

**Representation 1** (two parts)

Dear Sir Madam,

I thank you for informing of the invalidation of the licence application and that the consultation has to restart, coming to a close on 20th April 2023.

I wish to formally register my objections to this new application, which are exactly the same objections I registered in respect of the first.

I have to say that I am deeply concerned by the many reports I have heard of the applicants having already sold many tickets for the "VIP section" of an event that is yet to be granted a licence and I sincerely hope that this is nothing more than arrogance on the part of the applicant, that it is a sign they are taking you as the decision makers and protectors of Hertford and us as the local people who have such a vested interest, for granted.

It appears the applicant has not taken this application process at all seriously. Having failed to advertise the licence application and having chosen instead to focus on advertising their event (for it isn't Hertford's) they have clearly demonstrated beyond doubt that they do not care for our local institutions, you as our local representatives, our local businesses or local residents and value only the money they can take from us all.

I have also been made aware that the local authority may have a financial incentive to grant this licence and allow the event to take place so that it can receive a payment from the applicants. I hope that such a conflict of interest does not interfere with the carrying out of duties and responsibilities towards protecting the rights of local people and the livelihood of local businesses. I would even go so far as to recommend to you that instead of receiving the financial "incentive" paid by the applicant, you instead do the right thing by Hertford and refuse the licence. The money you forgo will be an investment in supporting the Town and its local people who all so want to see it thrive once again, and fulfil its potential.

Please protect my rights as an immediate neighbour residing directly onto Hartham Common and please protect the Town from being used by the applicant who is already trying to take as much money out of it as possible.

Do the right thing. Reject the application. Support Hertford.

Thank you

Kind regards

**REDACTED**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write to formally object to the application made under the licensing act 2003, by Barbican Events LTD application reference 23/0362/PL in respect of an event proposed to take place on Hartham Common, Hertford.

I am owner resident of a flat at Elder Court, Mead Lane Hertford, and all three rooms of my flat are at the rear of the building looking directly onto Hartham Common. Should this event be allowed to go ahead it will force me to endure constant noise and unreasonable disturbance for the entirety of the weekend and beyond, not just of the official length of the event itself.

There will be a period of setting up in advance which will involve deliveries and noise involved in putting the facilities and amenities together and in place. From the advertisement already online for the proposed event it is clear this is of a significant scale including a wide variety of attractions, live and recorded music, food stalls / sections and this is likely to require portaloos, first aid station etc as would be expected of any large event. This is unlikely to be put together in one day alone. Then after the event has ended there will be an extensive period of cleaning up the mess that will certainly be spread by visitors outside of the confines of the designated event area across the common and surrounds. The clean up as well as the taking down and clearing away of the events structures, facilities, toilets etc will also not take just one day to achieve. I expect it will take several days to get the common and the surrounding area back into a state that can be enjoyed as Hertford's beauty spot once again.

So for myself and the other residents who live immediately adjacent to the common, the disturbance could quite foreseeably be not restricted to three days but could last the best part of a week once the set up and take down and clear up activities are taken into account.

It is wholly unreasonable to expect a resident like myself, who lives directly facing the common, to have my rights to a peaceful home be superseded by a for profit commercial event of this nature. I fully accept that Hartham Common is a public community resource and that certain community activities are and will always be held on it, such as the football games etc but these are activities of

a wholly different nature and of such a type and scale that they do not 'force' themselves on me as a local resident. They do not disturb the peaceful enjoyment of my home in the way this event will.

When I chose to buy this flat and to live here, it was for the beauty of the location and the peace it would give myself and my girlfriend after the very difficult preceding few years which saw my girlfriend's sister pass away from cancer at the end of January 2020 followed by the pandemic in which I lost my job and became so ill that I ended up in The Royal Free Hospital. Our flat here is of a modest size but we chose it for the location. We did so in full knowledge that the common is a public space but we also felt we could rely on the local authorities to protect it for the enjoyment of all. I have seen that happen, with the patrols of police particularly last summer who tried their best to guard against the alcohol and or drug induced antisocial behaviour of a proportion of Hertford's youth. If you allow this event to go ahead the whole weekend would be intolerable for me. While the event advertises itself as over 18 only with ID required, it will not stop people getting in with fake IDs of the type any parent on the council will know is all too easy for their children to obtain.

The event will attract people from outside of Hertford, a large proportion of whom will come by train or bus and the walking route from Hertford East station and bus stops / station takes them alongside Elder Court, past our flat as they access and exit the common along the pedestrian bridge before Dicker Mill. The bridges access from Dicker Mill bridge to the common are narrow and in parts single file and will mean they will be areas of continuous slow moving people moving back and forth with the loud noise that will accompany them. To have this right underneath my windows all weekend is again an infringement of my rights to enjoy my home peacefully and must not be allowed.

The event is advertised as serving alcohol, has a food court and a VIP area which will provide table service of food and drink to those who have paid a premium for this VIP area. Clearly this event is intended to make as much money as possible and will take far more money out of the local hospitality economy than any overspill will return. This is also entirely wrong, following the delivery of 'guidelines' which have seen the annual music festival close for the first time in many years the local establishments who are already struggling massively with the rising cost of energy do not need another kick and I urge you as the gatekeepers and protectors of our town to do exactly that and not to allow an external company to use a public space to profit and disrupt local residents in this way.

Events that are held in the town centre, by the local businesses for local people should be encouraged and anyone who has chosen to live in the centre of town or next to or near a pub, restaurant or shop accepts that there is a certain amount of noise and disruption that goes with living at that address. In my case and the case of anyone else who lives so very close to the Common, we made the decision to live here to enjoy the beauty and peacefulness and accepted there would be low level pedestrian traffic and the occasional distant shouts from sport being played or low key community event. Without exaggeration the loudest most common noise we hear are from the ducks and other birds on the river or the soft chug of a canal boat.

I would not object to other types of organised events, such as family days, organised walks, organised runs, fetes, basically anything which is more limited in scale and for more low key enjoyment that is in keeping with the public nature of the common as a facility for all and not a huge 'festival' that this event advertises itself to be.

The event will come to town like an alcohol fuelled circus (axe throwing is advertised), bringing disruption and noise for the best part of a week, taking over a public space for private commercial profit and ruin the peaceful life of local residents who will suffer the noise, disturbance, anti social behaviour, mess and upset. The town itself will not benefit commercially, instead takings in the local establishments will take a massive hit, the common will be 'privatised' for the whole three days and time either side and lives disturbed so I see very few people who will benefit from this other than the organisers. As the organisers are selling tickets they will be ensuring the event is enclosed and this means that those attending will remain in the enclosed space with their money being spent inside. This means the event could be held anywhere as this ringfenced event is designed to keep people in and money out of Hertford. This is also grossly unfair for a local community resource to be used against the locally community in this way. Local people who own or work in local premises will suffer because of this and you will be allowing the organisers to come in, fill their coffers and then leave without any benefit to the Town.

This event could easily be and should be sited away from residential areas and not immediately in the middle of the town which forces it on me and the town. People could still go and enjoy this 'fest' but it wouldn't force people like me to suffer the consequences.

I love living 'on' Hartham Common and love living in Hertford. It is beautiful welcoming place of which it is your duty to protect on behalf of the residents and businesses who have a vested interest in it. I urge you to please protect my

rights and the well being of the town from such an excessive event taking place in the centre and refuse this licence application.

Yours sincerely

**Redacted**

## **Representation 2**

Hello,

My details:

### **Redacted**

With regards to the above application as you can see I am a folly island resident & I object to this application being passed, This is not a suitable location for something like this, due to it being a residential area, there are lots of problems going on in Hartham & this will only add to them.

Having music played from early afternoon until gone 10pm at night, children who live on the island have school on the Monday & people work shift work & will not be able to sleep during the day with this going on, this is just unacceptable being so close to a residential area.

I have seen the reviews from previous Oktoberfests in other towns I have seen that public property has been damaged & there have been trespassing on peoples priority with people urinating in front gardens, if people are travelling back into town chances are they will pass through Folly Island, it is bad enough when we have had the fun fairs in previous years as it attracts the wrong type of people.

On Halloween last year there were problems too & I believe a police officer was assaulted, the residents should feel safe going about their business & I feel this would certainly not make me feel safe knowing there is going to be hundreds of people under the influence of alcohol & possibly other things, like I said a group of teens could not be controlled in town just for one night!

Any questions please contact me.

### **Redacted**

### **Representation 3**

Member of the Public

Customer objects to the Licensing Application

By ending this event earlier than the original application does not address the issues for the residents right next door to Hartham Common. The fact that security has to be put in place, implies there will be a problem without it. The amount of people leaving the site will be a problem, traffic & foot fall. The park is in the middle of a housing estate! People will spend their money at the festival not in the town.

I strongly object to this festival & am really disappointed that the event has been advertised before the license has been given!!!

**Redacted**

## Representation 4

Good afternoon

Hertford Town Council's Planning Sub Committee considered the licensing application 23/0362/PL at its meeting on 27 March 2023

Please find the comments below

23/0362/PL	Barbican Events Ltd  'Oktoberfest'  At Hartham Common Park Hartham Lane	NEW PREMISES  Live music  Recorded music  Supply of alcohol  <u>Supply of alcohol on and off the premises</u> Friday 14:00 – 22:15 Saturday 11:00 – 22:15 Sunday 12:00 – 20:00 Live & Recorded Music Friday 14:00 – 22:30 Saturday 11:00 – 22:30 Sunday 12:00 – 20:00  <u>Open to the Public</u> Friday 14:00 – 23:00 Saturday 11:00 – 23:00 Sunday 12:00 – 21:00  Licence will only be applicable for a maximum of two weekends of the year - in either September or October
<p>Some concerns were raised regarding potential public nuisance issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Committee would wish to see significant support and restricted access to and from Folly Island (to include private security) to alleviate public nuisance to local residents.</li></ol>		



2. Concerns were raised regarding the impact of this event adding to issues from the Night-time economy such as litter, broken glass and vomit. Committee would like to see a detailed cleaning regime take place after each event on Hartham Common itself and surrounding streets.
3. Committee had concerns regarding the acoustics of the events as noise from Hartham Common travels primarily to top of the Warren and Bengo. It was suggested that measures be put in place for noise levels be monitored during the first day of any event to limit public nuisance.

Kind regards

**Redacted**



HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

**The Castle, Hertford. SG14 1HR**

## **Representation 5**

I again wish to share my objection to this proposed premises license for a number of reasons.

Firstly, there is inadequate parking in the area, particularly at weekends when Hartham Common is busy. The recent changes to parking charges mean that more drivers now park on Folly Island, as the Residents' Parking Zone is not enforced on Sundays. Folly Island Association has raised this with EHC but there was no interest in following it up despite the loss in parking revenue for EHC.

Secondly, as Folly Island borders the common, we regularly encounter anti-social behaviour, particularly from the ongoing issues at Sainsbury's. There are many escape routes from the common via Folly Island. Historically, when the circus and fair were held at Hartham, there would regularly be a huge amount of anti-social behaviour. Police resources are already stretched and I fail to see how they could properly enforce these events. Last year's Musical Mystery Tour is a case in point.

I think this proposed event is not a good fit for the local area and I believe EHC is acting inappropriately by hiring out its green spaces to the highest bidder. If the aim is to promote green spaces, I would respectfully suggest it starts by inviting applications for an event that is not focussed on selling huge amounts of alcohol and then leaving patrons in Hertford, which already suffers from the negative effects of an out-of-proportion night-time economy.

Finally, I note the huge amount of anti-social behaviour associated with Barbican's Harpenden events which caused a great many issues for the local community.

I do hope that councillors will refuse this licensing application for the above reasons.

**Redacted**

## **Representation 6**

Town Councillor

Customer objects to the Licensing Application

I write in support of residents of Folly Island who have contacted me with concerns about the possibility of antisocial behaviour associated with this event.

Many visitors to the Oktoberfest will be travelling to and from the event by train which will mean a high volume of people passing through Folly Island on their way to Hertford East, and similarly a high volume of people travelling through other parts of Bengeo to reach Hertford North.

I would ask that consideration is given to ensuring visitors pass through these areas without disturbing or causing a nuisance to residents.

In addition, on a personal level, I have concerns about the use of this precious green space for an event of this type. Hartham is a focal point for families and those who use it for recreation and exercise. While I know there is a push to monetise our parks, I feel that consideration needs to be given to holding events which promote and support the wellbeing of everyone and I am unsure as to what extent this event will benefit the people of the town as a whole.

## **Representation 7**

Dear East Herts Council,

I am writing to show support for the Oktoberfest in Hertford. I have friends who own hospitality businesses in Hertford who are fully supportive of large events in the town and I have read a newspaper report on how beneficial the Oktoberfest was for local pubs and restaurants in Harpenden. Times are hard for local hospitality businesses and the Oktoberfest will good for local trade.

Local economy aside, Hertford needs to be more welcoming for large events and people need to welcome positive changes.

Please accept the license for this event for the wider benefit.

**Redacted**