

Denton Parish Council

c/o Mr. James McCloskey, Clerk and Proper Officer

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Email: [REDACTED]

For the attention of the Licensing Committee

Melton Borough Council

Further to Susan Bellamy, Chair of Denton Parish Council's telephone conversation with Mr. Simon Greensmith. Denton Parish Council would appreciate the following comments being taken into consideration regarding future Forbidden Forest Festivals, and indeed other events of a similar genre taking place at Belvoir Castle and Belvoir Castle grounds.

Denton Parish Council was not consulted for the recent Forbidden Forest Festival. Denton is situated in Lincolnshire, just off the A607 and Belvoir Castle is only 3 miles away from Denton, as the Castle and the majority of its grounds are situated in Leicestershire we feel it is due to that fact, that there is no consultation by Belvoir Castle or the organisers due to the different jurisdictions.

We would also like to request that Melton Borough Council Licensing Committee includes Denton Parish Council to its notification list for future events. The event schedule printed by Belvoir Castle for 2022 did not include any mention of the Forbidden Forest Festival.

Our concerns are, and particularly in this instance with the Forbidden Forest Festival, are as follows:

1. Absolutely no consideration regarding the inconvenience to the residents of Denton was given by the organisers or indeed the Castle before, during or after the event.
2. A huge increase in traffic usually begins with the set up of the event and in this case large HGV vehicles laden with staging and equipment through a 7.5 ton weight limit area.
3. Traffic Route - Denton would benefit greatly if the correct signage and a approved route was applied and advertised before the event with the emphasis on event traffic being directed away from travelling through Denton. A more acceptable route to the Castle from traffic travelling on the A1 both North and Southbound would be via the A52 to Bottesford crossroads and onwards to the Castle which has no weight limit, passes through no villages and is the closest route to the Castle from an A road.

4. Speeding traffic - our SID located on Main Street recorded a very high volume of traffic over this weekend and also a high percentage over the 30 mph speed limit.
5. Traffic late at night. It takes about 2 hours for most of the Festival attendees who have a day pass to leave the site and get collected, this results in heavy traffic, buses, taxis etc till about 1:00 am and sporadic traffic after this. We feel that could also be mitigated by traffic leaving via the A52 route as noted above.
6. Noise - while we must commend the organisers for switching to “silent disco” as they stated at 11:00 pm. However; it’s not the music that seems to be the problem it’s the relentless beat of the bass that is all so consuming. Given that it is Summer when these concerts take place, windows are open and everyone is outdoors enjoying the weather. It would have been difficult if not impossible, to hold an event over this weekend in Denton, be it a wedding, christening or just relaxing with family or friends. We realise this type of music is based on the beat of the music from the techno, house, disco, drum and bass and bass scenes but it is relentless and could even be heard indoors with the windows closed. I am not sure if this can be mitigated in the future.

Denton Parish Council were surprised at the amount of drugs confiscated by Leicestershire Police at the event and also by the large amount of nitrous oxide canisters that littered Denton Main Street along with the usual fast food litter.

If the total amount of 30,000 people that attended the Forbidden Festival over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd July 2022 is correct, it is certainly a lot, en masse for a small area and Denton certainly feels the effects both before, during & after the event.

Denton Parish Council’s aim is to open dialogue and be consulted by Belvoir Castle and the event organisers in order that events of this nature do not unnecessarily inconvenience the residents of Denton.



For and on behalf of:

Denton Parish Council

James McCloskey

Clerk and Proper Officer