

# APPENDIX O

## Representations objecting to Premises Licence Application - 25/0849/PL

1)

*"We are residents at [REDACTED] , and have been made aware of the blue notices for an application by Standon Calling Ltd for a Premises Licence at the fields adjacent to Standon Lordship, Barwick Road, Standon, Herts SG11 1PR.*

*We hereby wish for our objection to this application be considered before any such application be granted to this unacceptable venue.*

*As residents, we have had to endure many years of the Standon Calling Festival and every year we experience the same incompetence and disrespect to local residents by the owner, Alex Trenchard, and the organisers of this inappropriately located and oversized music venue. The impact on the local community by this festival is immeasurable. It has caused great distress and disruption and even trespass. The demise of this festival following the underhanded treatment and loss of unsuspecting venue goers and suppliers money (which is well documented within the social media site Facebook, 'Standing Calling Locals'), came as a great relief to the wider community. The difference it has made since the festival has gone has given residents relief, respite and reflection on how horrendous the experience was for all concerned. Security and normality has been restored since it's disappearance, with good reason.*

*Personally ourselves, we have experienced a long list of upsetting and disruptive incidents relating to both the preparation and during the event and provide here a brief description of some of the unacceptable instances. We have experienced gridlocked traffic on our very quiet single-track lane which has blocked access to our property, this also includes a constant flow of traffic which continues throughout the night, with speeding vehicles endangering children and animals together with residents own parked vehicles. The local Police have been informed on several occasions on this matter during the event, but have not been forthcoming in being able to deal with the problem, so residents are left unprotected. Taxis and vehicles also using this lane, drop off venue goers at our property, throughout the night and day, then using our driveway to turn around risking damage to our own vehicle which is parked within our private home. Venue goers also walking to and from the venue site, again throughout the night, causing horrendous noise, abusive language, drunkenness and urinating in hedges and verges outside our property and along the lane visible to everyone. Sleep is impossible for the entire duration of the event including during the preparation which causes obvious personal impact. The volume of litter and rubbish they also accumulated directly within our lane was colossal. We have even had to clear bottles and cans ourselves as no intervention for cleaning up was put in place on many occasions. It is completely unacceptable to have to witness this behaviour and the security fear this causes is immense. There have been other incidents relating to promises made by organisers which are never honoured each year, inadequate security provisions with inexperienced and/or missing security together with no police protection and availability for trouble being caused outside of the venue site itself. We are continuously left vulnerable.*

*We would be most grateful if you would kindly take our objection into consideration when assessing the suitability for this inappropriately located, oversized, unmanageable venue and event and also consider the previous handling by management, which has obviously caused not only us as residents great disruption and loss, but also the festival goers themselves, as evidenced within their continued calls for backdated refund and still the lack of communication given to them for future reimbursement. This licence should not go ahead and serious action should be taken to make sure the owner of this venture and his company do not affect anyone else in the future.*

*Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. This email address is related to our daughter, [REDACTED], who has been involved over the years with contacting Standon Calling alongside ourselves, so is also part of the objection in relation to this and has sent our email on our behalf. Should you wish to contact us directly, our email address is [REDACTED]*

*Many thanks for your help in advance.”*

## **2)**

*“This email is in response to the application by Standon Calling Ltd for a license for activities in the fields adjacent to Standon Lordship, Barwick Road Standon.*

*I am writing to ask you to reject the application that has been submitted by Standon Calling for any activity to proceed on the site.*

*I have lived on [REDACTED] for 10 years and in the village for 20 years. Our village is a small, quiet English countryside community. However, during the two-week period of the Standon Calling festival my road is one of the two roads used for access by set-up and build crews and visitors, the impact on residents is severe. The influx of 17,000 people over the four-day festival, along with taxis, campervans, and other traffic, is overwhelming. In the lead-up to the event, lorries and delivery vehicles crowd the lane and damage trees and cables to properties. The organizer, Alex Trenchard, has consistently failed to manage issues raised by residents or address issues like noise, speeding, parking, security, and safety. Community Support Liaisons employed by the festival have resigned due to disagreements with the organizers and none of the concerns raised have been addressed to locals' satisfaction. Residents have attempted to raise this with the council previously but to no avail.*

*Following the end of the event in 2023 land owners, several performers, vendors several of whom were local were not paid. Tickets went on sale for the 2024 festival within days and ultimately those people who had spent hundreds of pounds on advance tickets for 2024 were asked to roll over the ticket till 2025 because the event was going to be cancelled. The event in 2025 was also cancelled. There are still people to this day who have not received refunds for their tickets that they paid for in 2023, some of those are local people. Communication from the organisers has been sporadic with no responsibility being taken for the wider implications of this. Evidence of this can be viewed through the Standon Calling Locals group on Facebook or on the BBC Website.*

*I object to the event based on a number of factors which I have listed below;*

### *Impact on the environment*

*The noise generated over the 4 days of the festival can be heard for miles around the Standon area, the 4,141 residents of Standon and the 415 residents of Colliers end will all be heavily affected by the noise of the festival. Not only does the music extend until the small hours but the noise generated by those camping and exiting vehicles from the site at all hours only prolongs the disruption for residents. People with young families, those who work, elderly people, etc will all be affected by the volume and duration of the noise generated by this event. It makes it difficult to sleep, to work from home, to use public transport or roads and to generally function in a normal way while the festival is happening. It can be very difficult to make phone calls or to use the internet for the duration of the festival due to overloaded mobile networks. The sheer number of people using their phones simultaneously overwhelms the network capacity, leading to dropped calls, slow data speeds, and difficulty connecting, ultimately affecting residents even further.*

*Waste generated at the site is collected over the following week but rubbish is left in hedgerows and on the surrounding lanes and this isn't collected by the organiser.*

*Standon and its surrounding area are home to a variety of wildlife, including fallow deer, red kites, badgers and buzzards. Needless to say the introduction of 17,000 people to this area over a 4 day period has a negative impact on the habitat of many animals and flora and fauna.*

#### *Impact on traffic & parking*

*The Standon Calling festival significantly impacts access and congestion in the local area. The venue is accessed via narrow country lanes, Dowsetts Lane and Barwick Road, which cannot accommodate two cars passing side by side. This leads to vehicles cutting into hedgerows, grass verges, pavements, and even driveways.*

*Speeding is not effectively managed, and police presence is minimal, despite annual complaints from residents. Although organizers claim the road will be one-way, this is not enforced. Paid parking is available at the site, but many attendees park along the roads, causing further access issues. Dowsetts Lane is not designed for foot traffic, yet it sees heavy pedestrian use, especially dangerous at night due to the lack of street lighting. The influx of 17,000 people over the four-day festival, including taxis and campervans, overwhelms the local infrastructure, which serves only 4,556 residents.*

*Residents often cannot park outside their homes due to the risk of damage from speeding cars.*

#### *Impact on local amenities & services*

*The influx of 17,000 people to the parish of Standon places immense strain on local facilities like public transport, waste disposal, and emergency services. This was evident in 2021 when the festival flooded, and festival organizers lost control of the event. Despite advance weather warnings, inadequate planning led to chaos as vehicles and attendees were unable to exit the site safely. Roads were blocked, and festival-goers struggled to leave as more and more people tried to access the site to collect family members and friends. The festival was closed and police had to manage the situation, advising people to avoid the area. Vehicles were stranded, and long queues formed as people tried to leave in the dark. The aftermath left waste and debris scattered across the landscape with thousands of tents and clothing littered everywhere on fields and roads.*

#### *Impact on the character and appearance of the area*

*This festival affects the appearance of the local area and immediately around Standon calling location, the traffic, noise, people, litter, evidence of drug use and waste left behind on the festival site are shameful.*

*As already mentioned the volume of cars cuts into hedgerows, verges, etc and this also has a negative affect on the wildlife and environment. Additionally is the negative impact by association because of the conduct of the organiser, the BBC has run several articles over the years about the festival including the article in 3 February 2024 about the Standon Calling festival caterers and acts 'owed thousands', this is as much of a blight on the local area as the damage physically.*

*Impact on neighbouring properties*

*People choose to live in rural areas for various reasons, including: peace and quiet, connection to nature, strong community ties, safety and improved health and wellbeing.*

*Standon Calling at its inception may have held some of these values but given its scale it certainly doesn't any longer. The festival has quite simply outgrown its space, it makes it difficult for many residents to live their normal lives. The festival negatively impacts peace and quiet, the local environment and nature, It disrupts and causes friction with communities, makes people feel unsafe in their homes, and affects health and wellbeing for lots of residents, it can be an incredibly anxious and stressful time for lots of people.*

*The council and planning team has a duty of care to do better by local residents to protect them from unscrupulous practices and behaviour associated with this event and organisers. Many local residents have shared views concerning this Festival and would prefer for it not to return. T*

*To not have refunded individuals or to have paid suppliers and performers before planning another event is shameful. Regardless of how its marketed, make no mistake this is not a festival for local people, there is no direct benefit for the local community and very little support or help given back to the community before, during or after the event.*

*I would be grateful if you could let me know if there will be a proper consultation with residents about the proposal for this event. Many of the elderly and less able-bodied residents will not have seen the notices posted around the site."*

**It is pertinent to note that the member of public who provided this objection refused to mediate with the applicant stating:**

"My objection was for the council planning team. Thank you, I'm not interested in a response or engagement from people who are consistently economical with the truth. I'll wait for the position from the council."