



Licensing Act 2003

REPRESENTATION FORM

Your name / organisation name / name of body you represent	Cherry Underwood
Postal and email address	REDACTED
Contact telephone number	REDACTED

Name of the premises you are making a representation about	Noisily Festival LTD
Address of the premises you are making a representation about.	Terrace Hills Farm, Knipton, Grantham NG32 1EX

Your representation must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives (see note 2)

Licensing Objective	Yes Or No	Please detail the evidence supporting your representation or the reason for your representation. Please use separate sheets if necessary
To prevent crime and disorder	Yes	<p>I believe there is compelling evidence to suggest crimes will be committed by a) holding the event in such a location in the first place and b) those attending the event.</p> <p>In particular I believe these broadly fall into the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illegal drug taking 2. Crimes under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 3. General criminal behaviour including trespass, fly tipping and other ASB. <p><u>Illegal drug taking</u> Noisily Festivals Ltd do not try to hide the fact that illegal drugs are brought into, distributed, sold and used during their festivals. I would say they are ambivalent to this matter. They argued in written evidence submitted to the Digital Culture, Media and Sport Committee of the UK Parliament as part of a 2021 Inquiry on the Future of Music Festivals that they take steps to prohibit the use of the illegal drugs within their sites. However, they went on to suggest in the same evidence that they see drug use as inevitable and unavoidable and that this can only be managed through “open and honest discussion” and laws to allow for onsite testing of drugs to ensure safety (https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/18713/pdf/).</p> <p>Noisily Festivals Ltd has been praised from within drug subculture over the years.) Noisily Festivals has been praised for “proudly publicising” the provision of “psychedelic harm reduction” at their festival</p>

[\(https://www.reddit.com/r/Drugs/comments/4gw8nq/not_on_ly_is_noisily_festival_uk_running/\)](https://www.reddit.com/r/Drugs/comments/4gw8nq/not_on_ly_is_noisily_festival_uk_running/). A 2013 piece in *Tattler* on affluent drug users cited Noisily Festival as 'aving a boutique charm, a domestic break from the international festival circuit that began with Coachella and ended with Burning Man (both synonymous with drug use, both in the US) (<https://www.tattler.com/article/the-drugs-report-part-three>). One visitor to the festival detailed his 2018 trip to the festival and experiences as a "20 year old psytrance virgin on acid" here: https://www.reddit.com/r/psytrance/comments/b6va62/can_anyone_explain_this_funny_experience_i_had_at/.

Noisily Festivals Ltd have publicised their collaboration with The Psychedelic Society, an advocacy group for the use of psychedelic substances which outlines the benefits of LSD, MDMA (Ecstasy/Molly), Ketamine, and Psilocybin (Shrooms), amongst other drugs (see: <https://psychedelicsociety.org.uk>). Previous Noisily Festivals have advertised "...a program packed with talks and seminars with experts in psychoactive substances and psychedelic culture, who will be sharing their knowledge and research..." (<https://noisilyfestival.com/noisily-the-psychedelic-society/>).

Noisily Festivals Ltd have used outside groups to manage drug use by attendees. The charity PsyCareUK (formerly Kosmicare) which advertises itself as providing "welfare & harm reduction" and "highly price-competitive welfare" lists Noisily Festival as a client (<https://www.psycaresuk.org>).

Despite the steps taken to facilitate 'safe' drug use, Noisily Festival Ltd was unable to prevent the death of Brighton student Diogo Moreira who died as the result of a 60ft drop after consuming a cocktail of drugs, including LSD, cocaine, and cannabis taken at Noisily Festival. Reports suggest Diogo died after consuming even more drugs during his "come down" from Noisily (<https://thetab.com/uk/sussex/2015/11/20/brighton-student-falls-60ft-death-taking-cocktail-drugs2-7056>

The argument should not be how to manage people who have taken these substances, but on how to prevent them in the first place. These are illegal substances. They can be fatal.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (the Act)

The woods in question and shrub land and fields surround the proposed site, are a rich and valuable habitat for red kite, owls, peregrine falcons, goshawk and hobby also reported. They are nesting habitat for ground nesting birds including partridge, pheasant, snipe and woodcock. These birds will be nesting during the festival. This is a very sensitive woodland site. Part of the Site is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Furthermore the Forestry Commission invested considerable sums (over £200,000) into this woodland to protect 10 of the country's declining woodland birds..

		<p>It is an offence under the Act to kill or injure any wild bird (with exceptions none of which would apply) or to take <u>damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird</u> or its eggs, or to intentionally disturb any wild bird while it is building a nest or is in, or near, a nest containing its eggs or young. Also living in these woods are many mammals including badgers, foxes, hedgehogs, roe and muntjac deer, and bats.</p> <p>This single event could cause a localised wildlife disaster and undue years and years and thousands of pounds of investment in the protection of Wildlife</p> <p><u>General Crime</u></p> <p>Whilst this is generally a low crime area, the risk is predominantly rural crime. The mass influx of visitors who perhaps have little or no understanding of the surrounding areas being working farms or equestrian facilities, means we will likely see more trespassing, littering and general abuse of our countryside.</p> <p>The proposed 'feel' and atmosphere for this event suggests the use of sky lanterns is highly likely and these are a huge wildlife and life stock risk. Adjacent to the proposed site area number of working farms and competitive equestrian facilities. The handling of livestock and equines who are frightened by the noise will put workers on those farms/facilities at great risk.</p>
<p>Public safety</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The proposal raises several public safety concerns.</p> <p>The site is in a remote location, a long way from fire and medical provision. Should a fire break out or emergency medical services be required, this is likely to be hours not minutes away. The site can only be accessed by 2 single carriageway, unlit roads. One of which is used as a cut through for many vehicles from the A52. Accessing any area of this site is particularly difficult. Earlier this year the body of a missing woman was recovered from these woods only after a three-day search involving emergency personnel (https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/body-found-search-missing-leicestershire-6201303).</p> <p>All approaches are through the local rural area, often on single track roads, well used by cyclists, horse riders and walkers. The area is particularly well used by cycle clubs from as far away as Derby and Lincoln and the main access road is used as a time trial course regularly along with other cycling events in the Vale.</p> <p>The site includes a heavily wooded steep incline meaning providing any form of effective fencing or barrier would be impossible. These natural steep inclines clearly pose a very serious risk of harm to intoxicated individuals or those trying to navigate in the dark.</p> <p>Any perimeter fencing would inevitably have gaps which would likely contribute to the public safety risks of this event. In particular difficulties in securing the site may constitute an 'attractive nuisance' as people seek to find</p>

		<p>free entry. This is likely to include local young people, many of whom have detailed knowledge of the surrounding area. "Sneaking in" to festivals is popular enough to constitute its own sub genre on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sneaking+into+festivals</p> <p>The close proximity of large areas of water, often hidden from view makes the risk of accidents, potentially fatal drowning, much higher. Clearly this is further exacerbated by the use of illegal substances.</p> <p>There appears to be a disregard for Public Health and the global pandemic , Noisily Festivals Ltd previously advocated for "pulling off" festivals in the summer of 2021. "In our opinion with the right measures in place in 2021 we will be able to pull off a Covid safe event without the need for social distancing." (https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/18713/pdf/). Based on this it is likely that such as large event being held in a Covid insecure way in the local area will elevate public health risks for both festival goers and local residents. For evidence of the risk of Covid to those attending a festival of this scale and to the local community, please see the local studies on the 2021 Board Masters event in Newquay Cornwall. This shows that the impact was significant, widespread and longstanding, with a substantial increase in hospital admittances.</p>
<p>To prevent public nuisance</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>There would be considerable nuisance and disruption to local people.</p> <p>The current site plan (although this appears to change regularly) shows the site as less than half a mile from the villages of Plungar and Barkestone and Stathern. It is impossible to implement sufficient mitigation to prevent any form of noise or light from adversely affecting the local residents, especially while they are trying to sleep, especially given the summer months and windows being open.</p> <p>Noise pollution from the festival would be exacerbated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extreme hours of operation requested by the applicant (10am - 5am) over three days; • the likely warm temperature at the proposed time of year and the fact that many residents sleep with their windows open; • the particular character of the music on offer (bass heavy electronic dance music or EDM) which is likely to carry and create a particularly insidious effect on those nearby attempting to sleep; • and the position of the festival so close to residential villages and potentially on a large hill which will potentially allow sound to carry even further and in ways that are unpredictable. • Continuous additional noise from the very large numbers of people, vehicles and general activity.

		<p>The site runs across the Jubilee Way, an extremely national route way that connects other major footpaths. This path has been in even greater demand since the pandemic and I anticipate that trend will continue as people recognise the wellbeing value of being outdoors.</p> <p>Overall, the event is completely out of scale with any other event held of any type in the area, the small local festivals usually wrapping up by 11-30pm. If granted this application would inevitably create a public nuisance. Of particular concern is that if the committee grants this application it will create a precedent that allows Noisily Festival Ltd to return annually to the same site, potentially creating an even bigger public nuisance for years to come.</p>
<p>To protect children from harm</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Granting this application would put children and young people at risk of harm.</p> <p>The exposure to drug use, taking and drug related paraphernalia puts young people at risk.</p> <p>Increase traffic on roads that do not have pavements puts children at risk.</p> <p>Safe use of the woods for recreation and physical activity will be impossible for local children.</p>

<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).</p>	<p>To grant this licence would bring Melton Borough Council into serious disrepute. It is a rural council, striving to protect its identity and support the local rural economy. This seeks to do the opposite. Lack of respect and concern for farmers and local landowners, protected wildlife and putting further pressure on already hugely over stretched emergency services is total inexcusable</p> <p>Having researched Noisily Festivals Ltd and the previous site on which this event was held, I cannot see how conditions can be implemented on this proposal that would mitigate and remove the risks and concerns above. The location & venue for this event previously is fundamentally different and could accommodate the event without the majority of the risks above.</p> <p>Granting this application would set a precedent, allowing Noisily Festival Ltd or other organisers to return to the same location every year, including the attendant risks that visitor numbers will be permitted to creep up, further damaging the local area for years to come.</p> <p>There already exists a campsite and woodland in the area surrounding Belvoir Castle under the control of the same land owners. Why is an application for a new site being entertained when the same people have access to a purpose built and much more easily secured venue already? This venue is already used for events such as the Fireworks Championships & concerts, is much closer to main roads, and includes something of a natural</p>
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	amphitheatre that would minimise the public nuisance associated with this application.
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Signed:

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