

Senior Licensing & Enforcement Office,  
East Herts District Council,  
Wallfields,  
Pegs Lane,  
Hertford, SG13 8EQ.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Re: Wilkstock – 4 Acre Field, Waterbridge, Frogmore Hill, Watton at Stone,  
SG14 3RR.

I wish to make representation as Ward Member for Datchworth and Aston, I do not live near the site but my comments are based on those received from local residents.

I have had comments from local residents in Aston that appear to support Wilkstock, however a number of residents that live nearer to the venue site have expressed their concerns as follows.

- 1: Traffic problems with vehicles arriving and leaving the venue using the very narrow lanes that exist in the area.
- 2: Noise from the event when in full swing.
- 3: Litter problems in the lanes as people leave the venue to walk to train station and bus connections.
- 4: Concerns regarding misbehaviour from people attending the events.

These are some of the comments past to me as Ward Member and I would be grateful if you could ensure that those who need to know are made fully aware.

Yours sincerely

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 29 April 2021 12:32  
**To:**  
**Subject:** [External] my comments re. waterbridge licensing review

**Categories:**

Reasons that we object to events at Waterbridge, Frogmore Hill, Watton at Stone:

- The Festivals were originally held once annually on the August Bank Holiday weekend, then they increased to twice annually on bank holiday weekends, then thrice annually and most recently over 4 different weekends. This year (2021) they are proposed to be held on 3 x 3 day weekends over 3 consecutive months (July, August and September).
- They were originally under the excuse of 'raising money for charity'. We were always sceptical of this and have seen no evidence/data of actual monies donated to charities. A percentage of money donated per person attending each event should be made available.
- The Festival site is quite ugly and can be seen from different locations along the Walkern Road - people camp overnight, there's a massive car-park and crowds of people.
- The noise is awful, especially if the wind is blowing in our direction, thumping repetitive music until late into the night.
- We have to sleep with our bedroom windows closed on warm summer nights to try to shut out the noise coming from the 'Festivals'.
- We have had to go away for the weekend when we know a Festival is taking place or avoid having a garden party/friends over on the same weekend as one of the Festivals.
- People wander along Walkern Road, looking for the Festival site. We've had people knocking on our front door, asking us if we know where Wilkestock is. We have worried about the vulnerability of our property and put our outside garden furniture away on occasions.
- This is a rural area – there are no street lights and no pavements. It is a safety concern that event/festival goers are wandering along unlit streets after dark. Seeing the litter evidence of alcohol cans/bottles and empty nitrous oxide canisters along the lanes during and following events these event/festival goers are probably drunk/high when walking to/from the events and this exacerbates the danger to them and also to vehicles driving along the lanes.
- The litter along the lanes and Walkern Road is atrocious - walking our dogs around Festival time we've spotted and collected in bin bags, various items of litter, drinks cans, crisp packet wrappers, bottles etc – the increase in litter is clear after a Waterbridge event. This was despite the Wilkes' reassurance that people were employed to clear up local litter after the events. They clearly did not do a very good job, if at all.
- We have also witnessed the scattering of hundreds of empty/used nitrous oxide canisters along the edge of the roads/lanes following a Waterbridge event. We've taken photos of these and sent them to Environmental Health along with our objections.
- There's always an increased amount of traffic travelling to/from the site in Walkern Road and High Elms Lane.
- We do not need an events site here in Watton at Stone/Aston. There is already another local site, much more suitably located, at Knebworth House, Stevenage. This is a venue for Festivals, concerts, open air cinemas etc. It is away from local housing so doesn't disturb neighbours/residents and it is situated adjacent to the A1. Much easier and safer for people to travel to/attend without disturbing local residents.

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**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Housing & Health Services - Community Protection  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 14/05/2021 12:02 PM from .

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: WalkernRoad Watton at Stone SG14 3

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 14/05/2021 12:02 PM I live in a Grade 2 listed Georgian house along Walkern Road towards Watton at Stone. For the few weekends that Wilkestock is currently on the noise inside my house is very loud and I cannot go about my normal business. To hear that the application mentions events every 2 weeks from 1st May to 27 th September is horrifying especially as events are going to be over 2 days .  
I am also concerned about the level of traffic that will come with these events . Walkern Road is very narrow and every year there are a number of near misses.  
Last year, following the events ,there were beer cans ,wine bottles and a very large number of helium gas capsules littering the road.  
I am shocked that this application has any chance of getting the go- ahead when there are many domestic residences so near the site .  
Yours sincerely

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 13 May 2021 13:35  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 13/05/2021 1:35 PM from .

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: Walkern Road Watton at Stone SG14 3

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 13/05/2021 1:35 PM We are pleased that this review is taking place and for the opportunity to further raise our concerns regarding events at Waterbridge.

Since an initial one-off charitable festival, events at Waterbridge have since then grown into a commercial operation quite unsuitable for a residential location.

At events at the site, including but not listed to Wilkestock, there is a significant noise nuisance way into the early hours. This is in part due to the excessive volume of music, so loud that individual lyrics are very clearly audible. Even in the period prior to events there is disturbance from sound checks or similar at the site. Despite the distance between our properties, we are unable to sleep in our bedroom throughout the events and are forced to move to another part of the house. Even during the daylight hours our ability to peacefully enjoy the amenity of our garden is impacted by noise from the festivals.

We are also disturbed and woken by groups of festival-goers wandering loudly along Walkern Road at all hours. The litter left behind along the road indicates that alcohol and substance abuse is involved too. Broken alcohol bottles on the verges and roadside constitute a further hazard to vehicles, pedestrians and equestrian users of the country lanes.

This is all very, very different from the tranquillity of non-festival nights in this rural setting. We understand that there are supposed to be vehicular and pedestrian patrols around the site but we have not seen any evidence of these. Nor have we seen any evidence of litter clearing, with litter persisting long after the festivals end.

(continues)

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Kind regards

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 13 May 2021 13:39  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 13/05/2021 1:38 PM from .

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: Walkern Road Watton at Stone SG14 3

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 13/05/2021 1:38 PM (continued)

An unacceptable risk to local residents, visiting festival-goers and other road users alike arises from the vastly increased number of vehicle movements along very narrow country vehicles leading to and from the venue, which are also used by heavy farm machinery, of which the festival visitors may have little experience thus compounding personal and highway safety. There are many blind bends, sudden narrowings and obscured entrances to properties including our own - not such an issue on typically quiet weekends, but a risk factor when traffic is substantially increased. We also frequently see and hear near misses between vehicles on Walkern Road during events which appears to be directly attributable to the increased volume of vehicles visiting the festival site. There is also an increase in commercial traffic delivering goods and services to and from the site before and after the events which again is a concern for public safety on the narrow highways.

We are also concerned with the ability of a residential property to adequately manage the health and safety of the numbers of attendees the festivals attract. The festival site sits within an environment agency flood plain for the River Beane which is also used for water abstraction for public drinking water with the pumping station a short distance from the site. There is therefore the potential for spills of human waste or other contaminants associated with the operation of the festival to enter the water table and to pollute the river.

We trust that the licensing authority will carefully review whether renewing this licence is in the best interests of the public.

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Kind regards

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 29 April 2021 13:42  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 29/04/2021 1:42 PM from Mr Keith Smith.

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: High Elms Lane Watton at Stone SG14 3

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 29/04/2021 1:42 PM Dear Sirs  
I would like to object to the renewal of the licence at the above premises. I have lived close to Waterbridge for the last ten years, so almost from the beginning of the events there. The events that were covered by the original licence were of much smaller proportions and were for a donation to charities and I think were only once a year for two days?  
They have now grown alarmingly with Mr Wilkes trying to organise as many events as he can lasting 3 or 4 days. Whilst, from what I can ascertain, only one of which makes charitable donations?  
These have a massive impact on this quiet rural area. Traffic is noticeably increased, as you can imagine, with some 4000 people attending. Cars and groups of festival goers, wandering along the unlit road with no pavement. The rubbish and discarded drug canisters along the road leading to the site is disgusting.



We live in an unlit, quiet lane but have had people knocking on our door late at night asking for directions. This makes you feel very vulnerable. Our front garden is open to the lane and we usually take the garden furniture in to try and lessen the risk of attracting unwanted attention.

The noise during the concerts, which at times has gone on past 12 midnight, can be so disturbing that we have to sleep with all our windows closed. This is obviously very uncomfortable during warm, summer evenings.

I therefore strongly oppose the renewal of the licence as I feel Mr Wilkes will use this as his opportunity to run more and longer events in the future, ruining our summers even more than he does now. I have seen he has 3 events in 3 consecutive months planned for this year (only one for charity) - ridiculous! This will have a massive effect on myself and the local residents. Just shows what his plans are, without a thought for us.

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Kind regards

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**Sent:** 29 April 2021 12:26  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 29/04/2021 12:26 PM from

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: SG14 3 Elms Lane, Watton At Stone Hertford, Hertfordshire

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 29/04/2021 12:26 PM Reasons that we object to events at Waterbridge, Frogmore Hill, Watton at Stone:

- The Festivals were originally held once annually on the August Bank Holiday weekend, then they increased to twice annually on bank holiday weekends, then thrice annually and most recently over 4 different weekends. This year (2021) they are proposed to be held on 3 x 3 day weekends over 3 consecutive months (July, August and September).
- They were originally under the excuse of 'raising money for charity'. We were always sceptical of this and have seen no evidence/data of actual monies donated to charities. A percentage of money donated per person attending each event should be made available.
- The Festival site is quite ugly and can be seen from different locations along the Walkern Road - people camp overnight, there's a massive car-park and crowds of people.
- The noise is awful, especially if the wind is blowing in our direction, thumping repetitive

music until late into the night.

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Kind regards

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 13 May 2021 11:26  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 13/05/2021 11:25 AM from .

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: Walkern Road Watton-at-Stone SG14 3

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 13/05/2021 11:25 AM The site is not suitable for the events held there. They are disturbing to local residents in a variety of ways - noise, rubbish, traffic - and because of the isolated position down narrow lanes with no public transport, dangerous both to local residents and attendees.

The event originated as small family-oriented charitable festival but licence extensions have allowed the frequency and size of events to burgeon and now full scale commercial events are held.

There are plenty of other more suitable and safer sites in the vicinity.

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 12 May 2021 09:12  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 12/05/2021 9:12 AM from .

### Application Summary

Address:

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Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

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Case Officer:

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[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

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Email:

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Address: Walkern Road Watton-at-Stone SG14 3

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### Comments Details

Commenter  
Type: Neighbour

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Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

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Reasons for  
comment:

Comments: 12/05/2021 9:12 AM This festival has got larger and less well organised each year it has taken place . During the event there is excessive noise , and after the event there is a trail of rubbish , including helium canisters , empty bottles and general mess all the way along Walkern Road to the event site .  
As the event is not managed properly it should not be allowed to proceed .

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Kind regards

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 11 May 2021 08:57  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 11/05/2021 8:56 AM from

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: Walkern Road Watton-at-Stone SG14 3

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 11/05/2021 8:56 AM Wilkestock a small, family-based event held for charitable reasons. In 2012, the application for a licence was made which doubled the numbers attending each event ; quadrupled the numbers of attendees annually ; and brought about a six-fold increase in the number of festival nights. We (along with many others) raised our objections with the Licensing Committee when the application was made for this significant escalation. Despite the unsuitability of the site the licence was granted. As a result of this extension Hoggsozzle was instituted and ran over the entire May Bank holiday. Mr Wilkes sought to justify this event to me, at least, as a quasi-charitable event where the profits made were used to defer the costs of Wilkestock so allowing more money to go to charity. At this time I was assured by Mr Wilkes that there would be no further events. Then the mid-summer event Back of Beyond was added. Apart from being contrary to Mr Wilkes assurance of no further events this is a full scale, raw, commercial event. I have written to the Licensing Committee and summed up the dangers and difficulties but

received no response

Traffic - the Walkern Road was ridiculously busy, and so dangerous, as the road is simply not fit for this volume of traffic

Safety - Since the site has no reasonable access to public transport so many attendees must drive or walk, and walking becomes very dangerous

Rubbish - festival goers left a variety of rubbish along the road : glass bottles cans crisp packets sandwich boxes plastic bottles but most disturbingly drug paraphenalia including helium canisters and the ballons used to inhale this

Noise - my noise meter registers levels over 100dcb at times during events. Overall, the continuous beat through a weekend is extremely disturbing and tiring

The Waterbridge site is unsuitable for these events. They are disturbing to local residents and dangerous both to residents and attendees

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Kind regards

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 10 May 2021 11:04  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 10/05/2021 11:04 AM from .

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: Watton at Stone SG14 3

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 10/05/2021 11:04 AM This was originally a one off Charity event and is now trying to morph into a money making business!  
There are no buildings between us and the site and the noise (particularly the bass line) prevents us from sleeping at night and is intrusive during the day.  
We are very upset by the increase in the number of events despite Mr Wilkes express promise at the outset that this would not happen!  
We have been forced to go away on the festival weekends but are then concerned for the security of our property.  
We would like the festivals to be cancelled altogether or at the very least restricted to only one festival a year - for Charity only.



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**From:**  
**Sent:** 08 May 2021 17:45  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 08/05/2021 5:45 PM from

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: Hertford Sg14 3

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 08/05/2021 5:45 PM We live near the event site with our 2 young children and are very worried at the growing number of events that are happening at Waterbridge. We are concerned about antisocial behaviour and drug use/alcohol and cannot help but feel the location is entirely unsuited due to no nearby footpaths or street lighting... this may lead to festival goers wandering dangerously on the surrounding country lanes and disturbing residents. our summer weekends will be hugely disrupted and the few routes out of our property will undoubtedly be clogged with traffic. What we thought was one annual charity family friendly event has now snowballed to multiple events with alcohol served throughout. This cannot be good news for local residents who came to this beautiful area for peace and escape from the usual antisocial problems of town life.

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 06 May 2021 18:44  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 06/05/2021 6:43 PM from

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: Hertford SG14 3

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 06/05/2021 6:43 PM  
We are nearby neighbours of the festival site living in . We have tolerated all the issues which a large musical festival poses, with the noise levels being the overriding intrusion factor for us, for the 10 years we have lived here because Wilkestock has been a charity raising event for a good cause. However, the noise, in particular the bass notes, vibrate in our bedroom when we are in bed and sometimes continue well into the night. In addition, the music travels during the day over the entire weekend and is disruptive, especially if we have visitors. Indeed, we often try to be away for the weekend because of the disruption. There are, of course, environmental issues associated with such large events. We feel that 3 separate festivals this year over the Summer months is excessive noise intrusion at the very time of year we are likely to need our windows open and spend a lot of time outdoors with guests, especially if most of the events are purely commercial. If we need to be away during those months, accommodation costs are high. In any case, we shouldn't have to feel forced to go

away in order to get a good night's sleep. In summary, we object to licence being given to the landowners for multiple annual music festivals as the location is too close to many other residential properties

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Kind regards

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 29 April 2021 12:29  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

**Categories:**

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 29/04/2021 12:29 PM from

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: SG14 3 Watton At Stone Hertford, Hertfordshire

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 29/04/2021 12:29 PM  
- The litter along the lanes and Walkern Road is atrocious - walking our dogs around Festival time we've spotted and collected in bin bags, various items of litter, drinks cans, crisp packet wrappers, bottles etc - the increase in litter is clear after a Waterbridge event. This was despite the Wilkes' reassurance that people were employed to clear up local litter after the events. They clearly did not do a very good job, if at all.  
- We have also witnessed the scattering of hundreds of empty/used nitrous oxide canisters along the edge of the roads/lanes following a Waterbridge event. We've taken photos of these and sent them to Environmental Health along with our objections.

- There's always an increased amount of traffic travelling to/from the site in Walkern Road and High Elms Lane.
  - We do not need an events site here in Watton at Stone/Aston. There is already another local site, much more suitably located, at Knebworth House, Stevenage. This is a venue for Festivals, concerts, open air cinemas etc. It is away from local housing so doesn't disturb neighbours/residents and it is situated adjacent to the A1. Much easier and safer for people to travel to/attend without disturbing local residents.
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Kind regards

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 29 April 2021 12:28  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 21/0239/PLR

**Categories:**

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 29/04/2021 12:28 PM from .

### Application Summary

Address: Waterbridge Frogmore Hill Watton At Stone Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 3RR

Proposal: Review - Premises Licence

Case Officer:

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address: SG14 3 , Watton At Stone Hertford, Hertfordshire

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 29/04/2021 12:28 PM  
- We have to sleep with our bedroom windows closed on warm summer nights to try to shut out the noise coming from the 'Festivals'.  
- We have had to go away for the weekend when we know a Festival is taking place or avoid having a garden party/friends over on the same weekend as one of the Festivals.  
- People wander along Walkern Road, looking for the Festival site. We've had people knocking on our front door, asking us if we know where Wilkestock is. We have worried about the vulnerability of our property and put our outside garden furniture away on occasions.  
- This is a rural area - there are no street lights and no pavements. It is a safety concern that

event/festival goers are wandering along unlit streets after dark. Seeing the litter evidence of alcohol cans/bottles and empty nitrous oxide canisters along the lanes during and following events these event/festival goers are probably drunk/high when walking to/from the events and this exacerbates the danger to them and also to vehicles driving along the lanes.

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Kind regards

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 08 May 2021 12:15  
**To:**  
**Subject:** [External] Waterbridge 4-acre site Licence Review

Hello

I am trying to make a representation on the East Herts Licensing webpage in relation to the above licence review but keep receiving error messages. I know am not the only person to have experienced difficulties. It shows no comments have been made when I know a number of my neighbours believe they have submitted comments.

I am very concerned that other members of the public will either think they have submitted comments when they have not or give up trying to submit. PLEASE WILL YOU SORT THIS OUT.

Below are my comments which I am sending to you because I cannot upload them on your site.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email and the comments therein and let me know what you are doing to make the site work.

Regards





Search ▾



My Profil

## Licensing – Applica



**Error while submit**

- Your comments could

Comments :

I am grateful for the opportunity to raise concerns over the number and conduct of events at the Waterbridge site. Living where we do, we are prime recipients of all the forms of noise, traffic and disruption the events bring.

I think it is very important to remind ourselves of the context of the way events at Waterbridge have unfolded.

I do not believe the site is suitable for events of any sort such as this but Wilkestock was the original, small, family-based event held for charitable reasons.

However, in 2012, the application for a licence was made which doubled the numbers attending each event ; quadrupled the numbers of attendees annually ; and brought about a six-fold increase in the number of festival nights. We (along with many others) raised our objections with the Licensing Committee when the application was made for this significant escalation. Despite the unsuitability of the site the licence was granted.

As a result of this extension, Hoggsozzle was instituted and ran over the entire May Bank holiday. Mr Wilkes sought to justify this event to me, at least, as a quasi-charitable event where the profits made were used to defer the costs of Wilkestock so allowing more money to go to charity. At this time I was assured by Mr Wilkes that there would be no further events.

Then the mid-summer event Back of Beyond was added. Apart from being contrary to Mr Wilkes assurance of no further events this is a full scale, raw, commercial event.

I wrote to the Licensing Committee at the time and summed up the dangers and difficulties thus

Traffic - I understand Frogmore Hill was closed which meant a very great deal of the traffic entering and leaving the site travelled down the Walkern Road. It was ridiculously busy, and so dangerous, as the road is simply not fit for this volume of traffic. We are particularly aware of this as there is a 'pinch point' directly outside our house. It was plainly dangerous for attendees making their way on foot as there are no pavements and site lines are often very poor (I will not walk my dog up or down the road even on a normal day for these reasons). Also, sign-posting must have been inadequate as a good number of vehicles cut through the single track, private drive of Frogmore Hall from the A602 to the Walkern Road and so past the front of our house. [One of the reasons this site is unsuitable is that it has no reasonable access to public transport which is why so many attendees must walk or drive.]

Rubbish - festival goers left a variety of rubbish along the road : glass bottles, cans, crisp packets, sandwich boxes, plastic bottles but most disturbingly, drug paraphenalia including helium canisters and the ballons used to inhale this (we saw a number of revelers inhaling as they passed our house). I am particularly concerned about broken glass and of course if wildlife (or my dog) got hold of these latter items, it could be fatal.

Noise - particularly when the wind comes from the North West, I find it very difficult to believe noise levels were within proscribed limits at all times (I presume they are monitored during the event?). As crude as my noise meter may be it registered levels over 100dcb at times during Saturday afternoon. Overall, the continuous beat throughout the weekend and early into the mornings is extremely disturbing and tiring.

My daughter whose bedroom is adjacent to the road was kept awake by walkers leaving the event making a very great deal of noise from 2am to 3:30am approximately on Sunday morning (despite her being deaf in one ear!)

**In summation, I regard the Waterbridge site as being quite unsuitable for these events. They are disturbing to local residents and dangerous both to residents and attendees. There are much more suitable venues where sound, traffic and transport concerns would make so much less of an impact on local residents and provide much greater levels of convenience and safety to attendees. It is my understanding that I am certainly not the only local resident to feel this way and to have raised objections to events.**

Walkern Road

Watton-at-Stone

Hertford

SG14 3

Sent from my iPad

**Subject: Wilkestock**

**Date:** 30 April 2021 at 11:53:33 BST

**To:**

My concerns are:

The roads running from the outskirts of Watton at Stone to the festival fields are unlit (or poorly lit) with large stretches that have no curb or footpath. This is forcing the festival attendees on foot to walk in the middle of the roads, sometimes three or four abreast. The roads are also quite winding with poor visibility for the drivers at the curves or inclines. I am concerned that there will be an increased risk of accidents relating to the increased numbers of pedestrians walking in the roads due to the festivals especially if these pedestrians have chosen to walk not drive because they are either drinking alcohol or high.

The festival goers who are walking to the event or driving along the Walkern Road appear to be disposing of rubbish including glass bottles, beer cans, crisp packets, plastic water bottles and in some cases drug paraphernalia in the bushes lining these roads. Our community is made up of a mix of age groups including family groups with children. I am concerned that festival attendees may throw their litter into gardens as well as along the roadside all the way along the Walkern Road from Watton to the festival fields causing risk of injury to children and/or pets from broken glass etc.

At the end of the last festival I went out several times with a black bin liner and gloves and collected as much litter as I could from the roads around my house.

With the large increase of attendees from outside of the local area attending we are concerned about our own security. We do not want an increased amount of people walking across our front lawn because they are getting lost on the way to the event.

The noise from the festivals held in the warmer months is becoming increasingly annoying. This is because we have our windows and patio doors open when it is warm and can hear the music constantly.

Originally when we moved in we spoke to local people and they gave us the impression that there was a music event held once a year and this was a charitable event in memory of a family member who had sadly passed.

We respectfully decided not to complain and we still feel that we are happy to turn a blind eye and ear to one charitable event raising money and awareness for a good cause. However, we have since learnt that recently this is not always the case. That some events are now being run by different names - HogSozzle, BOB FSTVL and appear to be held for private profitable reasons. In this case I object to the ever increasing frequency and size of the events.

I object strongly to this getting out of hand and can foresee that someone could get injured or killed on the roads or a child in one of the houses locally hurt by the discarded broken glass or worse by coming into contact with the discarded items relating to drug use.