
From:
Sent: 29 March 2022 13:54
To: Housing & Health Services - Community Protection
Subject: [External] Premises Licence application 22/0235/PL

Scott Avenue

SG12

Re Premises licence application 22/0235/PL

I write to object to the grant of a premises licence to Integrated Event Management Ltd to hold two multi day music festivals, which from research are due to held on Bank Holiday weekends in April and June this year, and for which tickets have been on sale for some considerable time. This would seem to indicate that prior tacit approval had already been given to the applicant.

I would point out that the information published on the council website does not match the information on the applicants blue notices. The post code on the application is SG12 9RZ, the council website quotes SG12 9SH.

The opening hours on the application state Thursday to Sunday whereas the Council website quotes Friday to Sunday. Additionally no blue notices were posted along the public footpath on the northwest of the site as required by law.

Public Safety

I am not aware if the applicant or Council have considered safety aspects of the location given that there is a high pressure LTS gas pipeline situated in the field and its route appears to run in the vicinity to the proposed stage, bars and generator etc. I have annotated the attached map of the probable location based on the gas markers in Hillside Lane and the B181. I believe the council should also hold records of the pipe location. Pipelines are normally covered by easements and Cadent have published documents detailing what actions should be taken prior to any works in the vicinity of their assets. This covers things such as siting of temporary or permanent structures, electrical equipment, and vehicle cross overs etc. It states that <https://lsbud.co.uk/> should be contacted to ascertain the safety requirements that are needed.

Public Nuisance

My personal objection is based on the Public Nuisance due to the noise emanating from the event.

I have lived next to the site for over 30 years and the general ambient noise level is very low. The car boot sales on the Sundays already cause some extra noise but usually of short duration.

During last years festival we had an hour of amplified music on the Thursday evening before the event started and this was not covered by a licence. The promised organiser hot line number was never made available before the event, and Environmental Health did not manage to provide the information when I requested it.

On the Saturday I saw the event noise control person taking readings, which he assured me were within the agreed limits. I asked him if they were, why was my house vibrating with the bass notes and he took some readings indoors and could see my issue. He promised to log it as a complaint and I assumed that this would go onto the log to be forwarded to the Council after the event. Subsequent discussions with the council have revealed no log was provided.

To summarise, I could not have any windows open, even then I could still hear and feel the base notes. If I went into the garden I could hear the event as clearly as if I was there. The sound at times appeared to be reflecting from nearby buildings giving an almost false direction as to where it was emanating from. Given the location of the stage and the generally South Westerly wind direction it was carrying the noise in my direction and the noise limits agreed with the council clearly were not sufficient.

I have spoken to others living in the vicinity who felt similarly affected but given the demographic of the area people seem reluctant to complain.

As has been stated about the previous festivals, the site is quite unsuitable for this type of event. It is in a position with no natural landforms that can provide attenuation of the noise to nearby properties. My property is being about 220 metres from the stage. I am not aware of any other multi day festival that is located in such close proximity to residential properties.

From:

Sent: 02 April 2022 12:18

To:

Subject: [External] ATTENTION: Premises Licence application - 22/0235/PL - Hillside Farm

Dear

The above-mentioned licence application was considered at a recent meeting of Great Amwell Parish Council.

I have been requested to notify you that the Parish Council is concerned over the music festival events that are to be held, and have been held in the past, at the site.

The site is considered to be a very important part of the green belt within the parish. Whilst it is accepted that use for occasional music festivals cannot be restricted through development control, Parish Councillors consider that there has been a catalogue of mismanagement by your authority regarding the licensing process. In summary, the Parish Council considers that the District Council has no meaningful procedure to respond to genuine nuisance complaints at time they occur when the events are being held. There has been a significant failure by the District Council to monitor and enforce licensing conditions imposed.

The narrative that follows sets out issues that are a cause for concern regarding the licensing process (going back to the first year the music festival event was held):

***Year 1.** The applicant did not advertise the festival correctly as notices were never displayed at 50 meter intervals around the whole site as required.*

***Year 2.** A local resident advised your authority that the applicant had failed to display the correct notices mentioned above, and the application process had to be started again. A licence was granted but due to Covid the festival was not held.*

***Year 3.** The correct notices were displayed around the site, but your authority published the wrong address details on its website. This was subsequently corrected but no extension was given to the notice period for making representations*

A local resident has advised your authority that it was using the wrong address for the licence application as it did not match the application postcode. Hillside Farmhouse (SG12 9SH) is a private dwelling which has had no connection with Hillside Farm (SG12 9RZ) for decades.

At a licensing hearing, the applicant stated that residents likely to be affected by noise would be advised in writing and a hotline contact number would be provided and also published on their website. A log of complaints was to be maintained by the organiser and a copy to be forwarded to the council after the event. The licensing committee took comfort in this in reaching their decision to grant a licence with those conditions attached. By the date of the festival no letters had been issued to those likely to be affected and no hotline contact number was available.

A local resident contacted the Council on the Friday morning of the Festival to ascertain why these licence conditions had not been met and asked for them to ascertain the number. The Council was also informed of the amplified music being played for an hour on a Thursday evening of the event. No Hotline number was ever provided and it never appeared on their Website. The Council's response to the local resident was to

advise them to ring the environmental health services' out of hours number or to contact the police if they were concerned by the noise.

The Parish Council understands that a local resident spoke to the organiser's sound engineer Dave Cross when he was monitoring the noise on the Saturday and complained about the vibration in their house from the base frequency. Mr Cross seemingly took some measurements and said he would log the complaint.

Post the festival, the local resident asked the Council if a log of complaints had been received. Surprisingly, there was not one complaint logged despite the local resident complaining directly to the organiser's sound engineer. The Council refused to investigate the local resident's complaint. Additionally, the Council had ignored the fact that there had been an hour of amplified music on the Thursday evening which the licence did not cover. No answer was ever forthcoming as to why the various licence conditions had not been adhered to and the questions raised by the local resident

Year 4 (this year). *The applicant has applied for a new licence. Again the details on the Council's website are wrong in that the address is incomplete and wrong postcode is used again as below. The link to the application was also broken.*

Notice of application - Integrated Event Management Ltd - Ware SG12 9SH - Expires 30 March 2022

The issues over the address would appear to stem from the fact that separate UPRN should exist for Hillside Farmhouse and Hillside Farm as they are unrelated properties.

Matters aside from Premises Licensing.

Given that the site currently has permitted development rights and uses them to hold 28 car boot sales per year, the holding of music festivals and the time setting up would take the use of the land far in excess of the temporary use allowed by law. The site is also being used for equestrian purposes with horse and carriages being ridden on a regular basis. Unchecked, this could impact on its green belt status

There is also the issue of Motor Homes and caravans being on the festival site. Does this require a separate licence? If so, none has been issued to date as far as the Parish Council is aware.

I have copied this message to the local District Councillor and would be grateful if you could ensure it is logged as an official representation on application 22/0235/PL (as the deadline is 6 April 2022).

The Parish Council looks forward to receiving your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Clerk - Great Amwell Parish Council