

Sent: 05 September 2022 10:13

To: licensing <licensing@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk>

Subject: Application for a premises licence Stanley Turner Recreation Ground, Kingston Road, Lewes BN7 3NB

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Dear Licencing Officer

We strongly object to the licence application for the all-day music festival to be held at the Stanley Turner Recreation Ground because the noise from amplified music will cause statutory nuisance to us and neighbouring residents. We also object to the event being permitted on a Sunday.

The amplified music at the same event held on 28 May 2022 was excessive and caused unacceptable noise nuisance, which we have already complained about to Lewes District Council. A festival in 2023 over two days with a possible further event in the autumn would be intolerable and force us out of our house for its duration.

Our property boundary is about 40 metres from the rear of the stage. Our living area is about 70 metres away from the stage. The location of the stage is about as close as it is possible to get to neighbouring residential houses and is wholly inappropriate for such an event as it will inevitably cause statutory noise nuisance. It is also unnecessary, as noise could be mitigated by relocating the stage to the pitches parallel to the Lewes by-pass more than 300 metres away.

The measures planned for the prevention of noise nuisance are inadequate. The application is incorrect in stating that the nearest noise sensitive premises are a considerable distance from the site; residential houses are situated within 50 metres of the stage. A mitigation plan to avoid noise nuisance that relies on facing speakers away from houses and for the prevailing winds to drive all of the noise over the open fields beyond is not fit for purpose. The event held on 28 May 2022 demonstrated that there is no technical foundation to support what the application proports to deliver.

The event has been promoted as the Lewes Music Festival, giving the impression that it is a community event. It isn't; the event is principally for the benefit of the Rugby Club and is being imposed on the local community without due consideration. Tickets are already being sold online for the 2023 event before consent has even been granted. The Stanley Turner Recreation Ground is for recreation (i.e. sports and games) and was left in perpetuity for the people of Lewes to enjoy freely. It should not be allowed to become a concert arena with chargeable entry.

We urge the Licencing Officer to carefully consider the impact on local residents and visit the site to understand why objections have been raised, that alternative sites are available and why the application should be refused. However, should they be minded to grant

consent we ask that the following conditions are included, which reflect the principles of the Statement of Licensing Policy for Lewes District Council.

- . A noise management plan, including sound monitoring, shall be submitted to, and approved by the local authority before each event.
- . The rating level of the sound emitted from the site shall not exceed 65 dBA between 1100 hours and 2300 hours on Saturday and between 1100 hours and 2000 hours on Sunday. The sound levels shall be determined by measurement at the arena boundary at its nearest point to Kingston Road. The measurements and assessment shall be made in accordance with BS 4142:2014 and submitted to the local authority.

We would also draw your attention to the existing Club Premises Certificate for the Stanley Turner Ground Club House granted in 2003 to the Lewes Sports Club, a Community Amateur Sports Club that includes Lewes Rugby Club. It successfully addressed historic complaints from local residents about noise nuisance and antisocial behaviour from the ground. We look for any new licence at the same location to contain similar conditions to ensure that the existing licence conditions aimed at preventing noise nuisance and antisocial behaviour are not circumvented.

Yours sincerely