

SW - Merton Borough

Licensing Team

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

Avril O'Brien
Belinda Loizou
Police Licensing Officers
Wimbledon Police Station
15-23 Queens Road
London
SW19 8NN

Mobile: 07769586158

Email: Avril.o'brien2@met.police.uk

Belinda.loizou@met.police.uk

Police Representations – Application for Premises Licence

Radioactive Clothing Limited T/A Slammin Events

Music Festival

Morden Park, Lower Morden Lane, SM4 5HE

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 07th May 2021, I received a copy of an application for a new Premises Licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 for Radioactive Clothing Limited, T/A Slammin Events.

The application can be summarised as follows:

An annual music festival to take place over a two-day period in September for the next three years. Different styles of music to be performed by DJs/artists on multiple stages with an expected attendance of 9,999 people. Licensable activities to include the sale of alcohol from multiple bars.

For the purposes of this year's festival:

Saturday 4th September 2021 – Beautiful People Festival. The average ticket holder is expected to be 35-55 years of age, with a 55% male to 45% female ratio.

Sunday 5th September 2021 – Southbound Festival. The average ticket holder is expected to be 25-45 years of age, with an equivalent male to female ratio.

The applicant seeks authorisation for:

The sale of alcohol from 12:00hrs to 22:10hrs on the Saturday and 12:00hrs to 21:40hrs on the Sunday.

Live and recorded music from 12:00hrs to 22:30hrs on the Saturday and 12:00hrs to 22:00hrs on the Sunday.

Premises to be open from 12:00hrs to 22:30hrs on the Saturday and 12:00hrs to 22:00hrs on the Sunday.

Police Concerns:

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) objects to the application in its current form and has concerns in relation to three of the four licensing objectives, namely the prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance and public safety.

While it is recognised that this would be the first event managed at this location by the applicant and that this application must be considered on its own individual merits, the MPS is mindful that previous music festivals at Morden Park despite strict conditions have resulted in serious crime and disorder and public safety problems. This was particularly the case with the Eastern Electrics Festival held in August 2019. This application concerns a similar event, at the same location, and is likely to involve similar music and crowd dynamics. There are, in these circumstances, real concerns that similar problems would arise were this application to be granted in its current terms. These concerns particularly inform the MPS views on capacity and the duration of the licence.

In many ways, Morden Park may be considered simply unsuitable as a location for music events of the proposed scale, not least because large numbers of attendees will need to leave the event via narrow paths onto busy roads. The previous event resulted in substantial disruption to local residents as a result of crowd dispersal, including public urination and general disorder.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of crime and disorder incidents that affected the 2019 music festival in Morden Park:

CRIS 1409627/19 – ROBBERY

Victim was robbed of a necklace around his neck, at knife point, whilst at a music festival in Morden Park.

CRIS 1409483/19 - VIOLENT CRIME

Victim attended a music festival in Morden Park and was a victim of a stabbing by an unknown suspect. He was brought into the first aid tent, near to the entrance to the festival, supported. He had a single puncture wound to the right side of his abdomen, which was treated by first aid staff. He was then transported to St Georges Hospital.

CRIS 1409484/19 - VIOLENT CRIME

On Saturday 3rd August 2019 - the medical tent near the main entrance to the festival, requested security as a male had presented himself with stab injuries. It was established that the victim, had been stabbed in the neck and a secondary minor wound in his upper leg. The victim was taken to St George's hospital. It was established that he had been stabbed in the neck which had gone through to his lung causing a lung collapse. At that point the stabbing was declared as life threatening.

CRIS 1409464/19 - VIOLENT CRIME

On Saturday 3rd August 2019 at a music festival at approximately at 2135 hours, Police were informed of 2 stabbings that took place in the grounds of the festival. Victim 1, was brought to the medic tent by the main entrance and Victim2 (Victim1's Father) was taken

to the medic tent at the blue gate entrance. Victim1 had 4 or 5 stab wounds to his upper chest and back and paramedics declared his injuries as life threatening, at that time. Victim2 had stab injuries to his shoulder, left arm and face.

CRIS 1409468/19 – DRUGS RELATED

Suspect climbed over fence to the festival to avoid paying. Security stopped him and checked his bag, finding a large quantity of Nitrous oxide canisters (not used), balloons, and implements which enable the use of the canisters. £105 in notes were also found within one of the bags.

CRIS 1409730/19 - ROBBERY

Suspects surrounded victim and hit him on the head with a bottle and property taken, whilst the victim was on the floor the suspects have continued to assault him.

If the Sub-Committee is minded to grant the application, the MPS requests that:

1. The capacity of the event be limited to 5,000 attendees per day, rather than the proposed 9,999. Fewer attendees reduces the risk of crime and disorder, public nuisance and the risk to public safety. The ability of officers to police the vicinity of the event and of internal security to protect attendees would be greatly increased.
2. Only a one year time limited licence is granted for 4th and 5th September 2021. Given the historical problems of this venue, this would allow the new applicant to demonstrate good in operating this event safely while promoting the licensing objectives. It would be open to them to apply for a further licence tailored specifically to any future music festival.
3. The offered conditions in Part M of the application be turned directly into conditions.
4. The conditions set out below be added to the licence. The MPS has had limited time to consider the ESMD and other policy documents which were circulated by the applicant on 28th May 2021. However, recognising the nature of the event proposed, it feels these conditions are appropriate and proportionate in the circumstances, and broadly reflect the approach taken to other similar events.

Yours Sincerely

PC Avril O'Brien
PC Belinda Loizou

South West Licensing Team

1. Event Specific Management Document (ESMD)

An Event Specific Management Document to be completed outlining the proposed management structure, responsibilities and contact details for each individual event. The event management plans for each event shall include the following information as a minimum; site plans, stewarding/security plans to include regular weapon sweeps before, during and post egress, crowd management plans, medical plan, fire plan, specific safety policies, risk assessments, traffic management plans, possible noise nuisance plans, and ingress/egress plan. In all cases, this shall be submitted to the Metropolitan Police three

calendar months in advance of the event. The Metropolitan Police shall have an absolute power of veto where they are not satisfied with the measures proposed.

2. Information of Artists and Performers

Details and information of Artists, Performers and Promoters must be presented to the Metropolitan Police 3 months in advance of events. The Premises Licence Holder will work closely with <https://www.safersounds.org.uk>. If the Metropolitan Police identify concerns within 14 days of the submission of this information regarding a particular artist or group the event organiser will remove that artist or performer from the line-up. If at any time MPS/Safer Sounds identify valid concerns regarding a particular artist or group, the event organiser will work closely with them to attend to the issue raised.

3. CCTV

CCTV shall be in operation throughout licensable hours, and must include: Main public entrance/exits, back of house entrance/exits and entrance/exits for Artist, Promoters and Entourage. All Stages/viewing areas, all Arenas/Tents and all bars. During the events any CCTV request made by Police should be provided on a useable digital format immediately.

A) A closed-circuit television (CCTV) system shall be installed at the premises and positions of the cameras shall be agreed with the Metropolitan Police prior to an event taking place.

B) The CCTV system installed at the premises shall be maintained in effective working order and shall be in operation at all times the premises is open to the public.

C) All recordings made by the CCTV system shall be retained and stored in a suitable and secure manner for a minimum of 31 days and shall be made available on request to the Metropolitan Police, the Licensing Authority or other Responsible Authorities.

D) At all times the premises is open to the public a minimum of one member of staff on duty will be able to operate the CCTV system.

E) When the premises is closed or out of hours the Premises Licence Holder will be provide CCTV footage to the Metropolitan Police upon request.

4. The Security and Incident Log

The Security and Incident Log shall be kept on the premises and completed on each occasion an incident as listed in A-J below occurs: The security and Incident log (which may be electronically recorded) shall be kept with the Premises Licence Holder at least six months, and made available on request to police or an authorised officer. The following details shall be recorded:

- (a) All crimes and any incidents reported to the site;
- (b) Location of incident.
- (c) Persons concerned
- (d) Summary of incident
- (e) Identification of any Emergency Services Personnel who attended.
- (f) All ejections of patrons
- (g) Any complaints received
- (h) Any visit by a relevant authority or emergency service
- (i) Any other incident or event that impacts upon the promotion of the Licensing Objectives within the Licensing Act 2003.
- (j) Record of all Security searches of the site including dates and times.

5. Event Site Security

The Event site will have 24/7 CCTV in operation at the start of build until the end of build. All recordings made by the CCTV system shall be retained and stored in a suitable and secure manner for a minimum of 31 days and shall be made available on request to the Metropolitan Police, the Licensing Authority or other Responsible Authorities. A minimum of one member of staff on duty will be able to operate the CCTV system.

The event site will be monitored 24/7 by security staff in order to prevent unauthorised persons gaining entry to the site this shall form part of the ESMD.

Double fence line at least 20 feet apart at all points and Height 2.4 metres with 30cm overhang.

A weapons sweep must be conducted of the event site following completion of the event build up but prior to the event opening to the public. Regular weapon sweeps shall be carried out of the event site and shall be recorded in the Security and Incident log.

6. Admission Search Policy – All Staff, Artists, Promoters and Entourage.

The Premises License Holder shall operate an admission search policy for all staff, artists, promoters and entourage. A Separate Dedicated Security Industry Approved Company to be employed providing SIA security staff at each event to search all Staff, Artists, Promoters and Entourage. The search will operate a 3 stage process: Passive Drug Detection Dogs (minimum of 2 K9 units per event), Wand Metal Detector, Visual & Physical Search (hands on) All bags will be searched and all those entering will pass through the metal detector and/or wands search area.

Searches will be carried out by SIA Registered staff of the same sex.

All members of staff shall be instructed not to consume alcohol nor to take drugs when working on site or in uniform and shall not be under the influence of drink or drugs whilst working.

7. Security Industry Approved (SIA) Staff

SIA Security staff will be deployed at the event at a ratio of 1:50. Body Worn Video will be worn by all SIA door staff who are deployed at the premises including all entry points and those dealing with the ejection of attendees from the event. When SIA Security staff are deployed ensure that records are kept by the DPS, at the premises, of the following details of any door-supervisor employed at the premises: Name and date of birth, full 16 digit SIA badge number and dates and times employed.

These records must be made available, in useable form, to the Metropolitan Police, Merton Council officers or authorised officers of the Security Industry Authority upon request.

SIA Security staff wearing BWV shall begin recording should there be any disruption of Crime and Disorder, or if they deem it appropriate when an incident occurs. In the event that body worn cameras are switched on, these will only be turned off again once the incident has been defused and brought under control. All recordings shall be stored for a minimum period of 31 days with date and time stamping. Viewing of recordings shall be made available immediately upon the request of the Metropolitan Police or authorized officer of the Licensing Authority.

A staff member from the premises who is conversant with the operation of the body worn cameras shall be in the premises at all times when the premises is open. This staff member must be able to provide to the Metropolitan Police or authorized council officer copies of recent images or data with the absolute minimum of delay when requested and within a maximum of 24 hours of the initial request

Subject to Data Protection guidance and legislation, the management of the premises will ensure that key staff are fully trained in the operation of the cameras, and will be able to download selected footage onto a disk/USB Stick for the Metropolitan Police or authorized officers of the Local Authority or UK Border Agency without difficulty, delay or charge.

Any camera breakdown or system failure will be notified to the SW Police Licensing Team and Local Authority immediately & remedied as soon as practicable.

Any queue to enter the premises that forms outside the premises shall be kept orderly and supervised by SIA door supervisors to ensure that there is no nuisance or obstruction to the public highway and footpaths.

All staff engaged outside the entrance to the premises and inside the site, or supervising or controlling queues, shall wear high-visibility jackets or vests.

8 Condition of Entry and Searching Procedures

All attendees to the event will be subject to search. The search will operate a 3 stage process: Passive Drug Detection Dogs (minimum of 2 K9 units per event), Wand Metal Detector, Visual & Physical Search (hands on). All bags will be searched on entry.

Searches will be carried out by SIA Registered staff of the same sex.

Passive Drug Detection Dogs and Explosives Detection Dogs will carry out a sweep of the event site following completion of the event build up but prior to the event opening to the public. The catering, merchandise stalls and any customer lockers will be included during this sweep.

The Premises Licence Holder will operate an anti-drugs policy in conjunction with a search and seizure policy in compliance with agreed memorandum of understanding with the Metropolitan Police. This will also include storage and disposal procedures. Signage will be displayed throughout the premises. Any amendments to the policy must be agreed in writing with South West Licensing Team 30 days prior to any event.

A clear visible notice shall be placed at the entrances to the premises advising those attending, that it is a condition of entry that customers agree to being searched and the Metropolitan Police will be informed if anyone is found in possession of controlled substance or weapons. Anyone found with drugs will be refused entry, more than the agreed quantities for personal consumption (as outlined in the drugs policy) of controlled substances or NPS the Metropolitan Police will be informed immediately. The Drugs Policy will include New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and No2/NOS/Nitrous Oxide. No2 will not be permitted on site and any found on entry will be confiscated.

9. Locked Amnesty Bins

The Premises Licence Holder shall provide separate locked amnesty bins for the disposal of alcohol, drugs, weapons and other waste. This will also include storage and disposal procedures. Any amendments to the policy must be agreed in writing with South West Police Licensing Team 30 days prior to any event.

10. Weapons Policy

Anyone found with an offensive weapon will be ejected/refused entry to the event, detained by SIA security staff the Metropolitan Police informed immediately and the attendee detained until police arrival. The Premises Licence Holder will operate a weapons policy in conjunction with search and seizure. Any amendments to the policy must be agreed in writing with South West Police Licensing Team 30 days prior to any event.

11. Anti-Theft Policy

The Premises Licence Holder shall operate an anti-theft policy, which will include the reporting of theft, safe storage of found items, storage and disposal procedures for all items of property found or discarded at the premises. Signage will be on display in prominent places advising customers to safeguard their property. Any amendments to the policy must be agreed in writing with South West Police Licensing Team 30 days prior to any event.

12. Dispersal Policy

The Premises License Holder shall display appropriate signage to direct all event attendees towards to the nearest transport links should be displayed and this should occur throughout the entire event. Attendees should be reminded that the event is in a residential area and that they should disperse quietly. There shall be a documented dispersal policy, as agreed with the relevant responsible authorities, implemented at the premises and a copy lodged with the South West Police Licensing Team. Any amendments to the policy must be agreed in writing with the South West Police Licensing Team 30 days prior to any event.

13. Challenge 25 Scheme

A Challenge 25 scheme must be operated to ensure that any person attempting to purchase alcohol who appears to be under the age of 25 shall provide documented proof that they are over 18 years of age. Proof of age shall only comprise a valid and in date passport, photo card driving licence, military card or a card bearing the PASS hologram.

All bar staff at the event will be trained, this training should reflect the Licensing Act 2003 and include the licensing objectives, proof of age, and conflict management. The training will be refreshed every 6 months and all staff training records should be maintained and kept on site. A designated member of staff should be able to produce the records on the request of police or other authorised person.

14. Polycarbonate Drinking Vessels

Drinks will not be served in glasses or glass bottles on site. Polycarbonate drinking vessels are used for all alcoholic and soft drinks served to attendees and that all drinks supplied in glass bottles will be decanted into polycarbonate serving or drinking vessels. No alcohol will be permitted to be taken off the licensed site. Customers shall only consume alcohol which has been purchased from the premises.

Each Bar and Tent shall be individually managed by a personal licence holder, during licensable hours.

15. Litter

There will be a proper and adequate control of litter generated by the premises and will be stored securely in a designated area, bins should be placed near to the exits at the site. To ensure that the site is clear of litter after site break down. Staff will be removing all litter from public areas on a regular basis. The Premises License Holder shall ensure a dedicated cleaning company will be employed to pick up all litter relating the events on Sunday 5th September and Monday 6th September – This shall form part of the ESMP.

16. ACT Condition

The Premises Licence Holder shall engage with freely available counter terrorism advice and guidance through Counter Terrorism Protect Officers and Counter Terrorism Security Advisors.

All members of customer facing staff, including those involved in the sale or supply of alcohol, undertake Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Awareness eLearning, on an annual basis (as long as such, or similar, training is available). Such training is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/act-awareness-elearning>.

17. A direct telephone number (mobile to be held by duty manager) will be provided to neighboring premises to be used in the event of a complaint of noise nuisance. A direct telephone number for the License Holder/DPS/manager of the premises shall be publicly available at all times that the premises is open. The number is to be made available to residents and businesses in the vicinity. Any complaints shall be remedied within 48 hours and details to be recorded in the incident book including the action taken by the License Holder/DPS/manager.

18. The Premises License Holder shall run each event with the latest event specific management document that has been agreed in writing at the latest SAG meeting.

19. The Premises Licence Holder shall operate a vulnerable person policy, this must include WAVE training and Ask for Angela for all members of staff.

20. The Premises Licence Holder will allow all uniformed and plain clothes Metropolitan Police to periodically attend the premises upon prior agreement with the Premises Licence Holder/DPS in order to carry out advance drug searching techniques, including (but not limited to) requiring customers to take part in drug analyser testing as a condition of entry, and passive drug dog sweeps of the premises and queue.

WITNESS STATEMENT**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9**

URN

--	--	--	--

Statement of: Bob Whitehead

Age if under 18: 0'18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police officer

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: (witness)



Date: 16.06.2021

I have been a police officer for 22 years and have been advanced public order trained for 20 years. I have completed the Events and Major Incident Foundation training course and have worked within the command team environments of a wide variety of major sporting and music events for more than 10 years. I am currently posted as the neighbourhood Inspector for Merton and have been in this role for more than 3 years.

I have been involved in a number of previous music events at Morden Park Sports ground including Eastern Electric in 2018 and 2019 and the planning for the Dynamic event of 2019. The previous EE events were well managed with an extremely effective organising team. The previous licencing officer described the 2019 EE Event as one of the best organised events he had ever seen. Unfortunately there were still 4 stabbings and two weapon involved robberies within the searched event footprint. The Robberies created the greatest concerns for me as they are pre planned and the suspects clearly did not see enough stewards / security in the area to cause them not to commit their crimes.

Dynamic music (MJMK) were refused a license for 10,000 attendees per day for a two day music festival shortly after the last EE event due to the issues that were highlighted in August 2019.

I am aware that Slammin music have requested a licence for a music event on the 4th and 5th September. I have significant concerns about this.

Whilst I appreciate that this event and organisation should be treated as a stand alone and not compared with previous problems, I am concerned that the location is not suitable for such an event. This is based on my experience at EE in 2018 and 2019. It is also based on extensive experience at myriad music events at other locations across London throughout my career.

Slammin have stated that this is a completely different genre and clientele. I understand that several of the Slammin artists played previously at Eastern Electrics so I am strongly of the opinion that a very similar crowd will be attending this event.

I have looked at the plan that has been submitted for this event and have significant concerns regarding the numbers requested. The application is for 9,999 attendees (including staff and performers). This number of festival attendees inevitably will draw people with criminal intent to the area such as thieves and dealers of legal and non legal narcotics. Large crowds of drunk people create crowd dynamics issues and the psychology of a such a group of people allows disorder to be hidden amongst the members of the larger assembly. Large crowds will take control of an environment such as walking in the road and causing general noise disturbance and anti-social behaviour. A smaller crowd is much easier to manage by stewards and the police.

Directions/instructions can be heard and individual acts of disorder or crime can be identified and dealt with more effectively. This means that such acts are less likely to be committed. EE were licensed for 23,000 on the Saturday and 15,000 on the Sunday. About 12,000 tickets were purchased for the Sunday which still caused significant difficulties from a crowd safety perspective. On both days at the end of the event, the crowd left via Merton college main entrance onto the A24. They walked into the road as the footpath was too narrow requiring a closure of part of the road for safety purposes. Had police not closed part of the road on both days, I am convinced that significant injuries would have occurred with drunk festival goers walking in the road and being hit by traffic.

I have looked at the organisers plan that involves the crowd at the end of each evening walking North East through Morden playing fields. This is an unlit field and I note that on September 4th 2021, the sunset is at 19.39 and thus it will be completely dark (Astronomical twilight) before the event ends.

I am concerned for the safety of those attendees walking that route and the potential for indecent assaults or violent assaults in the vicinity of the wooded areas that are being used. I anticipate that a significant number of stewards will be required along with external lighting in this area. I should point out that this solution while increasing the risk of serious assault (depending on stewarding and lighting) has the potential to alleviate some of the anti-social behaviour in the form of festival attendees urinating and defecating in neighbours gardens or the grounds of the registry office (as happened at the EE events). I therefore have concerns relating to crime and disorder.

I am extremely concerned that the path comes out onto the A24 through a gate onto a footpath. At this point the footpath narrows to less than 2m wide. The Industry standard calculation is that a maximum egress of 82 people per metre per minute should be used for crowd dynamics calculations. A crowd of 9,999 would take more than 2 hours to traverse this section of the footpath. Bearing in mind the expected mood and level of intoxication of the crowd that will have consumed alcohol if not other substances, I am not convinced that they will wait in a queue for such a long period. Especially as the vast majority would then miss the last tube train home which on the Sunday is at about 23.10 and only holds about 600 travellers.

I am extremely concerned about the A24 which is a dual carriageway and a major arterial route for London (Red route). This is a key road for a large number of emergency vehicles and buses. I am certain that the large crowd travelling in that direction will walk in the road and that the closure of any part of this road will have a significant impact on the London wide transport network. Failure to close this road due to people not staying on the pavement would be a massive risk to the safety of those pedestrians and I am convinced that there would be an unacceptable risk of serious injuries or deaths from road traffic collisions.

Bearing in mind the previous issues which involved extensive violence, I am extremely worried that a stabbing at the location and thereby a crime scene on / near to the A24 would have a critical impact on the transport road network. I therefore have concerns relating to public safety both for the attendees and staff but also the wider population if a major transport road were to be closed.

I have considered the number of stewards that are required for this event. I note that it was recorded that there were insufficient stewards in 2019 in the debrief reports from 2019. I am unable to find a record of the number of stewards at the previous event. This event has been requested to have a higher proportion of searches of the attendees and will clearly require a significantly bigger footprint for the route across Morden Park sports ground and Morden playing fields to make efforts to reduce the risks for the ticket holders walking through the darkened area.

The MPS requirement is for separate stewarding companies to remove the potential of stewards to be re-deployed away from one role to other posts. Without this requirement, there is often a significant period away from both posts as stewards travel between roles. The ratio of 1:50 is in line with a similar event on another borough (Garage Nation 2021) and even at 1:50 I am worried that this will not provide the coverage that is required to prevent violence, disorder, and anti-social behaviour.

I have raised previous concerns regarding the noise with the organisers and have pointed out the geography of the location. The topography of the park makes the venue itself in effect a hilltop location (North, West and South the residential areas are below the elevation of the footprint). This means that the sound of an event will travel further and cause disturbance and disruption to more residents. I therefore have concerns about this event causing a public nuisance.

I note that various parts of the paperwork have included the Friday in the application form. I am uncertain if this is a long term aim to make this a three day event in the future or simply poor checking of the application prior to submission.

Whilst I have considered the Slammin music festival as a stand alone, the concerns that I have raised are predominantly due to my opinion that this is not a suitable venue for such a large event. I am aware that the previous EE event in 2019 cost approximately £140,000 in police time as per the MOPAC guidance for costs of policing. At this stage I am not in a position to estimate the anticipated cost of policing this event but many of the officers deployed to the weekend will have to be removed from other duties and this will obviously have a negative impact on the policing of the locality, Borough, and BCU.

I appreciate that the organisers have held previous events at other locations and have no desire to denigrate the efforts of both Slammin or previously EE however my concern is that this location is not suitable for an event of the size requested.

I am concerned that this event will set a precedent and that future events will point to this weekend and request similar conditions. In view of this, I am requesting a 1 year licence with a 1:50 stewarding ratio and 4999 attendees. These conditions are in addition to others that have been requested and agreed between the police and organisers. This will allow the organisers to demonstrate that they can manage the crowds in a safe and appropriate manner without a significant increase in crime and anti-social behaviour. If this event is completed safely and successfully, it will allow us to review the plans and consider increasing the number of tickets at a future hearing. I believe that it will also reduce the risk of a recurrence of the serious violence of 2019.

Signature: 

From: Christopher Jones <Christopher.Jones@merton.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 May 2021 22:31

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

Cc: paul@slamminevents.com

Subject: RE: Radioactive Clothing Limited t/a Slammin Events, Morden Park, Lower Morden Lane, London SM4 - Application for Licence

Dear All,

After due consideration of the above application, and in its opinion to meet the licensing objectives of 'the prevention of crime and disorder' and 'the protection of children from harm', Merton Trading Standards Service would like to make the following representation requesting that these conditions be added,

1. Notices shall be placed at all points of sale detailing the restrictions on sales of alcohol to children.
2. A record of refusals shall be maintained which documents every instance that a sale of alcohol (and any other age-restricted product) is refused on the premises, indicating the date and time the refusal was made, and the member of staff making the refusal.
3. The record of refusals shall be available for inspection by authorised officers of the licensing authority, officers of the trading standards service, and officers of the Police.
4. An effective methodology shall be in place at all points of sale to ensure staff undertake appropriate age checks on potential sales of alcohol (and any other age-restricted product).
5. All staff that undertake the sale or supply of alcohol (and any other age-restricted product) shall receive appropriate training in relation to undertaking appropriate age checks on such, before being allowed to sell or supply any alcohol (and any other age-restricted product).
6. Records of all staff training, relating to the sale or supply of alcohol (and any other age-restricted product), along with any training material used, will be kept and maintained by the Designated Premises Supervisor or the Premises Licence Holder.
7. Staff training records shall be available for inspection by authorised officers of the licensing authority, officers of the trading standards service, and officers of the Police.

Many thanks,

Christopher

Christopher Jones
Senior Principal Trading Standards Officer

Telephone: 020 8288 5650

Email: christopher.jones@merton.gov.uk



MEMORANDUM

To: Licensing

From: Andrew Pickup, Principal Environmental Health Practitioner

Tel: 020 8545 3887

Date: 17 May 2021

RADIOACTIVE CLOTHING LIMITED T/A SLAMMIN' EVENTS MORDEN PARK OPEN SPACE

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

Music events on this site have previously resulted in multiple noise complaints from local residents during such events.

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 are used to not being unduly disrupted during their own leisure period.

The event organisers propose that 'the premises licence holder will submit a Noise Management Policy to MC Environmental Health at least 12 weeks before any event and this policy will be agreed with at least 30 days before the event. The policy will include a publicised system for making complaints, logging complaints and the response to any noise issues. The public contact number will be staffed at least one hour before opening and one hour after closing of the event. This number will be located in the Control Room in order to inform responses by event staff.' To date no further details have been provided and it is unclear what the 'Noise Management Policy' will cover and how the noise levels would be controlled. Given statement in the licence application form, the above time frame will likely not be adhered to.

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

protection against noise pollution for residents should the Committee grant the application.

Condition 1

1) A Noise Management Plan shall be submitted and agreed by the Environmental Health (Noise & Nuisance) Manager at least 8 weeks prior to an event taking place, which shall incorporate details of pre-event information, sound check procedures, sound monitoring strategy, sound attenuation at each 'venue', noise and sound system management together with Local Authority liaison and complaint handling procedures which shall be implemented and adhered to throughout the duration of the event. A post event compliance report shall be produced following each event and submitted to Environmental Health.

Andrew Pickup
Principal Environmental Health Practitioner

From: Simon Joynes <simon@joynes-nash.co.uk>
Sent: 17 May 2021 16:15
To: Andrew Pickup <Andrew.Pickup@merton.gov.uk>
Cc: Paul Rooney <paul@slamminevents.com>
Subject: Re: Noise Condition

Hi Andrew

Many thanks for that and I can confirm that we have no objection to the condition. We will prepare the strategy in the next couple of weeks for submission.

Regards

Simon Joynes



Live Events Acoustics Land Contamination EIA's Ecology Landscape Arboricultural

www.joynes-nash.co.uk

Simon Joynes Mob: 07870508492 simon@joynes-nash.co.uk
Pete Nash Mob: 07769202073 pete@joynes-nash.co.uk

Office 17 Park Lane, Henlow, Bedfordshire, SG16 6AT
Company Number: 9422341 || VAT Registration No: 204 752234

From: Andrew Pickup <Andrew.Pickup@merton.gov.uk>
Date: Monday, 17 May 2021 at 16:11
To: "simon@joynes-nash.co.uk" <simon@joynes-nash.co.uk>
Subject: Noise Condition

Further to our conversation, please find below proposed condition regarding noise management.

- 1) A Noise Management Plan shall be submitted and agreed by the Environmental Health (Noise & Nuisance) Manager at least 8 weeks prior to an event taking place, which shall incorporate details of pre-event information, sound check procedures, sound monitoring strategy, sound attenuation at each 'venue', noise and sound system management together with Local Authority liaison and complaint handling procedures which shall be implemented and adhered to throughout the duration of the event. A post event compliance report shall be produced following each event and submitted to Environmental Health.

Regards

Andrew Pickup

Principal Environmental Health Practitioner

Regulatory Services Partnership

London Boroughs of Merton, Richmond upon Thames and Wandsworth

Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

02085453887

andrew.pickup@merton.gov.uk



Cllr Sally Kenny, Cllr Helena Dollimore
Merton Civic Centre, London Rd, Morden SM4 5DX

RE: Application Reference WK/202103931

To Licensing Officers and Members,

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the views and specific concerns raised with us during a public meeting held via zoom on 2nd June 2021 regarding the proposed music event in Morden Park on 4/5 September 2021. Around fifty local residents were in attendance, alongside representatives from the local police, the event organisers Slammin Events, council officers, and councillors.

Residents have been directed to submit views directly to the licensing team but we have collated a summary of feedback in line with the four licensing objectives below.

The prevention of crime and disorder

- Concern expressed that this event will lead to drug taking, excessive alcohol consumption, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. What measures will be in place to prevent this, and return the park to its usual condition following the event?
- Residents asked that the potential cost of policing an event of this size be considered relative to the income generated for local parks and businesses.

Public safety

- In light of the ongoing pandemic, and recent surge of the Delta variant, concern was expressed that this large gathering of people (not all of whom may be vaccinated) would pose a risk of coronavirus transmission.
- The A24 running alongside the park carries fast moving traffic, and the need to consider how event goers will be safely funnelled from public transport to the event was raised, and the narrowness of the entry gate proposed.
- The need for clear sign posting throughout the event and local area was raised.

The prevention of public nuisance

- Residents expressed concern about the high noise levels and light pollution generated by such an event. A request was made for the environmental impact on the park and local wildlife to be considered and protected from harm.

The protection of children from harm.

- Residents highlighted the proposal to play loud music on a Sunday evening could be disruptive for children at the beginning of the Autumn school term.

A number of local residents approached us to say they welcomed an event of this nature taking place in the park, and would attend if the event were to go ahead. It was requested that local catering businesses be approached by the event organisers in order to support Merton's small businesses.

Cllr Sally Kenny and Cllr Helena Dollimore

From: Councillor Sally Kenny <Sally.Kenny@merton.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 June 2021 22:05

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

Subject: Music festival in Morden Park

Several residents in Lower Morden Lane Ward have approached me of their concerns about this festival. The majority are against the festival, although a few are for it.

Their reasons for being against are:

1 prevention of crime and disorder.

Residents state that they are concerned about the drugs, selling/using. I have had claims that the selling of this has gone on in Lower Morden Lane, as well as the use of the silver nitrous oxide cylinders, although are no illegal for over 16 year olds.

Despite the number of stewards, police and the metal detectors, 4 stabbings occurred at the last EE festival. Residents found this particularly frightening.

With large numbers drinking behaviour deteriorated. This would happen at various events.

2 Public Safety

Residents tell me that they are unhappy about the safety of people in such numbers in the park. The exiting of the park does not have adequate exits for people leaving 'En mass'. Exits are just not wide enough when thousands want to leave at a similar time. Obviously, arrivals tend to be a constant slow flow.

3 Prevention of public nuisance

A number of residents complained of people defecating and urinating in the streets and in their front gardens, particularly in Lower Morden Lane.

The amount of litter in the streets was totally unacceptable and upsetting for residents. It was sometimes tossed into their gardens or was blow there by the wind.

The noise of the part festivals was too loud for very many people, despite the claims that it was within the decibel range. In the heat they had to shut their doors and windows and were unable to use their gardens.

The hours of music are stated as from 12 noon to 22.30/22.00. However, this does not account to the practicing/tuning which in the last EE concert started at about 9.30.

4. Protection of children from harm.

This relates to the drug use of attendees and the sellers. Particularly to the nitrous oxide. The car park in the Assembly Hall, Lower Morden Lane, allegedly was awash with these containers. One resident states a male has boxes of these he was selling, and local youngsters do frequent this area on their bikes.

Children are in area where discarded needles are dropped.

Sunday evening, the music stops at 22.00. The next day children have school the following a likely disturbed night's sleep.

The area is a residential one and there is inadequate space from the park to the homes and this is what generates most of the complaints from my residents. Some may say, oh free music but the majority are concerned about the intrusion and disruption to them, their environment and to the community.

Thank you

Councillor Sally Kenny
Lower Morden Ward. Labour

REPRESENTATION AGAINST LICENSE APPLICATION

Slammin Events at Morden Park Open Space, London Road, Morden

Applicant(s) Radioactive Clothing Limited T/A Sla

Application Reference WK/202103931

Application Type New Premises Licence

Closing date for Representations: Thursday, 03 June 2021

Representation from Cllr. Nick McLean (Cannon Hill Ward)

nick.mclean@merton.gov.uk

Date: 03 June 2021

I am writing in my capacity as a Councillor representing Cannon Hill Ward on Merton Council. I attended the public meeting held on 02 June 2021 via zoom which was attended by the event organiser and I thank them for taking the time to present their plans to residents.

The aforementioned meeting was also attended by the relevant Cabinet Member and Senior Council Officers.

I also wish to thank Sean Williams of Slammin Events for taking the time to speak with me on the morning of Wednesday, 02 June 2021 to discuss the application.

However, I believe it to be wrong that the Cabinet Member did not call a public meeting earlier and did not provide an appropriate level of detail for residents to consider prior to the public meeting. I believe this to be disrespectful to residents.

While I acknowledge the need to make use of our parks for events, I have major concerns as to the suitability of this type of event for Morden Park and the anti-social behaviour, criminality and unacceptable noise levels that music festivals bring to the residential area.

I also regret that, given the level of anti-social behaviour experienced during the EE Festivals, the applicant is seeking a three-year licence, where a more sympathetic acknowledgement of residents' concerns would have been to apply for a one-year licence in an attempt to build trust.

I also question the financial cost/benefit equation to the Council as this information was not adequately presented by the Cabinet Member. Furthermore, consideration to the costs of policing the event needs to be factored into any cost/benefit analysis as this is an expense on the public purse and as such will have a negative effect on the MET policing budget.

In addition, I also conducted an online survey to ask residents their views, and the overwhelming response was against the granting of the application.

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

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 have been 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 previous event organisers, the following debris remained and was not removed in a timely manner:

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

Assurance have been provided previously, however, these were not adequately enforced. This goes to the heart of the lack of trust in the clean-up being properly delivered. The above poses a direct public safety risk to users of the park as well as the surrounding residential areas.

Furthermore, an event of this type will not promote public safety. Indeed, it is more probable that public safety will be jeopardised due to the increased risk of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

Given the evidence of previous music festival events, there has been large-scale public nuisance and anti-social behaviour – this directly leads to whether this type of event is suitable in a residential area.

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 weekend inside their properties with windows shut and unable to enjoy their own properties,
- obscene language from the performers,
- a large amount of litter and broken bottles all around the area – both on public highways and private property.

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. This type of behaviour is not something that the borough's children should witness for fear of drug use being normalised.

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)

From: Councillor Dennis Pearce <Dennis.Pearce@merton.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 June 2021 21:25
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Proposed music festival 4th and 5th September wk/202103931

To Licensing Officers and Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to object on behalf of local St Helier residents, To application no wk/202103931 Radio Active Festival (clothing ltd) and myself as a councillor and local resident. of 21 Holne Chase, sm4 5qb I have many concerns but I would for now like to focus on 2.

No 1 Prevention of public nuisance.

The experience from all order events of this type have resulted in local residents witnessing public urination and defecating around the site by festival goers. plus noise nuisance (no matter how much prevention is put in by the organizers the wind negates all of the prevention measurers).

No3 Protection of children from harm.

Young children are drawn towards festivals of all kinds, whether or not they have tickets or are allowed in at all

which puts them in the path of drug dealers and alcohol It is the duty of not only the police and stewards but

Also local Councillors and I would be falling in my duty of care not only the children but there parents if I didn't

object strongly to this and other festivals on small site like this putting young people in this danger.

Yours

Sincerely

Councillor Dennis Pearce, St Helier Ward

REPRESENTATION AGAINST LICENSE APPLICATION

Slammin Events at Morden Park Open Space, Lower Morden Lane, 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 020 8274 4901

Date: 02 June 2021

Applicant(s): Radioactive Clothing Limited T/A Slammin Events

Application Type: New Premises License

Application reference: WK/202103931

Closing date for Representations: Thursday, 03 June 2021

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. This must take place in a serene and calm environment.

We have been afforded very little notice and have now had to start advising on the cancellation of events, especially for ceremonial functions such as weddings, baby naming and civil partnerships. Weddings can be booked up to 2 years in advance so there will be very upset customers having to rethink their wedding plans if a license is approved. This has a negative impact on the reputation and integrity of the service.

While we have worked closely with colleagues and event organisers over previous events to mitigate interference with the operations of the Registry Office, including limiting availability at the weekend, we have had little to no consultation regarding the logistics of this event that not only impedes on the booked ceremonial events at the weekend but also the statutory functions entrusted to us from the General Registry Office throughout the build and break days.

We note from paraphernalia sent to interested groups and Councillors that build days will run from Monday, 30 August through to Friday 3rd September and break days will be Monday, 6th through to Wednesday 8th September. We also note that the applicant is stating that the Registry Office remains accessible (albeit in entirely unsatisfactory conditions) and that the applicant is in discussions regarding the use of London Road Car Park regarding a controlled access on show days only

We ask that the Licensing Sub-Committee, if minded to grant a premises license for this event, considers the following conditions, which are made under the auspices of the four licensing objectives:

- ❖ The prevention of crime and disorder;
 - ❖ Public safety;
 - ❖ The prevention of public nuisance; and
 - ❖ The protection of children from harm.
1. Build and breaking down traffic is restricted to accessing the park through the rear barrier in London Road Car Park and only between the hours of 08.00 – 10.00 and 16.00 – 18.00.
 2. There should be unfettered access to the Registry Office for customer's and staff throughout the entire the event, including build and break days. This means the access road is accessible and available.
 3. London Road Car Park is not overly controlled or restricted to impede users of the Registry Office.
 4. No sound testing of equipment prior to the event unless conducted outside of operational hours of the Registry Office, normally 09.00 – 16.30.
 5. Dedicated security is provided to keep the Registry Office and Courtyard safe and restricted from event attendees throughout the event.
 6. The applicant must inform the appropriate person at the Registry of all known future dates at the earliest opportunity, not less than 12 months beforehand, to afford this service any chance to effectively manage customer expectations.
 7. As has been suggested in previous years, by the Council's own Environmental Noise officer, the Council and Friends of the Park invest some of their profits from allowing these ventures to proceed into the planting of trees to effectively "sound-proof" the Registry Office from this and future events.
 8. If the application is seeking the extension of this event in future years to include a third day (Fridays) this is immediately denied or can only commence from 17.00. This includes all forms of entertainment, sales 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 Council.

Happy to be contacted to discuss these conditions with the applicant and others prior to the event.

Kind regards Sean Cunniffe

As the chair of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (AMA) Liaison Group, I write to object to the application for the above licence for a two-day event by Radioactive Clothing Limited T/A Slammin Events.

The AMA Liaison Group was established 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 an estimated 10 - 20 million followers. Its motto is "Love for All, Hatred for None". The Mosque is located 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.

POTENTIAL GROWTH

Although this will be the first time Slammin Events has staged a two-day music event in Morden Park if the licence is granted, both days feature well established brands ("Southport" on Saturday, "Tranzmission" on Sunday) previously staged in Finsbury Park and Crystal Palace.

Slammin Events aims to stage this event for the next three years. Attendance of 10,000 for each day in 2021 might be expected to grow to 15,000 in 2022 and 20,000 in 2023. This is still within the capacity of the site, but would cause major disruption to the surrounding residential area. The implications for the licensing objectives are as follows:

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

Slammin Events has no connection with Eastern Electrics, organisers of three previous music events in Morden Park. However, both aim to attract large crowds gathering over two days for an event in the

Park, so previous experience with Eastern Electrics is relevant for comparison purposes:

2017 – 5 reports of ASB, one of sexual assault

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

2019 – 4 stabbings inside the enclosure, 33 offences and 9 arrests including possession with intent to supply drugs, robbery and two assaults on police officers.

No arrests were made for the stabbings, as none of the victims were willing to co-operate with the police. This supports police concerns that they were related to drug dealing, as rival gangs fought to supply the market created by the event.

Although Slammin Events aims to attract a different audience, the same gangs will still be competing to supply the drugs market associated with the event.

2. PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

There are very few public toilets in Morden since the station toilets were closed years ago, and the Civic Centre (which has toilet facilities) is closed at weekends. Previous events have demonstrated the need for temporary toilets in sizeable numbers to avoid festival goers seeking out places to urinate between the town centre and Morden Park.

Likewise, provision of litter bins between these two points is inadequate for the amount of litter 10,000 festival goers are likely to deposit. In previous years abnormal amounts of litter have been dropped in the Park and London Road.

3. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

While both days are aimed at specified age groups (21 – 30 for Tranzmission, 25 – 40 for Southport), the organisers have not stated how they plan to prevent under 18's from entering.

Nitrous oxide canisters have been sold outside the site at previous events, quite possibly to under 18's.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY

The police opposed granting the licences for both the 2017 and 2018 events, as they had only limited resources to maintain order outside the enclosure. In 2019 these resources proved inadequate to respond to four stabbings within six hours on the first day, and many more officers had to be brought in to mount stop and search operations when a Section 60 notice was issued. Total policing costs were £141,000 in 2019, none of which were recoverable from Eastern Electrics.

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

From: Karen Cilch
Sent: 03 June 2021 18:05
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject:

I am objecting to the music festival in morden park in September because today I received the information I have been requesting and it does not cover most of my concerns dealing with the problems of the last festival.

The prevention of crime and disorder: this was promised by the last festival committee and yet we had fights in front our house hours after the festival finished and we never saw security on and around the streets outside of the festival.

The prevention of public nuisance: the only concern for the festival is in the area of the park and once they come out into our neighbor hood no one stopped people in our gardens drunk , urinating, yelling and sitting on our walls waiting for uber drivers till well after the festival. Also so many incidents occurred after the festival where ever the people went after the festival causing problems. When you live close to the park having to listen to loud bass for hours is like torture.

Just like the last festival I went to the meeting and was laughed at and insulted Alot of my neighbors are elderly and were frightened with all the noise and strange people around they houses and in the alleys.

Karen Aleksandrowicz

From: AZIZA Dar <
Sent: 03 June 2021 11:26
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: wk/202103931

Licence app wk/202103931 Morden Park the 4th and 5th September

I attended the consultation for the music event in Morden Park the 4th and 5th September. The impression given by councillors, Merton council officers and the company running the event was that similar events at Haringey were very successful. I checked on Haringey website last night and this is not the case. I have attached the Haringey briefing notes on the Slamming event in 2019 that create a different picture. Noise was an issue as with the precious eastern electric events. Chris Lee stated that noise limitations were met but it was two days of constant vibrations at my house which backs on to Morden Park.

From the screenshot of last nights presentation I can see the new event is planned to be nearer my house shown on the top left hand side of screenshot M3 attached.

The organiser also appeared to feel one person answering the noise complaints line would be sufficient.

I would also like to express concern about the poor handling of the consultation of this proposed event. Consultation only held 27 hours before the end of licensing representations is not acceptable. I would have expected more notice and to be informed of the zoom meeting as I live in the immediate area. We have been ignored.

I live at

Regards

Lynn Aziza Dar

Briefing Note

Title: Slammin' 2019 and Finsbury Park Rectification Works
For Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel – 5th November
From Sarah Jones, Events & Partnerships Manager

Introduction

- The Friends of Finsbury Park have raised concerns in an email to the Chair regarding issues arising from the Slammin' Events managed festivals that took place in Finsbury Park in September 2019.
- Concerns raised are around the high noise levels experienced, and damage to the park.
- For events to take place in Finsbury Park there are two very clear and separate processes for event organisers to follow in order to operate in the Park: park hire and the licensing of regulated activity.
- The Panel are asked to note that although this briefing paper provides an overview on the noise levels emitted from the events this year, and the reasons why this occurred, the noise levels are set and monitored through the licencing process and are therefore outside the purview of the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel. If the Friends of Finsbury Park or any other group or individual want to raise concerns around any aspect of the event licence, then they would need to do this through the formal licencing process.
- This briefing paper provides an overview on the music festivals – Hospitality & Abode - that took place over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd September 2019. And provide some background and answers to the points raised by the Friends.

Event Overview

Slammin' Events has hosted music festivals in Finsbury Park for the past five years. For two of those years (2017 & 2018) they have also hosted a two-day music festival in June, in addition to their September events.

The events are drum 'n' bass festivals, contained within the Bandstand Field area of Finsbury Park. The event space consists of 6/7 tents, with various DJs playing throughout the day. 12,500 tickets are sold for each event day.

There are two process involved in allowing the events to take place:

- **Park Hire:** This is overseen by the Outdoor Events Policy with the Council hiring a space within the park to the organiser to use to host their event. Through this process the Council have a duty to oversee the event activity, ensuring park users and residents are protected from any potential impacts that the event may bring to the area. It is also through this process that the plans are put in place to protect the park infrastructure as much as possible, from any damage caused by the event.
- **Premises Licence:** This is overseen by the Licensing Act 2013 and is a statutory process that oversees the provision of regulated activity including the selling of alcohol, the provision of live music etc. It is through this process that specific conditions are set within the Licence, that the Licence holder must operate within, including noise limits. There are currently three Premises Licences issued to promoters to offer licensable activity in Finsbury Park. These licences are independent of one another and specific to the relevant licence holder. They are not all subject to automatic changes to the conditions because one of the three licenses has been reviewed and changes made to that licence.

Briefing Note

2019 Noise Issues

The following information is provided for 'information purposes only' the issue relating to noise are a matter for the statutory Licensing process and fall under the remit of the Licensing Sub Committee. There is in place a formal Licensing Review Process and complaints about noise would be dealt with via this process.

The September events were held using the Slammin' Events Premises Licence. This was issued to Slammin' Events in 2015 and lasts until September 2025.

Noise levels set within the Licence vary according to the background levels and are set at residential sensitive receptor points. Sound levels from the events should not exceed the background level by more than 15dB when measured as a 15 minute LAeq.

The event organiser is responsible for monitoring and will employ an independent noise consultancy contractor who has experience with providing noise management for music festivals. Council noise officers are also on hand to monitor noise levels at complainants' properties.

In previous years the Slammin' managed event have receive a maximum of 15 complaints in total, across the two days.

This year, the level of complaints was unprecedented for this event, and included:

- 44 complaints made to the advertised complaints line, based onsite during the two days of the event -
 - 6 on Saturday
 - 38 on Sunday
- 73 complaints made directly to the Council

As the large number of complaints started to be received on Sunday, discussions took place between the onsite noise engineer and Licensing Officer to see what could be done to reduce the bass, as this appeared to be the main source of the complaints. Two of the dance tents had the bass reduced and subsequently stopped earlier than intended. The sound engineer explained that the pattern of complaints shifted as was expected due to the wind shift. This meant that Rowley Gardens became the most critical location.

With Sunday's wind shift complaints were anticipated from the N/NE of the site which was largely what happened due to the direction of the wind. Interestingly there were a number of complaints that were in excess of 1km, some 3km+ from the venue on Sunday.

Whilst events on Sundays can always be expected to generate more complaint for a variety of reasons, the level of complaints was disappointing even though the noise levels set in the current premises licence were not breached at any time.

The number of complaints received could also have been exacerbated due to residents expecting the conditions under which this event operated, to be inline with those of the Live Nation Licence such as the finishing time on Sunday. For the Slammin' event this was 10pm, but for Live Nation it is 9.30pm.

Discussion have been had with the licence holder relating to the level of complaints received on the day, the possibility of reviewing the licence in order to update the background noise levels and introduce relevant bass monitoring conditions. The Noise Environment Health Officer – Responsible Authority has requested that the Premises Licence holder apply for a Variation to bring their Licence

Briefing Note

in line with that of Live Nation, and if they do not within the next three months, a consideration will be given to a Review by the Noise EHO – Responsible Authority.

Rectification Works

One of the main risks of allowing events to take place in an outdoor arena is the weather. Weather is the only thing that cannot be influenced or changed, although planning for all types of weather is a necessity when using a park.

Council officers work with the event organiser to ensure that appropriate ground protection is used, although if heavy rainfall happens during an event or during the build and break which impacts the ground conditions, it is highly likely some form of damage will occur.

London has experienced higher levels of rain since the end of September, than usually anticipated.

Rain fell overnight of the 21/22 September. Although this didn't have a significant affect on the ground for the event to take place on Sunday, it continued to rain heavily on the following Monday and all during the week the event infrastructure was being taken down and moved off site.

A planned programme of works has been commissioned, but because of the rainfall experienced throughout October, the ground on and around the Bandstand Field is far too saturated for restoration vehicles such as tractors to access without churning the ground even further.

Once the rain stops and we experience a few dry days for the sitting water to soak away, the contractor will commence ground works. These are expected to take approximately one week, and will involve the following:

- Harrowing: levelling the ground - flattening ruts, dips and depressions
- Verti-draining: decompaction of ground - letting in air and water out
- Top dressing: 300 tonnes of 70/30 mix of soil and sand
- Over seeding: using a deep rooted, hard-wearing seed variety
- Application of slow release fertiliser: to assist germination of seed and early growth
- Use of tractor with specialist implements

If the right conditions are experienced, it is anticipated that the works together with the increased time between major events, will allow for a deeper rooted and harder wearing sward to form so even when the grass coverage has been worn down by the increased footfall during the June/July events, the root has established enough to re-grow as soon as the rain starts to fall.

Risks which could affect the success of the planned works again come back to the weather: too wet, too soon after the seed has been sewn and there's a chance it could be washed away; to dry or too cold and the seed won't germinate.

The area where restoration works will take place will be tapped off to deter people traversing across the ground, with notices put up informing people of the works.

Future Proposals

The proposed Finsbury Park major event season for 2020 is currently out to stakeholder notification and they do not include any events in September 2020.

The proposals seek to reduce the number of events in the park and contain them all to within one concentrated, concerted period. This approach will reduce the level of income received but allow the park to generate enough income for its basic maintenance, enhanced staffing levels and a

Briefing Note

reasonable level of investment within the park each year. The future investments will focus on creating a safer park and responding to the investment priorities set as part of the recent public consultation about the park.

Event	Dates 2020	Daily capacity	Licence Holder / Organiser
Community Festival weekend	26 – 28 June (3 days)	45k	Live Nation / Festival Republic
Wireless Festival weekend	3 – 5 July (3 days)	45k	
TBC	10 OR 11 July (1 day)	45k	

New for 2020

- The major event season in Finsbury Park will be contained to a four-week period (inc build and break) during late June/ early July
- There will be no other 'major' music festivals taking place within Finsbury Park in 2020
- A reduction in the number of major events across the events season for 2020 will result in three weeks shorter occupancy period of build and break days in the park (2020: 24 / 2019: 44)
- Less chance of damage occurring to the grass and paths, and emissions from event vehicles cut by two thirds– one load in / one load out rather than three
- Focusing events into these four weeks will ensure public usage of the areas can increase and the grass condition can be improved to reduce the intensity and severity of any damage to the grass areas during events
- Removes events that take place in the wetter months and thus significantly reducing the potential for damage
- With Steel Yard not going ahead, the park would be free of events during the May half-term school holiday

From: Robin Bainton <
Sent: 03 June 2021 16:57
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Slammin Events

I only discovered the proposal yesterday and learnt of the deadline for responding to the licence application. I have not had as much time as I would have wished to consider the application.

Based on my experience of previous music festivals held at Morden Park, I consider it is likely the proposal will undermine the following licensing objectives. I should like the sub-committee to consider the following factors in considering the application.

The prevention of crime and disorder

Previous music events held at Morden Park have attracted drug dealers to the area. I base this on attending previous meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee, personal observation, listening and speaking to local residents, attending consultation events held by the organisers of proposed events and postings on local social media.

The use of substances extends to use of small gas cylinders for inhalation, with the empty containers left scattered on the ground in the vicinity of the event. There have been attempts to recruit teenage children of local residents to act as mules to transport drugs into the event for sale inside the enclosed site.

Despite the promoters indicated target audience they have no way of controlling attendance by age at the event. Some local residents see this as an event for young people and is likely to attract young people outside the perimeter of the event itself.

Public safety

Although the application makes reference to Covid restrictions, a large gathering will inevitably be a risk factor to spread Covid-19 or other disease, whether permitted by government or not.

The NHS has a backlog of necessary operations that have had to be deferred at the direction of the government. This is likely to take more than a year to catch up as the NHS has been funded to provide a lower number of beds and lower number of ICU beds in proportion to population than comparable affluent countries. Although the proposal may have provision on site for medical support, anything which goes beyond the capacity of those to deal with, will fall to the NHS to respond to and increase pressure on the NHS.

Locally the proposal to apply for licensing consent for another festival (with little apparent publicity to residents in the vicinity likely to be most affected), has once again started to become highly divisive among local residents in the wider area, with factions desiring to impose their view on others. This is not in keeping with a normal perspective and respect for other people.

The prevention of public nuisance

Noise has been a nuisance at previous events and may well be again. The prediction of noise spread has been shown to be unpredictable and impact highly variable with significant changes within short distances.

Previous events have led to those attracted by a music festival, relieving themselves in the grounds of St Lawrence Church and causing other damage. Although the proposal appears to use an alternative access route, there will inevitably be interested persons attracted to the vicinity of the event who may approach from any direction and cause a nuisance.

The protection of children from harm

Based on previous events children may be induced to become involved in the transport and sale of drugs.

R Bainton

From: Clare Bennett <

Sent: 02 June 2021 14:35

To: Elizabeth Macdonald <Elizabeth.Macdonald@merton.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Proposed Licensing Application Submitted by Slammin Events - 4 and 5 September 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

I recently learned that an application has been submitted to hold an event at Morden Park of 4 and 5 September 2021. I consider this to be completely inappropriate, given the level of disturbance, destruction and anti-social behaviour experienced as a result of previous events in the park. I live on [REDACTED], which is close to the park and have found the noise disturbance to have been completely unacceptable in previous years.

For example, when the EE festival has been held here, the noise has created a disturbance for residents and can be heard clearly even at a distance. The attendees of the festival crowd the streets and behave in an anti-social manner, and the amount of litter from the festival has been atrocious. The public footpath next to Hatfeild School was covered in broken glass the Monday after the last festival and my dog nearly cut himself. As this festival would take place in school term, the risk of injury to a child cannot be overlooked. Further to this, the park is home to several species of wildlife, including some that are quite rare and the construction that takes place to hold the event destroys their habitat. I cannot believe the council would even consider expanding on the events programme, given the issues from previous years.

I strongly object to this application and would encourage the council to consider the health and safety of Merton's residents and wildlife over the financial gain that such events bring.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Bennett

From: Brian Birch <

Sent: 02 June 2021 21:32

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

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

Subject: Application Reference WK/202103931 - Music Festival 4th/5th September 2021 in Morden Park

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the above licensing application that I have seen advertised.

It is disappointing to hear that another festival application has been made following significant problems caused by the Eastern Electrics festival in Morden Park from 2017-2019. I oppose the licensing of this event on the following grounds:

(a) Prevention of public nuisance - for each year of the previous festivals, the surrounding areas to Morden Park have been plagued by anti-social behaviour from festival goers. This has included people relieving themselves and vomiting in surrounding streets on the way to/from the event, and leaving a lot of rubbish (including nitrous oxide cannisters) in the vicinity.

(b) Prevention of crime and disorder - each year of the Eastern Electrics festivals brought significant crime to a quiet residential area. Unfortunately, the situation worsened drastically in 2019 with 4 persons being stabbed at the festival in the midst of drunken brawling. Allowing another festival to take place after this dreadful track record would be irresponsible.

(c) Protection of children from harm - further to my previous point (b) above, the safety of children in the area around Morden Park during the proposed festival would be put at risk from the crime levels experienced in previous years. Excessive alcohol and drug taking at previous festivals had the effect of adding more problems to the mix. Unfortunately, an inadequate policing presence and ineffective Event Security at previous events did not prevent weapons and drugs being taken into the event. This obviously has the impact of endangering life in the local area for both children and adults.

(d) Promotion of public safety - building on points made above, an event of this type will not promote public safety. In fact, it is most likely to put public safety at risk due to the high risk of crime and anti-social behaviour.

On a slightly different note, it is concerning that the licence being applied for is covering three years rather than just one. Given the track record of these festival events in Morden Park, the local residents should not have to face 3 years of inconvenience if the licence gets approved. Subsequent years beyond 2021 should be approved on the basis of a well-managed event in 2021 without any significant problems being recorded.

Overall, on a personal level I am not against festivals as a concept, but it is a question of placing the right event in the right location. Given the large residential area surrounding Morden Park with lots of young families with children, it would be more appropriate to stage an event that has more family focus than the event being proposed.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully, Brian Birch

From: Gary bourne <
Sent: 15 May 2021 19:08
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Morden Park event

Please accept my email request to refuse granting a Premises License, for alcohol and music for planned events scheduled on the 6th May 2021.

As I understand a licence has been applied for is to cover a single annual two day event over a weekend in September, each year from 2021 to 2023.

Historically these events have caused me inconvenience and hardship, as a key worker on night shifts I am disturbed by the noise and antisocial behaviour of those who attend.

The council responsibility is to look after the interests of the residents and the majority.

I am sure the people who have previously agreed to these events don't live near by and have to deal with antisocial behaviour of those who attend.

Kind regards Gary Bourne

From: Anna Chapman <
Sent: 26 May 2021 21:14
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Morden music festival

Good Evening

I would like to object to the music festival that is due to take place on the 4th& 5th Sept 2021 in morden park.

Previous festivals have caused chaos with us residents.

People fighting in the streets.

People leaving trash everywhere.

People urinating in gardens.

I felt unsafe in my own home. As did my elderly neighbours.

I use the park daily and the aftermath of these festivals leave a mark on the park.

Although rubbish on sight can be seen, and collected the rubbish in the bushes and trees isn't.

My dog cut his paw up the park after the first festival, (Eastern Electric)because of broken glass from a beer bottle.

I know this is a different festival but it's not wanted.

I live at

Anna chapman.

Mobile-

To: Licensing Section, London Borough of Merton, 14th Floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, SM4 5DX
licensing@merton.gov.uk

From: Elspeth Clarke, [REDACTED]

**SLAMMIN EVENTS – music festival licence application – ref. WK/202103931
Morden Park – 5 & 6 September, 2021 (and in 2022, and 2023)**

I would like to make a formal objection to this licence application. I live opposite Morden Park and Playing Fields and have already had first hand experience of three separate music festivals from Eastern Electrics, in 2017, 2018 and 2019. I realise that Slammin Events and EE are separate organisations but the problems of the one will inevitably pertain to the other.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

We have had to put up with criminal activity at all three events, ranging from anti-social behaviour (ASB), drug selling/abuse, fights and four stabbings.

2017 5 reports of ASB and one of sexual assault

2018 7 reports of ASB, one common assault, 4 thefts, 1 possession with intent to supply drugs, and 3 of possession

2019 4 stabbings inside the arena, 33 offences and 9 arrests including possession with intent to supply drugs, robbery and two assaults on police officers.

No arrests could be made for the stabbings as none of the victims was willing to co-operate with the police. Police believe that they were related to drug dealing, as rival gangs fight to supply the market this type of event creates. The Slammin Events WILL attract drug activity – the same gangs will no doubt be operating again in Morden.

In 2019, the Met had to call in additional officers on the Saturday night and a Section 60 was put in place for some 24 hours. This cost the Met some £141,000+. Drugs were openly sold and consumed outside the festival venue as well as within it. The grass in the Park and surrounding streets were littered with spent nitrous oxide canisters, many of which found themselves in the playground of Morden Primary school.

When the security officers at the event DID manage to do their job, searching concert-goers, apparently weapons were discovered. Sadly, others weren't found as searches were, we were told, random and cursory and weapons were smuggled into the event – hence the stabbings.

Over the three years, local shops reported an increase in shoplifting while one or two cafes had their toilets trashed by concert goers. To say local businesses profited by these events is sheer nonsense – speak to those business owners and find out for yourselves! One (the George/Harvester) had to employ security staff over the weekend, while others chose to close early.

PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

We were continually told that the noise from the event was “within acceptable levels”. Acceptable to whom, may one ask? To those who are stone deaf? We all know that noise seems to increase as it moves up and out. What might be acceptable at the festival location is NOT when it “escapes” into the local community.

Apart from the appalling level of noise suffered by residents (houses and flats surround the park), making doors and windows vibrate, we also experienced the delight of festival attendees using residents' front gardens as toilets as there were not enough toilets placed along the routes to and from the venue – TfL refused permission for the organisers to provide more. Why, we have no idea.

During the event of 2017, I was, thankfully, out for the evening. When I arrived home that night, it was to find a concert-goer about to vomit in my front garden. When he saw me getting out of the cab, he hurriedly moved off and, instead, threw-up in my elderly neighbour's garden.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

As a school governor, with safeguarding experience, the last thing I want is for any child to witness the appalling behaviour of drunken, drugged individuals. Some children unfortunately saw one or two men exposing themselves. In addition, what headteacher wants to find their playground littered with nitrous oxide cannisters which will inevitably be picked up and examined by their students - especially the younger ones who have a habit of putting things in their mouths! The staff at Morden Primary School found themselves desperately trying to clear the cannisters on the first day of school, in an effort to avoid injury to any of their children. Local children also witnessed many people inhaling nitrous oxide via balloons – they could not understand what was going on and trying to explain to them that this was NOT a good idea was quite challenging for parents/carers.

There is a children's nursery in the confines of Morden Park. This will be in operation during the festival build-up – I would have severe worries about the health and safety for these little ones.

Also, blocking off a large section of the park in the last few weeks of the summer holidays seems very unfair, to both children and parents/carers, after the year we've all had.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Covid is with us – and will remain so for the foreseeable future. Do we really want 9,999 people in close proximity, possibly passing on dangerous germs? The Indian variant is rising at an alarming rate and is likely to continue to do so over the summer. Surely the last thing we need is a large gathering of young people, making things worse?

In addition, festival attendees who were the worse for wear from drink and drugs, wandered into London Road/A24 (a Red Route), putting themselves and others in danger. How no-one was killed is a miracle.

-oo0oo-

In conclusion, I should like to say that if it were ONLY the level of noise to be endured, I MIGHT be willing to say, reluctantly, well, OK. But it's everything nasty that comes along with it. After the past 18 months (which is what it will be in September), the last thing we need is more stress - and crime - in our neighbourhood. Morden Park and Playing Fields is, and always will be, a totally unsuitable location to hold this type of event, surrounded, as it is, by houses and flats. What WOULD be nice is for someone to put on a TOTALLY Family Friendly festival that we can ALL go to, and enjoy.

Thank you.

1.6.21

Gillian V Clarke



1 June 2021

Licensing Section
London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre, 14th floor
London Road
MORDEN
SM4 5DX

Dear Licensing Folk,

subject: K/202103931: Slammin-Events Music festival Licence application
Morden Park, 5 and 6 September 2021 and 2022 & 2023

I wish to object most strenuously to the proposed "festival", on the following grounds.

Prevention of crime and disorder

Despite assurance from previous festival organisers that security personnel would prevent trouble, there has always been violence and drug abuse. The stabbings that occurred last time (2019) proved that peaceful enjoyment is impossible.

Prevention of public nuisance

Quite apart from the loud music that caused windows and doors of nearby homes to vibrate, the behaviour of many of the concert-goers is anti-social in the extreme – using people's front gardens in which to urinate and vomit.

Protection of children from harm

Empty nitrous oxide canisters have found their way into primary school playgrounds, as well as along the route to/from the event.

Public safety

When returning to Morden Underground Station, concert-goers were so oblivious of their safety that they wandered into the road rather than keeping to the paths, being a danger to themselves and to motorists and other pedestrians.

Yours truly,



From: Val Cova
Sent: 26 May 2021 11:19
To: Elizabeth Macdonald <Elizabeth.Macdonald@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Transmission/Beautiful People/Southbound/Southport Weekender Festival

Dear Cllr.Dollimore,

I am writing to you with regard to the above proposed event and your recent flyer. I think, if as you say, residents have raised this with you on the door step then you and the Council know how unpopular this would be. Having said that, residents complained after the first event but the Council still went ahead and gave permission for another Concert that was totally disastrous with violence and anti social behaviour. Morden Park is not an appropriate venue for a Concert of any kind being in the centre of residential area. The constant loud music dominated the whole area and made it impossible to sit in the garden and in the evening the music could still be heard over the television and with the windows a doors closed and this was for a whole weekend.

While I appreciate that this is a lucrative arrangement for the Council, that should not be the reason why residents opinions and well being is disregarded. Morden Park is for local people to enjoy and recharge their batteries.

I hope your Zoom meeting is constructive and not just a PR exercise and I look forward to hearing the outcome.

Regards,

Valerie Cova

From: Emaan Dar <
Sent: 03 June 2021 23:16
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Cc: Councillor Nick McLean <Nick.McLean@merton.gov.uk>; Councillor Jenifer Gould <Jenifer.Gould@merton.gov.uk>; Councillor Pauline Cowper <Pauline.Cowper@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: REF: WK/202103931

Proposed music festival by Slammin Events on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th september 2021
Reference: WK/202103931

To the licensing committee,

I wish to put forth my objections to the proposed music festival, REF: WK/202103931, being run by Slammin Events.

My name is Emaan Dar, and my address is

As required by Merton Council, I will put my reasoning under the specified and limited areas of objection:

1) The prevention of crime and disorder

There is a huge array of crime and disorder issues that will occur, due to Slammin Events, as well as those arising from holding a music festival, and importantly, crime issues which have arisen due to the pandemic.

It is well evidenced that crime and disorder rates greatly increase during music festivals. In the UK alcohol and drug consumption is the norm at these events.

In a 2019 ongoing study by The British Academy (<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/blog/researching-sexual-violence-uk-music-festivals/>), a third of women interviewed experienced sexual harassment and 8% had been sexually assaulted at music festivals. YouGov reported similar statistics in 2018, with only 1% of women and 19% of men feeling able to report their experience to festival staff.

The study highlights specific issues due to the nature of festivals which causes extra challenges, these include the location and layout of venues are temporary and irregular, therefore victims and witnesses may not know where to report or access help, the use of security companies with a low police presence may be an issue due to the lack of training on sexual harassment and assault, as well as the hypersexualisation of music festivals, which for some may result in the normalisation harassment and assault, making it harder to recognise and report.

At the previously held music festivals run by Eastern Electrics in Morden Park there were reports of sexual assault made to the police. Whilst the current organisers brought in the Ask for Angela campaign, this does not appear to have continued, based on the current website. Worryingly, according to Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre, this appears to be a similar trend of giving up across the music festival spectrum (<https://www.rasasc.org.uk/are-uk-festivals-doing-enough-to-prevent-sexual-violence/>).

Drug taking itself is a major issue in music festivals. At all previous Eastern Electrics events there was excessive drug usage and disposal in the park and local area, including residents' front gardens. For Slammin Events, in 2015 a festival goer died from drugs at their Southport Weekender.

The Metropolitan Police have raised huge concerns about drug turf wars happening in music festivals, especially as this may be one of the only ones to take place in London. Due to the pandemic closing clubs and pubs, drug sellers will be drawn to the music festival. Whilst this article focuses on Barking and Dagenham, the music festival proposed to be held in Morden Park has some of the same artists, and will draw a similar crowd.

One of the objections by PC Owen Dunn stated that: "Drugs are an ever-growing part of a music festival and this festival, at time of writing, is the only festival likely to go ahead across the UK.

"Thus meaning it is the only festival whereby gangs and organised criminals will have the opportunity to supply large amounts of illegal substances.

"This brings several issues, firstly that there will be a large amount of illegal substances being supplied and consumed on the premises, putting patrons' lives and safety at risk.

"The other concern to Police is that multiple different gangs from all over the nation will attempt to compete against each other for the area to supply their substances, this could result in a form of gang turf war at the location, again, potentially putting the lives and safety of innocent people at risk, not to mention the strain it would put on emergency services to deal with a form of large scale disorder." (<https://www.mylondon.news/news/east-london-news/drug-gangs-flood-east-london-19849746>)

There is a huge risk of this happening in Merton too. It would be hugely detrimental to the local community and reputation of the Council.

At the previous music event held in Morden Park, four stabbings occurred in the festival. Nobody was prosecuted due to a lack of cooperation, which is a huge problem. It indicates that there is a risk of a lack of cooperation by attendees with both the security and police for the event.

The previous festivals have all caused an increase in crime in the area. From public sex in the church yard, to defecation, urination, and vomiting, as well as discarded used condoms and nitrous oxide cannisters. Another large music festival puts the local church at risk again. As well as the properties of those who live near the park and who back onto it.

Due to the pandemic there has been an increase in local break-ins. And thefts have been an issue in the previous festivals, as well as generally in all large music festivals. Our homes on Hillcross Avenue are at a greater risk, especially as some of us have private entrances into the park. Due to the location of the event, which based on the plans presented by Slammin Events will be closer to our properties, this puts us at a higher risk.

It should be noted that the increased police costs in 2019 would be likely to be replicated for the above reasons.

2) Public safety

A large music festival, being mixed with alcohol and drugs, is a public safety issue in the current pandemic.

Whilst Covid-19 is less likely to be transmitted in outdoor events, current issues with the Delta variant (B.1.617.2) has shown that it has a greater transmission rate than previous variants in the UK. Statistics show that it is starting to quickly spread around the country. It should be noted that in India, outdoor festivals like the Kumbh Mela festival, where people did not wear masks, was identified as a superspreader event for this particular variant.

Public Health England has released information today showing a reduction in vaccine effectiveness, especially when there has only been one dose taken (15-20%), and it carries an increased risk of hospitalisation for this particular variant.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/991135/3_June_2021_Risk_assessment_for_SARS-CoV-2_variant_DELTA.pdf

3) The prevention of public nuisance

Noise complaints have been a huge issue for local residents. As my home backs onto the park, and is one of the closest to the festival, this is a huge problem for us.

It is also concerning that based on the map provided by Slammin Events, the event will be closer to our property in comparison to the previous one by Eastern Electrics.

This is a very quiet area, so there is no other background noise to offset the event.

Whilst wind direction can also affect the noise issue for more people in the area, as we are right next to the event, this changes little for us.

In 2019, when Slammin Events was previously in Haringey, they had an increase in noise complaints to previous years

<https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s112287/2019%2010%2024%20-%20Scrutiny%20Panel%20Briefing%20Slammin%202019%20v2.pdf>) They also noted that the bass volume was a particular issue. The houses on Hillcross Avenue are currently having problems due to vibrations from the buses, which is causing the houses to shake. A high bass volume, as well as the event being held closer to our properties, would exacerbate this issue.

4) The protection of children from harm

Hatfeild Primary School is located next to the park, as well as the Scouts Hut, children's playgrounds, and swimming baths, which are all regularly used by children.

The aforementioned drugs issue puts children at an incredibly high risk, especially those who attend Hatfeild. One of the park entrances is next to the school. The new school term starts on Thursday 2nd September, therefore children will already be using the area regularly. With the reckless littering of drugs, nitrous oxide cannisters, used condoms, and broken bottles, the

children are at a huge risk as there will be no time for the area to be properly cleaned between the event finishing on Sunday night and school starting on Monday morning.

5) Outside of this scope it should be noted that whilst Slammin Events has stated to the Council that the Saturday 4th September event, 'Beautiful People' will be for an older audience of 30-50 year olds, on their website this is not the case. It is advertised as 18+ on both the ticket selling page and in the FAQ. There is no indication anywhere that this is for an older audience.

I hope that the Committee takes these objections properly into consideration and does not allow for a license to be granted for this particular event.

Kind regards,

Emaan Dar

From:
Sent: 10 May 2021 10:44
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Cc: Elizabeth Macdonald <Elizabeth.Macdonald@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Proposed Music Events-Morden Park

> Dear Sir/Madam
> I am writing to object to the proposed three year music event license for each
> September in Morden Park until 2023.
> The most recent event, held by Eastern Electrics in 2019, caused a number of
> worrying issues for local residents:
> - There were 4 stabbings linked to the event
> - The police budget was overspent by £50k, indicating the scale of
> crime and disorder which the police had to deal with
> - There were fights between people leaving the event, over Uber
> bookings
> - People leaving the event were urinating in residents front gardens
> - There had to be a mass clear up of Nitrous Oxide canisters from
> local streets after the event, indicating illegal drug usage While I appreciate the
> Council needs to generate income, this is a highly disruptive way of going about it
> and detrimental to our quality of life here in Lower Morden.
> Those of us who regularly use the park will face large areas fenced off a week
> before and until a week after the event each September.
> I fully intend to raise this with our ward councillors and make it a local election
> issue for May 2022.
>
> Keith Davis

From: Ruhee B <
Sent: 03 June 2021 23:01
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Licence application WK/202103931

OBJECTION to License Application by Slammin Events.
No. WK/202103931

Ruhee Farooq,

I would like to make an objection to the proposed event based on the following grounds:-

Prevention of crime and disorder

During previous events, there have been multiple stabbings, drug taking, attendees urinating and defecating in the churchyard, shop lifting and thefts by attendees from local shops. Police, the fire brigade, and local groups have all previously objected to these festivals but all these objections have been ignored - outrageous!

Public Safety

All of the above is a risk to public safety. With previous similar events, police had to be brought in from multiple other boroughs which is a huge risk to public safety! After the last event, septic tanks were left in the park for days, another big risk to public safety.

Prevention of public nuisance

The noise of the previous events could be heard well past Stonecot Hill and even out of the borough! Plus, the drug taking, rubbish everywhere, people using the streets as their toilet, drunken behaviour. Roads and public transport were rammed, I was unable to travel around freely because of the huge crowds. This residential area is not built to handle such large volumes of people. It is a big nuisance to all us local residents, especially all those directly next to the park. The actual set up and dismantle takes many weeks which is also a total nuisance to park users. Residents are also unable to use the majority of OUR local park for many weeks!

Protection of children from harm

Children were witness to all of the above including the drug taking, drunken behaviour. They also were not able to use a huge section of the park and the playground was also inaccessible due to the huge volume of event attendees.

I have been a local resident for over 45 years and this residential area is completely unsuitable for these types of events. It is not of any benefit to our local environment or community whatsoever and causes huge distress to many residents who have to have this inflicted upon us.

Ms Ruhee Farooq

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

From: Philippa Foskett

Sent: 03 June 2021 14:13

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

Subject: RE: WK/202103931

This Event will be a public nuisance in our local area. We are still in a pandemic. Doubt people will stick to social distancing. These events tend to attract crime and littering. We object very much to this event taking place.

Philippa Foskett

From: Joan Grant <
Sent: 01 June 2021 21:17
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Representation for premises licence application for Morden Park

Dear Licensing Department

I wish to lodge a representation against the application by Slammin Events for a premises licence at Morden Park for 4th and 5th September 2021 for the following reasons:

1. Previous licensed events held in the park led to serious crime and disorder; namely 4 persons being stabbed at the venue in one day.
2. The noise nuisance caused by the volume of the music was totally unacceptable making my garden unusable during events. Even retreating to the house and closing all doors and windows, the music and especially the thumping base was still extremely loud. I should not have to sacrifice using my garden to avoid noise pollution.
3. There were many incidents of public nuisance during previous events held in the park; people defecating, urinating and vomiting in public places, Nitrous Oxide canisters left littered around and noise nuisance and ASB from drunken attendees leaving the festival.
4. There has been no document provided showing where and how parking will be controlled during the festival and this may lead to illegal parking and blocked entrances.

I live in a house that backs onto Morden Park and for the above reasons I do not want Merton Council to grant a premises licence for this event.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of my representation.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Joan Grant

Mrs J Hanrahan

1 June2021

Licensing Section
London Borough of Merton
14th Floor. Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
SM4 5DX

Ref.: K/202103931: Slammin Events, Music Festival Licence Application
Morden Park, 5 and 6 September, 2021 (also 2022 and 2023)

I am writing to object strongly to the proposed music event, on the grounds: (1) Prevention of crime and disorder; (2) Prevention of public nuisance; and (3) Public safety.

I am a widow in my 90s and live on the route from Morden underground station to and from the venue. The three previous events were horrible and the crowds made me frightened to leave my home. In 2019:

- (1) Hearing about the violence. drug use and four stabbings made me even more frightened.
- (2) Someone vomited into my front garden on their way back to the station. and others were using our front gardens as toilets.
- (3) After the event, many of the concert-goers were so unaware of safety that they were walking in the road (the A24), causing danger to themselves and others. And having seen similar gatherings on the news recently, it is unlikely that people attending would maintain social distancing to prevent spreading or catching Covid.

This sort of event attracts people who care only about themselves, and they are definitely not welcome.

Thank you for rejecting the application.

[Redacted signature]

Hi,

Please find enclosed my address as requested.

I and several of my friends have purchased tickets to this proposed event. We are all in our late 50s, I in fact am in my 60's ,we have attended lots of events associated with this genre of music. The last one at Crystal Palace grounds. They are extremely well run. The age group is mixed but predominantly for the older set. After a difficult last year this is exactly what people need. I live very close to Morden Park and there have been lots of music events and religious events which can be heard but not extreme. In fact the Firework display November by comparison is ridiculously loud. It is like being in a war zone. I feel this would be very sad if people are unable to tolerate a few hours out of 365 days. I am sure it will also bring in useful revenue. If this event is not to proceed I suggest NONE should take place so as not to discriminate.

Kind regards

Mrs B Harbrecht



Beautiful People & Southbound Festivals

Public Overview

4th-5th September 2021
Morden Park, SM4

25.05.21

Page 1/4

Version 1.1

LARGE SCALE EVENTS. DONE RIGHT

OVERVIEW OF THE FESTIVALS



BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE FESTIVAL

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT LIVE
BASEMENT JAXX DJ SET
DAVE LEE ZR • DAVID MORALES
DAVID RODIGAN
DERRICK CARTER
DJEFF • DJ SPEN • DJ SPOONY
GRANDMASTER FLASH
INNER CITY LIVE • **KARIZMA**
KENNY DOPE • LOUIE VEGA
MR G DJ SET • **TODD EDWARDS**
TONY HUMPHRIES

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

ANANÉ • BLACK MOTION LIVE • **BRANDON BLOK**
DJ DEEP • FIRIN SQUAD • GET DOWN EDITS
GREG GAUTHIER • JAMIE 3:26
MELON BOMB • NEIL PIERCE • RICKY MORRISON
RONNIE HEREL • SHORTEE BLITZ
SOULDYNAMIC • SY SEZ

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

ABI CLARK • ASTON EVANS • ANDY DAVIES • ARCADE 82 • BIGGER
BOB MASTERS • BOOKER T • BRIAN POWER • BROTHER JAMES
CRAIG WILLIAMS • DJ FEN & MC DT • FARO • FEMI FEM • GORDON MAC
HOUSE MATTERS • ION JULES • JIGS • JUMPIN JACK FROST & BAILEY
JUNE FURLONG • LIL STEVIE • MAIT WHITE • M.A.X. • MAX EVANS • MIKE VITTI
MITCH TILSON • OMOTOSHO • PAULY G • PETER BORG • RYAN PEAKE
STRETCH TAYLOR • TERRY JONES • TREBLE T & D-NYCE (RAMPAGE)
PLUS MORE TO BE CONFIRMED

SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2021 • MORDEN PARK, LONDON, SM4
 beautifulpeoplefestival.com

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE FESTIVAL Saturday 4th September, 12pm-10.30pm

Presented by Southport Weekender, a brand who have been running for over 30 years, initially holding events in Holiday centres such as Butlins as well as branching out overseas and introducing a one-day London festival in 2017.

Beautiful People Festival is an expertly-curated mix of DJs and Live Acts spanning music genres such as US / Afro / Deep & Soulful House, Disco, Soul, UK Garage, RnB, Reggae & Hip Hop. With over 70 artists such as Basement Jaxx, David Rodigan, Louie Vega, Arrested Development & Grandmaster Flash, this is a highlight of the festival calendar in London.

Established: 1987
Demographics: 30-55 year olds
 55% women / 45% men

SOUTHBOUND FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2021
 MORDEN PARK, LONDON, SM4
 MIDDAY - 10PM

6 STAGES OF DANCE MUSIC

SIGMA DJ SET
SASASAS • THE MANOR
DJ LUCK & MC NEAT • AMINE EDGE & DANCE • TURNO
PROBLEM CENTRAL • TNA
ARTFUL DODGER • GW HARRISON • HEARTLESS CREW
THE RATPACK • SAM SUPPLIER

LIVE ACTS
UK APACHE • ORIGINAL NUTTAN • SWEET FEMALE ATTITUDE • FLOWERS
KELE LE ROC • MY LOVE • KING BEE • GACK BY DOPE DEMAND • VERSATILE • FUNNY ANTHEM
LIFFORD • PLEASE DON'T TURN ME ON • SHELLY NELSON • SOMETHING IN YOUR EYES

SAFFRON STONE • GROOVERIDER • LOGAN D • SLIPMATT
BENNY L • MASTERSTEPZ • BROCKIE • BASSLAYERZ
MASTERSTEPZ • DJ PIONEER • DJ CARTIER • SUB ZERO
SCOTT GARCIA • TOP BUZZ • DJ S • ELLIS DEE • TOM SHORTERZ
EGO TRIPPIN • BRYAN GEE • BILLY BUNTER • UNCLE DUGS
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT • NIKKI S & NYKE • AMPLIFY B2B SOTA
JACK N DANNY • DANNY BLAZE • MIDLANDS MAGIC • ANDY MILLS
V DUBZ B2B TEMPA • DJ TWISTA B2B RIPRAW • JOHN NEVER BAIT
ANDY MILLS • FAT CONTROLLER • CHRIS JONES • MARIO SAINT
SKYZ • DOUBLE TROUBLE • STEVE PROCTOR • JOEY G • JAWZY
EKSMAN • SKIBADIE • HARRY SHOTTA • SHABBA D • EVIL B • DT • AZIZA & GRIMA • SPYDA
EVENSON ALLEN • FUNSTA • ICE • BRESHUS • BASSMAN • MOOSE • DREPS • KOMBO & HELLAR
FELON • CHALKIE WHITE • RAGGA TWINS • HYPERACTIVE • DEEFA • FOX • STRICT
BLU BOHMA • FIVEALIVE • ULTRA

[WWW.SOUTHBOUNDFESTIVAL.COM](http://www.southboundfestival.com)

SOUTHBOUND FESTIVAL Sunday 5th September, 12pm-10pm

A brand new festival is born for South London.

Bringing together all the very best UK Dance music from the past 25 years under one roof, with a whole host of artists that have had UK Top 20 hits, including several who have even had Number Ones, Southbound appeals to both dedicated music lovers and a broader, more commercial suburban audience.

Established: 2021
Demographics*: 25-45 year olds
 50% women / 50% men

*Based on previous experience

WHO WE ARE



Slammin' Events have operated large-scale events for over 25 years all over the UK but particularly in our home town of London. We currently hold a number of multi-year licences with various local authorities such as the London Borough of Haringey and Mendip District Council (the same authority who licence Glastonbury). The biggest show we organise is Alexandra Palace Fireworks Festival with a capacity of 100,000 people. In particular we specialise in producing 10-20,000 capacity one or two day music festivals in urban settings, and have plans to stage at least a dozen this summer at various venues. We pride ourselves on forging long-term relationships both with local authorities and community groups, as the aim for every event is for it to become a regular annual occurrence over many years.



Alexandra Palace Fireworks
Alexandra Palace London
Every November
100,000 capacity event



Elrow Town London
Trent Park, London
Every August
50,000 capacity event



Arcadia Spectacular
QE Olympic Park, London
May Bank Holiday
40,000 capacity event



MADE Festival
Sandwell Valley, Birmingham
Every July
25,000 capacity event



Westfest
Bath & West Showground
Every October
15,000 capacity event



Hospitality In The Park
Finsbury Park, London
Every September
15,000 capacity event



Kaleidoscope Festival
Alexandra Palace Park, London
Every July
12,000 capacity event

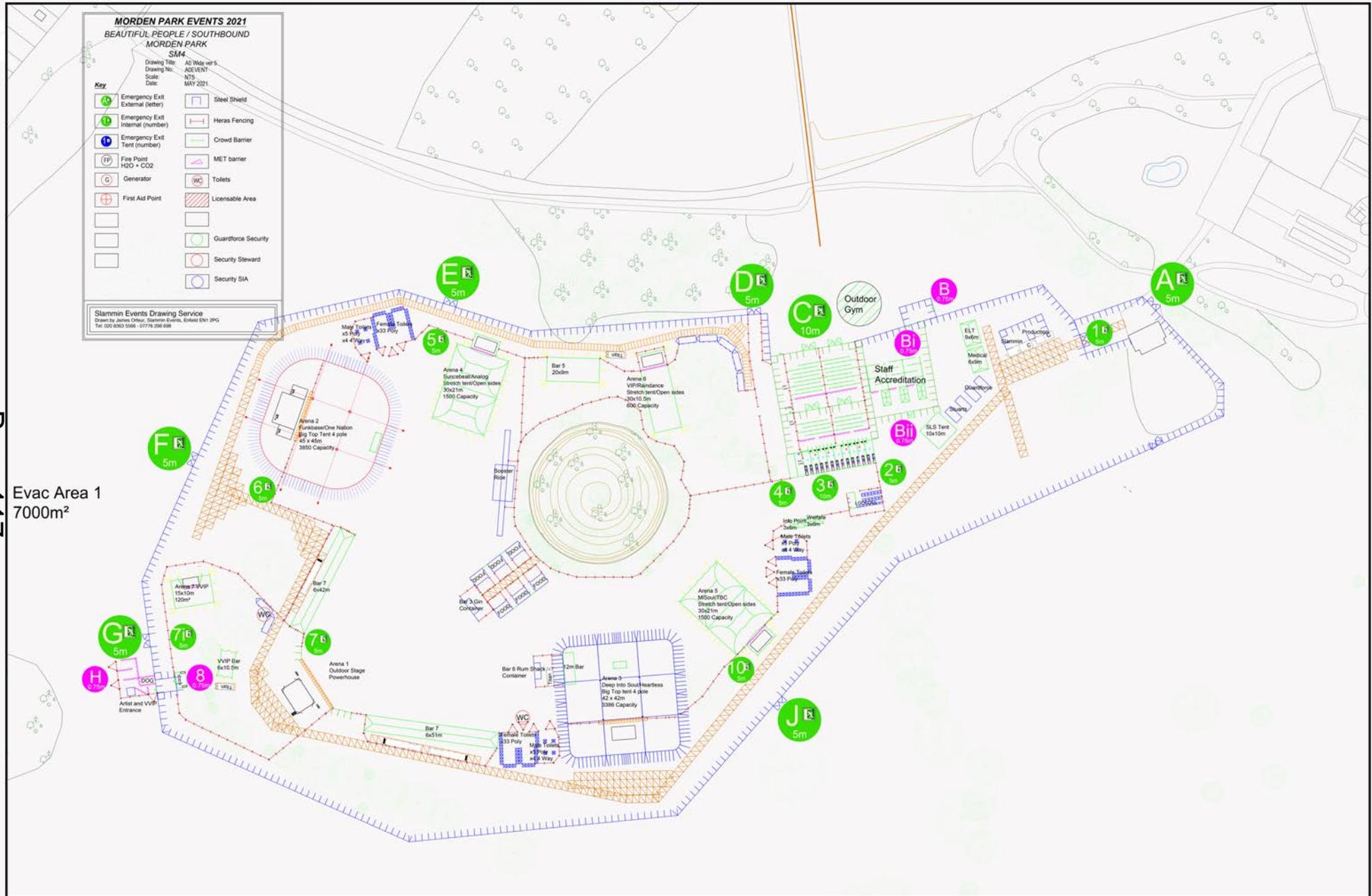


Southport Weekender
Butlins, Bognor Regis
Every March
6,000 capacity event



Crystal Palace Fireworks
Crystal Palace London
Every November
25,000 capacity event

ARENA SITE PLAN - 1st Draft



Page 117

OPERATING TIMES

BUILD DAYS: Monday 30th August through to Friday 3rd September

SHOW DAYS: Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th September

BREAK DAYS: Monday 6th through to Wednesday 8th September

We will only be using a relatively small area of the park for the event, see the map on Page 5. Access to the rest of the park will remain unchanged.

WHY IS THIS EVENT DIFFERENT TO PREVIOUS MUSIC FESTIVALS HELD IN THE PARK?

These are completely different shows produced and organised by a completely different company, one which has over 25 years experience and specialises in one or two-day festivals in suburban parks.

The shows are much smaller in scale i.e. no more than 9,999 attendance in comparison to 23,000+ for the last festival event held in the park.

The event landscape has changed in South London. Several years ago the last festival in the park was one of the only large-scale festivals operating south of the river, and in many ways became a victim of it's own success as it became the biggest event in the whole of South London, barring SouthWestFour at Clapham Common.

By contrast, in 2021 there are now many parks operating festivals of varying sizes, with the most high profile now being held the week after what we plan to do at Morden, and only a few miles further east at Crystal Palace. The music policy and sheer size of that event (40,000 per day) will no doubt act as a magnet for absolutely everyone.

Our audiences are different. Both days aim for a more mature demographic, with Beautiful People in particular having one of the oldest average ages of any festival.

Potentially contentious music genres such as Grime & Drill do not feature in any shape or form.

Most of the artists featured are approaching middle age or beyond – none have links to organised crime or are even on the radar of a typical teenage or 20-something gang member.

Our company has a long history of forging partnerships and producing events year on year at the same venues. Since 2004 at the Royal Bath & West Showground, since 2005 at Alexandra Palace and since 2014 at Finsbury Park. To have been able to do this we have ensured that we place as much care in what happens outside our event fence, as we do inside.

NOISE MANAGEMENT

We will employ the services of a leading UK acoustic consultancy for the live events industry.

A Noise Management Plan will be submitted to Merton Council as part of the event planning process. The event will be managed to that plan.

On site and off site monitoring will be in place throughout the duration of the event, with a dedicated Noise hotline for members of the public to call if need be.

LOSS OF USE OF THE PARK

We realise that our presence will deprive regular park users of some of the space for a number of days, although this is only a relatively small area and much of the open land and woods are unaffected. We have sought to facilitate as much use of the rest of the park as possible.

Facilities:

Most areas are unaffected.

Golf remains open.

Trim Trail remains open.

Access to Cricket Club remains open.

Playground remains open.

The ability to walk dogs through most of the park remains.

The outdoor gym will remain open throughout, although access may be controlled on show days.

The Registry Office remains accessible.

The Leisure Centre remains open.

Car Parks:

Hill Cross Avenue Car Park - will remain open as per usual.

Lower Modern Lane Car Parks - Access will probably need to be controlled on show days only.

London Road Car Park – We are in discussions as to how this will best work, but it is likely there will be a need for controlled access on show days only.

DISCOUNTED RESIDENT TICKETS

We are operating a scheme that allows residents that live adjacent or in very close proximity to the park to purchase tickets at a discounted rate.

Please email any requests to mail@slamminevents.com

COVID RESTRICTIONS & POLICY

We will be strictly following HM Government and Public Health guidelines in operating the show in all respects. Without specific conditions from them and Merton Council that allow the show to go ahead, it will be cancelled.



**SLAMMIN
EVENTS**

Tel: 020 8363 5566

Or Email us at:

SEAN@SLAMMINEVENTS.COM

PO Box 480

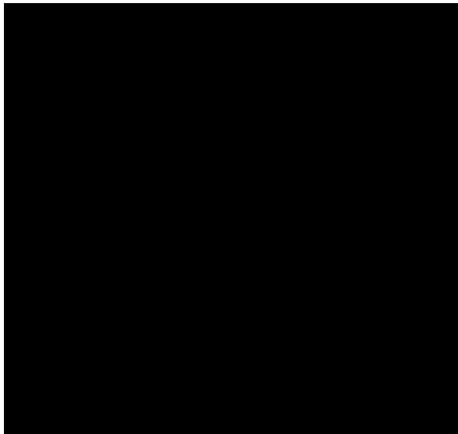
Enfield

Greater London

EN1 2ZS

To the Licencing Committee Merton Council

From Clare Heath-Whyte



Re: Application no: WK/202103931

The proposal by Radioactive Clothing Ltd to hold a 2 day music festival in September in Morden Park, for 3 years from 2021 to 2023.

I would like to object to the granting of a licence for the Radioactive Clothing Beautiful People/Tranzmission festival based on my personal experiences over the past few years. I live adjacent to Morden Park and next to Merton College which EE used as the drop off zone for attendees. Following the considerable public nuisance of 2017 (defecating in the church yard, used condoms in the church porch, urinating on the Vicarage drive etc etc) members of St Lawrence Church acted as extra stewards in 2018/9 to protect church property and also provide bottles of water, travel advice and emergency access to toilets. I was part of the team both years. I therefore have first-hand experience of the impact of previous, similar festivals on the local area.

Although Radioactive Clothing, no doubt will argue that their festival is an entirely different event, from experience it would appear that any event of this size and nature is unsuitable for Morden Park and is unlikely to meet Merton Council's licensing criteria.

The Eastern Electric Festival was granted a licence in 2017, 2018, 2019. Despite the experience of producing a festival in Morden Park over 3 years and 66 conditions being imposed by the council the festival still proved to be unsuitable for an urban, residential area and not to meet Merton Council's four licensing criteria:

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

There is little reason to suppose that a new festival on the site will fare any better.

I will highlight a few sections of the Council's new Licensing policy.

1.10 The Council also 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 Borough 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.**

This Festival is not primarily for local people, although some local people will attend. The “interests of commerce and its customers” are not largely the interests of local residents or businesses. The EE Festivals led to local residents being “unreasonably disturbed” by the activities of those arriving and leaving the event as well as experiencing “fear of violence, intimidation and disorder”. Local businesses suffered vandalism and anti-social behaviour and several either closed early or for the duration of the event. In 2018 the bar staff at the Harvester adjacent to the park experienced harassment and anti-social behaviour both inside and outside the premises. The receptionist in the adjacent Travelodge was intimidated by festival goers. Although EE went to great lengths to improve things the following year by installing more toilets, stewards and signage, the problems were not entirely solved and often the issues moved elsewhere.

11.2 Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the London Borough of Merton, as a Local Authority, **has a duty to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on crime and disorder in the Borough and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder. The prevention of crime and disorder is one of the four licensing objectives that this Authority has a duty to promote.**

Despite EE’s best efforts in 2019 crime and disorder within the festival itself were worse than previous years. There was more intensive searching for weapons on the gate, but this still was not sufficient to prevent 4 stabbings during the Saturday festival on the site. The violence was reported in the national press.

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/9655862/eastern-electrics-festival-fight-police/> 4 stabbings, numerous fights, my friend's son was with the tall boy getting beaten in this video, he also said 10 mins later he saw a girl getting her head kicked in and not one member of security helped or stopped it. I saw security staff at the gates and they looked so young, like they were on work experience! I love a festival and go to loads but this one should either be stopped or better/more security put in place!

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/9655862/eastern-electrics-festival-fight-police/>

As in previous years there was evidence of illegal drug use and dealing outside the festival – presumably also inside. Nitrous oxide capsules were littered in surrounding streets.

Any event of this size and nature will lead to an unacceptable risk of crime and disorder.

13.2 The Authority recognises that it 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 impact on the quality of life of residents and the ability of other businesses to operate effectively The applicant must demonstrate within their operating schedule how they intend to promote the licensing objective relating to the prevention of public nuisance.**

13.3 Public nuisance is given a statutory meaning in many pieces of legislation. It is however not narrowly defined in the 2003 Act and retains its broad common law meaning. It is important to remember that **the prevention of public nuisance could therefore include low-level nuisance, perhaps affecting a few people living locally, as well as major disturbance affecting the whole community.**

Despite conditions being set on EE in 2019 and despite EE putting measures in place to prevent public nuisance there was still considerable public drunkenness before and after the festival in surrounding streets, music at window rattling volume (although within the council's acceptable limits).

23.8 The Licensing Authority will take a particularly serious view where the grounds for review are substantiated and relate to the use of the licensed premises:

- **where Police are frequently called to attend to incidents of crime and disorder**
- **where there has been prolonged and/or repeated instances of public nuisance;**

At the EE Festival in 2019 there were 4 stabbings and other violent assaults. Although I gathered, from the promoters, that they were not allowed to pay the police to patrol, following the first stabbing there were police vans cruising the area ready to respond. They were frequently called to attend incidents. The security provided by the festival had few powers and were unable to do more than look menacing when they encountered illegal behaviour outside the site. Although outside the scope of the licencing committee, it is in the public sphere that the cost of policing the event combined with the cost of the air ambulance outweighed the council's income from the festival.

Although this is a different festival there can be no guarantees that this level of policing would not be needed. Despite constant reassurances by EE organisers about the nature of their clientele (older, professional) and their increased security and stewarding a considerable police presence was still required. Such reassurances will, no doubt be made in this licence application. There are however no reasonable measures that can be taken that would guarantee that such a police presence would not be needed.

The 2019 EE licence was granted with 66 conditions. These were met by the promoters, who worked hard to:

- install more toilets to prevent attendees urinating in front gardens;
- create better signage to make sure attendees arrived and left the site more efficiently;
- provide more security and stewards with a dedicated team working outside the site itself to protect the public;
- implement more thorough searches for weapons, drugs and alcohol on arrival;
- commit to better public engagement and a better complaints procedure.

Despite three years of experience of running a festival on the site, learning from experience year on year and rigorously implementing the 66 conditions EE was still unable to run a festival that met Merton Council's licensing criteria.

- **The prevention of crime and disorder;** 4 stabbings, open drug use and dealing.

- **Public safety;** stabbings and other violent assaults within the festival; diversion of Met Police and air ambulance resources to the festival leaving others less well served; drunk/high festival goers in large numbers on the streets surrounding the festival site, both before and after the event on occasion leading to threatening behaviour towards local residents.

- **The prevention of public nuisance;** noise levels that made normal speech impossible inside the home, despite being within “acceptable levels”; public urination, drunkenness and drug use.

- **Public safety;** This year public safety would be put at risk by granting a licence to a large festival where social distancing and covid security would be impossible to implement. It is quite possible that this event may comply with government guidelines by September and still be a threat to public safety. Guidelines have frequently been introduced too late to prevent a surge in covid cases as the concerns about the Indian variant show. It would be rash to authorise a large gathering of this type at this time.



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

2nd June 2021

Your ref: **Application by Slammin Events / Radioactive Clothing Limited (Southport Festival)**
WK/202103931

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to object to the licence application by Radioactive Clothing Limited trading as Slammin Events for a music festival in Morden Park on 4-5th September 2021, on the following grounds:

1. The prevention of crime and disorder.

I have experienced the behaviour of festival goers at Morden Park first hand, in 2017, 2018 and 2019. 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 / 2019 only by intrusive barriers stretching across the entire frontage of St Lawrence Churchyard and volunteer marshals from the church community. 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 2019, despite my attempts and those of others to warn the licensing committee of the danger, the festival was allowed to happen and there were four stabbings.

In 2018 and 2019 we had to organise volunteer stewards in our churchyard during the festival in order to ensure the safety of the premises and visitors.

During the festivals we have witnessed people using balloons of nitrous oxide as they walked along, and we smelt the use of cannabis on the street.

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 three 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. There is no reason to suggest that Slammin Events organisers will have any greater success.

The four stabbings in 2019 demonstrate clearly that knives were in the event. The event planned for 2021 is based on “the best in drum and bass, garage, jungle, house, grime and old school” (from <https://www.ents24.com/festival/tranzmission-festival-2021/6205408>) - music genres that are associated with knife crime and violence. To invite this into the local residential area would be severely detrimental to public safety.

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

3. The prevention of public nuisance

The large festivals in Morden Park so far have demonstrated very clearly, and to the annoyance of many local residents, that to have such festivals 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 17th 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”*¹.

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.”*²

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.**”*³

For the 2019 festival some 60 or more conditions were put on the licence approval. This is an absurd situation: the application should clearly have been rejected, as hindsight and 4 stabbings has shown. 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.

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

² Ibid, item 2, page 4

³ Ibid, item 3, page 4, my emphasis

5. The need for scrutiny

I understand that the organisers may be 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
The Rectory, London Road, Morden, SM4 5QT

From: Claire Jauffret <
Sent: 24 May 2021 01:38
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Support the application

Dear Merton

I want to write in support of this application in Morden park during the music festival.

For: The licence is being applied to cover a single annual, two day event, over a weekend in September each year from 2021 to 2023. The exact dates will be agreed with Merton Council at least 6 months in advance each year. The following dates relate to 2021 only: Proposed hours of Operation: Retail Sale of Alcohol: Saturday 4th September 12:00 - 22:10, and Sunday 5th September 12:00 - 21:40.

This event is a very welcome change and the park is ideal for this. Clearly all measures should be taken as to orderly conduct of the crowd to minimise nuisance to neighbours but I think such events are a great addition to the range of entertainment in Merton, provide a welcome change after lockdowns. I also think it is important to give younger members of society something for them (some of us raging ones also like festivals too!). I totally support this application and the event.

Claire Jauffret

SLAMMIN EVENTS – Ref: WK/202103931

I wish to object to the above licence application. My objections are informed by experience of the Eastern Electrics events in Morden Park in 2017-2019. I am aware that the current application is from a different company but believe experience of previous events of a similar nature and size at the same venue is relevant.

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 in 2018 year by church members standing guard all day, but I believe this will merely have displaced problems elsewhere. I have also heard that in 2017 two shops (Sainsburys and Iceland) experienced increased shoplifting and two cafés (Wimpys and La Lavella) had toilets damaged. Most importantly, in 2019 there were four stabbings. I understand the local police commander has said that the promoters did all they could to provide security, and yet these stabbings happened. I suggest this shows they are likely at events of this scale whatever preventative measures are put in place.

PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

I understand many local residents experienced an unacceptable level of noise with vibration of their windows during previous festivals. I also have been told that there was substantial public urination, defecation and littering at those events.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

I am concerned that children going to and from 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 at previous events.

DURATION OF ANY LICENCE GRANTED

Should the Sub-Committee grant a licence I submit that it should be for one year only, to allow an assessment of the event to be made before any further application for it to take place in 2022 and subsequent years is submitted.

Tom Killick



From: Russell King <
Sent: 03 June 2021 14:02
To: Elizabeth Macdonald <Elizabeth.Macdonald@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Response to Slammin Events Consultation

To: Licensing Section, London Borough of Merton, 14th Floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, SM4 5DX

From: Russell King, (please do not publish name/address)

I would like formally object to this licence application, for the following reasons:

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

The three events previously held in Morden Park by Eastern Electrics led to criminal activities, primarily involving vandalism, drug dealing and usage, and violent behaviour. We are relieved, yet surprised, that no-one lost their lives in the stabbings.

We appreciate Slammin Events is a different provider, however we have legitimate concerns, given previous experience, that the criminal activities summarised above may still occur, especially given that Morden Park is located in a built up residential area.

Given that police presence and numbers across London have been badly hit by the pandemic, we surely cannot afford a situation where those resources are stretched even further having to police [10000](#) people.

PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

As with previous events, we are concerned that these events will lead to public displays of urination (and worse!) ,vomiting, drug use, in the streets, in people's gardens (as per previous events). We believe that Morden park is an inappropriate venue in which to hold this event, given it is surrounded by homes, many populated by families and elderly people.

In addition, this isn't just about what may go on at the event itself, there is also all the collateral damage that will inevitably go with it, and how that will impact the residents and businesses in Morden, especially en route to and in the vicinity of Morden Park, and during the daytime on both days. Isolated pockets of violence, to name but one concern, will lead to local residents feeling unsafe and intimidated during that weekend. This has been the experience in previous years when such an event has taken place.

And then there is the noise nuisance/pollution, the levels of which have been unacceptably high depending on climate. One year, the volume was turned up for the main act. How will we ensure this doesn't happen again? We understand this is one weekend, however the disturbance from such activities is constant and wearing, and no resident should feel that they have to vacate their own home, just to escape the noise and disruption such an event causes. We pay mortgages, work hard in the week, and are just as entitled as others to enjoy our time off.

The event before, during and after also has an impact on the park itself and its rich variety of wildlife, which is deeply concerning for those of us who rely more than most on the park as a

therapeutic outlet. Most attendees at the event will not be local so will not place as much care and respect as residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Apart from the risk of people getting hurt at or around the event itself, through violence or from the effects of alcohol and drugs (last time, we saw one reveller dangerously swerve out of the way of an incoming bus who would not have been able to act in time), there is also Covid that looms large in the equation. [10000](#) mostly young and potentially un-vaccinated people in a field in a built up residential area is surely not wise at this time.

In conclusion, holding a very large, two day event in a park, surrounded by houses, flats and other residences, would be costly to the taxpayer, but also costly in other ways, including Morden's reputation. This will also set a precedent for other large scale events. As residents who put a lot of our lives and finances into our locality, we urge you to hear our concerns. The reality is that, despite reassurances, and as we have previously seen, no one can ever be completely sure that an event will go the way in which it is intended.

02-Jun-2021.

REPRESENTATION AGAINST LICENSE APPLICATION

Slammin Events at Morden Park Open Space, Lower Morden Lane, Morden

Applicant(s): Radioactive Clothing Limited T/A Slammin Events

Application Type: New Premises License

Application reference: WK/202103931

Closing date for Representations: Thursday, 03 June 2021

Representation from Mr & Mrs J Kingsley, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We are one of two private properties that is directly in the park, adjacent to Hillcross Depot. We are concerned that the organisers are giving undertakings without consulting with those that it directly affects.

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 it 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.

Reference is made that 'Hillcross Avenue Car Park' will remain open as per usual. Despite the road and parking area adjacent to our property not being considered an entry point into the event this did not prevent many festival goers using it in previous events. We witnessed drug dealing and taking. As there were no toilets located within the vicinity festival users continued to find pathways and private property for public urination. There was a large number of nitrous oxide capsules in the access road, parking area and Hillcross Avenue.

Consideration needs to be given to either the closure of the parking area, to ensure the two households in the park are not subjected to seeing crime take place. It also needs to be adequately policed or stewarded throughout the event.

Public Safety

There is little proof that the organisers have the capacity to regulate the behaviour outside of the site. We have not seen reference to body searches on entry in any paraphernalia and it just pushes the problems to the rest of the park and surrounding residential areas.

It is blasé to suggest the age and demographics of the event are so vastly different that criminal activity will not take place. Festivals by their very nature are a magnet for crime and this places local residents at risk.

Despite assumptions that most people would be arriving by public transport this did not prevent a high volume of vehicles being present on London Road and surrounding streets collecting festival goers in previous events.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

The Council's Licensing Policy states;- "the Council recognises that it 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 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. At previous musical festivals there was public nuisance as men and women were urinating in public. There was also 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 at previous events was worse when it was projected by DJ's in addition to the live groups. This would be similar to the line-ups being considered for this event. MC's are particularly loud and brash (including the use of offensive and misogynistic language) in order to excite the crowd. The make-up of the park means that it is not necessarily those nearest who are most impacted given that sound can carry to wider residential areas.

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.

At the last event children saw drugs being publicly consumed, 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 applicant could argue that the Council should restrict young people and children from the Park but that is not fair or possible. There are recreational areas 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 we should be safeguarding and protecting from harm.

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. You are our elected representatives and should be looking out for the best interest of your residents.

In conclusion considering the pandemic and the unprecedented time we are all living in why would our local authority even consider such a large event taking place, festival goers will be travelling from different areas which could possibly put the local boroughs residents at higher risk. Factoring in also the time taken for the general clean up, the assembling/dismantling the vast equipment needed for such an event it would deny the park users and residents the use of their local park of which many have enjoyed particularly more so over the past year.

Linda and John Kingsley

From: Kathleen Knowles
Sent: 01 June 2021 14:31
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Festival in Morden Park

I object to this event taking place in our park, it is noisy disruptive and causes damage

Our green spaces are important to us

The brown bare patches in the park have not disappeared from last time about two years ago and there is definitely less wildlife. This is not surprising with the tremendous noise that I found unbearable

Our park is for us! Not for outsiders who don't respect it.

Kathleen Knowles

1st June 2021

From: Eddy Lee [
Sent: 28 May 2021 10:10
To: Lee, Eddie
Subject: Re: music event application no. WK/202103931

On Wed, 26 May 2021, 20:37 Eddy Lee, < wrote:
From
Colin Lee

Dear Sir/Madam

As a resident who lives next to Morden Park I am writing to register my objection to the above proposal to hold music events in Morden Park [application no. WK/202103931] The last music event held there was a complete & utter nightmare for local residents, businesses & The Metropolitan Police all of whom had to deal with noise, traffic issues, drunkenness, drug taking & anti social behaviour as well as thousands of festival goers

My objection is based on Merton Council's own criteria:

- 1.Prevention of crime & disorder
2. Prevention of public nuisance
- 3.Protection of children from harm
- 4.Promotion of public safety

1. Evidence of paraphernalia, drug/dealing occurring in the streets around the park, ketamine,,nitrous oxide capsules, ecstasy, & diazepam were among drugs seized by Police. Despite the applicants agreeing to address these issues in 2017.there were more reported crimes in 2018 than in previous years, so the measures taken to avert further crime & disorder didn't work.

Various incidents of disorder occurred at the music event in 2019 which lead to four people being stabbed, festival goers were using the side roads, gardens & green areas as toilets, engage in sexual activities as well as to sell/buy drugs.

2. Morden South Station was left like the event had been held there with rubbish,empty bottles,empty nitrous oxide capsules littering the stairs & platforms which commuters who had to go to work on Monday morning had to navigate through. The Post Office night delivery lorries were unable/delayed getting into the sorting office because of vehicles parking across the entrance & the sheer volume of vehicles/cabs using the road. Rosedene Avenue among others, was used as a pick up point for event attendees by vehicles & cabs leading to a few volatile confrontations, a nightmare for the people that live there..

The entrance to the garages between Rosedene Avenue & Chalgrove Avenue were being used as a place to buy & sell drugs including nitrous oxide capsules & inhale the gas as well as a toilet by festival goers.

3. In the presence of large scale drug use, children are put at risk. They may be exposed to persons under the influence of drink/drugs & their often totally inappropriate behaviour. The drugs paraphernalia left on the streets after these events can be extremely dangerous for when children they are exposed to it

After the last event in 2019 extremely large pits of water were left in the park for some weeks some with no lids, this was a serious breach of health & safety & a risk to not only the various wildlife in the park but also the children that use & play in the park

4. Stewards were at the entrance to the roads but seemed powerless or disinterested about the interests of residents or redirecting festival goers, vehicles/cabs to more convenient & safer pick up locations, this made the main road [A24] a dangerous place for both pedestrians & vehicles using the road. The police were stretched to the limit & appear to have been woefully under resourced to deal with public order issues, traffic problems etc. I was not aware of any officers patrolling the road & certainly saw none in or around Rosedene Avenue

Can the council please consider the welfare of the residents & businesses, their needs & opinions & say NO to this event as they did for the festival planned in 2018. Morden Park is obviously not a suitable venue for this or any other large scale music event.

I sincerely hope the Council & the Licencing Committee will consider the impact on not only the local residents but also the damage to the park itself & the adverse & negative publicity these previous events have brought to the Borough of Merton & Reject any consideration to this event ever taking place in Morden Park or the Borough again

Yours sincerely

Mr Colin.Lee

To: The Licensing Committee. London Borough of Merton. 14th
May 2021.

From: Mrs Susan Liang, RGN, Dip. Psychology,


Re: Application no: WK/202103931

The proposal by Radioactive Clothing Ltd to hold a 2 day music festival in September in Morden Park, for 3 years from 2021 to 2023.

To include a licence for the sale of alcohol.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident who lives next to Morden Park, I am writing to register my objection to the above proposal.

My objection is based on Merton council's own criteria:

1. Prevention of public nuisance.
2. Prevention of crime and disorder.
3. Protection of children from harm.
4. Promotion of public safety.

1. In 2017, during the first festival held in Morden Park by Eastern Electrics, there were major issues with public nuisance. In St Lawrence Churchyard there was evidence of urination, defaecation and sexual activities having taken place (used condoms were found.) In 2018 & 2019, to try to prevent this, members of the church stewarded the churchyard for 14 hours on both the Saturday and the Sunday, giving out 1000 bottles of water to festival goers. Event stewards went home at 2130 hours, leaving the venue unsupervised. Most of the antisocial behaviour simply moved across the road to the Hatfield Mead estate. Families there had to keep their children indoors, as there was drug dealing taking place, and one man exposed himself to young children. Nitrous oxide capsules were found all over the surrounding areas, many of them in the playground of Morden Primary school.

The noise from the music stopped children from going to sleep, and many older and vulnerable residents felt compelled to stay in their homes as they felt unsafe outside.

The Metropolitan Police stated that they were “concerned about the level of noise complaints received” during the Festival in 2018.

Provision of toilet facilities was inadequate, so many of those attending simply urinated and defaecated in the open.

The selling of alcohol at this event will increase the probability of unsocial behaviour, as alcohol tends to remove inhibitions.

2. There was evidence of both drug use and drug dealing being carried out quite blatantly on the streets. A large haul of drugs seized by Police included ketamine, ecstasy, cannabis, diazepam and nitrous oxide (Croydon police quoted by Jamie Phillips in the Surrey News, 8.9.2019.). The applicants promised to address some of the issues in 2017, but the number of crimes reported increased in 2018, so no lessons were learned.

Local businesses suffered an increase in shoplifting, with many choosing to close early. There was widespread littering. At the event in 2019 there were 4 stabbings. These occurred despite the organisers supposedly carrying out: full bag searches; full pat down and body searches; metal detection wand; and the use of both drug and explosive detector dogs. The cost of policing this event was estimated at £150,000, (Metropolitan Police Freedom of Information.) Who actually paid for the cost of this? Did this money come out of the public purse, e.g, taxpayers had to pay for it? 52 police officers had to be brought in from other London Boroughs, leaving those boroughs more vulnerable to crime. This included costs of overtime, very long shifts and welfare (MOPAC.) A Section 60, “Stop and Search” had to be authorised.

3. Children are always put at risk when in the presence of large scale drug usage. They may witness drug dealing, or people who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol and are behaving inappropriately. Playing with used nitrous oxide canisters can also be dangerous. After the event in 2019, 7 large pits of waste shower water were left in the park for several weeks. 6 of these had loosely fitting lids, and 1 no lid at all, posing a serious health and safety risk to both children and wildlife.

4. Public safety is always an issue when large groups of people congregate together. Widespread use of drugs and alcohol makes the crowd much harder to steward safely. Festival goers posed a risk to themselves and to others by paying little attention to the dangers posed by a busy main road, the A24, causing traffic to take avoiding action when they walked into the road. Cars bringing and collecting festival goers caused a huge increase in traffic, with drivers sometimes stopping on the A24.

I am also concerned about the large number of attendees, given that Coronavirus may still be very much with us. The recent rise of the Indian variant, B.1.617.2 is a worry, especially as there is now evidence that this may be more easily transmissible (SAGE 14.5.2021.) The Prime Minister said today that the further lifting of restrictions on 21st June may now not happen. Many young people, (who will make up the bulk of attendees) may not have received both vaccines by September, and social distancing would not be possible at such an event. This could have far reaching consequences both for Morden and the wider community.

In conclusion, Morden is a densely populated suburb with a high concentration of elderly and vulnerable residents. To quote Councillor Nick McLean (Wimbledon Guardian 9.8.2019) “ After the appalling anti-social behaviour that residents witnessed and experienced at last year’s event (2018) and now the multiple stabbings this year, (2019), it surely demonstrates that this event is not suitable for the London Borough of Merton and in particular Morden Park.”

I am asking the Committee to reject this application, as it contravenes all 4 of Merton Council’s licensing objectives. This is the reason that Merton Council’s Licensing Committee rejected the application by Dynamic for a festival in September 2018.

The main problems seem to occur with bad behaviour on the way to and from the event, which is completely beyond the control of the organisers. Please put the welfare of local residents first when making your decision.

Yours Faithfully,
Susan Liang

From: Philippa Maslin <Philippa.Maslin@merton.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 June 2021 00:17
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Licence application WK/202103931

Dr Pippa Maslin

I live a stone's throw from Morden Park, on the Hatfeild Mead Estate, and have a range of concerns about licence application WK/202103931. Although I appreciate that Merton Council is seeking to raise revenue in a time of profound underfunding from central government, I feel that the park is an unsuitable venue for the proposed event.

Prevention of crime and disorder

Whilst I understand that Slammin Events and Blue Fox Events are different companies, I am concerned that the proposed event will attract the same crowd as those run by Blue Fox Events, namely, their Eastern Electrics (EE) festivals, and that local residents will be in for a repeat of the criminal and antisocial behaviour suffered in 2017, 2018 and 2019:

- In 2017, attendees urinated, defecated and copulated in the graveyard of St Lawrence Church. The only reason that this did not happen in 2018 and 2019 was because members of the congregation took it upon themselves to patrol the grounds.
- 2017 saw five reports of ASB and one report of sexual assault by touching.
- In 2018 and 2019, 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.
- 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.
- 2019 saw four stabbings inside the arena, thirty-three offences, and nine arrests, including possession with intent to supply drugs, robbery, and two assaults on police officers. According to the Met, it cost them

£150,000 in police hours - a staggering amount spent when resources are stretched enough as it is.

- In 2019, Ganley's were out of pocket over the weekend because of the cost of hiring extra security staff to man the doors and stop attendees trashing the place.

Public safety

Again, whilst I understand that Slammin Events and Blue Fox Events are different companies, I am concerned that the proposed event will attract the same crowd as those run by Blue Fox Events, namely, their EE festivals, and that local residents will be in for a repeat of the following:

- In 2017, 2018 and 2019, 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.
- In 2017, 2018 and 2019, local residents were exposed to drug dealing, drug-taking and discarded drug paraphernalia outside their homes.
- In 2019, seven tanks of dirty shower water were left in the park for many days after the festival: <https://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/cesspits-left-morden-park-after-16754332>

Furthermore, I think that Slammin Events should seriously rethink whether an event whose size and nature will inevitably bring a lot of people into very close contact, and to the area, is wise whilst we are still in a pandemic.

Prevention of public nuisance

Again, whilst I understand that Slammin Events and Blue Fox Events are different companies, I am concerned that the proposed event will attract the same crowd as those run by Blue Fox Events, namely, their EE festivals, and that local residents will be in for a repeat of the following:

- In 2017, 2018 and 2019, local residents had to put up with unacceptable noise levels emanating from the festival, even when they were at home with all windows and doors closed.
- In 2017, 2018 and 2019, 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, in 2018, the residents of the Hatfeild Mead Estate,

where I live, were subjected to such behaviour, with some residents who challenged the behaviour receiving verbal abuse.

- 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.
- 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. Indeed, some attendees chose to sleep overnight in their cars.
- Because of the time that it took to set up and take down the arena in 2018 and 2019, regular visitors to the park had to endure a minimum of three weeks of disruption to their enjoyment of the park. I say a minimum of three weeks because festival-related litter - especially cigarette butts and plastic cable ties - remained in the park for weeks following the departure of EE. Because of successive lockdowns, a greater number of local residents have come to visit the park regularly, and I think that the setting up and taking down of the proposed event will infringe upon people's right to enjoy the space.
- 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. I am aware that some 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. Since then, I have been fortunate enough to see the Little Owls and even Little Egrets, and I believe that bringing the proposed event will disturb the wildlife.
- In 2018 and 2019, festival-related litter - especially NOS canisters, glass bottles and drinks cans - remained in streets surrounding the park for weeks following the departure of EE.

Protection of children from harm

Again, whilst I understand that Slammin Events and Blue Fox Events are different companies, I am concerned that the proposed event will attract the same crowd as those run by Blue Fox Events, namely, their EE festivals, and that local residents will be in for a repeat of the following:

- In 2017, 2018 and 2019, local children were exposed to attendees urinating, taking drugs, and using foul language outside their homes and in the streets surrounding the park.

- In 2018 and 2019, the thousands of NOS canisters that remained in the park and the streets surrounding the park attracted the attention of naturally curious children.

Other

- Whilst I have adhered to the framework within which the public are allowed to express their concerns about licence applications, I must say that I find it unconscionable that the impact upon wildlife is not taken into consideration when the proposed venue is a public park. It merits a category of its own and, therefore, I ask Merton Council to review their approach to the process for planning applications where our precious green spaces are concerned. Climate change and the loss of biodiversity mean that it is incumbent upon the Council as a public body with a duty of care.
- It is hugely disappointing that no proper attempt has been made by Slammin Events to consult with local residents. Sean Williams emailed me on 19-4-21, promising that he would be in touch, but I have heard nothing since, and yet I am being asked to submit a response to the application.

From: JAYESH PANDYA <
Sent: 03 June 2021 09:55
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Cc: Councillor Nick McLean <Nick.McLean@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to: Morden Park Music Events 2021 (Reference: WK/202103931)

Resending with the reference number and cc'ing Nick as per his request from the Nextdoor app.

Hello

I am writing to object to the planning applications made for following events
Beautiful People 2021 Sat, 4 Sept, 12:00–22:00
Southbound Festival 2021 Sun, 5 Sept, 12:00–22:00

The grounds for raising objections are as follows:
Public nuisance, crime and disorder, public safety, excessive traffic and parking issues.

We have previously encountered major disruption through these events to roads, shops, people urinating in streets, excessive noise which has not been managed correctly by any of the previous event organisers and most recently the stabbings which occurred at Eastern Electrics.

I have read some the materials from the event organisers, they all promise better security, better sound control, none of that has occurred in the past 7 years so how are we meant to act on faith that it will this time ? I would also like to point out that when these events happen (regardless of type of music) its bringing a lot of bad behaviour out of people, I have personally witnessed a group of men urinating in the COOP car park on Grand Drive the saturday of a past event, they then ventured to the park 'gig'. The Sunday following I went to Lower Morden Garden Centre which had plenty of older people and little children in it and all they could hear was the noise from the park and people swearing as they were entering it.

The park and neighbouring residents have to put up with a major disruption and end up with restrictive access to a part during setup and cleardown. My wife and I are strongly against this application and request the council reject it. If the park directly benefited from improvements due to the funds then that would be something but there is no visible benefits, e.g. new path, new benches, more bins, more lighting etc.

Many thanks
Mr Jayesh Pandya

From: Michaela Reay <
Sent: 03 June 2021 22:30
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Morden Park Music Festival 4th/5th September - Against

At the Zoom meeting (2nd June) the event organiser advised a different type of crowd to the 2019 Eastern Electric (EE) festival (which saw much trouble including 4 stabbings) is expected. While this is true for Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th is very much a re-run of EE and so it must be presumed likely to attract the same sort of crowd. This gives rise to the following concerns which position me as against the event taking place.

- 1) The prevention of crime and disorder
 - a. There is nothing that anyone can do to prevent crime and the threat of serious crime has to be considered high. Morden cannot accept this risk.
- 2) Public safety
 - a. That we will see the same kind of mess in the park and surrounding areas (including human waste in the local church) as was the case for EE
- 3) The prevention of public nuisance
 - a. Public transport and Morden public areas will become health hazards due to discarded drug paraphernalia, broken glass etc. as was the case for EE
- 4) The protection of children from harm
 - a. There will be music noise until 10:00PM and likely more noise afterwards from those leaving the event. I believe this constitutes harm for children within earshot of the noise who have school the following day
 - b. Despite assurances to the contrary I am certain the performers will swear which will be audible in adjacent residential areas and the Mosque. It is simply unacceptable for adults to suffer this let alone children. It beggars belief that others think they have a right to come to Morden and be so disrespectful to the residents.

Michaela Reay,

From: John Rust <
Sent: 31 May 2021 15:46
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: SLAMMING EVENTS MUSIC FESTIVAL 4/5 SEPTEMBER 2021

I WISH TO REGISTER MY OPPOSITION TO THE APPLICATION FOR THIS MUSIC EVENT ON MORDEN PARK.

THE COUNCIL IS FREQUENTLY TELLING RESIDENTS THE PARK IS OURS. SO PLEASE LISTEN TO US - THE RESIDENTS.

PREVIOUS SUCH EVENTS BY EASTERN ELECTRIC DROWNED TO NEIGHBOURHOOD IN NOISE, LITTER AND BAD BEHAVIOUR

AND A DENIAL OF ACCESS BY ORDINARY TO THIS PRICELESS ISLAND OF PEACE.

DURING THIS COVID LOCKDOWN MANY MORE LOCALS HAVE HAD TIME TO GET TO KNOW BETTER THIS BEAUTIFUL QUIET

PLACE WHICH MAKES MORDEN A LOVELY PLACE TO RESIDE.

WHILE EVERYBODY IS WELCOME TO ENJOY THIS GEM - WE DO NOT WANT HORDES OF OUTSIDERS TO COME AND TRASH

OUR BEAUTIFUL PARK.

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE LOCAL RESIDENTS. REMEMBER YOU, THE COUNCIL ,SAY THIS IS OUR PARK. SHOW THAT YOU

BELIEVE THAT AND LEAVE US IN PEACE.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

JOHN RUST

From:

Sent: 26 May 2021 10:24

To: Elizabeth Macdonald <Elizabeth.Macdonald@merton.gov.uk>

Cc: Councillor Helena Dollimore <Helena.Dollimore@merton.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Tranzmission/Beautiful People/Southbound/Southport Weekender Festival - 5 September 2021 Morden Park

Dear Ms Macdonald

Thank you for your email and details of submission requirements.

I am Mrs Marylyn Sedgwick of , and have lived here since 1961. My objections stem from previous Eastern Electrics music weekends that have been held in Morden Park. Points I wish the sub-committee to consider are:-

1. Prevention of crime and disorder, possibly caused by people arriving to enter Morden Park.
2. Public safety - which previously was compromised by people inhaling gas from balloons and wandering across two carriageways of the A24 outside my home.
3. The prevention of public nuisance from festival attendees, which could be alleviated by policing of the area, and controlling their activities.
4. The protection of children from harm, caused by carrier bags containing drink bottles, nitrous oxide capsules etc which were dumped at the two bus stops adjacent to my home.

As mentioned in my email to Councillor Dollimore, the amount of litter along this TfL road and Merton pavements, was eventually removed, but some residue remained in gateways and hedges as well as being thrown over the fence into the fields opposite.

These are the points I would like the Licensing Sub-Committee to consider/address before the License is granted.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Marylyn Sedgwick

Further email from Mrs Sedgwick

From: Marylyn Sedgwick [Sent: 16 May 2021 15:01

To: Councillor Helena Dollimore <Helena.Dollimore@merton.gov.uk>

Subject: Tranzmission/Beautiful People/Southbound/Southport Weekender Festival - 5 September 2021 Morden Park

Dear Cllr Dollimore,

By way of introduction, I am a Merton Pensioner, widow, and live opposite the fields adjoining Morden Park, between Chalgrove Avenue and Hatfeild Mead. I have lived here since 1961, and basically just want a quiet life now! I worked for Merton for almost 16 years and left my final post as cabinet secretary in October 2005. I also worked for Labour Group Members, the Leader and Mayor over the four years I was in post, then my job was needed for restructuring, so I took early retirement.

My feeling about the proposed event, which I see is now advertising ticket sales, is mixed. I have no objection to the music itself, as long as it is being held in the main park area, as I am down the road a bit from the entrance, so the noise shouldn't be a problem hopefully. It is the problem with the festival attendees that bothers me. My house is right on, and opposite bus stops, and the appalling behaviour of some people who attended previous Eastern Electrics Festivals left a lot to be desired! If these events are well policed (privately, I would imagine) they can be OK, but the A24 is a busy road here, and how people were not killed amazes me, especially as lots of them were high from inhaling gas from balloons and wandering across the two lanes. The litter and mess left by the festival goers was eventually cleared up, but residue was left on pavements, gateways and items stuffed into my hedge, which was very annoying, even St Lawrence Parish Church had need to complain to the local press! Is it Eastern Electrics that are the organisers of this event, and is it to be for two days again, or just Sunday 5 September?

Representation to the Licence application
Reference WK/201103931
from Elizabeth Sherwood,

I am the Secretary for the Friends of Morden Park, a voluntary group which has been in existence for 30 years. It aims to protect the park from commercial development and to work with Merton Council. I have listened to the views of our members and users of the park, live in the vicinity of the park and walk in it regularly. This is written giving my own views and experiences based on the last three large music events in Morden Park and not as Committee Secretary for the Friends.

As background, events have been taking place in Morden Park for over 40 years now. Many have used the bandstand 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 bandstand 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.

Earlier this year I was put in contact with the organiser for this event, Blue Owl. I have had a chance to talk about what is needed to be considered. I am also aware that many discussions have taken place with Merton Officers and some things are still to be completed, including the Transport Plan. What Public Health England have to say with regard to Covid 19 will have a major impact. There is still more to be reassured about and I do hope the organiser will listen to suggestions and act where necessary in the months and weeks leading up to the event.

I welcome the Licence is proposed for a two day event for a weekend in September and, that exact dates have to be agreed at least 6 months in advance. Having advance notice helps everyone. I note that the application is potentially to cover a Licence for 2021, 2022 and 2023 but that the hours of operation relate to 2021 only. I understand a variation would be required if there was a request to change the proposed hours of operation for future years. The publicity from Blue Owl and Slammin Events refers to their experience of running smaller scale events of no more than 9,999 so I believe this is the maximum number applied for in this Licence. In my view, although significant, that is a reasonable number for this type of area.

Blue Owl and Slammin Events have on paper vast experience of festivals in suburban parks and I appreciate that every Licence application costs the applicant and the council time and money. It would also be nice to think that this event could take place satisfactorily every year without us all having to “reinvent the wheel” and go through the same issues. It was only by the third year that the previous event organisers made all the necessary improvements and adjustments. It would be much easier for us all if agreement were given for a three year licence but with a strong review process that could be invoked if things went wrong at any time. Is that possible ?

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

Litter and urination

Every Wednesday a group of volunteers litter pick the park and collect bags full of rubbish. There are also other people who do the same on different days and times. So we take pride in

the appearance of the park, even though the antisocial behaviour is annoying. 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 dogs, particularly food debris. Thus the organisers and their staff have to acquaint themselves quickly to the extent of the park. Bags of litter should be removed completely at the end of each day or at least put in a skip overnight and not left for a next day collection. Bags with food get ripped open by animals and the effort to collect is thus wasted. There should be no less a focus on clearing litter from the exterior of the arena as from inside. The event plan shows a route for attendees going through what we call the A and B fields. This is a change from previous events. From a public safety perspective, i.e. keeping crowds away from the main road and dual carriageway, I can appreciate this idea. But the route through the fields, has to be marshalled well, people should be stopped from thinking they can use the surrounding trees for urination and there must be plenty of staff employed to litterpick. They must also be prepared to collect litter if it blows into other areas of the fields and park.

Public Safety and public urination

At the previous large music events the event organisers seemed to understand, but perhaps only until the third year, that plenty of WCs were needed en route and exterior to the park. We understand that agreement as to their location can be a problem. This organiser needs to consider this too. It's also not just their provision that's important but maintenance and cleaning. Some people aren't used to Portaloos and amazingly seem to prefer using elsewhere. At some other events within the park, public urination and defecation (by both men and women) is a problem especially because event organisers often under estimate the number of attendees, perhaps intentionally, so that they do not have to pay for expensive WC facilities.

This is the end of my representation. I would welcome the chance to expand on my thinking at the Licencing Committee. I am generally in support of events in the park but subject to them being well organised and sensitive to local residents and users of the park.

From: Steve Shimwell <
Sent: 03 June 2021 16:51
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Fw: Licensing Application WK/202103931

OBJECTION to License Application by Slammin Events.
No. WK/202103931

Stephen Shimwell

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

I am aware that the application is from a different promoter, but the type of event is identical to Eastern Electrics.

It will attract the same audience and create the same problems residents experienced the last three years they utilised Morden Park.

Reports of ASB, sexual assault, assaults on Police Officers, verbal abuse and foul language in the streets. Arrests, possession with intent to supply drugs, the list goes on and on.

I personally witnessed festival goers openly urinating at the entrance gates to Haig Housing Estate on route from St Helier train

station. I personally witnessed festival goers urinating just inside the park entrance on Epsom Rd, despite the row

of portaloos placed on the perimeter of the Harvester Restaurant. On the Saturday evening at the event close I was

personally threatened by 4 ravers who, wandering down my road, mistook me for an Uber at my car. I explained I wasn't

an Uber but they insisted I take them to Mitcham for £10. When I again refused, they attempted to kick the wing mirror

off my car, fortunately a Police van passed and they wandered away shouting abuse.

In 2018 I witnessed the drug gangs enter the park at the Harvester gate. They had come equipped with telescopic ladders and big bags. When the security car had passed, they were given the signal by their lookout and began to climb the outer walls.

I witnessed this 3 times during the day. Despite promises by the promoter to up the security the following year what we

witnessed in 2019 was disgraceful. The promised personal searches at the arena entrance gates were nothing more

than cursory or not at all. I stood there and witnessed some. I have copied comments from

Eastern Electrics own Facebook page after the weekend, where event goers voiced their anger at the lack of

security at the arena entrances. They felt they had been put in danger and some vowed never to return.

Weapons and drugs gained access to the venue and what followed was inevitable.

One vicious attack on a man knocked to the ground and 4 stabbings inside the arena itself where no police in uniform were present.

An Air Ambulance was called to the scene to take one victim to hospital, fortunately they survived the stabbing. I would hate to have been the Police Officer, or Merton Councillor passing on the news if any of the victims had died.

These incidents made the national news and so dangerous had the situation become Merton borough was placed under a

Section 60 by Saturday evening. On Sunday, extra police were brought in from 3 other boroughs, I talked to some.

The final police bill far exceeded the event fee Merton Council had charged for rental of the park, but Merton Council were not keen on this information being available to the local residents. I wonder why?

PUBLIC NUISANCE

Events such as EE and this, the Southport Weekender, the Slammin events gig name, require huge build and infrastructure.

These events are promoted to the public as two day events but they are no such thing. Merton council thought it

suitable to hire out the most beautiful and bio-diversively important large section of Morden Park in the middle

of the summer holidays for EE. That event was in situ for 17 days, denying residents access to this lovely area in the school holidays.

Southport Weekender may well be smaller scale, but it will certainly not be a 'two day event'.

These decisions fly in the face of Merton Council's promotion of health and well-being of residents through the use of our

local green spaces and parks, where they showed their incredible value to people throughout the Covid lockdown.

Such is the distress from the music, the constant vibration felt by the adjacent residents that many

had to take holidays away the weekend of the festival. Their gardens being used as toilets all around the perimeter, ravers

vomiting in their streets. Even St.Lawrence's Graveyard was used as a toilet by festival goers in 2018 to the point where

they had to staff their perimeter the following year. What a ridiculous situation.

Regarding one of the most important aspects of our green spaces. The protection of Wildlife and bio-diversity. Hosting events

of this scale in Morden Park infringes the rights of our wildlife, that we are duty bound to protect. The cutting of the two

trees in 2018 was a disgrace. The trees were known by many residents that use the park and when they saw the tree of

the Little Owl family hacked to a monolith they were furious, the parent birds were still training their young from this natal tree.

If these trees were a danger to the public, as council would have us believe, they should have been fenced off until

after the breeding season for birds, that is accepted practise. You do not host music events in suburban provincial parks in summer, the most sensitive time for wildlife and when many people enjoy seeing them going about their business of surviving and procreating. Placed adjacent to the cut Little Owl tree was the location of the whirlygig fairground ride, the ultimate insult. The young Little Owls' tree was sited bang in the middle of the arena, their parents found cowering in confusion at the far end of their copse, to stressed to hunt and properly feed their young.

Post event we come to the clear up. What a disgrace. Year after year myself and friends went round the site and collected bags and bags of detritus. Hundreds of bottle tops, pieces of scaffolding poles and joints, planks of wood, Heras fencing ballast feet, thousands of fag ends and thousands of non bio-degradable cable ties, the favourite of the event contractor, used to construct temporary structures and fix banners but on de-rig, just cut and discarded into the long grass where they think we will not see them. These clear ups were carried out by us, residents. And we made sure we did this *after* the last official cleaners left site as their contract stated. We have continually given council the photographs each year and each year the same. 2019 was particularly ironic, as it was the time Merton Council were issuing fines for anyone dropping fag butts in the street. So why was it ok to drop thousands of them in our park, and even worse, not clear them up? In regard to this we issued Stephen Alambritis his appropriate £150 fixed penalty fine, which he has still not had the grace to pay.

The responsibility for clear up, as clearly laid out in the contract issued, first lies with the promoters, who are in breach of the contract if they do not clear up properly. But ultimately, the responsibility lies with Merton Council, who have continually proved they are incapable of carrying out their duty to protect our parks. The incident regarding the over-looked shower waste tanks, which were left in the park in sweltering heat post de-rig, for nearly eight days was an absolute dereliction of duty and put the publics health in danger. The council tried to defuse the situation stating it was merely shower water waste. If they had bothered to send down their health and safety officers, they would know that 'grey' water becomes the highly toxic 'black' water within 48hrs of exposure to hot sun. They would have issued a massive fine to the culprits. When I walked over to a ripped up piece of turf which had been stamped back down by a council representative, which I witnessed, and lifted it up, it was hiding a quantity of cable ties and fag butts. Nice. I do not trust this council to look after our parks full stop.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM, PUBLIC SAFETY AND CONCLUSION.

Let me state my profession. I am a Event designer and production manager. Yes, just like the companies that will be involved with EE and Slammin Events. I have over 25 years experience of these festivals. When the first festival was announced, I had to look twice. A rave event? In Morden Park? I have nothing against music festivals and have enjoyed attending some and working at most, all in more suitable locations. I knew immediately what these events would bring to the borough, because they are not suitable to be hosted in suburban residential areas.

I realise also the immense financial burden local councils have been under, but in my opinion, this has created desperate councils, not just Merton, and desperate councils do desperate things. These festivals are just one example.

I knew exactly what local children would be witnessing on their streets and they did. I knew exactly the impact on the local residents living adjacent to the parks, the impact on some local businesses, some of which decided wisely to ban ravers from entering their premises, the vandalism, the anti-social behaviour, the drugs. I knew exactly how a minority, and it is always a minority, of the rave fans would behave. Because I've seen it many times before. It doesn't go away, you cannot eradicate it, because it is part of the music event culture. So, despite one councillor's sickening political response to the stabbings as 'unfortunate' forgive me if I state again, these festivals do not belong in small suburban parks surrounded by residential housing. The local surrounding drug gangs have already pencilled the dates into their diaries. Be under no illusion, if you accept this application you are inviting into the borough everything described above and possibly worse.

Steve Shimwell.
Resident, London Borough of Merton.

Shimwell Representation – Photographs











MERTON COUNCIL

Cigarette butts are litter

Watch your butt. It could cost you **£150**

Do you want to give up smoking and improve your lifestyle? LiveWell can help www.well.org.uk/Merton

merton.gov.uk/litter-enforcement

merton

From:

Sent: 26 May 2021 08:53

To: Elizabeth Macdonald <Elizabeth.Macdonald@merton.gov.uk>

Subject: Fwd: Outdoor music event

Dear councillor Dollimore,

We have had a number of these festivals now and they are deeply upsetting for residents.

The noise levels- particularly to the Lower Morden Lane area - are very intrusive.

During the last festival I was in the Worcester Park area & could hear it very clearly.

This however is the least of my objections.

Despite stewards or community policing, people are leaving the festival drunk or high or both. The evidence is the number of drug paraphernalia which can be seen in the roads for weeks.

This is not a criticism of the clean up exercise undertaken the following day, but it just cannot all be swept up.

Attendees were seen urinating at the end of my road and I hear this also happened in church grounds - & much worse! I am sure you have been appraised of this.

Morden is for the most part a lovely community. My grandchildren, whom I look after on Saturdays, have enjoyed Morden Park, particularly since the pandemic when they have enjoyed the woods & learning about the nature and history of the area.

That is one weekend when we steer well clear. I would also be reluctant to be returning home later in the evening as I would feel unsafe.

I would like my objections registered.

I do not think it will make a difference as I understand that for Merton it is primarily about the revenue received rather than the concerns of residents.

I do however wish you luck in your appointment.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Monica Smith

From: Patricia Spackman **Sent:** 02 June 2021 19:26
To: Elizabeth Macdonald <Elizabeth.Macdonald@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Morden music festival 4&5September 2021 in Morden park

Dear sir,

We are asking you to turn down the application for a alcohol licence. Reasons being:

The last time there was a festival there was a lot of unsociable behaviour

1/ There was three stabbings.

2/ There was people having sex in the park

3/They was also using the park as a public toilet

4/ laughing gas canesters everywhere in people's gardens,on the pavements.

5/ Bottles, cans of alcohol dumped in our gardens.

6/ The D J was singing effensive language.

7/We was given phone numbers if the noise level was to loud they wasn't manned. Every time the residents tried it just rang.

8/ A lot of neighbours went away because they couldn't stand the unsosible behaviour and the noise. This year because of covid they don't feel like going away or may not be allowed to. The point is why should people be driven out of there homes.

9/ Also the park is for the residents to use but we are unable to use it through the council money making.

So we are asking you not to give these people a alcohol licence.

Regards

Trevor & Patricia Spackman

From: Tish Taylor <

Sent: 03 June 2021 23:56

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

Subject: Expression of concern regarding the granting of a license for the Morden Park music festival

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Patricia Taylor and I live at _____ and I am writing to express my strong feelings against the licensing of the Morden music festival which is proposed for late August/early September. I am unsure whether you will need to publish my name as was suggested during the consultation or (preferably) you can withhold it.

As a resident of Morden for 15 years, I was shocked and dismayed at the incidents that occurred during previous similar music festivals and the council consultation have not given me any clear evidence that this one will be dealt with any differently. Specifically:

1. Crime and disorder: the last festival of this nature resulted in 25 arrests and numerous reports of anti-social behaviour, including fighting, offensive language and defecating and urinating on residents' personal property. Although there are reassurances that this will not happen again, I cannot see how this can be stopped.
2. Public Safety - During the last festival I personally didn't feel safe to go anywhere near the park due to the reports mentioned above
3. Public nuisance - The noise level exceeded permitted levels in the previous festival and although there are reassurances this won't happen again the level of noise is unacceptable for a residential area. In addition, the amount of mess and rubbish left in the park on previous occasions was unacceptable. This included broken glass and evidence of drug taking that is 'hidden' in the park and will surface weeks or even months later as happened last time. This type of rubbish is not always visible to be cleared up and is a danger to wild animals, pets and people.
4. The protection of children from harm: The festival will finish at 10 pm on a Sunday, just before the children are about to return to school. Is it acceptable that children living near the park will have to have a restless night for the sake of a small profit?

I very much hope you will take my views into consideration and reject the license for this event.

Best wishes

Patricia Taylor

From: Peter Webb <
Sent: 31 May 2021 14:08
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: WK/202103931

Herewith my representation against the licence application by Radioactive Clothing/Slammin in Morden Park.

Morden Park is, because of its location surrounded by residential roads, a wonderful area for neighbours and others to visit, spend time and relax in a fairly tranquil environment. To this extent, any event that amplifies sound that can be heard a mile away by people who really don't want to hear it must be regarded as a non natural user and a public nuisance.

Experience with the previous organiser has shown, unequivocally, that people from miles away attend these events and between them introduce a high increase of drunkenness, drug use and violence, thus introducing crime and disorder into the area and being public nuisances.

At the last event, there were 4 stabbings. This indicates that, no matter what security arrangements are in place they cannot identify the determined assailant. It further proves that there is an element attracted to the event with a view to causing grievous bodily harm to "someone". These imported potential assailants are therefore roaming streets in Morden armed with their weapons, possibly under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and present a danger to public safety and increasing the potential increase in crime and disorder.

The local Church and Old People's Home have to barricade their premises and man them to prevent their use as toilets and trespass which must be regarded as public nuisance and disorder.

Herewith are observations for your consideration:-

The day following the last event, my wife and I spoke with police officers who said, amongst other things, that the statistics of drug related offences could not be relied upon because on at least one occasion an arrested person had to be 'let go' because the police at the station were too busy to process them.

Government and the Mayor of London have all publicly affirmed their commitment to reduce the level of knife crime. We now know that knife crime at this type of event should be expected and the only way to help the Government and Mayor achieve their objective is to stop holding such events in any of Morden's Parks.

Although the licence is for 2 days, for how long would the organisers deny access to the public of that area of green land by the erection of giant barricades.

Regards

Peter Webb,

From: Richard Winson <
Sent: 02 June 2021 22:41
To: Licensing <Licensing@merton.gov.uk>
Subject: SLAMMIN EVENTS – application ref no. WK/202103931

To whom it may concern.

We would like to object to the above application for a music festival to be held in Morden Park, which is immediately opposite the house where our family lives.

We have now experienced three music festivals in the park. None have been without major problems. These have ranged from attempted murders in the form of stabbings, to other crimes including blatant drug dealing, to public disorder in the form of urination in the street, to huge amounts of littering (empty alcohol containers and nitrous oxide capsules) in the area around Morden South station and the local primary school and church grounds, to noise pollution from the festival and festival goers that has left my young children unable to sleep.

Many promises were made by the organisers before the last festival was held in the park. All were broken. There was clearly totally inadequate security in place if multiple people carrying knives were able to get inside the festival. Drug dealing remained rife in the side streets. There were completely inadequate toilet facilities, despite the promises made to the contrary. The list goes on.

We do not want to have to deal with this again, on the Sunday evening before schools go back after the summer holidays. No doubt promises will be made again, just like they were before. But without significant additional investment and significantly increased policing and enforcement, nothing will change - and nor will we believe that anything will change.

The income that this festival brings is simply not worth the number and gravity of the problems it will inevitably bring to our borough. No matter what anyone says, the evidence of the past speaks for itself.

I trust this application will be refused.

Yours sincerely

Richard and Anjela Winson