely heard but this time it was that bad on the Saturday and the Sunday. I mean when I went in the back garden I felt I was in the middle of a funfair it was that bad. But the thing is I wonder if there should be a council rep going around every quarter of an hour checking on the levels. You only need one person with a decibel machine and why you ever got the job again I'll never know because you went way over.**

Yasmin WATF: To address those comments, we do not take the readings we employ a professional company to do this and they are also followed around by Merton environmental health who follow them around also taking readings. Our post-event noise report matches the report from Merton Environmental Health and we did not go over the decibel levels set in terms of readings. There are a number of contributing environmental factors that mean different areas will be affected differently by noise, these include the wind, the heat, the stillness of the weather. We do know it's loud for people and we are trying to address this. I can't say it won't be loud next year but where we know that bass, and the low thud was an issue we are addressing this. We didn't breach in 2017 or in 2018. At the nearest off-site receptors it shouldn't be more than 75 decibels and on-site front of house measure no more than 95 levels. If offsite levels are particularly low we can play with different arenas bring some levels up and some down within this maximum. Depending on the capacity and the style of the event people might be granted different levels. For all dance music festivals across London Parks the level of 75 decibels is standard.

Name unknown: **The Council should look at the decibel levels again because they are too high**

- Lesley Friends of Morden Park: **I'm on the Friends of the Park. You're future proofing and expansion to 30,000 can you show on a map exactly how much more of the park this is going to take up?**  
Yasmin WATF: Our site map of the park accompanies the licence application for the park and you can view this online. We have put in different versions as we are held to account over the positioning of the stages and locations of the bars. In terms of the area of the park that we used last year we aren't allowed to extend into the golf course. We are looking at extending a bit further behind the bandstand where we have the main stage, we are also looking to extend the site slightly in the North West Corner towards Hillcross Avenue.  
*\*Interrupted by shouting inaudible\**  
The site footprint we had in place this year had capacity for higher numbers of people. So in terms of getting to 30,000 we wouldn't have to extend the site by much more than it already is. We have a large area of back of house that we can decrease to create more space on site in the public areas. Yes we are looking at expanding but it isn't by as much as you think because you're thinking.  
Lesley Friends of Morden Park: **You know we've also got a problem with processionary moths. An area by the bandstand has already been cornered off.**  
We have operated events before where this has been a big issue and we are able to work around this.
- Name unknown: **Where the festival is it's actually on a hump at the highest point of the park which isn't helping with the sound distribution. That's why it can be heard everywhere if you stand where the festival is and look toward London Road you can see all the way to Sutton from there and the sound is just dissipating all the way out**

Yasmin WATF: There are several reasons for the location and positioning of the festival. There are flat areas of ground where infrastructure is able to be built and also because of access for ingress and egress.

**You aren't helping yourself by having it at the highest point**

Yasmin WATF: We work our noise consultants who view our site plans and advise accordingly. Including instructing us on the best positioning of stages to minimise noise disruption so we consult in our design phase. We also consult with environmental health. We are specialists in site design but not in noise and that's why we take advice from these authorities. We will await feedback on our plans as part of the consultation process

**The festival actually needs to be put into a dip and landfilled in \*laughing\***

- Name unknown: **As someone who uses the park on a near daily basis I'm wondering why it took nearly a week to clear the rubbish from the perimeter just outside of the barrier.**  
Yasmin WATF: I can only apologise for this being the case. We are going to address this by ensuring we have as team who are dedicated to clearing external litter so that they are not pulled inside when litter builds up there. This will be there sole focus. What happened this year isn't acceptable and it shouldn't have happened and we apologise for that.
- Name unknown: **I think there are some very valid concerns raised by residents here. The first thing I think we should be worried about is security and I think the noise issue comes after that. I think Eastern Electrics have done what they can to address how they will manage this to run the event for next year and I think it's a shame there isn't more representation from the Council who are actually involved in the decision making. I personally am pro this event and I think there are lots of good things that come from running this event. But, there does need to be more responsibility held by the Council to help run this event and to ensure it's going to be safe. The ownership shouldn't lie on Eastern Electrics to bear all of this responsibility they are a private company as someone rightly said so they are in it for whatever other reasons but thinking about what we want for Morden as a whole for the future we should be thinking about this and thinking ok this isn't perfect but is this something that we want if it got to a stage where we were happy with it? You mentioned that the noise levels weren't as bad last year so if we went back to that would we be happier yes of course of we would. So we should encourage this to make sure it's a valid discussion and we get the type of event that we want that everyone can be proud of \*Applause\***  
New speaker: (name unknown): **I think the council should represent us as well because there's no point in giving out numbers to complain when you can't get through on the phone.**  
**I 100% agree Eastern Electrics have done everything they can to say that we know there are issues and we are trying to address them but when we're talking about security and kids and having to watch things outside of their own house I understand those concerns. It's about risk and reward and there does need to be more done. But personally I hope that it can evolve into the fantastic event I know it can be.**
- Name Unknown - **Ideverde has come up a few times now but Veolia are you working actively with them? Because I understand that there was confusion in the wake as to who was clearing things up. For example I heard that it was supposed to be you guys employing people to do the clear up but then I heard that Veolia trucks had turned up and the residents were saying no it has to be the organisers. It seems rather unclear and even**

**Friends of Morden Park had some money to help do the final clear up as well. So I'd just like to know exactly who is responsible for the final clear up?**

Liz Sherwood Friends of Morden Park – **Can I just pick up about the cleaning because you are a little bit wrong about that? I have talked to Sarah and Yas about the event and there is a lot of discussion on the NextDoor website which I have also contributed to in trying to explain how we involved with it. We did get paid, we were allocated through Councillor Draper as other parks aren't able to benefit from these kinds of sums and we were allocated £5,000 which is the first time that the friends group have actually had a sum of money that we've been able to discuss with the Council what to spend that on. Someone on the NextDoor site said well how can it be that you spent just under £4,000 on some new benches a few litter pickers and a new sign? People have queried that sum but that's how much it costs for decent benches. We also negotiated at the end of the event to be paid £300 which on the face of it was a very small sum of money but at the end of the event there were bits of litter left, bottle tops, cigarette ends and cable ties. We see these things as we are in the park every day and we do have a team who go out voluntarily litter picking not just from this event but that are left all the time. We pick up nitrous oxide cylinders, cans, bottles and litter. You should see the number of bags that we pick up every week. There are people who use the park particularly through the summer who do sit there and have their picnic and do just leave everything. To say it's just people from the festivals isn't fair because sadly there are people doing it all the time. So this £300 we were paid directly from EE for voluntary litter picking instead of organisers bringing in additional contractors to do this again. It was very boring and I don't think we'll be doing it again unless you pay us a lot more money \*laughing\*** the park and most others in London have been suffering from a decline in investment they are right at the bottom of the pile. I'm not going to say whether I thought the festival was great or not I was inconvenienced where I live, there was litter and there were people emptying their cars and selling nitrous oxide. I in fact spoke to one of them and asked "how much would it be, for me?" I was told "4 of them for £10" but I said "I prefer tea". Not everyone who attended the festival were ignorant I spoke to lots of people walking along the road and they were young people out to enjoy themselves and have a good time. There is just the usual minority who mess it up for everyone else. The idea these people would come and smash your windows I really don't agree with because the people I spoke to were very polite.

**New speaker: Even a very small percentage of 30,000 people is a lot.**

Liz Sherwood Friends of Morden Park – **I know and they are trying to come up with ways to prevent it but the park will benefit and not just this park, all the parks. I hope that you might just think that perhaps we can tolerate this a little bit for just a few days of the 365 days a year**

Yasmin WATF – **In terms of litter it's our responsibility to clear up the external areas, each day, throughout the night, the next morning. We sometimes pay for Veolia but sometimes they are 4 times more expensive which makes it difficult to work with them. We'd love to work with Liz at The Friends on a similar basis but that's a separate conversation.**

- Councillor Pearce – **As a councillor here for 20 years we've had many events in the park and I'd suggest that some of them go well above the levels of EE. There have been loads of loud events in there \*shouting over inaudible\*. The only thing that EE can't do to give the mitigation other events get is that they are not a family event open to all ages where parents can turn up with children and grandchildren, EE don't offer that.**



pg 17

- **Name unknown - Following the 2017 event I had a 2 page email from Rob Dudley with lots of assurances for 2018, at least 9 of which you failed on. But I'm sad to hear about the noise, litter and money because one of main things we should be thinking about is the safeguarding of our children in the area. I work in the school and when we got back to school at the beginning of September I had to clean up the whole area to get rid of the nitrous oxide canisters and we still found some during playtime when the children were back. Children were being approached to have drugs and children being subjected to seeing men naked and urinating in the streets. I don't think this is safeguarding our children and it's our duty to safeguard the children in this area if nothing else.**

Yasmin WATF: Thank you very much for coming everyone and for your time. We'll be in touch with the minutes from today.

Meeting closed 20:30.

**From:** Fiona Doyle  
**Sent:** 10 December 2018 20:39  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Application No WK/201809200

Dear Licensing Committee,

I wish to object against the recent application by Eastern Electrics/Blue Fox Events Ltd on multiple grounds:

I understand the application is for 30,000 people, an increase from 20,000. I would like to point out the issues in the prior two years to control the crowd, ensure the safety of the public, and prevent crime and disorder.

The event is proposed for three days. This is grossly unfair and will be a public nuisance for three days on the surroundings residents including a church that hosts services and weddings, an older persons home, and a swimming/leisure complex where children's lessons are held on Saturday and Sunday mornings (thus potentially questioning the safety and risk of harm to children).

Last year the sound was considerable, and was a public nuisance to many residents. It was reported that at times it was louder than what was considered to be the set limit.

Last year there was open drug dealing in other sections of the park, which was observed from public streets. In addition after the event there were used drug canisters littering the park and the streets. The demonstrates the organizers inability to prevent crime and disorder.

Residents on the route between Morden and the Park reported crime and disorder through littering of their properties and festival goers using their gardens as toilets.

The council's view that the festival has a "positive impact" on Morden is not shared by the residents. During the festival the town becomes a no go area due to the crowds and the anti social behavior especially at the end of the concert. The pubs close their doors to avoid trouble and shoppers are driven away. The proposal to have three days of our town being a no go area is unjustifiable and unreasonable.

The damage to the park during the event was considerable and such a large amount of the park was unusable during a time of peak usage. This is not considered justifiable. Furthermore extending to three days will have an even greater impact.

The event deteriorated from 2017 to 2018 and I fear that further increasing attendance and duration will have an even greater negative impact.

In addition, given the increased crime and disorder, the granting of a permanent licence would be wholly inappropriate.

I sincerely hope that on this occasion the council will listen to the views of the residents and the concerns for public safety and the prevention of crime and disorder in our neighbourhood.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Doyle

**From:** Dmdwyer Dwyer  
**Sent:** 04 December 2018 20:31  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Formal objection to application for license from Blue Fox Ltd - We Are The Fair Ref WK/201809200

This is to register my objection to the above named proposal for another Eastern Electrics Festival in Morden Park in 2019. My objection is also to the applicants having an open licence for a period of up to five years.

The basis of the objection is contained in the points below, which are based in part on previous experience of the negative effects of the festival, the inadequacy of their current proposal and from talking to about 90 percent of shopowners in Morden Town Centre.

#### A) Suitability of the park as a venue.

Morden Park is located in the centre of a residential area, with many people living very close to the park, and indeed, some on the edges of it. Additionally, I draw the committee's attention to the very close proximity of St Lawrence church. On previous occasions of the festival there has been widespread noise disturbance to these residents in particular but also to those in the wider area including Hillcross Avenue and Central Road along with other parts of St Helier Ward. The noise levels have been so great that many residents have been forced out of their property until the festival was over. There is nothing in the current proposal that will effectively deal with the inevitable disturbance to local residents, as whatever the climatic conditions, control of direction of the sound, local residents will be tremendously disturbed by the noise because the park is surrounded by homes. It cannot be right that local people should have to tolerate this situation again, and certainly not for a number of years as sought by the applicant.

Additionally, a large part of the park is effectively closed off to residents for up to three or four weeks because of the construction and dismantling of the festival site. There is no reason to assume this will be any different under the current application and as it appears the site is proposed to be enlarged towards Hillcross Avenue, one can safely assume at least the same again if not longer. The Park is entirely unsuitable for these reasons as a site for large music festivals.

#### B) Litter

The festival has to date left in its wake a huge amount of unnecessary rubbish both in the park itself and on the routes to and from the site. This is beyond an eyesore and the clean-up operation has proved so far to be slow and ineffective. With regards to the park itself, days after it was meant to have been cleaned up both I and a neighbour found numerous nitrous oxide capsules and non biodegradable zip ties ( used by those constructing the stages) all over the park but most noticeably in the bushes. Even more rubbish was left on the route from the town centre to the park, where in addition to the capsules and balloons used to inhale nitrous oxide , local residents had to tolerate cans and bottles of alcohol strewn everywhere; it was noticeable that the same situation occurred in Central Road and on the footbridge over the Northern Line. In all these areas rubbish lay on the ground for at least a week, in many cases very near local schools forcing local parents to have to guide their young children through the discarded garbage. Again there is nothing in the current plans which adequately

address this matter, particularly as it appears they want even more people in attendance. On this point a number of businesses in the town centre have expressed their concern about the amount of rubbish deposited there as well.

### C) Anti social behaviour and criminality

The festival to date has led to not only public drinking but also to a large number of noted incidents of public urination. It seems there is a slight increase under the current application in the number of toilets to be provided, but this clearly will not be enough for the numbers attending, particularly those, of which there are many, who are drinking on their way to Morden. Last year saw a number of incidents in which the toilets of cafes were left in disarray (Cafe La Lavella), effectively destroyed leading to costs incurred by the cafe for the repair and not available therefore for a period of time (Wimpy) and in one case ( the Villagers) had their toilet floor defecated upon. This level of anti social behaviour is clearly unacceptable to any decent person and there is no good reason there will be a change in such behaviour of festival goers. Whilst one pub (the Royal Surrey) and the small shops with an off licence all state they had an increase in sales of alcohol, unsurprisingly the food vendors, other than Gregg's, didnt report an increase in food sales in response to my questions. The restaurants, Ganley's Pub and other businesses all stated when I asked them that there was no impact on their business at all other than dealing with constant denial of requests to use their toilet facilities and dealing with the occasional person acting rather aggressively.

In addition to the antisocial behaviour and criminal damage, both Sainsbury's security staff and the manager of Iceland have said that the days of the festival led to a large increase in attempted and successful shoplifting. Further, there was seen to be a number of festival goers blatantly taking drugs including cannabis and cocaine outside Iceland. Given that the police resources have been further stretched to now having a multi borough command unit and by the time of the festival Morden will not have a staffed police office, it is reasonable to assume that the police, whilst giving their best, will not be able to be able to deal effectively with such widespread antisocial behaviour and criminality, which one can expect to rise with any increase in numbers attending the festival. It is also logical to assume that where emergency assistance is needed this will lead to police resources being removed from areas far more vulnerable to criminal activity than Morden, eg Battersea.

In conclusion this application will lead to an unnecessary increase in crime, antisocial behaviour, littering, unnecessary noise disturbance for local residents and again disrupt services at St Lawrence and weddings either at the church or the Register Office, based in the Park. I therefore think this application should be rejected for the reasons above and under no circumstances should local residents have to tolerate such noise and behaviour for a period of up to five years by an even larger crowd than previously.

Dave Dwyer

**From:** Nathalie Ellouk

**Sent:** 15 November 2018 19:08

**To:** complaints <[complaints@merton.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@merton.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** opposition to the planning application of Eastern Electrics for event in Morden Park

Hi

I would like to oppose to the planning application to Eastern Electrics.

It is really upsetting for all the residents to bear the disturbance due to this event to the point of wanting to move away :

- noise
- rubbish
- damage to the park, ground, trees, wildlife
- park unavailable for 3 weeks

It is unconceivable that after all the complaints last year this is happening again.

Please take in account my strong opposition.

Nathalie Ellouk

**From:** Ruhee B  
**Sent:** 11 December 2018 01:46  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** OBJECTION - EASTERN ELECTRICS WK/201809200

### **EASTERN ELECTRICS 2019 – Ref: WK/201809200**

I wish to make a formal and logged objection to the above license application on the following grounds:-

**A) The prevention of crime and disorder:-** dealing drugs is a crime and there was widespread drug use at the 2018 Eastern Electrics festival. I have taken photos of over thirty empty boxes of Nitrous Oxide canisters (please see one example below). Each empty box can contain between 24 - 50 gas canisters. This was just one small area, the actual canisters littered our entire street and also Central Road. Other neighbours also witnessed the use and selling of drugs.

**B) The prevention of public nuisance:-** The Eastern Electrics festival of 2018 proved a huge public nuisance - the numbers, noise, anti social behaviour and drug use were completely unacceptable. We are a quiet residential area and not suited to events such as this. I have lived here for over forty years and this sort of thing has never been allowed before 2107. This is not an inclusive event, neither is it a community event or an event suited to local people and their families. It is over 18's only and the vast majority of these people are not local to our area. They do not care about our local area and environment as we, the residents and locals do. They do not care that they cause public nuisance to myself, my family or any other other local resident. 20,000 people in 2018 was completely unmanageable, it will be many, many times worse with the new proposal of 30,000 people! Over the August 2018 festival weekend, our streets were covered with litter, people were urinating anywhere and everywhere, there were many illegally parked cars, plus the noise could be heard very badly all the way down past St Anthony's hospital which is in the Borough of Sutton, by the way!! My friend who lives further away than St Anthony's hospital contacted me on the Sunday because of the terrible noise. Why should people who don't even live in the Borough of Merton have to be subjected to this noise pollution and public nuisance?? I couldn't even walk down London Road to my home at 10 pm on the Saturday night because of the thousands leaving the festival - I got yelled at for just trying to walk home by people so intoxicated they couldn't even walk in a straight line - public nuisance as well as a public safety issue. My personal safety was at risk because I had to walk in part on the road!!! The local church had to have volunteers protecting the church due to the churchyard being used as a public toilet and the fear of damage to the church and it's property - public nuisance. Litter everywhere - public nuisance! People urinating, vomiting, defecating in the streets - public nuisance!! Cars parked all up on double yellow lines - public nuisance! Open usage of drugs plus drug dealing - public nuisance as well as a crime and disorder issue! We were told that Eastern Electrics would clear up but I witnessed the council cleaners clearing the mess because Eastern Electrics had not cleared up. This is also unacceptable - essentially Merton residents were funding the clear up and not Eastern Electrics.

**C) The protection of children from harm:-** the festival brought widespread drug usage. This took place on our local streets and right in front of my house. Is it really acceptable to be

shown to be encouraging and condoning the use of drugs in Morden? Drug usage comes with festivals - it is a well known fact. Two men were sat in their vehicle, outside our house openly using Nitrous Oxide. This was in the middle of the day, my teenage son does not need to be exposed to this sort of thing, not in his neighbourhood, let alone right outside his front door! Evidence of drug use and drug dealing still littered our streets days after the event. Allowing festivals such as this where you are well aware, and I am now making you aware, if you weren't, that drugs and drug dealing is common place is not something my children or other local children need to see. In addition to this, when the local primary school (Morden Primary) returned from the summer holidays, they found their playground littered with hundreds of these gas canisters. Of course they had to clear this up as it is not something that children should be exposed to. Other neighbours also reported that their children witnessed indecent exposure when festival goers decided to use the streets as their public toilet!

D) **Public safety** - the drug use I witnessed is definitely a public safety issue. The canisters and drug paraphernalia are also a public safety issue and a "protection of children from harm" issue. Also, many of the festival goers were driving home after the festival - many of them either intoxicated with drugs, alcohol or both - public safety issue and also illegal - crime issue. There were not enough police at that weekend's event and why should the police be using their own limited resources? The festival in 2018 was even worse than that in 2017 and the 2019 proposed festival will be sure to bring all the same issues as I have listed above. The Fire services, Police and Merton Council's own environmental team objected to the 2017 Eastern Electrics festival yet even they were ignored by Merton Council. This is really outrageous and unacceptable.

Ms Ruhee Farooq



**From:** Ken Franklin  
**Sent:** 18 November 2018 14:47  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Blue Fox events LTD

Dear Licensing Section,

I'm writing to object to Blue Fox's application for use of Morden Park. Undated, asking for Friday. Their 2018 use of the park was disgusting and they broke the law in numerous ways.

They broke the noise regulations and were a systematic public nuisance both evening. They allowed public disorder, without regard for local or visitor safety.

There was little true regard for policing and the prevention of crime and disorder. crime including drug dealing and public nudity were rife. Vandalism ensued.

They use the neighbourhood with utter disregard AND your involvement in it was equally unacceptable. Do you hate residents? Do you wish to annoy thousands of people, excepting the trolls who used the event to further annoy honest people. When they broke the noise regs, 85decibels registered over a mile away, no one from the council helped the public nor turned it down.

I know you need money, don't prostitute the borough or yourselves to these people who care nothing for where we live other than it gives them a place to despoil and destroy because they barely have any regard for anything other than profits.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Franklin

**From:** Imran Hamid  
**Sent:** 06 December 2018 14:13  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Application Reference WK/201809200

Dear Members of the Licensing Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of myself and my family to oppose to the planned Eastern Electrics Event, Application Reference WK/201809200.

I live at [REDACTED] with my wife and two children (8 years of age and 4 years of age). Our property is adjacent to the park, in fact it is situated directly opposite to the planned event. We have lived at this property for over 8 years now. We have lived in the close proximity of the park for the last 12 years and approximately 20 years in London Borough of Merton (Central Wimbledon & Morden). During this time we have never opposed to any application concerning an event taking place in Morden Park or any other park for that matter, and there have been a number of events taking place in Wimbledon Common, Wimbledon Centre, Wimbledon Park, Morden Hall Park and Morden Park, some of which we have attended but not all. We regularly attend the park as a family especially in good weather in the spring and summer months and during the Summer school break.

We feel that the Eastern Electric event is completely and utterly inappropriate for our local area. It is planned to take place in a beautiful Morden Park full of wild life and situated in a middle of residential area consisting of a large number of young families, this would be clear to anyone who attends this area by sheer numbers of nurseries and primary schools dotted around the park itself and in close proximity of the park; lack of bars and clubs is also another giveaway. The Eastern Electrics event will turn our beautiful park into a large night club without little or no consideration for local residents as it has done so in the past. I am all up for young attendees to have a lovely time but not at the expense of local residents.

The licence sought as I understand is for 5 years (as the event organisers mentioned during their evening with residents), for up to 3 days, with opening hours Friday 11:00 – 23:30, Saturday 11:00 – 23:30 and Sunday 10:00-23:00 and expecting 30,000 attendees. Subjecting residents to 11 and ½ hours of continues loud music for 2 days potentially to 3 consecutive days followed by the public nuisance as the attendees leave the venue. The type and the scale of the event is not suitable for the local area. The type of music has always attracted use of drugs (legal highs or illegal drugs) and excessive alcohol consumption. This event is no different in this aspect to any other event that you would enjoy in a club, the only difference is the sheer scale proposed and that is in open public space in very residential area. The silver metal cylinders found in the park or on the side of the roads confirm the usage of nitrous oxide which since 2016 is illegal to supply for personal use. The ward police confiscated last year alone at the Eastern Electrics festival 4,000 nitrous oxide capsules worth approximately £10,000 and we don't know how many more were sold and consumed. The high level of music combined with drugs help to promote better experience to the attendees. This isn't only true of this event but all events entertaining this type of music/event.

Fortunately my family and I were away when the event in 2017 took place and therefore I cannot comment on what went on that day. My family was also away during the event in 2018 but I stayed behind due to my work commitments. I can therefore comment on some of the disturbances that I personally encountered from my property this year. The event went on for two days and the number of attendees nearly doubled on each day from the 2017. The level of music was so high that even I who enjoys this type of music found the volume and the time frame too intrusive. There was no respite during the Saturday and Sunday. The music was so loud in and around the property, there was no

escape from it even indoors, with all the windows and doors shut and television on you could still hear it. I was prevented from using our garden during the time the event was on. What the committee needs to appreciate is that Morden has very little white noise on the weekend and especially on Sunday, the location of the event was what appears to be at the highest point of Morden. The music was so loud that you could hear it very clearly in around some considered distance in West Barnes Lane in Motspur Park, where our acquaintances live. You can only imagine how loud it must have been for residents situated on Hillcross Avenue [REDACTED] I kept a video recording I took on Sunday after 8pm and I will be happy to share it with you. During the event I tried to report the noise levels on a number provided by the organisers, there was no answer and when I was automatically directed to leave a voicemail, I was unable to do so as the mailbox was already full. Apart from the disturbance caused by music, I was then subjected to more noise at around 11:30pm caused by the attendee's leaving the venue and picnicking outside our front garden on the large grass verges. They were causing noise disturbance and appeared to be under influence of drugs or alcohol judging by their slurred language and slow movements. It disturbed me from my sleep and I was expected to work the next day. In addition a number of event attendees were spotted walking up and down our private shared driveway and followed on through a loose fence into the park to attend the event, I observed at least 15 in total. They also appeared under either influence of drugs or alcohol and it didn't feel safe to confront them.

I would like to draw to your attention the London Borough of Merton Licensing Policy which says "Licensing law and policy recognises that in a modern and vibrant society the licensable activities covered by the Act require a responsive and flexible system that balances the interests of commerce and its customers with **the rights of residents to enjoy their homes and locality without being unreasonably disturbed**. One of the purposes of this Policy is to ensure **that local people and visitors to the London Borough of Merton will have better opportunities to enjoy their leisure time safely without fear of violence, intimidation or disorder. Another intention of the policy is to ensure that local residents are not unreasonably disturbed, whether in the street or at home, by activities within licensed premises or by customers arriving at, or leaving, licensed premises.**" I would argue that the Eastern Electrics event based on my personal experience from the last year contradicts to this Policy. I did feel intimidated in my own home by the drunken and disorderly groups of individuals that appear to enjoy their time at the event at the expense of the local residents like myself.

The Policy furthermore sets out the strategy with five key themes: "... ) Best start in life; ) Good Health; ) Life skills, lifelong learning and good work; ) Community participation and feeling safe; and ) A good natural and built environment. Creating an environment and culture that prevents problem drinking and tackling the harms resulting from alcohol misuse is central to achieving the outcomes of the strategy. Promotion of the licensing objectives therefore has a direct impact on the strategy's aims in the following ways: ) **The prevention of alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour and the protection of public safety all contribute to the building of strong Licensing Policy** 14 communities in Merton, **enabling individuals to feel safe and engage fully with local activities, increasing community cohesion across the borough.** ) **Protecting children from alcohol-related harm is vital** if we are to ensure that every child has the best start in life..." I would suggest that granting a license for Eastern Electrics event in 2019 and onwards would be in direct conflict with the 4 licensing objectives:

- ) The prevention of crime and disorder;
- ) Public safety;
- ) The prevention of public nuisance; and
- ) The protection of children from harm.

The event attracts criminal activities, the amount of nitrous oxide capsules recovered by the ward officers confirms this statement. It attracts drug dealings on a large scale. The organisers have not yet proved to the local residents that they are capable or that they have enough experience of running an event 3x larger than the one in 2017 without causing local residence disturbance or harm. The event is not inclusive. My wife or I do not feel safe to use the park, there is a playground and a paddling pool in a very close vicinity of the event which I personally would feel intimidated to take my children to during the Eastern Electrics event while there is a large number of people present under the influence of drugs or alcohol. I also believe the number of drunken attendees and those under the influence of drugs poses harm to children if not a physical harm, certainly moral and emotional. The loud music in 2018 prevented me from using my own garden over the 2 days and my home and no assurances were given by the organisers that this will not be the case once again. The sheer scale of rubbish left at the park after the event was unacceptable, the organisers did not make sure that park was left in a state they found it, all they provided once again are excuse after excuse that they paid for the litter to be collected and disposed of by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. With a proposed 30,000 attendees I am concerned that this will have even more negative impact on me and my family at home or using facilities in Morden town centre (shops, transport, library). I am concerned with such large number of people there will be even more anti-social behaviour and people creating noise disturbance, picnicking /camping disturbing me and my family and local residents, more trespassing to get into the park over our private property. I am also concerned about overcrowding in Morden and local area, litter, public urination most of which the current organisers promised to resolve since 2017 and 2018 but failed to do so, so far. During the time the event takes place, it stops local residents to enjoy their town centre, Local Park, playground, outdoor paddling pool, outdoor gym or even a walk to the new leisure centre. It is unlikely I would be taking my children to the park or its close vicinity whilst I am aware we would be subjected to a large number of people either drunken or under the influence of drugs, potentially urinating in public or just causing a noise disturbance either during the event or after the event when attendees try to find their way home. I doubt any responsible parent would wish for their children to be exposed to such behaviour.

Eastern Electrics terms and conditions state amongst other things: “The venue or the Promoter will have rights to refuse admission or eject you in certain circumstances and these are likely to include if you are involved with abusive, threatening, drunken or other anti-social behaviour, or carry offensive weapons or illegal or prohibited substances or make unauthorised audio, video or photographic recordings. There will often also be rules restricting or preventing the admission of latecomers. “ Dear Committee where will these people end up, in the park amongst public potentially causing anti-social behaviour, abuse, violence and worse, how will public be protected from those individuals?

Dear Committee I invite you to reject this application based on the above objections and previous Eastern Electrics events in Morden Park. I wish to reiterate we are not against events taking place in Morden Park but there needs to be a serious consideration for local residents too. I do not believe the application for Eastern Electrics event promotes the values of the local community or fits in within Borough’s Licensing Policy.

Yours sincerely

Imran Hamid

[REDACTED]  
3 December 2018

Licensing Section  
London Borough of Merton  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Civic Centre  
London Road  
SM4 5DX



Dear Sir/Madam

**EASTERN ELECTRICS/BLUE FOX EVENTS LTD – WK/201809200**

I would like to object to the above licence application, on the following grounds: we have already had to put up with two of these events – 2017 and 2018.

There was very bad behaviour from far too many festival-goers. We had urination/defecation in the streets, drug dealing and taking, huge amounts of litter and unacceptable levels of noise.

All these come under Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Prevention of Public Nuisance, and Public Safety.

In addition, children saw and heard things they should not have been subjected to – this comes under Protection of Children from Harm.

The organisers promised, in 2017 and again at public meetings in 2018, that all the problems would be fixed. They weren't. Conditions were considerably worse. And now they want to increase numbers to 30,000 over three days?

PLEASE don't make us have to go through all this again. I do not enjoy feeling like a prisoner in my own home, which I was for the duration of the last event.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]  
**Mrs. J Hanrahan**

**From:** Louise Hart  
**Sent:** 14 November 2018 20:57  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Blue Fox application for Morden Park

Dear Licensing Section,

I am assuming the application for Blue Fox in Morden Park is the same people that held the Eastern Electrics event. If so I would to submit the following objection:

I'm writing to object to Blue Fox's application for use of Morden Park for an additional day in 2019.

I felt that the one day event held in 2017 was a good use of the park and I hope that Merton received significant funding for it. ( I do think that merton residents should be told how much the council earns from it, and how this money is going to be spent. If I knew that it was going to be spent helping the community on a particular project I feel the residents would be more understand of the upheaval.)

In 2018 the event took place over two days, a weekend which although I did not enjoy I did not object to.

I fully object to opening the event being extended to the Friday, a weekday. For hard working people that travel to and from London for work this is unfair. The extra traffic on the roads and on public transport on a weekday would make travel impossible. If we were to stay at home the thumping noise would be unbearable especially for those trying to work from home.

The security at the site in 2018 was awful and we personally witnessed drug dealing at the entrance to the park and attendees urinating in private gardens.

On the Saturday of this years event we walked past the event towards to Morden and did not see a single member of security until we reached the station. We encountered hundreds of empty bottles and litter. We saw a few portaloos outside the council building which had huge queues - most people didn't bother to wait.

I do wonder if the council offices were open on a weekend if this would be allowed to go ahead. It is easy for people to agree to an event that has disappeared by the time they go back to work on Monday.

Anyone member of merton council who agrees to this should volunteer to police it, pick up litter, wash the streets of urine and have to spend their weekend listening to it from a local residents distance. Just enough distance to hear a continual thump for hours on end.

As I have said earlier I am not objecting to the event just the additional day which impacts on our working lives.

If the application is for another event please provide further details.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Louise Hart

**From:** Eric Hayward  
**Sent:** 11 December 2018 22:08  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Application Reference WK/201809200

To Whom It May Concern

Please accept this email as a representation against the above license application.

Following attendance at the public meeting on 22nd November and our experience of this festival held last summer (2017), I have the following concerns should the festival be granted a license:

**The prevention of crime and disorder:**

- ) there were many festival goers urinating and causing a public disturbance both during and after the conclusion of the festival and the lack of security and Police did not combat any of this. With the capacity set to increase and take over more of the park, the issues would therefore increase too putting residents and young families at risk. The number of toilets they propose to increase, will not be enough for those in attendance and so public urination in a densely populated area will continue as will the general disorder we witnessed last summer.
- ) Drugs were opening being sold last year and laughing gas from the boots of cars in local roads. The canisters from these littered the streets for many days again posing a hazard to residents.
- ) A large amount of litter was dropped by those in attendance at the Festival and the clean up operation did not sufficiently deal with the problem on the local streets. Again, with the capacity set to rise, I am not sure how this will reduce next year.

**Public safety:**

- ) There were not enough security staff on the external perimeter of the park to adequately supervise the Festival goers as they left the park and return to the town centre. With so many people in the densely populated area there are concerns about whether the security staff are able to provide the safety the residents need. There are multiple routes from the park back to the town centre and therefore virtually impossible to police. This is an area with many young children as well as an ageing population and they need to feel safe in their homes.
- ) With the law being broken by public urination and dropping litter, the public are not being protected.

**The prevention of public nuisance:**

- ) The general noise pollution of a three day event (last year it was unbearable) lasting for nearly 12 hours per day prevents residents who work all week from relaxing and prevents young and elderly people from sleeping, thus affecting their emotional and mental well being and their performance at school. Residents are therefore not able to rest sufficiently to return to work on Monday. The noise could be heard clearly

several roads away and even with the windows closed it was barely muted. During the hot summer months, residents deserve to have their windows open and be outdoors enjoying their environment.

- ) The amount of additional strain the event puts on public safety and the local infrastructure causes the event to be a general nuisance to the area.
- ) Through the closure of the public park for a whole weekend, the event is denying the local community and dog walkers the opportunity to exercise and enjoy the outdoor space.

#### **The protection of children from harm:**

- ) Safeguarding children is paramount. They have been exposed to the litter, the noise pollution and been sleep deprived following this festival. With additional numbers, this problem will only become worse and effectively they will either have to go someone else that weekend so they are not exposed to it.
- ) There was very poor language used last year and children should not be exposed to this in their own home over a prolonged period of time.
- ) Through the closure of the park, children are being denied the opportunity to use the park for what it has been intended - fresh air, relaxation and exercise.

As can be seen from the concerns I have raised above there are numerous issues which arose last time the event occurred and despite being provided with reassurances from Blue Fox Events Ltd, I do not feel that they adequately had a full understanding of the disturbance and disruption this event caused to the local area and population. The additional measures they have employed to manage the event with the additional capacity they propose, does not give me confidence that an further event would be managed any better. They acknowledge that mistakes were made last year, but with further people in attendance the measures still do not go far enough. No resident should have to go away for the weekend rather than be exposed to up to three days of constant music for up to 11.5 hours of which at least of 10 those will be licensed to sell alcohol. A one day event is more than sufficient and I do not think there will be such an opposition if this was an alternative application/

I look forward to hearing the outcome of the committee and hope that Merton Council chooses to protect its residents, young and old and those who have a busy working week.

Yours sincerely

Kate Hayward



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 December 2018 17:11  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Proposed Eastern Electrics Festival in Morden Park 2019

WK/201809200 NB The blue licensing notices do not include a reference number, a date for the proposed event or details on how to object – eg that a full name and address is needed for the objection to be considered. I am aware that objections to previous festivals were discounted as they were not submitted correctly. People can only object correctly if they are aware of how to do so. Many objected to the proposed Diyamic festival by emailing their councillors, unaware that these objections were invalid. Several people had expected to be invited to the licensing hearing having objected. However, as they did not follow the correct procedure – which they knew nothing about – they heard nothing back and their voices were not heard. The barrister at that hearing dismissively spoke of the small number of objections to the event, despite many contacting their MP, local councillors and signing an online petition. Siobhan McDonagh's representation, that she had asked a constituent to read out, was disallowed as she had not followed correct procedure! Please be aware that those objections that are actually received by the licensing committee represent a small fraction of those actually made and an even smaller fraction of those who object to this event taking place.

I would like to object to the licensing of the Eastern Electrics festival for 2019 and beyond on the following grounds:

Despite many reassurances from the organisers of Eastern Electric following the problems that arose in 2017 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 a bad as last.

In 2017 there was evidence of sexual activity in St Lawrence Church porch, bottles, excrement and drug paraphernalia in the churchyard. In 2018, following pressure from us, there were security barriers and security guards outside St Lawrence 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 the Hatfeild Mead estate and near Morden Primary School. It is impossible to "police" such a large, largely residential area.

There was Public Nuisance as men and 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 Hatfeild 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. Following the public consultation EE have said they will improve litter collection and provide more toilets – improvements were promised last year and did not happen.

Public nuisance of noise – this year, even though the noise levels were within agree limits, 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. Those most affected by the noise knew nothing

about the festival and many were not even within the borough. The licensing sub committee in rejecting the licence for the smaller Diynamic festival in September 2018 admitted that these noise levels were unacceptable in a residential area.

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. Although EE have said that they will provide more security staff, it was made very clear by councillor Paul Kohler during the licensing hearing for Diynamic that such security staff have no powers to stop anti social behaviour.

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 Hatfield Mead have no private gardens, so on a summer's 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 would object strongly even if this license was for a single year – 2017 was one day, 2018 two days, 2019 intends to be three days. Each year also the number of attendees increases. This is excessive. That this licence is for 5 years is unacceptable. EE failed to improve the behaviour of attendees or the noise nuisance from 2017-18. If there is a guaranteed licence for 5 years there will be no incentive to tackle the inevitable problems that will arise from a festival of this size.

Clare Heath-Whyte



The Licensing Team,  
London Borough of Merton,  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Civic Centre,  
London Road,  
Morden SM4 5DX

24<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Your ref: **Application by Blue Fox Events Ltd (Eastern Electrics Festival) dated 13/11/2018 for one weekend each year**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to object to the licence application by Blue Fox Events Ltd (Eastern Electrics Festival) dated 13/11/2018 for one weekend each year, on the following grounds:

## **1. The prevention of crime and disorder.**

I have experienced the behaviour of Eastern Electric festival goes at Morden Park first hand, both in 2017 and 2018. I witnessed drug-related activity, disorder, drunkenness and anti-social behaviour at a level not normally seen in this area.

Many people arriving at the festival had already drunk a lot of alcohol. Many people were still drinking as they passed the consecrated grounds of St Lawrence churchyard, and in 2017 they threw their vodka and other spirit bottles into the churchyard (as well as onto the pavement). They were prevented from doing this in 2018 only by intrusive barriers stretching across the entire frontage of St Lawrence Churchyard. There was widespread drunkenness amongst the people on London Road as they approached and left the festival.

I fear for my own safety at the Church and Rectory during festival events, and for the safety of those wishing to visit the churchyard and attend church services, since I am aware that many young people today carry knives.

In 2018 we organised volunteer stewards in our churchyard during the festival in August. On the Sunday of the 2018 festival the festival's stewards on our section of London Road stopped working and left at around 9:40pm, 20 minutes before the end of the festival – they claimed that they had worked the maximum hours possible over the weekend. This left our own stewards in a vulnerable position as many hundreds of festival goers passed by on their way out. Most were good natured, but a number needed assistance to see that the churchyard was not a public urinal, and when this was necessary I personally felt intimidated by those I was having to speak to. There was no police presence other than a van load of police driving past once or twice.

In 2018 we witnessed people using balloons of nitrous oxide as they walked along, and we smelt the use of cannabis on the street. I understand that the fencing and stewarding provided in 2018 did not prevent disorder or drug dealing, but simply moved it further away from London Road into other areas, including the residential roads off Lower Morden Lane.

If you allow this licence, you will be promoting crime and disorder on the streets of Merton, and on the private property of its residents and churches. There is clear evidence of drug-related activity, disorder,

drunkenness and anti-social behaviour which can be attributed directly to the presence of large music festivals in the park. The licence should be rejected.

## 2. Public safety

The crime and disorder I referred to in 1. directly affects the safety of local residents.

Public safety is also at risk because for two years the Eastern Electric organisers have failed to manage car and bus drop-off and pick-up adequately, leading to dangerous conditions for both residents and festival goers.

In 2018 the organisers decided that it would be a good idea to have an Uber blackout, whereby all Uber requests would be redirected to a carpark in Morden town centre. I was stewarding outside the church on the Saturday evening and there was widespread confusion as inebriated people tried to work out what was going on. To add to the problem many buses had parked along London Road leaving only one lane open. We were able to be helpful and redirect people, but the situation was chaotic and dangerous to people's safety. For example, I witnessed a young disorientated woman being hassled by young men, encouraged go with them rather than find her Uber car.

The licence should be rejected on the grounds of public safety.

## 3. The prevention of public nuisance

The three large festivals in Morden Park so far (Sat 2017, Sat 2018, Sun 2018) have demonstrated very clearly, and to the annoyance of many local residents, that to have such a festival in a heavily residential area creates public nuisance. This is primarily because of the noise created. This was recognised by the licensing committee in their adjudication against the licence request by the Dynamic Festival on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Despite the organisers on that occasion having suggested even more measures than Eastern Electric to prevent nuisance, the committee *"were not persuaded that the various extra measures to be taken to combat issues that were experienced at the Eastern Electrics ... would sufficiently improve the outcome for residents"*<sup>1</sup>.

The committee noted that, even though the Dynamic organisers claimed to be more experienced, they *"did not have confidence that similar issues to those experienced at the Eastern Electrics event would not be avoided even with this more experienced promoter with experience of larger venues. The Morden Park site is very close to a large number of residential properties and the area is almost exclusively residential."*<sup>2</sup>

In regard to whether such a festival creates a public nuisance in Morden, they were unequivocal: *"The Eastern Electrics event of 4th and 5th August has unfortunately informed the Licensing Sub-Committee. The decibel setting for that event was 70-73 decibels and residents experienced vibration and noise in their homes and in the local area but also much further afield. The setting by the EHO of 70 or up to 75 decibels **will result in similar public nuisance. The Licensing Sub-Committee could not consider any other conditions or measures to take to avoid public nuisance in these circumstances.**"*<sup>3</sup>

I was surprised at how variable the noise was over the weekend of 2018, even over a small distance. For example we had a wedding at St Lawrence at 2pm on the Saturday and the wedding guests enjoyed photographs in the churchyard, whilst being in the Rectory garden just 20 metres away (the other side of large trees) was unbearable.

Through church members living across the parish (and other contacts) we heard how noisy the event was to those living in areas not immediately adjacent to the park – eg Glastonbury Road, Sutton Common Road, Stonecot hill, Worcester Park.

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<sup>1</sup> Notice of Determination, re MJMK Ltd, Merton Borough Council, 17 August 2018; item 1, page 4

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, item 2, page 4

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, item 3, page 4, my emphasis

Older people were particularly affected, reporting headaches, and having to stay indoors with the windows closed all day.

Large scale festivals in Morden Park clearly cause intolerable public nuisance, and the licence should be rejected.

#### **4. The protection of children from harm**

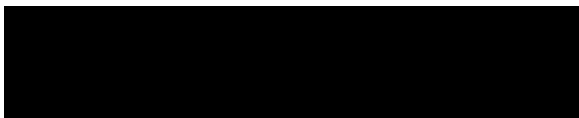
There is no guarantee of safety for any children who are pedestrians in the area while people are arriving at and leaving the festival. Why should children have to see people urinating in public? Why should they have to hear the abuse of the drunken festival goers? What if a child picked up and drunk from a half-empty vodka bottle? It would be wise for parents to keep their children well away. But why should they have to?

The licence should be rejected on the grounds of protecting children from harm.

#### **5. The need for scrutiny**

The organisers are applying for a licence “every year”. It would be unjust and undemocratic to allow a repeating licence while the hosting of the event remains controversial and there is clear evidence that these events fail to reach appropriate standards for licensing.

Yours sincerely,



David Heath-Whyte  
Team Rector, Church of England Parish of Morden



From: Sue Hedden  
Sent: 19 November 2018 10:59  
To: Licensing  
Cc: Councillor Nick McLean  
Subject: Eastern Electrics Festival in Morden Park

From Sue Hedden.

- 1) Noise pollution. How will this be policed next year. The festival this year was too loud in my opinion. The second day seemed worse than the first day. I live a few streets away and the sound is buffered by three rows of houses.
- 2) litter and evidence of drug use. Seen around the park after the event. Will there be a dedicated team to pick up all the litter around the roads surrounding the park within a day of the event being held? Hopefully this will be the case and it should be funded by Eastern Electric themselves.
- 3) Antisocial behaviour outside the park. How will this be policed. There have been many incidents of antisocial behaviour for the two years this festival has been held. The local residents would like a zero tolerance policy. Is this possible? How are the police funded?
- 4) The state of the park after the event. The first year it took nearly a year for the park to recover from the event, due the heavy rain fall at the time of the clear up.  
A significant area of the park is cord ended off at the height of summer. This is unfair to the locals who enjoy the full use of the park.
- 5) What happens to the money raised by holding the event. I have seen no real improvement in the park, barring a few metal benches provided by The Friends.

Are there other locations around the borough that can hold the event and share the load. I have heard Mitcham Common mentioned, although I feel the residents of Mitcham are already the "poor relations" in the borough.

Sent from my iPad

Reference: WK/201809200

## Public Meeting

The public meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November was enlightening for one single fact. Both the organiser and most of the councillors present were clear that the only real measurable benefits from the festival are financial and in reality this is more important than the nuisance to the residents surrounding Morden Park.

The organisers were unable and unwilling to guarantee that the nuisances could be avoided and that no improvements had been made from 2017 to 2018 and will be unlikely to be any better in 2019. It is a commercial activity and the sole aim is to make a profit. Claims about raising the profile of Merton or cultural benefits must be taken with a very large pinch of salt.

The councillors present argued that funding for parks comes right at the bottom of the budget and is undoubtedly correct. However, it became clear the income from this event is not guaranteed to be used solely for the benefit of Morden Park. Therefore the cynic in most people will consider that possibly none of it will be used for that purpose. The figure of £50k that is rumoured to be the charge for the use of Morden Park is also open to question. What are the costs to the council directly attributable to this event? For example, the cost of two environmental health officers monitoring the event in tandem with the organiser's 'independent' monitors? What is the cost of council employees time spent meeting the organisers, drafting and negotiating contracts and taking legal advice? What is the additional cost of cleaning up after the event in areas not covered by the agreement with the organisers?

It was also argued that businesses in Morden did particularly well from visitors to the festival. How does this benefit the residents subject to the nuisances?

## Noise Nuisance

On both days the sound level was intrusive even with double glazed windows shut during a period of very warm weather. It certainly wasn't possible to sit out and enjoy our garden over that weekend and I am certain that any families in the area with young children would have been seriously inconvenienced.

On Sunday evening the sound level increased significantly and a complaint to the help line received the response that the levels were "within agreed limits". It was of course being monitored by 'an independent company' employed by the organisers. I have no doubt that those monitoring the sound levels were able to position themselves in beneficial positions. For example the sound levels at the rear of our property facing the direction of the event were very significantly higher than had they been monitored from the pavement directly in front of our property.

At the meeting the organisers admitted that the sound levels on Sunday evening were excessive and causing a nuisance in areas not being monitored. They also identified and blamed one particular system. That clearly demonstrates that they have no control over the

sound levels in real time and that the help-line was being less than honest and not acting on complaints.

A councillor at the meeting said that the sound levels at the nearest residential properties were not to exceed 95 decibels and that this level is apparently agreed by all London councils. This is not a sound level that anyone should be subjected to for 12 hours a day for two or more days.

A relative from Hatfield who spent Sunday with us was very surprised with the sound level compared with events at Hatfield House which is surrounded by farmland on three sides. It is quite bizarre that council officials consider that such an event is at all appropriate on a site that is entirely and closely surrounded by residential properties.

#### Failing to take due diligence

The company applying for the licence is a Private Limited Company with a single director and a share capital and therefore liability of £1 only. The other companies involved are also private limited companies with very limited liability.

Have council officials (legal or finance) considered what this might mean? If there is an incident during the event on the site with whom does liability lie - the licence holder, the organisers or perhaps even the council? Do the promoters/organisers have sufficient public liability insurance or assets for example to cover an event with the large numbers in attendance should an incident occur?

If for example festival goers caused significant damage to private properties after leaving the event I am sure that all parties would claim that is not their responsibility. This would leave residents to make claims via their own insurance companies. I don't believe that insurance companies would ignore the common reason behind the claims.

If the council becomes in any way liable then the income it receives could pale into insignificance to any claims that it may face. If the councillors on the Licensing Committee and their advisers failed to take due diligence what is their liability?

The organisers claim that they had to move from Hatfield House due to a clash of events and the other event prepared to pay more. Did anyone from the council investigate further? Was this the only reason? How does the charge by Merton compare with the charge by Hatfield House?

Paul Herold



## **EASTERN ELECTRICS 2019 – Ref: WK/201809200**

I wish to object to the above licence application. My objections are informed by experience of these events in 2017 and 2018.

### **PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

Previous events have led to an increase in reported offences. I understand the problems with anti-social behaviour experienced by St Lawrence Church in 2017 were avoided this year by church members standing guard all day, but I believe this will merely have displaced problems elsewhere. I have also heard that two shops (Sainsburys and Iceland) experienced increased shoplifting and two cafés (Wimpys and La Lavella) had toilets damaged.

### **PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE**

I understand many local residents experienced an unacceptable level of noise with vibration of their windows during the past two festivals. I also have been told that there was substantial public urination, defecation and littering. There must be a risk of the new pool being vandalised.

### **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM**

I am concerned that children going to and from the pool and the park will experience harm from public urination and defecation.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

I believe there is a danger that festival goers returning to the tube while under the influence of drink and/or drugs will walk in the busy London Road, endangering themselves and others, as I understand has happened before.

### **5. OTHER ISSUES**

I am aware that the Sub-Committee can only consider the four headings above, but nonetheless wish to record that I saw first-hand the damage caused to the park by this year's event, including chopping down trees in which kestrels and owls were known to be nesting (so as to avoid any risk to festival goers) and littering the park with huge numbers of cigarette ends and cable ties, many of which remain on the ground four months later (not being bio-degradable).

Tom Killick

**EASTERN ELECTRICS EVENT LICENSE – Ref: WK/201809200**  
**8<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

We would like to object to the above application (for the Eastern Electrics event and the five year non time-limited premises licence), based on the objectives below.

**1. The prevention of crime and disorder**

We understand that there was an increase in the number of reported incidents made to police about the event in 2018. As mentioned at the November meeting, the Police are no longer able to accept payment from event organisers. WATF are not responsible for police presence, and it would be logical to assume that if the organisers wish to entice 30,000 attendees over the next few years, that crime and anti-social behaviour will only rise with these large numbers. This type of event in such a residential setting is much harder to police.

**2. Public Safety**

After the 2018 event late on the Saturday, we witnessed individuals coming on to our driveway, clearly intoxicated. Whilst it was the noise that alerted us to them, the main concern was that the female in the group was so intoxicated that she walked into the road, narrowly avoiding a bus coming from the other direction. As residents, we want anyone using the park to have a good time, but not to the detriment of themselves and others.

**3. The prevention of public nuisance**

The noise from this year's event was particularly loud on the final day. The residents' hotline implemented last year did not work as promised. When calling, residents faced a full mailbox, unable to raise issues. As a result, these issues could not be dealt with in a sufficiently timely manner to make a difference to those affected. Unfortunately, we will never know the numbers proactively trying, and failing, to discuss problems (and indeed solutions) by telephone.

It concerns us that as experienced promoters/organisers, WATF/Blue Fox Events did not foresee the level of demand for the hotline, nor put suitable support in place ahead of the event, to address complaints/ issues.

The litter both in the park and in the surrounding areas, particularly en route to Morden Station, was not cleared for weeks after the event, despite promises having been made ahead of the 2018 event (see Notice of Determination, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018, Annex A). We understand that a litter-picking team will be hired to clear up outside of the venue - will this include Lower Morden and Hillcross Avenue? With this same topic having been raised for two years now, you can see why residents remain critical or sceptical.

Due to the feedback they received from the 2017 event, organisers promised residents that the 2018 event would have many more toilets along the route to Morden Station (see Notice of Determination, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018, Annex A). Whilst we understand this did not go to plan due to TFL restrictions, it continued to be a problem, resulting in event-goers urinating on residential property. If TFL are unable to provide permission, the problem will persist regardless of increasing toilets at Morden Station due to the numbers of event-goers leaving the venue.

As we are unable to view the full application on the council website, which apparently includes plans of where the event will be held over the next few years, we are unable to see where the boundaries will be increased to accommodate 30,000 people. However, on the basis of this year's overspill into Hillcross Avenue, an entirely residential area, there are concerns for both the 2019 potential event and growing numbers in future years.

#### **4. The protection of children from harm**

Noise was at such high levels at times, MCs/music could be heard clearly using “misogynistic and poor language that shouldn’t be heard by anyone especially children” (minutes from 22<sup>nd</sup> November meeting). WATF say they “have advised the organiser to move away from this style of music.” This is a borough consisting of a high proportion of young families. How would this be enforced during the event?

As mentioned, litter from the event was not given the attention promised. Approximately two weeks after the event, my family were walking from the Civic Centre to the Station and, at the pedestrian crossing, our little boy picked up a nitrous oxide canister from the ground.

Whilst we appreciate the need to source events to address deficits in public funding, it is difficult to comprehend why the Council cannot find more family-oriented events, e.g. Bookfest, Bank Holiday fairs, etc, that might be more suitable to this park, more appealing to its residents and attractive to local investment. Would this be the positive, high profile event that would really put Morden ‘on the map’?

Lastly, to address the non time-limited premises licence of five years. This licence will remove residents’ right to object. Appreciating objectives will still have to be met and that the SAG be involved, it is surely the right of residents to be able to object based on issues from the previous year.

Yours sincerely,

Carla King & Russell King



## **REPRESENTATION AGAINST LICENSE APPLICATION**

### **Eastern Electrics at Morden Park Open Space, London Road, Morden**

**Applicant(s):** Blue Fox Events Ltd

**Application Type:** New Premises License

**Application reference:** WK/201809200

**Closing date for Representations:** Tuesday, 11 December 2018

Representation from Mr & Mrs J Kingsley

Date: 10 December 2018

We are one of two properties that are directly in the park, adjacent to Hillcross Depot. We are grateful to the event organisers for both public and private consultations regarding the proposed event this year. However, we have not received the assurances sought to be able to support this application and would like the following taking into account when making your deliberations.

We note that the license application is requesting for a non-time limited premises license for the festival to be held on the first weekend in August each year. We also note that the capacity has risen to 29,999 people to allow for future growth and now includes three days to enable the organisers to put on an event on Friday evenings (albeit the license application states the same times for a Friday of 11.00 – 23.30, like the weekend).

Our objections are outlined against the four criteria given in the Council's policy.

#### **The Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

According to the licensing policy under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the London Borough of Merton, as a local authority has a duty to do all that it reasonable can to prevent crime and disorder within the Borough. Licensed premises, especially those offering late night entertainment, alcohol and refreshment for large numbers of people, can be a significant source of crime and disorder.

Despite the reassurance by We are the Fair (organisers of the event) that the road and hard standing area used for car parking adjacent to our property was not being considered as an entry/exit point for the event this did not prevent many festival goers using it as a drop off/pick up area and also vast numbers accessing/exiting on foot. We witnessed drug dealing and taking. There were a large number of nitrous oxide capsules found in the access road and surrounding area. Our neighbours at Copse Cottage collected over 40 used nitrous oxide capsules and handed in to the Council after the weekend's event.

Festival users were also using the pathways and private property for public urination.

Despite assurances in previous years there was no steward present at key times ie before the start of the festival and the steward had left at 9pm before the festival had finished and the crowds dispersed. Our neighbours' teenage son had to approach

open drug dealers to move them on. In fact we still heard 'revellers' leaving the venue at 1pm walking across the open park.

Nitrous Oxide is illegal to use for recreational use. Many festival goers were blatantly inhaling it. From listening to comments made by other residents in the surrounding area we believe this is the tip of the iceberg and supports the assertion that this festival brings crime and disorder to the Borough. There was also a pervading smell of marijuana along the route to the park.

Despite reassurances that there would be a police presence throughout the area we did not see any police vehicles or police patrolling in our area. Again any festival organiser is unable to ensure that criminal activity does not take place outside the site but by bringing the festival to our lovely green space in Morden they are responsible for bringing the crime and disorder to our residential areas and local town centre. It was clear that if one area was secure the anti-social behaviour and criminal activity just moved elsewhere into residential areas. Unless all of Morden was surrounded by security barriers and stewards it is impossible to guarantee that crime and disorder will not occur as a result of this festival, as has been evident over the last two years.

If this is the level of Crime with less than 20,000 revellers we dread to think what it would be like with the proposed 29,999 over a three day event within this license. There is simply not the infrastructure within this area to cope with such a proposal.

### **Public Safety**

There is little proof that the organisers have the capacity to regulate the behaviour outside of the site. Body searches on entry just push the problems to the rest of the park and surrounding residential areas.

The Park is in use by the public (families, young children and dog walkers) throughout the set-up of the festival site, during the event and the dismantling of the site after the event. Despite the assurances of a clean-up operation there is broken glass, litter, nitrous oxide capsules and drug paraphernalia easily accessible to the aforementioned.

Despite assurances that most people would be arriving by public transport this did not prevent a high volume of vehicles being present in surrounding streets dropping off/collecting festival goers. This resulted in a disturbance by event goers leaving the premises but also could've resulted in significant injury to those on foot if not properly marshalled and vehicle user's non-compliance with traffic laws.

If there were problems over the last years imagine the ramifications if the license is approved for 29,999 and over a longer period.

### **The Prevention of Public Nuisance**

The Council's Licensing Policy states;- "the Council recognises that is necessary to actively protect residents, members of the public and businesses in the locality of licensed premises from disturbances linked to licensed premises or their customers

that amount to a public nuisance. Such a nuisance can and does impact on the quality of life of residents ....”.

If the event organisers cannot control the numbers at present, they should not be allowed to seek to increase the number of days and attendees. There was public nuisance as men and women were urinating in public. There was blatant drug use, with Nitrous Oxide capsules littered around the area, many festival goers inhaling from balloons. There is little that the organisers can do to regulate behaviour outside the site but they have to in order to comply with the Council's own policy.

The noise last year, especially on the Sunday was terrible not only locally but also far-reaching to surrounding Boroughs. The applicants have stated that this was down to a specific piece of equipment, that they are planning on discontinuing and MC's being particularly loud and brash (including the use of offensive language). The make-up of the park means that it is not necessarily those nearest who are most impacted. As the event organisers could not regulate how their customers would be entering the Park this resulted in a significant disturbance by customers arriving at or leaving the venue.

### **The Protection of Children from Harm**

The license is for an event in a park, which by its very nature is a place where children congregate and play. Every conceivable effort should be made in the safeguarding of children in the area.

Within the minutes of the public consultation meeting, Thursday 22 November 2018, the last comments made reference to Morden Primary school still finding spent nitrous oxide canisters at the beginning of September.

Over the 2018 weekend event children would have seen drugs being publicly consumed, unscrupulous drug dealing, drunkenness and aggression. Adults – men and women - publicly urinating and defecating. This exposed them to influence that any parent or decent human being would be unhappy with. The increase in traffic and cars speeding in the local area put all pedestrians, but particularly children, at risk of harm.

You could counter that we should restrict young people and children from the Park but that is not fair or possible. There is an open paddling pool area adjacent to the very route that the organisers want their customers to use. The Registry Office will no doubt have weddings on and each event has the capacity for young people and children in attendance. We also have the new leisure centre that will be used by the very people you should be safeguarding and protecting from harm.

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. Children in Morden should not have to experience this!

You are our elected representatives and should be looking out for the best interest of your residents and not those event organisers looking to line their pockets with profits.

Yours faithfully

Linda & John Kingsley

To: The Licensing Committee, Merton Council.

From: Mrs Susan Liang,

26<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Application no: WK/201809200

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the application for a 5 year licence by Eastern Electrics, to run festivals in Morden Park, by the Council's own criteria:

1. PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE. In 2017, at the first one day event run by Eastern Electric, there was considerable misbehaviour, on the way to and from the venue, by festival attendees. This included drug taking and drug dealing, alcohol abuse, nitrous oxide abuse, urinating, defaecating and vomiting and lewd behaviour both in public places and in private gardens. St Lawrence churchyard was used both as a toilet and a receptacle for used condoms. I think that around 6 toilets were provided along the 1 mile route from the tube station for 10-20,000 people. In 2018, the festival ran for 2 days, and the church and Care home went into lockdown. We had church members stewarding the churchyard from 10 am till midnight both days, offering advice and directions and giving out 1,000 bottles of water to festival goers. All that this did was to relocate the undesirable behaviour to the Hatfeild Mead Estate opposite, where parents were afraid to let the children out to play, on what was a very hot weekend. There is also the problem of noise nuisance, which exceeded the stated 75 decibels and caused upset to local residents who were unable to enjoy their homes and gardens during the festival. Also, sections of Morden Park were unavailable for public use before, during and after the event.
2. PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER. Blatant drug taking and drug dealing was taking place, as was the sale of nitrous oxide canisters. Sexual intercourse and other sexual activities took place in public view, in one instance a man displayed his



genitals to a 7 year old child. The police presence, and that of the stewards was totally inadequate for such a large event.

3. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM. Children living locally were unable to play out, and exposed to both illegal and unacceptable behaviours eg drug taking, alcohol abuse and indecent acts. Obviously this poses a risk to both their safety and well being.

4. PROMOTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY. The area around Morden Park is a high density residential area, totally unsuited to festivals of this kind. Residents in 2017 and 2018 were put at risk by the behaviours mentioned above. Transport was also a problem as there was a huge increase in privately owned cars dropping people off and picking them up, causing major congestion, and the numbers of drugged/drunken revellers just walking out into the road put both themselves and the car drivers at risk. Adults and children were at risk of picking up used needles and syringes.

Of course the main problem is with unacceptable behaviour on the way to and from the events. I have not even touched on the amount of litter left behind in the streets, especially used nitrous oxide canisters. In my opinion Morden is totally unsuitable for these types of festivals. That is why, in their wisdom, the Licensing Committee turned down the application by Dynamic for a festival on 8<sup>th</sup> September. By all accounts this would have been a slight improvement on those organised by Eastern Electric!

I realise that Merton Council has to try to raise as much money as it can to maintain essential services, but ask you to consider the wellbeing of residents as its first priority.

Thank you for reading this,

Yours faithfully

Susan Liang RGN.

**From:** cindy lan

**Sent:** 04 December 2018 23:40

**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Objection to Eastern Electric License renewal application wk/201809200

Dear Sir/Madam

It has been brought to my attention that the eastern electric festival organisers are planning for a renewal of license for this event and I would like to express my objection to this proposal.

As local resident I have first hand the disruption caused by the event to my local community. Not only the noise but increased levels of anti social behaviour, intoxication and use of legal high make the event both a nuisance and dangerous.

As a mother of two young children the noise experienced is unacceptable on two consecutive days let alone 3 and parking which is already difficult on our street was further impeded by coaches parked all day in front of our house; with noise created by revellers leaving the festive and congregating outside our home well after the 23:00 end time.

The organisers has had two years to show it can improve matters related to noise and anti-social behaviour and create an organised and safe atmosphere with minimal damage to the community yet this has not been the case. The prospect of a 3 day event with larger numbers makes no sense whatsoever and is asking for trouble.

Yours sincerely

Cindy Lan Hing Lit

**From:** Philippa Maslin  
**Sent:** 11 December 2018 18:00  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to WK/201809200 Licence Application

Pippa Maslin

I live on the Hatfeild Mead Estate - a stone's throw from Morden Park - and I am writing to object to the WK/201809200 Licence Application in the strongest terms. Although I appreciate that the Council is seeking to raise revenue in a time of profound underfunding, it contradicts itself by celebrating a record number of Merton parks being awarded prestigious Green Flags (<https://news.merton.gov.uk/2018/09/24/vote-for-your-favourite-merton-green-flag-park/>) and encouraging We are the Fair/Eastern Electrics to make Morden Park its home. I attended the so-called 'community consultation' held by WatF/EE and left unassured that their plans are sufficient to ensure that all of the problems listed below do not reoccur.

Whilst I have adhered to the framework within which the public are allowed to couch their objections, I find it unconscionable that the impact upon wildlife is not taken into consideration when the proposed venue is a public park. I ask Merton Council to review their approach to the process for planning applications when our precious green spaces are concerned. Perhaps The Charter for Parks will be helpful in this regard: <https://www.parkscharter.org.uk/>.

Prevention of crime and disorder:

- ) We suffer an over-stretched police force and the festivals have/will put further strain upon them. At the Overview and Scrutiny Commission in September, the Borough Commander was asked to provide details of recorded crimes and incidents involving the police for EE 2017 and EE 2018, and she revealed that 2017 saw five reports of ASB and one report of sexual assault by touching, and 2018 saw seven reports of ASB, one report of common assault, four reports of theft, one report of possession of drugs, and three reports of possession with intent to supply drugs - a clear increase.
- ) In 2017, attendees urinated, defecated and copulated in the graveyard of St Lawrence Church. The only reason that this did not happen in 2018 was because members of the congregation took it upon themselves to patrol the grounds.
- ) In 2018, NOS was sold and consumed openly in the streets surrounding the park.
- ) In 2018, Sainsbury's and Iceland staff dealt with a significant increase in attempted and successful shoplifting.
- ) In 2018, La Lavella contended with a very high number of requests to use their toilets despite the fact that their toilets are for customers only.
- ) In 2018, Villagers Cafe had an attendee defecate on their toilet floor.
- ) In 2018, two attendees damaged one of Wimpy's toilets and the cost of the repair outweighs festival-related revenue.

Public safety:

- J In 2017 and 2018, people cycling or driving along London Road were endangered by drug dealers suddenly stopping their cars to make deals and intoxicated attendees spilling into the road.
- J In 2017 and 2018, local residents were exposed to drug dealing, drug-taking and discarded drug paraphernalia outside their homes.

Prevention of public nuisance:

- J In 2017 and 2018, local residents had to put up with unacceptable noise levels emanating from the festival, even when they were sat at home with all windows and doors closed.
- J In 2017 and 2018, local residents had to put up with attendees hanging around outside their homes, and some of these attendees thought nothing of drinking alcohol, taking drugs, urinating and vomiting in full view. Indeed, the residents of the Hatfeild Mead estate, where I live, were subjected to such behaviour, with some residents who dared to speak out receiving verbal abuse.
- J In 2018, my partner and I had to put up with police cars and vans full of officers on the Hatfeild Mead estate, where we live, at various points over the weekend.
- J In 2017 and 2018, I had to park my car about ten minutes' walk away from my home on the Hatfeild Mead estate because a number of attendees had parked on the estate despite the fact that the vast majority of the estate is parking permit only.
- J Because of the time that it took to set up and take down the arena in 2018, regular visitors to the park had to endure a minimum of sixteen days of disruption to their enjoyment of the park. I say a minimum of sixteen days because festival-related litter - especially cigarette butts and plastic cable ties - remained in the park for weeks following the departure of EE.
- J Regular and new visitors to the park have a right to enjoy observing its thriving wildlife, yet I have it on good authority that trees used by adult Little Owls and Kestrels and, crucially, their young were cut during the setting up of the arena in 2018, leading to the displacement of the Little Owls in particular. WatF, EE, Doug Napier, Nick Draper, and some members of Friends of Morden Park may choose to deny any connection between the festival and the plight of the birds, but I trust the person who had been observing and photographing them daily.
- J In 2018, festival-related litter - especially NOS cannisters, glass bottles and drinks cans - remained in streets surrounding the park for weeks following the departure of EE.

Protection of children from harm:

- J In 2018, local children were exposed to attendees urinating, taking drugs, and using foul language outside their homes and in the streets surrounding the park.
- J The thousands of NOS cannisters that remained in the park and the streets surrounding the park attracted the attention of naturally curious children.

**From:**  
**Sent:** 20 November 2018 11:06  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Councillor Nick McLean <Nick.McLean@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE - WK/201809200

To whom it may concern.

Really , do Merton Council want/need to allow the Eastern Elecrics Festival to blight our Borough again.

To have the residents of Morden Park and the surrounding area subjected to the unsociable behaviour of many of the revellers , let alone the noise from the moronic drum and base music , surely not.

As the organisers failed to control the event last year I would not give them the time of day ,let alone consider their application to hold the event at Morden Park again.

I just do not believe they did enough in preventing the public nuisance caused by holding the Festival.

Drunks and drugged up individuals urinating in the streets , cans , bottles and general waste littering the streets ,do I need to go on.

Please , just say No.

yours sincerely.  
David May

**From:** Julia Menold  
**Sent:** 02 December 2018 21:40  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to application reference WK/201809200

Julia Menold

Dear Madam/Sir,

I'm sending this email to object to the published license application dated 13/11/18 for Eastern Electrics festival via Blue Fox Events Limited. Application reference WK/201809200.

Please find below the reasons for my objection:

**NOISE:** I didn't live at my current address the last time the event took place, but I believe that the noise level is too loud and very intrusive. The legal decibel levels for events are not fit for purpose in an area with such close proximity to residential homes. This causes great nuisance and disturbance to residents and impacts on sleep quality. I cannot imagine that my young child will be able to sleep or play in the garden while the festival is on. Since the event will take place in August, we would like to spend time outside and would keep windows open, including at night, which would be impossible at that noise level. I do not want to be forced to have to go away for three days to escape the noise and the crowds.

**USE OF THE PARK and potential DAMAGE:** I am concerned about how the use of the park will be limited during the event, as well as during setting up before and clearing up after the event (and the associated noise and increased traffic). My family and I use the park on a regular basis and this will become impossible during the duration of the event due to the number of people and the high noise level. The Council has recently invested in the park, by for example building new paths. Large parts of the park are beautiful with old oak trees, a burial mound and a great variety of birds to name just a few features. I dread to see damage done to this amazing space. Neighbours have told me they had witnessed damage to the grass in the park following the 2018 event and noticed considerable increase in the litter in and around the park and adjacent streets. I am also concerned that use of the Morden Park will be limited for others-for example people planning a wedding, a family outing or simply anyone who wishes to take their children to the playground (as we do), their dog for a walk or use the outdoor gym as all would be subjected to avoiding crowds and hearing the noise from the Eastern Electrics festival. We also use the new Morden Leisure Centre (including on Saturdays to take my child to swimming class), which is a short walk/cycle ride from our home across the park. Having to go all way around the park would turn a 5 min journey into a 30 min trip. This level of noise and amount of people causes great nuisance and disturbance to residents, park users and the wildlife in the park.

**Inability of the organisers to deal with issues raised by residents.** The festival organisers have run the event for two years and are planning to increase the size of the event. Following feedback from residents, the solutions they put in place to deal with past problems (public urination, security/stewarding, litter, noise etc.) have not made an impact and the nuisance caused by the second event was far greater than by the first. The growth of the festival in size will outpace the solutions they try to put in place. This is not sustainable and will cause further deterioration and nuisance to residents' quality of life.

For the reasons stated above I therefore believe that this type of event is not suitable to take place in a residential area occupied mainly by families and elderly people, and the application should be rejected, and this event should not be allowed to take place in Morden Park.

Yours sincerely,  
Julia Menold

**From:**

**Sent:** 11 December 2018 13:07

**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Eastern Electrics WK/201809200 objection

Mrs Nicola Moriarty

I am sending an email to object to the published license application dated 13/11/18 for Eastern Electrics festival via Blue Fox Events Limited. Application reference WK/201809200

**To Whom It May Concern,**

I have been informed of the proposed plan to extend the Eastern Electrics festival from 2 days to a 3-day event from 2019 onwards with a proposed increase in the capacity from 20,000 to 30,000 people and I am writing to object to the new licence being approved.

I have been fortunate enough to be away for the last two events but next year we will be in the property and will feel the full brunt of the event from the increased footfall, mess/litter, noise and general nuisance caused by putting on such a big event.

I have spoken to people in the area who complained about the unacceptable noise levels coming from the event which people living along Morden Park were affected by, not to mention people further afield. I am concerned about the noise levels as I have a young son and our house backs straight onto the park. This will affect our enjoyment of our garden but I am even more concerned about the foul language that may be heard from the stage. An event of this size is not suitable for an area where there is such close proximity to residential homes.

The use of the park will be restricted not only during the three day event but also in the days running up to the event and post-event with the clean-up and clear up. Where the park will be accessible it will almost certainly not be suitable to use with small children.

It has also been reported that the organisers were not able to address the issues caused at the first event at the following year's event so it is highly unlikely that they will be able to successfully manage a bigger event whilst reducing the impact caused to local residents/local area and provide solutions to people's concerns.

For the reasons stated above I believe that this type of event is not suitable to take place in a residential area occupied mainly by families and elderly people and the application should be rejected and this event should not be allowed to take place in Morden Park.

Sincerely,

Nicola Moriarty

**From:**  
**Sent:** 10 December 2018 15:47  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Eastern Electrics

Dear Committee

I wish to object to this event.

My wife, Elaine and I attend the recent public meeting on the 22 November held by the organisers and was very disappointed that they have paid no attention to us as residence living within the grounds of the park at [REDACTED]

We had a meeting prior to the public meeting with the organisers in our neighbours house [REDACTED] to air our concerns and this has fallen on deaf ears.

It is appalling that the council would even consider an unlimited license when the organisers have not proven their capability to hold an event professionally in this park.

We back the use of the park in supporting the local community and have events like summer fairs and fireworks that help raise money and offer something back to the community however we do not approve of the park being turned into a full on events park. This is changing the use of the park.

We would like to object on the grounds of

1. health and safety for our children and ourselves
2. drug dealing directly outside our home
3. public urination outside and around our property
4. security for our home and access route
5. vibration and noise levels affecting our children's hearing, inability to sleep,
6. inability to leave my home due to access being blocked
7. as we are one of the house's inside the park the consequence is devastating.

Effects on our family

As the parents of teenage children the past 2 years event has greatly affected my children.

- The access to and from our home has been blocked. We would be unable receive emergency treatment if required.
- The noise level has left the whole family without sleep, during and after the events. The set up can take up to a week, then the 3 days plus an extra 2 or so days to remove the structure.
- Our son had to clear the drug dealers from blocking our access route.
- We to give directions for drunk party goes of the event for the regress. Then private buses and taxis were asking for directions.



- We could not have windows open due to the noise levels on one of the hottest summer on record

#### Staffing issues

- 
- Eastern Electrical did not provide a toilet for staff and we let them use ours numerous times
- We provided a chair for the one member of so called security staff left on his own all day
- We had to feed the security member provided by Eastern Electrical supply chain as he had no food or breaks
- We had to provide back up when the member of staff was being abused by a carload of youths wanting to gain access to the festival with crates of beer
- The security member of staff left at 9 pm before the festival had finished, it was down to my family to clear the access area of drunken people, nitrous gas dealers and users.
- We have requested additional staff with Eastern Electrical and promised this on both occasion only to have to remind them of the company promises.

Additional phone support was a complete waste of time. When the events above were happening they did little or nothing about it. Their proposal does not help protect the exits to the local areas and has a complete lack of police presence.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Kind regards,

Mr & Mrs O'Keeffe

**From:** Kerry Oxenford  
**Sent:** 24 November 2018 08:40  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Eastern electrics festival

Hi,

I'm sending an e-mail to object to the published license application dated 13/11/18 for Eastern Electrics festival via Blue Fox Events Limited. Application reference WK/201809200.

We've never had problems with any other events which have taken place in the Morden Park. *When Eastern Electrics was on in 2018 we experienced unacceptable levels of noise which were highly disturbing for my family and I on the evenings the festival was on. My childrens sleep was disturbed by the constant loud bass of the music and shouting noise.* The noise level for this event is simply too loud and very intrusive. The legal decibel levels for events are not fit for purpose in an area with such close proximity to residential homes. I live in Worcester Park which is not particularly close to the park and it was disturbing for us, so it must of been very annoying for those living closer.

For this reason I believe that this type of event is not suitable to take place in a residential area occupied mainly by families and elderly people and the application should be rejected and this event should not be allowed to take place in Morden Park.

Sincerely,  
Kerry Oxenford

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Licensing Team

I am re-sending my objection as requested by Cllr Nick McLean.

I would like to object to the application submitted by Blue Fox Events Ltd for the Eastern Electrics event at Morden Park in 2019 (Fri, Sat and Sunday). The notice on a lamp post near my house doesn't state the precise date, only the date of application which 13/11/2018. To be very clear, my objection is to the entire event, one, two or three days at Morden Park. And as demonstrated by Eastern Electrics organisers over 2017, 2018 - they cannot manage this event properly, the policing is poor and the noise management is next to incompetent.

### **Reasons for my objections**

Major disruption to households with properties backing off to Morden Park.

By Disruption I mean illegal parking, parking across people's driveways, coaches stopping at bus stops, excessive noise which can be heard in any location of the house (making it impossible to stay in and basically make you want to leave the house to burglaries). Overfilling public dustbins, excessive traffic on the roads.

Limited access to the public park for residents leading up to, during and after the event.

Major disruption to wildlife in the park and to people with pets.

Crime and Disorder (Prevention of Crime & Disorder). Residents encouraged or feel compelled to go out for the day - most probably contributing to burglaries (chancers). Visitors to the area for the event urinating in public spaces (this was witnessed at the COOP on Grand Drive). Smashed bottles, drugs, gas canisters, vomit on the streets and the park. Damage to residents vehicles when the 'partygoers' leave the park. Elderly or young people with kids being scared to go to the shops or the park due to drunk people swearing etc (Safety of children)

### Complaints Policy

The noise was far higher than the agreed levels this year. Several hundred people complained by phone, then the line went to Voice Mail and the mailbox was full. Clearly this 'helpline' was simply to tick a box and placate residents. No noise levels went down as a result of complaints.

I went to Lower Morden Garden Centre on the Saturday of the event this year, all you could hear was really loud thumping, not music and a lot of very loud swearing. I was less upset by this but people in the garden centre (young and old) had to hear this, is this what our society stands for? Is this now acceptable in a family area? Also, lower morden had excessive cars parked on both sides as a result of drop offs, this could have caused delays to emergency services vehicles using that road and possible damage to vehicles parked.

If the organisers truly feel the event is good then they should look to hold this in an area which matches their customer base, maybe London Fields, or Tooting, Hyde Park etc.

Morden is not setup for such an event and as far as the local economy goes, I can only guess that Iceland, KFC, Wimpy and a handful of local takeaway's will see some increase in sales over those three days. The rest goes to cabbies from anywhere and TFL so I don't buy that as a reason to let this go ahead.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Jayesh Pandya

**From:** JAYESH PANDYA

**Sent:** 21 November 2018 16:57

**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Eastern Electrics - application for 2019: Resident's Objection

Dear Licensing Team

I would like to object to the application submitted by Blue Fox Events Ltd for the Eastern Electrics event at Morden Park in 2019 (Fri, Sat and Sunday). The notice on a lamp post near my house doesn't state the precise date, only the date of application which 13/11/2018. To be very clear, my objection is to the entire event, one, two or three days at Morden Park.

Reasons for my objections

Major disruption to households with properties backing off to Morden Park. By Disruption I mean illegal parking, parking across people's driveways, coaches stopping at bus stops, excessive noise which can be heard in any location of the house (making it impossible to stay in and basically make you want to leave the house to burglaries). Overfilling public dustbins, excessive traffic on the roads.

Limited access to the public park for residents leading up to, during and after the event.

Major disruption to wildlife in the park and to people with pets.

Crime and Disorder (Prevention of Crime & Disorder). Residents encouraged or feel compelled to go out for the day - most probably contributing to burglaries (chancers). Visitors to the area for the event urinating in public spaces (this was witnessed at the COOP on Grand Drive). Smashed bottles, drugs, gas canisters, vomit on the streets and the park. Damage to residents vehicles when the 'partygoers' leave the park. Elderly or young people with kids being scared to go to the shops or the park due to drunk people swearing etc (Safety of children)

Complaints Policy

The noise was far higher than the agreed levels this year. Several hundred people complained by phone, then the line went to Voice Mail and the mailbox was full. Clearly this 'helpline' was simply to tick a box and placate residents. No noise levels went down as a result of complaints.

I went to Lower Morden Garden Centre on the Saturday of the event this year, all you could hear was really loud thumping, not music and a lot of very loud swearing. I was less upset by this but people in the garden centre Young and Old had to hear this, is this what our society stands for ? Is this now acceptable in a family area ?

If the event is so wonderful, why not rotate its location and spread the joy elsewhere? Morden is not setup for such an event and as far as the local economy goes, I can only guess that Iceland, KFC, Wimpy and a handful of local takeaway's will see some increase in sales over those three days. The rest goes to cabbies from anywhere and TFL so I don't buy that as a reason to let this go ahead.

Yours Sincerley

Mr Jayesh Pandya

**From:** Jamie Rae  
**Sent:** 10 December 2018 22:53  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** EASTERN ELECTRICS 2019 – Ref: WK/201809200

**EASTERN ELECTRICS 2019 – Ref: WK/201809200**

I wish to object to the above licence application. My objections are based on my experience of both 2017 and 2018 festivals and these are detailed separately below.

**PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

**2017**

In 2017 the atmosphere in Morden Town centre was quite ugly - from my position outside Iceland on Aberconway Road I witnessed hundreds of young men and women step off the tube, already very drunk on a Saturday lunchtime - openly consuming alcohol, littering, defecating and with more than one young male threatening violent abuse against their partners/girlfriends - other young men and women spoiling for fights with each other. I was with my then 2 month old daughter and decided to move on as soon as I could spy a safe opening in the procession of festival goers travelling up London Road. Not a policeman, community patrol officer or steward in sight to cope with the sudden influx of thousands of 'invaders' from all parts of the city.

**2018**

Due to my experience in 2017, on the following year I elected to take my family out of the area and into Wimbledon for the day - on the train in we passed similarly debauched scenes of young, vulnerable people each carrying bags full of alcohol and clearly drunk at 12.00 pm on a Saturday afternoon. We felt particularly sorry for the residents of Rosedene Avenue, Chalgrove Avenue and Hatfield Mead Estate - streets were later in the day I witnessed festival goers going to consume their alcohol and Nitrous Oxide before entering the festival grounds (hundreds of N2O canisters could be found on the streets of Morden for weeks after the event), along with rubbish both loose and bagged in the plastic bags the contents were packed in after purchasing.

Local constabulary reported an increase in reported offences and I understand have this year raised their own objections as to the unsuitability of holding this type of festival in a family suburb such as Morden. I have heard separately that Wimpys and La Lavella both reported that their toilets had been vandalised over the weekend (this is not a typical incident in Morden Town Centre) and Sainsbury's and Iceland both reported increased incidences of shoplifting over the weekend.

**PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE**

I am lucky that on Middleton Road I can only hear the festival in my back garden - over the course of the 2018 festival fellow residents suffered from 48 hours of irritation caused by the deep and incessant bass frequencies of the type of music being played - residents miles away in Sutton have complained that they were bothered by the noise from this year's festival. As I've detailed above, public urination, open threats of violence between festival goers, open drug taking and littering were rife on both 2017 and 2018 EE festival weekends.

**PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM**

I'm not judging but the fact is that you have 30,000 mostly either very drunk, drugged up (or possibly both) individuals inhabiting a family suburb, over a weekend. Supposing that the threats of violence, noise and intimidation were completely absent from the assembled, no reasonable parent would

take the chance on taking their family to either Morden Park, St. Lawrence Church or the new Morden Pool during that time.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

As detailed above I can foresee many issues of public safety by holding this festival at this completely inappropriate site - even for the more peaceful festival goers, with the consumption of so much alcohol so early in the day, there is a potential for further (I believe) danger of road traffic accident on the busy London Road, and by festival goers cramming back in to either Morden Tube Station or at Morden South Railway Station. London in general is suffering high incidences in youth crime, particularly knife crime, and I see potential catastrophe in bringing 30,000 inebriated young people together in what is a relatively compact urban area.

#### **OTHER ISSUES**

Mr Jamie Rae

**From:**

**Sent:** 25 November 2018 15:17

**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

**Subject:** WATF/EE event in Morden Park.

Dear Licensing,

As a resident who lives near the event, I would just like to say that this year, the volume was unacceptable.

We were trapped in our house for both days, unable to open any window in the heat. I now know how General Norriega must have felt, (I was ready to surrender - but to whom?).

Those supporters in Wimbledon Chase, Merton Park et al did not suffer the noise like we did.

I realise that the income generated is needed. I also think the young should have such events as these, but the volume was too high to bear.

Perhaps it could be shared around, and next year held on Wimbledon Common, or Canon Hill?

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Redmond



Dear Licensing Section,

I am writing in response to the Public Notice of Application that was published on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 for Blue Fox Events Ltd to hold another Eastern Electrics Festival next year at Morden park. Following the considerable disruption and nuisance that resulted from previous years' festivals, I was alarmed to see that this year's application represents an extension of the licence, turning it into a three-day event to be held all day (from mid-morning until late at night) on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

I am writing to register my objections and to request that this event does not receive a licence. My main objection is that Morden is a heavily residential area, full of families, which simply does not have the infrastructure to hold such a large event without causing considerable public nuisance.

My objections focus on the following areas:

i) Noise

We live some way down the road from Morden Park (on Stonecot Hill), but the wind direction at the time of this summer's Eastern Electrics event meant that we were subjected to a persistent thumping noise which forced us to keep our windows closed on one of the hottest weekends of the year. Even if the music was technically within legal limits, it is difficult to dispute that this noise represented a considerable disruption and nuisance to local residents who wanted to enjoy a peaceful summer weekend with their families. In particular, electronic dance music (EDM) has a persistent thumping bassline which makes it very intrusive for local residents. This was particularly unpleasant and difficult when it came to trying to get my children to sleep at night. An event stopping at 10.30pm is totally unsuitable for a residential area with many young families, particularly as the close-down time is then followed by up to an hour of noisy festival-goers making their way back to the station. As most parents will confirm, looking after sleep deprived children is somewhat challenging!

ii) Anti-social behaviour

Following the high levels of antisocial behaviour that followed the 2017 Eastern Electrics event, which affected the adjacent church of St Lawrence particularly badly, the increased security around the perimeter of the Park in 2018 only pushed the antisocial behaviour slightly further out onto the Hatfeild Mead estate. This represents a large and unnecessary strain on local police resources and other local services such as litter clearance. The entire stretch of road from the Park back down to the Tube station was strewn with litter last year the morning after the event. In addition, local residents who live along the route to and from the festival will face three nights of noisy festival-goers walking past their homes, leaving litter and committing acts of public nuisance, often as a result of alcohol or drug consumption. This objection is not based on an unfair stereotype of all electronic music fans, but unfortunately any festival-type event of this scale would inevitably include among its attendees a significant minority likely to commit antisocial behaviour. It is naïve to think that an event of this scale would not involve alcohol abuse and drug-dealing on a much higher level than a normal weekend in Morden.

iii) The extension of the licence to three days

It will be obvious to the Licencing Committee that both of the above problems will be greatly magnified by holding the event over three consecutive days. Moreover, holding the event on a Sunday will create enormous disruption for local churches, especially the congregations of St Lawrence and Morden Park Baptist Church, which are located right next to Morden Park. Sunday is

also frequently a day of rest and relaxation for other families, whose precious weekend time will be further disrupted by this event. Three days of noise and disruption to local residents constitutes an unacceptable length of time in a primarily residential area.

iv) Impact on vulnerable members of the community

Events like this effectively make vulnerable local residents prisoners in their own homes for the duration of the event. Young families cannot go out to enjoy the local area (or even their own back gardens) without intrusive noise (sometimes accompanied by audible foul language in music lyrics), or get their children to sleep at night; elderly people feel trapped in their own homes and menaced by noisy and antisocial behaviour; and residents with mental health problems such as anxiety find that repeated levels of intrusive noise cause considerable distress, particularly if the noise is persistent for three days in a row.

In summary, Morden is a residential area which is entirely unsuited to this kind of event. I recognise that the Council is under financial pressure, but holding a three-day electronic dance music event which will cause considerable stress, anxiety, disruption and nuisance to local residents is not the solution. Please respect local tax-paying residents who live and work in this community by refusing to licence this disruptive event, particularly in an extended format.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrea Ruddick

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

From: John Rust

Sent: 27 November 2018 15:41

To: Licensing

Subject: Eastern Electric events on Morden Park

I have never objected to previously to community events on the park. However last summer's Eastern Electric event was beyond my tolerance and that of many people in the area.

The noise was unbearable. And that was all it was, NOISE. And it wasn't just noise over the hill but a mind shattering cacophony right in my back garden. We could no longer sit in our back garden but were forced to hide in the house with all windows closed. Even then we felt obliged to drive off in the car to escape the noise. we could still hear it in North Cheam.

As well as this inconvenience we had to put up with a coach load of fans from Manchester who dumped all their rubbish in Bow Lane and had the cheek to knock in our door at 11pm for water !

I am totally opposed to the licensing of this kind of event. Why does the Council even consider blocking off great chunks of the park when this beautiful acreage was meant to provide a haven of tranquility for residents.

You seem to consider PANDEMONIUM of benefit to the residents. It is OUR park not yours to make money out of.

Yours etc

JOHN RUST

Representation to the Licence application  
Reference WK/201809200  
from Elizabeth Sherwood

I am Secretary for the Friends of Morden Park, a voluntary group having been in existence for over 25 years, which aims to protect the park from commercial development and to work with Merton Council. However, this is written giving my own views and experiences of the last two similar events.

Events have been taking place in Morden Park for over 40 years now. Many have used the band stand for music events. There have been fun fairs, annual Firework displays, dog shows, church events, the Armed Forces day, Fun days, Vintage car shows, Charity Fun runs etc. The area near to the band stand has also been used for the Wimbledon Tennis park and ride for many years and the Fire Work displays for over 15 years. All these events have a different and sometimes negative effect on the park. The annual Fireworks leave large sections of burnt grass and if the weather has been wet, mud is created through the footfall and vehicle tyre marks. The vintage car rally during a very wet August Bank holiday caused large tyre ruts in the most popular part of the park. However, with remedial work both the grass and ground recovered in a relatively short period. It has been suggested that the park has been “destroyed” by large public events but that is an exaggeration. Yes, there are visible signs of an event having taken place, with litter of various types and damage to the grass but it does not remain so for long.

Not all residents will be affected in the same way depending on their proximity to this Licence event arena. As the event proposed is during the summer holidays some people go away on holiday as they have done in previous years or happen to be out for much of the time over the weekend.

The event for this Licence has taken place for two years now. I have been in close communication with the event organisers, We Are the Fair (WATF), since the first and I continue to be asked for my views. Each year has been different, certainly in terms of the weather, but I consider it is too soon for a 5 year licence to be granted until some of the negative aspects of the event are remedied. There have been adjustments and improvements each year as both WATF and Merton Council have learnt what needs to be done. If the Committee decides to grant a licence it should be for two years with a condition to include a review after the first year and with resident input.

Although the licence is for a possible 3 days, we have been told there is no intention for a three day event in 2019 but moving towards that eventually with the numbers increased to 30,000. We have also been told the proposed Friday event might be a Community Event but we have been given no idea of what that might include. A Friday event might only be suitable in the evening as Morden is already a very busy place due to the influx of worshipers at the mosques and the numbers allowed at the event would have to be much less than 20,000. At this stage I consider improvements at the 2018 20,000 attendee level are needed before increasing this to 30,000, if at all.

#### The Prevention of Public Nuisance

##### Litter

The organisers have realised better management of the clearance of rubbish outside the event arena is essential. They intend to separate the management of it between what happens within the arena and what happens outside. This should improve upon the protection of public nuisance from litter. The litter contractors need to be properly briefed well in advance of the event. They need to be made aware of the key entrances and usual littering areas and this must be communicated to all their staff who will be working on the day. The contractors must be prepared to work in a co-operative way with any volunteers to identify and clear rubbish speedily

away from the environs of the park. It should be removed completely at the end of each day and not left for a next day collection. Key people responsible for this work must not leave until the job has been done. I also suggest that the event organisers investigate using mechanical/electrical equipment to ensure rubbish to be cleared quickly rather than by hand. If this is possible then the equipment should not damage the grass. There should be no less a focus on clearing litter from the exterior of the arena as from inside. Regular park users know the normal levels of litter in the park and see the difference from having a large number of event goers. They rightly expect the rubbish to be cleared promptly without having to worry about the effect on animals and children.

### Noise

If the organisers made an offer of a voluntary reduction from the nationally set decibel level it might show a degree of understanding as to the effect the event has on residents around the park. There is a particular problem with the timing of the Sunday event. It runs on far too late for young children whose sleep can be disturbed (although not at school the following day because this takes place during the school holidays) and people going to work the next day. The Licence for Sunday hours for the sale of alcohol and premises need to be shorter by at least an hour so residents are less affected by both the event itself and the attendees creating noise disturbance as they leave it.

The event organisers must also check in advance the proposed lyrics and language from the artists and performers. Bad and offensive language may be acceptable indoors in a private club but not at an outside event audible by the general public. This was certainly something a number of people found especially unacceptable with the 2018 Sunday music.

I would not want to see even a gradual enlargement of the fenced off arena area to accommodate 30,000 attendees without a review of the impact on the park. The arena is in the most scenic part of the park and prevents that section being used for at least 10 days. Many people who use the park regularly, including dog walkers, are unhappy to change their routines even though a very large section of the park and adjoining playing fields are available for their enjoyment.

### Public Safety and public urination

It would seem WATF have listened to the expressed need for WCs en route and exterior to the park. We are told that WATF provide 300 WCs within their arena and will be providing more in the areas suggested by the public. At some other events within the park, public urination (by both men and women) is a problem especially because event organisers often underestimate the number of attendees, perhaps intentionally, so that they do not have to pay for expensive WC facilities, as required by the hire contract with Merton.

### Conclusion

There are many wonderful parks in Merton. "Parks are for people" but there is a risk to them if open spaces are underused and underfunded. We know that the budget for all parks benefits from all events and this one in particular brings a very large sum. Not all people attending these events are anti-social. On 25<sup>th</sup> November the Nextdoor web site had this message "*We are all working Mums having a much needed day out. None of us do drugs. We were thoroughly searched on entry. Once inside the crowd were happy and friendly and having a great time. There was a big big police presence too. All were thoroughly lovely. I just wanted to add some positive to all the negative (comments).*" Please note this view when considering the Licence. There are people who welcome this sort of event to Morden but the event organisers must show that they can improve on the things which impact on residents, users of the park and the park grounds before being granted a 5 year licence.

**OBJECTION: TO LICENSE APPLICATION BLUE FOX EVENTS LTD/EASTERN ELECTRICS FESTIVAL**

Ref No. WK/201809200

6 December 2018

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

**PUBLIC NUISANCE:**

The noise from the Festival was a constant irritant all day. Bass frequency has an ability to travel by vibration and could be felt and heard a considerable distance from the venue. I drove round to Lower Morden Lane (I live on [REDACTED], where I could hear the music) and was staggered at what residents there were enduring. I spoke to 3 or 4 residents there who expressed their disgust in no uncertain terms. It was a particularly hot summer weekend and yet I noticed windows and doors closed along the avenue. The vibration from this distant relentless Bass is a form of torture not unlike that endured catching the residue from somebody's headphone music whilst travelling on the underground...for two days! Residents should not have to accept this.

Morden Park is for the enjoyment of people, particularly residents. It enables them to relax from the stresses of life in a quiet and pleasant place, a small Oasis of Nature, Wildlife and Birds. To wall off the Central most beautiful section of the Park, for 16 days, in the middle of Summer Holidays, is the biggest Public Nuisance of all.

**RUBBISH, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE**

The Debris created and strewn about the streets and the Park by this festival was quite appalling. The streets were covered with plastic and glass bottles, tins, food wrappers and drug paraphernalia. All down the main road to the tube, along the side roads and in gardens. Some of it is still there and I walk past the evidence every day.

I visited the Park after the Event official and unofficial clean-up had taken place. What I saw shocked me. Rubbish and debris from the Event was still strewn around the Park, particularly areas the cleaners did not visit around the arena perimeter, including huge amounts of non-biodegradable rubbish from the contractors who erected and dismantled the event structures. Some of it is still there today and will never be removed. I personally collected 3 bags of this rubbish well after the Event finished. If events such as these continue to be

allowed this rubbish will continue to grow. It will be there forever. This is the legacy that they will leave the Park users of tomorrow.



#### IMPACT ON WILDLIFE

The Impact on Wildlife and Natural Environment is an essential element to consider when license applications for 'Green Space' Events such as EE are submitted to Council... And the impact on the incumbent Morden Park wildlife, in particular the Birds that were raising young families in the trees surrounded by the festival, was considerable.



As I had been observing these birds since early season, it was apparent to me that their normal patterns of behaviour, particularly hunting to feed young,

was significantly altered by the stress caused by the 16 days of unusual activity and noise around their nesting sites for the EE Event. Astoundingly, the trees they were utilising to raise their families were chopped back, or cut down on Council's H&S order, just prior to the 20,000 strong Rave. Is this the action of a responsible and Nature sensitive council that had been made aware of this issue 1 month before?



### **PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY**

I am an Events Designer and Project Manager. On separate occasions I attended site build up and break down for EE. I accessed site through the Arena open gate which was unstaffed and I was not challenged. I wandered around whilst heavy plant zoomed about delivering and later, removing event materials and equipment. I witnessed contractors working at height without proper safety in place and without standard safety clothing. I raised the issue of access as a matter of urgency with Council at break down, documented on email. I returned to site two hours later and again wandered unchallenged into the Arena. I noticed a man and his dog had done the same. In my opinion, the Event Company responsible for site, were breaching standard Health and Safety requirements and if an accident had occurred, they and possibly the Council, would have been open to serious legal action.

### **CRIME AND DISORDER:**

Walking along the road to view the furore this travesty was creating I was amazed to see the local church had installed their own security to stop ravers using the church grave yard as a toilet. This is what I was told had happened the previous year!

The road to the Festival was strewn with drug capsules that were openly being sold by people along the route in plain sight. One group of ravers, hearing me talking on my mobile about what I was witnessing, became aggressive to me and I had to walk away from the area (London Rd opposite St Lawrence



Church). If I had seen police nearby, I would have spoken to them. Later in the day I went into the park and sat observing from the hill near the old swimming pool. On three separate occasions I witnessed groups of mainly young men enter the park with lightweight ladders who attempted to climb the arena walls. They had placed spotters around the arena to give them the all clear. The first group of 8, 3 guys managed to jump over with their bags before security emerged in their 4wd. The second group of 10, I alerted a nearby security rep who called in back up and stopped them. The Police later confiscated their bags. The third group were unchallenged and all 5 got into the arena with their bags. This occurred over a 3hr duration.

I stayed around the area later in the day. I witnessed festival goers freely urinating and vomiting along the streets, in gateways and alleys near the park, and on Epsom Rd one person defecating just inside the park fence in clear view of passers-by and visitors to The Harvester/Hotel. The language I heard was appalling, some of which would not be tolerated at a football match, and it was still daylight, with families and children trying to go about their business.

Later, around 9pm Saturday, three guys and young woman came down Central Rd and approached me as I unlocked my car. They offered me £30 to drive them to Mitcham. I said sorry I was not a Cab and suggested they walk there as they were totally drunk/high. One of them started to get aggressive and was leaning over the bonnet of my car, but he was so drunk he slid backwards right into the path of the traffic. Luckily the car stopped in time, but sooner or later someone will get hurt.

My neighbour has researched the effect of the Festival on local businesses and I was appalled when he told me that some had shut early to avoid the hassle and some reported damage to their premises and property, mainly through drunken and aggressive behaviour. This would not be tolerated on a normal Saturday evening so why on earth Council thinks it a good idea to *allow* the type of Event that generates this behaviour, whilst insisting it benefits local business, is clearly ridiculous and disingenuous.

### **HARM TO CHILDREN**

It is totally unsuitable for this event to be held over 2 days in Morden with children and families out and about in Summer Holidays. The language and aggressive behaviour they witnessed was quite appalling. Indecent exposure and urination along the streets is totally unacceptable and drug taking was clear for them all to see. I saw Nitrous Oxide capsules in the hedge along the perimeter of Morden Primary School and was appalled when I heard later that

School Teachers had to do a clean-up of these canisters before the kids arrived back for Autumn term.

**Taking into account the objections listed above, I ask that Merton Council's Licensing Committee turn down the application from Blue Fox Events Ltd.**

Stephen Shimwell

**From:** Dan Skriczka  
**Sent:** 23 November 2018 17:10  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to License for Blue Fox Limited (Eastern Electrics) - application ref. WK/201809200

Dan Skriczka,



Application ref. WK/201809200

Hello,

I'm sending an e-mail to object to the published license application dated 13/11/18 for Eastern Electrics festival via Blue Fox Limited.

I live with my family on [REDACTED] backing directly onto the park. There are very few parks in London with houses that directly back onto them that host large music events and this needs to be a consideration - the sound travels directly into our garden, dining room and bedrooms at a time of year when we're outside a lot or sleeping with the windows open. It has a massive negative impact on the quality of our live. I love dance & electronic music but I don't force other people to listen to it and I don't play it to my two year old when he's trying to sleep. My son's sleep was disturbed by the 2018 event.

The organisers have compared the event to SW4 on Clapham Common. Clapham Common does not have houses backing backing onto it directly and the surrounding area is busy: it has busy roads, pubs, bars and clubs.

While the event organisers looked at the location, travel links, etc, when deciding to put on the event in Morden, they didn't consider the fact that a lot of young families live in the area. We can't close the windows in the summer and our son goes to bed at 7pm. My wife is also currently pregnant and our new arrival will be around 2 months old at the planned time of the 2019 event. We can't attend an event like this with young children and effectively we'll either have to suffer through or be forced to leave the area for two days (which might not be an option for us so soon after the birth).

I understand that people have noted that the event serves people in the 18-35 age bracket in the community. However it's not as if we're cut off from electronic and dance music culture: Morden is connected to Central & East London (e.g. it's a short walk from Old Street and Moorgate to an area with vibrant night life) by a 24 hour tube line. So young people can go to clubs and events in London that don't disturb large residential areas with lots of families!

We were "sold" the original Eastern Electric event on the basis that an established, experienced events company (We Are the Fair) was/is working on the event. The proposed non-time limited licence is for Blue Fox Limited only, the sole director of this company being Robert Hives (whom I believe is Rob Star, the promoter for Eastern Electric...they share an address in Bethnal Green). So this license application is tied to the promoter only. This means there is no established events company that will be guaranteed to work on any potential future events. If the event is to run, then this means they should be under scrutiny from the community and they should have to pay the

licensing application cost each year to make sure the people responsible are taking the full monetary risk as well as being held to account for issues caused by the event in the local community.

In terms of the license looking to eventually increase the capacity to 30,000 people this will just scale up the problems already encountered by residents and the size will mean that the "solutions" attempted by the organisers to fix problems will be outpaced and ineffective. This is already happening with the "solutions" implemented for the 2018 event off the back of the feedback from 2017 being rendered ineffective.

If you also include Friday in the event as well as Saturday and Sunday (even just as a potential option to run on Friday & Saturday) then you open up even more problems. A Friday start for the event will cause problems for residents commuting to & from the area or even just using the local amenities, e.g. shops, supermarket, library, etc. The specified weekend for the license is open so the event could be proposed for a time during term time which would disturb Nurseries and Schools around Morden Park. The Butterfly patch nursery next to the cricket pitch runs all year round, not just in term time. Can you imagine walking to the library or Morden Hall Park (with a 3 year old & a baby) as event attendees head out of Morden tube station?

I believe the nature of the license being applied for is merely a negotiating ploy by the promoter and organisers to try and get the 2019 event approved. What's being applied for with this license is *overkill*: it's a way of trying to get the go ahead for the event and for this to be seen as a compromise following the rejection of the license for the September 2018 event (from different promoters). I hope the licensing committee sees the license application for what it is and puts the interests of the community first.

This event should be rejected entirely by the licensing committee for these reasons:

- ) **Noise:** It disturbed the sleep of my son. We've never had problems with any other events in the park. The noise level for this event is too loud and it becomes even more intrusive when the headliners come on stage. The legal decibel levels for events are not fit for purpose in an area with such close proximity to homes. Make no mistake, the event was loud. We have friends in Motspur park on Seaforth Avenue and near Fulham Football Club's training ground who could hear the event in their homes. Please imagine what it was like living directly next to the park.
- ) **Proximity of Families with Young Children:** On the Sunday I was in my back garden with my 2 year old son. We could clearly hear an MC repeat the refrain: "put your f████g hands in the air" five times. This isn't acceptable.
- ) **Litter:** we saw increased litter around the park entrances on Hillcross. This included the drink cups from the festival, empty cans and lots of Nitrous Oxide capsules. While Nitrous Oxide capsules are a more common sight nowadays, the event bought a huge amount more onto our streets and around our park.
- ) **Increased traffic post event:** we had lots of footfall and traffic on Hillcross post the event on the Sunday evening which went on well after 11pm. I had to work the next day and this disturbed my sleep as the people walking past my house were not quiet!
- ) **Inability of the organisers to deal with issues raised by residents.** The festival organisers have run the event for two years and are increasing the size of the event. Following feedback from residents, the solutions they put in place to deal with past problems (public urination, security/stewarding, litter, etc) are not making an impact- the same problems remain. The growth of the festival in size will outpace the solutions they try put in place. This is not sustainable and will cause further deterioration to residents quality of life.

) **Precedent:** Another festival of similar nature was due to be held in Morden Park on 8th September, 2018 (not long after Eastern Electrics last year). The Licensing Sub-Committee's decision (notice dated 17th August) for refusing the license for this other event was largely based on the bad experience with Eastern Electrics. Here are the relevant quotes from the decision:

*"Issues with safeguarding children, affects the loud music had on the nursing home next door to the park, and the housing for military personnel opposite and damage to the park were amongst many reasons considered by the sub-committee."*

The Notice of Determination clearly states that there were "...issues experienced at the Eastern Electrics festival" and that "The decibel setting for that event was 70-73 decibels and residents experienced vibration and noise in their homes and in the local area but also much further afield." stating that this level of noise results in public nuisance.

If the problems from past Eastern Electrics events are grounds enough to refuse the license for another music festival, why should the new license for Eastern Electrics be granted?

Yours Sincerely,

Dan Skriczka

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Kristyna Skriczka <

**To:** [licensing@merton.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@merton.gov.uk) <[licensing@merton.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@merton.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Dan Skriczka <

**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2018 20:13:03 GMT

**Subject:** Objection to license by Blue Fox Limited

I object to the published license application dated 13/11/18.

It is not clear from the application if this is in fact for hosting "Eastern Electrics" festival again but I am assuming, based on several secondary sources of information, that it is. **Any event of this nature** is highly disruptive to the local residents, damages the park and limits its use for other users and causes nuisance for visitors and local business owners.

AS you are surely aware Eastern Electrics festival caused a lot of problems and another festival of similar nature was due to be held in Morden Park on 8th September, 2018 (not long after Eastern Electrics). The Licensing Sub-Committee's decision (notice dated 17th August) for refusing the license for this other event was largely based on the bad experience with Eastern Electrics. I herebelow quote just few of the issues listed:

**Issues with safeguarding children, affects the loud music had on the nursing home next door to the park, and the housing for military personnel opposite and damage to the park were amongst many reasons considered by the sub-committee.**

**The Notice of Determination clearly states that there were "...issues experienced at the Eastern Electrics festival" and that "The decibel setting for that event was 70-73 decibels and residents experienced vibration and noise in their homes and in the local area but also much further afield." stating that this level of noise result in public nuisance.**

I therefore don't see how hosting another event, this time over 3 days instead of 2, could be approved.

I have reported several issues with the impact of Eastern Electrics to my local councilor but it seems without any impact. These I list below as well.

The issues my family and I have experienced with this festival:

1. Length: it is simply too long to have all this disturbance going on for two days till late at night.
2. Loudness: it was, at times, very loud. Consider following examples:
  - a. A friend of mine in Motspur Park (Seaforth avenue) messaged me on Saturday night complaining about the noise-Obviously the sound travels far!
  - b. At one point it was so loud that I could hear in our back garden these exact words: "put your f\*\*\*ing hands up in the air"...You can appreciate I don't wish to expose my 2,5year old son to such language! We had to have dinner indoors with the patio door closed despite the fact it was a lovely warm day.

I have been told that Merton council was on site monitoring the sound levels at all times however it appears that whatever levels are deemed to be formally acceptable are not in line with what is deemed "humanly" acceptable.

3. Litter: there had been many empty drink cans to be found all around the area as well as small gas canisters scattered all around nearby streets. We have found empty take away containers in our front garden on Monday morning!
4. Disturbance: Despite the music ending on time (at least on Sunday) there is a lot of extra noise which, it appears, was not included in council's consideration and planning. On Sunday night when the music stopped loud noise of people shouting ect. was heard till around 11pm together with loudly speaking pedestrians on Hillcross Avenue and increased traffic continuing until midnight. Furthermore there was noise to be heard on Monday during the clear up (trucks).
5. Type of event: I believe this type of event is not suited to the area and if it is to take place in the future much stricter measures protecting local residents must be put in place. Take the SW4 festival on Clapham Common for comparison (same capacity of 20,000 people). Clapham Common is also in the middle of built up residential area however is surrounded by bars with late licences with busy traffic and high street adjacent to the venue. Morden Park does not have the same set up which means an increase in this type of noise and foot traffic is much more noticeable and disturbing.

Considering all the above reasons I don't see how a license for this kind of event could be granted.

Furthermore it is very worrying that there is no date stated on the application-does this mean the organizer is able to hold the event whenever they choose? How will this impact on those planning a wedding in Morden Park or perhaps a family celebration picnic in the open space?

Considering all the above reasons I don't see how a license for this kind of event could be granted.

I look forward to receiving a response.

Regards,

Kristyna Skriczka

From: Trevor Spackman  
Sent: 19 November 2018 19:58  
To: Licensing  
Subject: EE Festival Morden park

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to appose the alcohol license for the EE Festival being held in Morden park 2019

The reason being:

1/ unacceptable behaviour

2/ unsociable behaviour

3/ loutish behaviour due to alcohol

4 youths having sex in the park

5/ Laughing gas canisters throne in the park, pavements, in the school grounds , church grounds also in Wyvale garden centre.

6/ Youths defalcating in Morden park and the church yard.

7/ Alcohol bottles and cans throne in the surrounding roads around Morden park. Also inside the park , church yard and lower Morden lane

8/.Despite last year EE promised that this would be policed properly it wasn't us residents was subject to very loud music that was not monitored. Phone line was not answered it stated phone box is full.

The residents of Lower Morden think it is very unfair of Merton council allowing its residents to be subjected to such bad behaviour by a to bigger crowd in such a small area. Morden park is far to small and to close to residents houses to hold a festival of that size.

These are the reasons that we appose the alcohol license for the EE festival Morden park 2019.

Regards

Trevor & Patricia Spackman.

Sent from my Windows Phone



**From:** Christopher Stanton  
**Sent:** 11 December 2018 22:49  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to WK/201809200 Licence Application

Chris Stanton

I am a resident of [REDACTED] and I am writing to voice my objection to the license application (WK/201809200) put forward to host the 'EE' festival in Morden Park on the following grounds.

#### 1.Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The crime figures for the previous years as quoted by the Police borough commander at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission in September, have increased with every year the festival has been held. Is it not right to assume that with the festival getting bigger the number of incidents of crime will only increase?

Police in London have had their budgets cut over the last 8 years and as such a greater strain is being put on already overburdened resources. Next year there will be more attendees, if the license is granted and such the associated problems with the supplying and use of all drugs will only increase as will the crime statistics.

#### 2. Prevention of Public Nuisance

The music is too loud. It can be heard in Hatfeild mead all day during the festival. It is a constant irritant when trying to relax. Any time spent in the garden during the day was to the soundtrack of a constant low bass notes and shouting added to the sound of a greater than usual amount of traffic brought on by festival attendees looking for somewhere to park.

#### 3. Protection of Children from harm

During and after the festival I have noticed that large amounts of NO capsules, appearing in piles in and around Hatfeild mead. For the residents and their children this is unacceptable as the outside space is used by them during the summer months as a play area. Add this to the urination, foul language and intimidation which some of the other residents experienced during the festival it is not an acceptable environment for children and their families to continue their everyday lives.

#### 4.Public safety.

During the festival I have seen broken glass on the pavements and stuffed into bins, causing a hazard. I have seen people openly buying and selling drugs, which constitutes a hazard to members of the public.

I have also heard of intoxicated festival goers walking down the middle of London road while traffic is still flowing, causing a hazard.

Thanks  
Chris

**From:** Ryan Taylor  
**Sent:** 10 December 2018 14:41  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Eastern Electrics Festival

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to object to the applications from Eastern Electrics for:

- ) Performance of a Play
- ) Exhibition of a film
- ) Live Music
- ) Recorded Music
- ) Performance of Dance
- ) Anything Similar to Music and Dancing
- ) Supply of alcohol
- ) Premises Opening Hours

I am an interested party living in the vicinity of the premises - my address is [REDACTED]

My representation is based upon:

- ) prevention of crime and disorder
- ) public safety
- ) prevention of public nuisance
- ) protection of children from harm

I have two small children aged 4 and 7 and we spend most weekends spending time in Morden Park. After the 2018 event and for many weeks after, my children found gas canisters on the paths leading to the park and there was a noticeable increase in litter. I do not particularly want to explain to such small children what these gas canisters are used for as they may think that such activities are common and acceptable.

It is also annoying that the park is out of bounds for the period of the festival and the noise that the event creates, going on long into the night and with mess and bad behaviours from attendees as they make their way away from the site.

Merton is a family friendly borough and the area around the whole park is a family area, this event does not seem in keeping with the area and the inhabitants.

To grant an annual license is outrageous, a one off license is also not desirable but at least this would keep some control from year to year should bad behaviour continue not to be addressed by those organising the festival. If this licence / application goes ahead, then sufficient event security should be in place on the pathways to and from Hillcross Avenue to prevent bad behaviour in the local area.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Taylor

cc - Councillor Mc lean

21st Nov 2018

Ref: WK/201809200

Dear Sir,  
Eastern Electric Festival - 2019

We wish to make known our concerns over the return of Eastern Electric in Morden Park next Summer for 3 days.

This year we were concerned about the amount & type of rubbish on the surrounding areas away from the park. Also anti social behaviour because of the amount of alcohol consumed.

We found half full bottles of wine & spirits, empty beer cans plus a large number of small silver canisters on the paths, roadsides and at bus stops. I understand these canisters are filled with nitrous oxide which is inhaled to make people feel euphoric.

Apart from the mess, broken glass & cans could be harmful to children & animals. I did understand that alcohol & drugs were not allowed into the venue but I would think from the above evidence this was ignored.

Our concern is also that the extension to 3 days is another sign that we are to have more of these events which cause a public nuisance with noise & misuse of a public park.

Yours sincerely

**From:** Martha Villegas

**Sent:** 05 December 2018 13:45

**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Ojection to the public license application Ref WK/201809200 Eastern Electrics Festival

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writting to object to the published license application dated 13/11/18 for Eastern Electrics festival via Blue Fox Events Limited. Application reference WK/201809200.

My name is Martha Villegas and I live in [REDACTED]

I kindly ask you to consider to refuse this company the use of Morder Park for the Eastern Electrics Festival. The area around the park is mainly occupied by families with small children and elderly people. We were particularly affected by the extremely loud noise made by the very explicit music it was played at the festival, to the point that the glass of the windows was vibrating. It was so loud that we could not go out to the garden, nor be indoors because the noise was still heard inside the house with windows and doors closed. I have spoken to other residents about it and there were also incidents of people urinating in front gardens, drug dealing and not to mention the way in which they left the park. We found canisters around in the park after the festival.

This Festival has been held for two years and in both occasions there have been many complaints by the residents of the area. I, and many others, are very supportive of using the park for the events that are going to benefit the area but not of this event.

I think this event is not suitable for Morden Park and its surroundings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

Martha Villegas

[REDACTED]

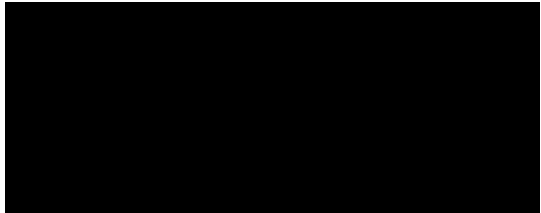
[REDACTED]

20. 11. 18

To Merston Council

I am writing to stress my concern at seeing a notice in Lush Meadow Lane regarding Eastern Electrics proposing to have an altar of their Lissadoulas festivals (or whatever they call them). I cannot believe the council could even contemplate such a great taking place again in a residential area. They desecrated the surrounding areas and it was all quite disgusting. I cannot attend the meeting - at 85 I am representing out in the evening but I felt I had to make my feelings made, the thought of having to tolerate the noise was too much to put up with. How quite terrible with dread!

Sincerely  
Mrs Sheila Walker



21 November 2018

Your ref: WK/201809200

Licensing  
London Borough of Merton  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden SM4 5DX



*Don Sir / Meddman*

**PROPOSED EASTERN ELECTRICS FESTIVAL IN MORDEN PARK,  
AUGUST 2019**

I am grateful to Councillor McLean for his letter of 16 November concerning the proposed above event. I am writing to express my strong objections to this event, and reiterate the objections I made to the previous two events (2017 and this year's). It beggars belief that, despite previous objections, this event could take place again and be extended to *three* days!

In relation to the four linked categories that are relevant to a license application:

*The prevention of crime and disorder*

The operative term here is prevention, or avoiding risks. If an event is held in the middle of a populous residential area, attracting thousands of young people, there is a greater risk of crime and public disorder than an event held in a rural or semi-rural area. Events held away from residential areas can more easily be policed to prevent that. That is presumably why previous events took place in Greenwich, Knebworth and Hatfield House. However, if even those locations are considered no longer suitable, then you must question holding them in the middle of a residential area, where there are more opportunities for crime and disorder. Prevention, then, can be achieved more effectively by holding

such events away from concentrations of population and residential housing. You can only overlook that self-evident fact if your focus is on raising revenue without any regard to the local residents.

### *Public safety*

This again, obviously, is related to the location of the event. With large numbers of young people arriving in Morden at more or less the same time, the area is effectively taken over by them, for their own leisure – often boisterous – purposes. There is nothing wrong with that in a rural or semi-rural environment, but not in a residential area. With such large crowds gathering in the area (20,000 plus), there is greater scope for traffic incidents to occur as people spill out on to the streets. Unlike a football event, there is no corralling of the crowds to ensure the safety of the public, and it would perhaps be resented by festival attendees to be treated in that way for a music event. No such issues arise – or at least not to the same extent – for events that take place away from residential centres of population.

### *The prevention of public nuisance*

Here again the issue is prevention. If you wish to increase the *risk* of public nuisance (and what risk assessment has been carried out?), hold a large scale event in a residential area, inviting hoards of young people from across London and the south east (and further afield). Consider, for example, the lack of public toilet facilities in the area for such large crowds (toilets at the venue itself is an irrelevance). Consider also the casual vandalism of such large youthful crowds, especially at an event that lasts all day, and well into the night. I witnessed one group of tipsy youths kick over a road sign related to bus diversions, and saw scattered along many roads broken bottles. This might be considered 'low level' crime, but it instills apprehension in local residents, especially parents with children and the elderly, none of whom will wish to be out in the Morden area while such an event is taking place.

A further, persistent public nuisance is caused by the intolerable levels of noise during the festival itself. As I have made clear previously, the noise is completely uncontrolled. The volume is simply too high, and remains so unremittingly throughout the days of the festival. Even a 50% reduction in the noise would still cause disturbance for local residents. And the idea that we have to tolerate three full days of that racket is unbearable. We come back inevitably to the fact that holding such an event in a residential area is unacceptable because the public

nuisance cannot be avoided.

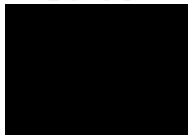
*The protection of children from harm*

Children are of course a priority because of their vulnerability, but we should also taken into account the elderly and infirm. Morden becomes a no-go area during the festival. Parents with children and the elderly will not wish to venture out during the festival, naturally. They will be exercising sound judgement in doing so. If protection consists in being confined to one's own home during the festival, then we will have created a sorry state of affairs.

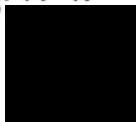
If the licensing regime has any meaning at all, then it is very difficult to see how such an event can be authorised. The objections are many and conclusive.

I am copying this to Councillors McLean and Kenny (the latter kindly replied to my earlier letter on this subject) and to Mr Stephen Hammond MP. The Eastern Electrics festival should not taken place in Morden Park in future, and any proposal that it does so will prompt stronger opposition than hitherto. I am not sure if this is an issue that can be called in by the Secretary of State, but that might be explored via Mr Hammond in due course, depending on the outcome of the licence application.

*Yours faithfully*



**PATRICK WALSH**





**From:** Shelley Whittington

**Sent:** 23 November 2018 23:38

**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

**Cc:** MCDONAGH, Siobhain <siobhain.mcdonagh.mp@parliament.uk>

**Subject:** Objection to licence application from Eastern Electrics - Blue Fox Events Ltd

I understand Blue Fox Events Ltd have applied for Friday, Saturday, Sunday licence for Morden Park for future events. I would like to object to this on the following grounds

1) The prevention of crime and disorder. The event that took place in 2018 resulted in anti social behaviour in Morden Park. This behaviour was from excessive crowds of people attending the event, drunken noisy behaviour, littering and taking of canisters as legal highs. Even if the police search festival goes so no drugs (legal or otherwise) goes in, festival goes will and did take these canisters in the surrounding area. This represents disorder and public nuisance.

3. Prevention of public nuisance. The proposed hours of operation contained in this licencing application is unreasonable and takes no account of the residential location of the festival. I live in [REDACTED] and in 2018 I found the noise levels a particular source of stress, so much so that i could not enjoy my back garden nor could i have doors and windows open. I spent most of the daytimes wearing noise cancelling headphones to drown out the sound. I could not watch my TV at the normal volume level. The noise interfered with my private life at home. The 2018 festival was for 2 days. This licence applications means that resident will have no respite from the noise levels and no peace in their home location for 2 full days PLUS Friday. The noise is intrusive and impacts day to day life at home on the weekend. This ruins a weekend for many people who work full time and like me, who may find the event highly stressful and impacting their mental wellbeing.

I would appreciate if you would accept these objections and take into consideration when deciding on the application.

Michelle Whittington

To whom it may concern

**Re: 'Eastern Electrics' application submitted by Blue Fox Events Ltd (ref WK/201809200)**

**Summary**

We would like to object to the application. We live on London Road immediately opposite Morden Park and have two young children (currently aged 4 years old and 6 months old). Both of the previous Eastern Electric events have caused us great distress. The proposal to extend the size and duration of the event is therefore extremely concerning and stressful for us, as we feel powerless to address any of the serious problems it creates for us.

**Detail**

1. Crime/disorder – At recent events, there were countless examples of festival goers urinating and vomiting in the street and in our front gardens, drugs being sold and taken in the side roads adjacent to London Road, loud swearing and other anti-social behaviour. There was no visible stewarding or police presence so this went unchallenged unless residents took people on themselves.
2. Public nuisance – The noise pollution was unacceptably intrusive. At the time of the last event, we had a 6-week old baby who was unable to sleep for any period of time. At the height of summer, we had to keep all windows and doors closed, which was clearly extremely impractical with young children.
3. Child safety – All of the crime and disorder listed above was witnessed by children. In addition, the inadequate clearing up meant there were hundreds of empty and half-empty alcohol bottles and cans left on streets, in our front gardens and, in particular, left in the surrounding sections of Morden Park and on the platforms at Morden South overground station for days afterwards. Hundreds of nitrous oxide cannisters were also discarded in all of the same places, where they were accessible by children. Indeed, nitrous oxide was being sold out of the boots of illegally parked cars along London Road, which also went unchallenged by the authorities.
4. Public safety – The movement of tens of thousands of people from Morden Underground station and Morden South overground station effectively make the area immediately outside our home a no-go area for my family and all other residents. It was simply unsafe to attempt to walk along the street for us. It was also unsafe to attempt to prevent any of the crime and disorder listed above. Furthermore, outside our home alone, there were a number of near accidents as festival goers attempted to cross the A24 without due regard for their own safety (i.e. using proper crossings or, frankly, even looking as they crossed the road).

The remedial pledges made by the event organisers at the recent public consultation meeting were wholly inadequate (e.g. some extra portable toilets installed at Morden South overground station if that is even allowed will not prevent the huge number of people urinating on the street and in our gardens, which requires proper policing like is found at similarly-sized sporting events). The failure to

address these issues previously, which the organisers admit, mean we have no faith that it will be any different in the future.

When there are so many serious problems, we cannot comprehend why extending the size and duration of the event can even be considered. The main beneficiaries from such a move would be those selling tickets, and it would be at the expense of us, the residents.

Yours sincerely

Richard & Anjela Winson

**From:** Phil Barnett  
**Sent:** 21 November 2018 09:30  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Eastern Electrics

Dear Sirs

I am all in favour of the Easter Electrics music festival to be held next August in Morden Park.

Regards

Philip Barnett

Hello, I am a Morden resident who lives adjacent to Morden Park ( [REDACTED] ) and I am writing in connection to the Eastern Electrics event that is proposed for August 2019.

I am personally in support of this event and would simply like to register this support as I suspect there will be some votes against.

Morden needs footfall and long term investment and Morden Park needs to be used.

Best regards,

Peter Jackson

**From:** Claire J

**Date:** 25 November 2018 at 21:06:55 GMT

**To:** [licensing@merton.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@merton.gov.uk)

**Subject:** Festival in Morden Park. NOT A COMPLAINING EMAIL!!!!

To licensing

I wanted to express my support for your license application for the EE festival in Merton Park.

There has been a small (100 at the meeting) number of people who object to this on a number of grounds. Most of these are unwilling to listen to any possible solutions to their gripes (some of which should be addressed) about the festival. There has been a lot of discussion on the nextdoor website and my observation is that nothing will satisfy these people and it can only boil down to nimbyism.

From that I gather, the more valid complaints are:

1) insufficient numbers of police at exodus time to control anti social behaviour such as using people's gardens to be sick or as toilets

This could be fixed by installing metal barriers out of the park on residential roads and forcing the crowd down the middle of the road. At 11pm on a Sunday night, this should not cause major traffic disruption. Also having stewards on the pavements to keep them moving. Ensuring adequate numbers of portaloos and ensuring they are kept in usable order.

2) decibel levels were exceeded. I would have thought this is easily fixed by imposing a hefty fine on the organisers.

3) inadequate clearing up. Many capsules found in the streets and a local primary playground. This should be addressed by again imposing fines on those responsible for clear up and ensuring sensitive areas like a school playground are checked and cleared. There is an obsession with these capsules from objectors.

None of these things seem insurmountable. I think it would help if the local population could be given some sign that these issues are recognised and something solid is being done to address them. Call me old fashioned but I'm not sure I'd be too cheerful about someone poeing in my front garden! I'm sure also these were isolated incidents but nonetheless.

Aside from this, I feel it is a good positive thing to have a festival in this large open space. I am totally in favour, it's a breath of fresh air.

Certain stipulations could also be put on the organisers re using no plastic cutlery or un-ecological wrapping for foods and employing as many local firms for stalls and stewarding as possible. Possibly some local beers?

I support your application but ask you consider some of the issues above if only to avoid this yearly nightmare of complaints. The festival needs to run more smoothly year on year and lessons be learnt so close residents feel they are heard.

Many thanks

Claire Jauffret

**From:** Vincent Leonard  
**Sent:** 19 November 2018 18:49  
**To:** Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Morden Park - Eastern Electric License Application

Hi,

I recently saw a link on Nextdoor social media an application has been made to have a festival in Morden Park for the next 5 years.

I would like to offer my support to the application.

There is a vocal minority who are against the event taking place, but I believe our area needs something for the young people to get involved in. Other boroughs in London have much more to offer. This is a step in the right direction, offering entertainment and getting Morden on the map.

The past few years I have not experienced any anti social behavior, indeed anyone going to the festival have been friendly and said hi to my kids.

Best Regards Vincent

Vincent Leonard

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

From:

Sent: 20 November 2018 20:18

To: Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@merton.gov.uk>

Subject: Wk /201809200

Eastern Electrics WK/201809200

I believe there is a resident's consultation going on re: Morden Park being used for eastern electrics music festival.

I wish to say that I do not have a problem with it. It is only once or twice a year and it generates money for our borough. It's nice to know people are having fun in Morden.

Rebecca Shingleton