

Little Hadham Parish Council consultation response (10/05/2021):

Thank you for giving Little Hadham Parish Council the opportunity to respond to the Consultation on the draft statement Policy 2021-2026

We were concerned recently when a licence was given to a small music festival at Little Hadham without the affected residents having the opportunity to give their concerns to the body considering whether or not to grant the alcohol License for this event.

They were not aware that the event was being considered and once they became aware were very alarmed as the event was very likely to have loud music very close to their homes. They would have wished to give their concerns to the body considering the request so that these concerns could have been taken into account.

I would suggest that letters should be sent to the close residents so that they can be aware of the planned event and be clear who to contact to give their views.

They felt that the holders of the event deliberately did not display notices near their homes but rather further away from where the event was to be held so that the residents did not object as it would not affect them.

I would suggest a method that is used when consulting close neighbours for planning applications, which is by letter and by notices this is then clear and gives people the opportunity to give their views.

Thank you for consulting us and hopefully this method of improved consultation will now be used for such events

Licensing Authority response:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation.

I am afraid that as highlighted in the draft policy the way in which applications are made and the requirements for advertising them are very prescriptive. We are unable to require applicants to do more than is required under the regulations, which is:

1. advertise the application (new application or variation of an existing licence) for a period of no less than 28 consecutive days;

Appendix A

- publish at least once, within 10 working days of making the application, a notice in a local newsletter or similar.

As the Licensing Authority we ensure that these obligations are properly fulfilled for each application and take action where they are not.

In addition to this there is an obligation on us to advertise the application (new application or variation of an existing licence) on our website for a period of no less than 28 consecutive days. By checking this webpage any individual can see any new or variation application within all of East Herts as they will be shown under 'Current Applications': <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/licences-registration/beer-entertainment-late-night-refreshment/notices-application-objecting-licence-applications>. Please feel free to share this link.

The Council appreciates the points you make and whilst we are not able to mandate a similar process to that in the Planning regime we are doing our utmost to ensure anyone wishing to make representation. We will:

- encourage applicants to hold informal discussions with local residents and businesses, the responsible authorities, Town Council's, Parish Council's and others prior to submitting formal licence applications
- alert ward members and parish/town councils of applications in their areas to enable them to discuss matters with residents should they wish
- alert all local councillors of applications on a weekly basis through the Members Bulletin
- include a link to the webpage containing notices of application in the Network email that residents can subscribe to (<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/network-0>)
- assist residents to register on public access so that they can be notified if an application is received relating to a particular premises (<https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=LicencingApplication>)

Please feel free to pass this information on to the residents you mentioned or any others that may have concerns about licensed premises or licence applications. Any enquiries can be directed to: community.protection@eastherts.gov.uk or complaints about licensed premises can be directed to: licensing.enforcement@eastherts.gov.uk.

Proposed amendments to draft policy:

No amendments proposed.