

		<p>related death linked to the Noisily Festival (https://thetab.com/uk/sussex/2015/11/20/brighton-student-falls-60ft-death-taking-cocktail-drugs2-7056).</p> <p>The nature of the site (heavily wooded, steep slopes in places) makes it difficult or impossible for the organisers to secure the site against dealers attempting to bring illegal drugs into the venue. The fact that the organisers are engaged with groups who promote illegal drug use makes one wonder how well any security around the perimeter that can be achieved will be enforced.</p> <p>Noisily Festival Ltd's attitude towards illegal drugs both now and in the past suggests a strong likelihood of further crime and illegal activity at any Festival they run in the future. Further consideration also needs to be given to any actions which may be taken by festival goers while under the influence of illegal drugs which may lead to further criminal actions and disorder. The location of the site due to its remoteness, away from major roads and towns, suggests that the police may struggle to respond in a timely way to any crime and disorder that should occur.</p>
<p>Public safety</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The remoteness of the site leads to further concerns, including response times and capacity for emergency services including police, ambulance, and fire and rescue. The steep and wooded terrain in areas of the site makes it highly inaccessible to emergency response services. This terrain also makes it difficult or impossible to secure the site effectively (for example through fencing), which may provide an attractive nuisance to local young people. The woods are used often by local teenagers and children, who know the site well and would find unauthorised access relatively easily.</p> <p>The steep slopes on the site also present a danger to possibly intoxicated festival goers; landslips are also common in this area, which prevents a further danger to authorised (or unauthorised) attendees. The trees and terrain also make it difficult for stewards and other staff to supervise festival goers adequately and ensure their safety on the rough ground.</p> <p>There are several ponds and small lakes in the area which are also remote. Since the festival will take place in the summer, any hot weather is likely to lead to reckless behaviour by intoxicated patrons of the festival in an attempt to cool off in the water. Given the difficult task of supervising the attendees of the festival and the likelihood of drug taking and drinking, there is a strong possibility of accidents around these locations, which would be difficult for emergency services to access.</p> <p>The lax attitude towards illegal drug use which Noisily Festivals Ltd has, when combined with a lack of public transportation in the area (and a lack of taxi services), means that there is a strong possibility of some festival attendees driving home while under the influence of drugs. The roads</p>

		<p>in the area are narrow and single carriageway, which opens up unnecessary risks to other everyday road users and residents in the area and beyond.</p> <p>Moreover, given uncertainty over the numbers attending the festival (including ticket holders, staff, performers, and traders) – tickets from 2021 are apparently being rolled over, while tickets for 2022 are also on sale (https://twitter.com/NoisilyFestival/status/1404491363018809348 and https://twitter.com/NoisilyFestival/status/1412389482578468865) – road safety is a significant concern as thousands of cars will descend on a rural area with limited capacity for traffic over a very short timeframe. This will increase the risks of road traffic accidents at the start and end of the festival in particular, as well as raising the danger of pedestrian use of public roads in the area (e.g. by hikers, local residents, and DofE groups who often use the area for their expeditions).</p>
<p>To prevent public nuisance</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The revised site plan shows that the site is in some places less than a mile from the village of Stathern. Noise and light is likely to travel to the village and mitigation measures would likely prove ineffective. The open nature of the site and the type of music played at the festival (EDM, which has a strong and heavy bass) means that the noise will carry great distances, while the trees in the area will not provide a sufficient muffling effect. The area is normally quiet, away from busy roads and built up areas. The noise and light from the festival would adversely affect residents’ sleep and enjoyment of their homes over the course of the festival. The extreme hours requested by Noisily Festival Limited (10 am to 5 am over three days) would cause a sustained and indiscriminate discomfort to local residents. As many residents sleep with windows at this time of the year (when the weather is warm), residents will be expected either to swelter with their windows close and put up with loud music, or be slightly cooler and put up with even louder music with their windows open. No noise management plan appears to have been submitted alongside the application at this time.</p> <p>The site will also cover part of the Jubilee Way, which is a popular footpath running parallel to Belvoir Ridge and through the woods. This is a frequently used path by local residents and visitors including tourists and DofE groups. It is unclear from the application how Noisily Festival Ltd will manage this right of way or divert it during the festival and its set up and strike time.</p> <p>The local Parish Council has made a representation which includes details of the applicant asking for a license for 10,000 attendees. As the site has no public transport serving it, it is likely that the majority of staff, ticket holders, traders, and performers will be travelling by private car. As noted above, this will likely overwhelm local road infrastructure (single carriageway roads which link both ends of the Vale of Belvoir). These roads and the roads which connect them run</p>

		<p>through small villages, which already have significant pinch points (as a result of parking by residents – such as Main Street, Stathern, Main Street, Harby, and Main Street, Eastwell). Additional traffic will lead to major congestion for festival goers, local residents, packs of cyclists, construction traffic (for example at the bottom of Mill Hill, Stathern, where a housing development is ongoing – STAT1), agricultural traffic, and commercial traffic (for example transport from Long Clawson Dairy). Blacksmiths End in Stathern, a single tracked road which may be used by festival goers, which Sat Navs. tend to direct traffic towards, (along with other single tracked roads in the area such as Landdyke Lane) may also lead to problems if heavy traffic is moving in both directions. The festival is too large for the local infrastructure to cope, and there are no mitigating measures the organisers can take.</p>
<p>To protect children from harm</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The dates given in the application are vague, but the organisers advertise the date of the festival on their website as 7-10th Jul 2022 (https://noisilyfestival.com). The fact that they are selling tickets for these dates indicates that they are committed to them. Local children mainly attend primary schools in Leicestershire, and secondary schools in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Lincolnshire, as Stathern is very close to the county border. In all three counties, term will not have finished at the time the festival is planned to take place (Leicestershire: end of term 12th July; Nottinghamshire: end of term 29th July; Lincolnshire: end of term 22nd July). Disruption to children’s sleep during term time shows a shocking disregard for their wellbeing and will damage their ability to learn.</p> <p>Children also make extensive use of this woodland after school and during weekends. To deprive them of access to this area (especially the Jubilee Way) is cruel given the restrictions they have faced over the past two years and which seems likely to continue in one form or another for the near future.</p> <p>Children who may access the site inadvertently or deliberately as a result of the difficulties in securing the perimeter may be at risk of harm from the behaviour of festival goers who may be intoxicated; children using the rights of way in the woods outside of the festival site may also be affected by any intoxicated festival goers who manage to wander off site inadvertently. The presence of drugs on the site (which is likely to happen, given the organisers’ stance) will also adversely affect children onsite and in the vicinity.</p> <p>The heavy traffic generated by the festival, and the risks posed by intoxicated drivers, pose a serious risk of harm to children in the local area. As well as children resident in the area, this may include DofE groups undertaking expeditions in the Vale of Belvoir and teenage cyclists who ride with local cycling groups through the Vale.</p>

Please suggest any conditions that could be added to the license to remedy your representation or other suggestions you would like the Licensing Sub Committee to take into account (see note 2).

There are no conditions which could make this festival safe or appropriate for the area for which the application is being made. Significant traffic management and noise mitigation measures would reduce some of the effects on the local area, but there would still be major problems with illegal activity on site and in the vicinity, difficulties of emergency access, and harm to children's wellbeing that couldn't be mitigated by conditions placed on the applicants. There is also the question of whether the applicants would abide by the conditions (particularly any made with regard to illegal drug use) given their stance on illegal drug taking.

Signed: Aimee Schofield
Please see notes on reverse

Date: 20/12/21

NOTES

1. This form must be returned within the statutory period of 28 days from the date the application was displayed on the premises of the date given in the public notice in a local newspaper or other local publication.
2. These can only relate to the four licensing objectives.
3. If you do make a representation you will be expected to attend a meeting of the Licensing Authority's Committee and any subsequent appeal proceeding. If you do not attend, the Committee will consider any representations that you have made.
4. Please return this form when completed to:

The Licensing Officer
Melton Borough Council
Parkside
Station Approach
Melton Mowbray
LE13 1GH

Tel: 01664 502502

Email: licensing@melton.gov.uk