

Representations - Objections and Support List - 28 October 2020

Wildwood Events Ltd - Premises Licence Review

Number 1

I have recently received a letter from South Cambridgeshire Council entitled 'Review of Premises.

The license provides for rock festivals to be held in Croftswood, behind the race course. Next year it is planned to hold 3, 3 day festivals for 10,000 festival goers - in the wood!

Whilst no one objects to the odd festival in the open, as long as the decibels are limited, to hold a festival in what is otherwise a very quiet, undisturbed wood, with the untold impact on the local wildlife is irresponsible irresponsible.

I as a resident of Horseheath, am therefore concerned about the environmental damage to the wood; I believe that large numbers of people will bring an increase in noise and environmental pollution, litter and crime such as burglary; and the possibility of illegal raves on a site known for partying. Increased traffic to an already dangerous turning on the 1307.

Furthermore we have every reason to believe that the conditions of the license - which takes no account of the location of the event, are likely to be breached based upon the Licensee's track record to date:

There were 6 days of activity on site during this year rather than the 3 allowed by the conditions of the licence

- There has been no consultation with the Parish Council prior to events as the licence conditions require
- It appears there were no checks on the decibel levels at nearby residential properties
- It appears that the music continued beyond the scheduled time for completion on Sunday 13th September

The grounds for raising objections to the Licence under the Licensing Act are:

- Public nuisance (hours of operation, noise and vibration, light pollution and litter)
- Public safety (safety on the premises - fire safety, safe capacity and first aid)

- Crime and disorder (any crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour related to management of the premises. The act considers the manager cannot be held responsible for the behaviour of people outside the premises. With large numbers who may be intoxicated, I think there is room to consider this for our localities)

- Protection of children from harm

These are clearly based on the usual licensing of urban public houses. Given the importance of biodiversity loss and protecting wildlife, I believe this is also an argument which will have relevance to the District Councillors on the Licensing Committee who will undertake the review after the consultation period.

Please keep my email on file and please keep me informed.

Number 2

We note that HORSEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL has, on the 29 September 2020, applied to South Cambs District Council as the Licensing Authority for a Premises Licence review for Wild Wood Events Ltd. In considering this review we should be grateful if you would note that -

Context - Crofts Wood is between 1400 and 1600 metres from Horseheath and Cardinal's Green, sleepy hamlets in an area of best landscape. This matters because the impact of the observed revellings and the pressure of numerous visitors has become a nuisance in the context of this location. ("what would be a nuisance in Belgravia Square may not necessarily be so in Bermondsey." *Sturges v Bridgman* (1879) LR 11 Ch D 852)

- Public nuisance. Music at high volume (It always is - operators of high output equipment like to show off) played into the night and the arrival of huge crowds from far and wide have an unacceptable impact on the village, our dwelling and wildlife in Crofts Wood and its environs.
- Safety is a concern. If any future access to the site is to be via the A1307 it will need a high level of management, as seen ahead of Point to Point meetings, to avoid road traffic accidents. In any event, access to Crofts Wood is limited. Firefighters and other Emergency Services would have problems if an emergency arose. Covid-19 regulations seem to have been breached already.
- Any crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour which may develop in alcohol fuelled groups would be difficult or impossible for management to control. Outside Crofts Wood management has no responsibility. It is likely that poachers etc. will take advantage of the distraction (cover) of a noisy event. It

is, perhaps, no coincidence that an event and the rumour of an illegal rave both coincided with police presence in Cardinal's Green.

It seems that the company has breached its existing licence, if this is the case the licence should be rescinded and not renewed. In our view Crofts Wood is not an acceptable venue for Wild Wood Events Ltd and its expansion plans.

Please rescind the licence.

Number 3

We would like to object to any future permissions being granted due to both noise and other issues during the previous events.

Re the noise levels- we could hear the music clearly, until 4am, which I suspect is way beyond the granted permissions (?) despite being inside our house with windows closed. We live in the centre of Horseheath, but during the early evening I was out on a bicycle in Withersfield, and could still hear it clearly!

This is particularly unpleasant in hot summer weather having to keep windows closed day and night- one of us works shifts for an airline and it's impossible to sleep with thumping dance music a constant .

When the rock festival was held at Sir Arthur Marshall's former estate, we had no issue with noise at all. We assume this is due to the location being in a dip. The Wildwood location is one of the highest points in the area so the sound travels, especially if the weather is breezy.

This is not a one off occurrence, it has been the case at all the events held so far. Another issue which has happened in relation to these events is to us much more unpleasant- By Horseheath Cricket club is a dead end section of Howard's Lane- Each time an event has been held there has been the odd car parked there for the events duration, presumably so the event can be accessed without tickets via the footpath from White Chimneys to the venue site. This year, there were two cars left there, and when they departed, they left large amounts of litter, including human excrement, soiled toilet paper, and a syringe/needle. This is simply not acceptable.

Despite the event usually being accessed by the point to point course entrance from A1307, this year the signs led through Manor farm in the village. There was a huge increase in village traffic, and lost people driving down odd places in the village looking for the site. We had one car drive into our horse paddock entrance in west Wickham road.

How the event was ever allowed to go ahead this year during a pandemic is totally beyond belief - A resident that attended, showed us some photographs, and there was certainly no social distancing going on !

While we wish the event organisers well with their venture, we have tolerated the total disregard for their licence restrictions and noise levels for too long. They have had the chance to run this event in a responsible manner , but having shown zero respect to the local environment we feel we have to object in the strongest possible terms, especially to any expansion. This is simply not the correct location for the event.

Number 4

I am writing regarding the licence held by Wild Wood Events Ltd, which I understand is currently under review.

Wild Wood Events Ltd (WWE) has knowingly breached the terms of this licence which foresees a maximum of three one day events a year. This year they have held events over a total of at least six days. By breaching the terms of their licence, I expect that they have also invalidated their insurance, thereby raising an important public safety risk, by staging events without valid insurance.

WWE's plans for 2021 already include holding three festivals of three days each and a wild wood family weekend. I believe they also hope to hold parties and weddings. These plans go well beyond the three one day events foreseen in the current licence, and amount to a wanton disregard for licencing laws.

This fits a general pattern of lack of respect either for rules or for cooperation with the local community. During the weekend of 12-13th September, a festival went ahead despite Government advice to suspend public events as COVID-19 rates were increasing. The music, which was easily heard in Cardinal's Green continued well beyond the 2am limit in the licence, despite assurances that the music would not disturb the local community and that the event would finish within the licenced hours, i.e. be over by 2am.

Number 5

I would like to express my concerns as a resident of Horseheath village of the application for a Premises Licence review in the name of Wild Wood Events Ltd - SCDCPL0515, as based on the conduct this year I do not feel the applicant is considering the best interests of the village.

Horseheath is a small, quiet, rural community.

The events which were held this year appeared to show 6 days of activity on site rather than the 3 allowed by the conditions of the licence.

There does not appear to have been any consultation with the Parish Council prior to the events, as I understand the licence conditions require.

There does not appear to have been any checks on the decibel levels at nearby residential properties. We and our young children experienced disruption to our sleep during the events held this year.

It appears that the music continued beyond the scheduled time for completion on Sunday 13th September.

The grounds with which I would like to raise objections to the Licence under the Licensing Act are:

- Public nuisance
- Public safety
- Crime and disorder (of which we have already experienced an increase in recent months with multiple vehicle thefts from properties in the village)
- Protection of our children from harm

In addition to the above there does not appear to be any consideration of the importance of biodiversity loss and protecting wildlife.

As a resident of the village I am concerned that the scale of the events and disruption to the wood and to the village are not in the long-term interest of Horseheath village or it's resident families.

Number 6

I wish to record my objection to this application.

The terms of the current licence have been breached on a Number of occasions, suggesting disregard for permitted event levels.

The site is served by access points that have proved inadequate for the historic Point to Point meetings. This has caused organisers to redirect the egress of east bound traffic through the village. The envisaged future volumes of traffic are likely to force large numbers of vehicles to leave the site at around the same time and under current Covid regulations this is likely to be all at the same curfew times.

The planned format is not dissimilar to the Secret Garden Festival at Abbots Ripton which has proved impossible for Private Security Companies to control and Police have been called on many occasions. The latest applications at Abbots Ripton have

been refused on the basis of Lack of Organiser control. The previous events at Croftswood have deteriorated in to the same debacle with unauthorised attendance. In the absence of adequate traffic control, Security nor Organisational input I believe future events should not be permitted.

Number 7

I am writing an email of concern regarding the wildwood events that are planned for the future in Horseheath.

I am concerned that these events seem to be expanding and becoming a more frequent planned event starting from a one weekend event to the consideration of events almost every weekend during the spring and summer.

These events are being advertised on Facebook and have sven been described as "raves" which are attracting people from all over the country.

These were initially thought to be local events encouraging local communities to gather but they aren't being advertised in the actual village but nationally.

The event size also is increasing causing grave concern on hundreds, even thousands of people wandering all over the local area.

Considering the local community have been approached on many a occasion in why we are walking in that area that the local property owner is happy to have hoards walking, camping, drinking, and using the woidded areas as toilet facilities is astounding.

I have lived in Cardinaks Green for 21 years and have enjoyed the rural aspect, but with amenities close by. We have a local pub and village hall which are struggling as it us to then have to compete with other events.

I would be concerned about crime rates increasing, coming across multiple groups of people whilst walking or running around that area, concerns about our property, and the noise levels (which were heard the whole weekend on the last event in september)

I really feel these events should be carefully considered and ideally not allowed.

Number 8

I am writing to express my concern at the way in which Wild Wood Events was licensed without any reference to the Parishioners of Horseheath or any notification of events taking place.

The first that the Parish knew of the event on the 21st /23rd August was when traffic for the event was directed through Horseheath, followed by excessive noise.

Public Safety:

I understand that the traffic flow through the village on the 21st/23rd August was contrary to that of the approved safety plan.

The event that took place on the 12th/13th September was the day before tighter restrictions were due to be imposed by the UK Government which limited gatherings to a maximum of 30 people and was contrary to Government advice to behave in a sensible way over that weekend - 300 people gathering for an event where alcohol is free flowing and where, it was reported, that social distancing was not observed, is not to my mind, acting responsibly and represents a threat to public safety.

Public Nuisance:

Horseheath is situated 700 metres down wind (prevailing wind is south westerly) of Croftswood, where the events have taken place and the noise levels were excessive, with music (bass) being heard in most rooms of my house until past 11PM.

There was no notification of the events taking place and so we were unaware of the source of the music - previously when Horseheath Lodge held music festivals we all received prior notice, through our letter boxes, detailing start and finish times so we had some confidence in what appeared to be a well organised event, where the music was muted

It is also understood that the number of events exceeded those for which a license had been granted and it is assumed that all non licensed events constitute a rave?!

License Conditions:

The standard criteria against which a license is granted appears to be inappropriate for such an event where the bounds of the licensed premises are not defined - for instance the licensee is not responsible for activities undertaken outside of the licensed premises - where are the bounds of the licensed premises in the case of the wood?

Surely the impact on wild life should also be considered when an event is organised for a wood? After all we are daily being advised that the UK is the most wildlife depleted country in Europe and SCDC are very keen to display their 'green credentials'.

What impact will 100s of people milling around an otherwise wildwood, with music being pumped out at 90 to 100 decibels, have on that wild life population that called the wood home - it will prove to be yet another area from which they are displaced.

There appears to be a lack of joining up of the dots from SCDC, between their publicly espoused values and those that they practice.

Number 9

I am writing in support of the Wild Wood Disco which is held at Horseheath point to point course. I live in Suffolk and have attended the disco for the last 3 years. I have always found it to be extremely well organised.

I have taken my three children to the kids version which they all loved. They learnt all about the ancient woodland through stories, and were taught the names & ages of the trees. In today's hectic society it was a wonderful way for them to connect with nature.

The way the organisers have built the stages amongst the trees is beautiful the woods are well cared for & add to the magic of the festival. I've never seen any litter, everyone is very respectful of the beautiful setting. The best bit about the festival is the numbers, the organisers have kept it under 3000 rather than just trying to make as much money as possible it really is a lovely small, safe place to be for adults & children.

I was amazed to read the comments from a parish councillor being negative about the festival, I presume they haven't attended the festival as his comments couldn't be further from the truth. The friends I know who live in the local area are proud to have such a wonderful event on their doorstep.

I really hope the organisers are granted their licence & the festival will be back next year.

Number 10

As a resident of Little Abington, Cambs, and patron of The Wildwood Disco since its inception I would like to wholeheartedly lend my support for this business and the events it runs on this site. I have seen the unpleasant, aggressive and ultimately false notices posted in the local area and am appalled at such defamation.

At the forefront of every event the license holder runs, whether it be a private party, disco or childrens' camping and events weekend, is the wood itself. The clue is in the name – The WILD WOOD Disco/Rumpus!

It is absolutely vital to the organisers that the wood is cared for and enjoyed safely and mindfully by all who attend. Initiatives such as no plastic bottles for water, instead requiring visitors to bring a refillable bottle to fill from water tanks; meticulous care taken to ensure no glass is brought on site; thorough clean ups after every event; no plastic cups for drinks but bring your own or purchase a refillable one on site. Stages

and bars are constructed from locally sourced materials – mainly wood – and are barely noticeable as they blend in with their surroundings.

These events are a positive addition economically and culturally to this area and must be allowed to continue.

Number 11

Like most people in the village, we did not know that this was going to be a regular event, or that they had a licence.

The last event was an unpleasant surprise, as we had no idea that such an event could take place during the coronavirus crisis.

How could that be responsible behaviour, or even legal?

It was so loud that we could hear the music clearly in every room of our house, even with all the windows and doors closed. It lasted until after 11 pm.

Previous events have continued well after midnight, and all have been extremely loud. We also noted that the event traffic was routed through Manor Farm, in the centre of Horseheath, not from the declared entrance on the dual carriageway towards Linton. These events are taking place very much closer to the village of Horseheath, not Linton as described.

In view of the well-known serious accident history on this section of the A1307, it is extremely dangerous to permit further large-scale events accessed from this road. According to the Ordnance Survey map the distance from Croftswood to Horseheath village is only 700 metres, or less than half a mile.

On their website the organisers have described the events like this:

"Imagine a classic free party from the early 90s. You'll probably imagine a farm, miles from the nearest neighbours"

Clearly, 700 metres is not "miles", it is 0.43 of a mile.

Since young children need to go to bed from about 7 pm, and adults from about 10.30 it is simply not reasonable to inflict this level of noise and disturbance on the people of the village.

We sometimes have our young grandchildren to stay at weekends, and it would clearly be impossible to get them settled down to sleep during one of the events.

Another relevant factor is that the prevailing wind is from the south-west, which means that the sound will nearly always be blown directly across the village. This makes a big difference to the volume of sound observed in the village.

Croftswood is also on higher ground than most of the surrounding land and this elevation is another factor that contributes to the sound travelling further.

Holding such an event in what is usually a very quiet wood will obviously be a disaster for the wildlife living there. Birds that are both nesting and roosting in the wood will be driven out. The young ones that cannot fly will be left to die and many roosting birds will not be able to find their way to a safe alternative, especially in the dark. Many of them will die as a direct result.

We often see Red Kites, Kestrels and Buzzards flying in this area and there are large populations of many smaller species.

The same disastrous disruption will be inflicted on all mammal species living in the wood. These include deer, badgers and bats.

In addition to this, the wildlife is also to be exposed to a laser and strobe light show, which will certainly cause them to panic and attempt to flee in the dark, with disastrous consequences.

Presumably the electricity needed to power these events is provided by Diesel generators, with all the well-known health risks from their exhaust emissions. Again, due to the prevailing wind these pollutants will be blown straight over the village.

We are concerned that the organisers have exceeded the number of events that they were permitted in their licence, and have not communicated with the Parish Council as required.

Unlicensed events are no different to an illegal rave, and therefore the licence holders have shown themselves to be unsuitable for any continuation of that licence.

The organiser's proposal to hold three, three day festivals for 10,000 people each time in 2021, lasting until 2am, is completely unacceptable to Horseheath villagers, for all the reasons stated above.

Residents are asking why they were not given any representation on this matter before it started? Only the Parish Council have given any support, and it seems difficult for them to be heard against the big money interests.

All the residents of Horseheath chose to live in a small quiet village, and should not have to suffer the outrageous level of noise and disruption that we have been forced to endure from these events.

Number 12

Please find below a personal statement from myself regarding the Wildwood Disco team.

A month or so prior to our first event deployment at Horseheath Racecourse, event organiser Vicky Fenton and production manager Elissa Gold requested our services to be deployed at the Sunset Socials on Friday the 21st and Saturday 22nd of August.

I deemed it suitable to then conduct a site visit personally to understand Wildwood Events LTDs needs for their event and deploy security operatives and social distancing Stewards appropriately. Due to the current pandemic, HK Security and Event Services LTDs management team felt it best that we accommodate the event with a high level of support from myself and the management team to ensure we could assist the best we could given the additional regulations, safety and infection control measures put in place.

It was on the site visit, roughly two weeks before the event where I met Vicky Fenton and Elissa Gold.

I was very impressed with their knowledge of the site and the event plan. As an operative with over eight years of "on the ground" experience, running security teams or consulting on crowd management and safety procedure at large scale events (50,000+ capacity) festivals, and sporting events, I was filled with confidence of the Wildwood teams planning and execution.

Vicky and Elissa are a pleasure to work with, friendly, capable, with safety of the customers and impact on the local area as one of their highest concerns.

As a consultant, I am often faced with individuals who wish to plan an event but with very little knowledge of true health and safety or crowd management measures. This was NOT the case with either Vicky or Elissa. Despite the low numbers of customers capped at the event, they still looked into procedure and ELT Meetings with the seriousness I would expect from a much larger event. Their experience running events of a much larger scale was clear.

Vicky was very keen to impart to me the importance of reducing the impact of the event onto the local area. We extensively agreed on checks that myself and my team could take part in, in order to ensure that guidelines and rules were adhered to, this included (but not limited to) patrolling the perimeter of the entire site to ensure volume levels were not of a disturbance to the local residents.

It is an absolute pleasure to work with both Vicky and Elissa, they make a competent, productive and pragmatic event team that I was both proud to support and be a part of, as I deployed myself to both their spaced out and sunset social weekends.

I sincerely look forward to working with Wildwood Events LTD in the future, they are a credit to the local community and I'm happy to provide both the team and yourselves with any additional information or support you may need.

Number 13

I thought I would respond to the notices in Horseheath regarding The Wildwood Disco / Spaced Out events

I have been to many events at Horseheath over the past 3 or 4 years as both an individual paying ticket holder, together with my partner and also as a volunteer on several occasions.

For background, I am a 50 year old Group Risk Manager working in The City of London for a number of limited companies and limited liability partnerships within a multi family office. I live in Cambridge.

I have over the last 3 - 4 years found The Wildwood Disco / Space Out to be very professionally run, with both the environment and the health and safety of the ticket holders as the top priorities. The Culture of the festival stems from the actions of the event leadership.

The people going to these events are not all young people. Quiet the opposite I would say the average age is between 40 and 50 years old, mature, respectful kind and caring. As a volunteer I have had nothing but good interactions with hundreds of people during my shifts. Even as Covid shut everything else down this years two events were peaceful, fun, and respectful events.

At a time of heightened anxiety and stress for many people because of covid19 and the impacts of lockdown, the ability to listen to great music in a safe and socially distanced environment was in itself beautiful. In addition the caring way the crowd respected each other and the professional way the event was managed from arrival, parking, camping and the socially distanced tables.

I have been to many book, film and music festivals in my 50 years on this planet as a ticket holder and volunteer. I can say that the production and event management team behind The Wildwood Disco and Space Out are the best and most professional, community minded group of individuals in the UK that I have had the pleasure to work with.

I am already looking forward to volunteering again next year as this is a festival that truly cares.

Number 14

I am extremely surprised to hear of the accusations from John Howard that rules were not being adhered to at the Wild Wood Disco Event this summer. Quite frankly, it is simply untrue.

Given the restrictions we have all faced over the majority of this year, I was extremely excited that Vicky and the team had decided to host the event on a much smaller scale this year.

If I'm totally honest I myself was sceptical of how this setting would work in practice, however the organiser far exceeded my expectations in providing us with a safe environment to enjoy ourselves in.

I live within half an hour of the festival and have attended for the last 4 years so as you can imagine I can draw some pretty realistic comparisons that prove how the organiser took on board the advice and regulations of the higher authorities. These are as follows:

1.) There was one stage playing music to a far quieter level than usual. People with a few drinks in their system often push for it to be turned up but were told no on multiple occasions.

2.) I attended with 5 other friends and we sat on our table of 6 for the entire evening except when going to get a drink/food. In my view, everybody was adhering to this (a few even wearing masks despite it being outside). There are always one or two who refrain to listen to the rules but it was noticeable that security were quick to jump upon this (proving the seriousness of wanting to get this right)

3.) Interestingly, I have heard that we're complaints of people visiting the event from afar. I honestly cannot say hand on my heart have I ever walked into an event like this and recognised so many people from previous years instantaneously. These are clearly local people who were delighted to be able to enjoy themselves again whilst understanding that we must be respectful of the wider requirements being imposed on us all to contain this virus.

I hope that you can understand this, and appreciate the genuine efforts gone to ensure this was carried out in the right and respectful manner. I didn't want to say this but if I'm honest I imagine the complainant has had a thing against the festival for years and has spotted an opportunity through COVID-19 to try and leverage his case.

Number 15

I my husband and our family attended Vicky Fenton's 'Spaced Out Festival' in late August this Summer.

We were all very impressed by the Covid Rules and Regulations adhered to and our tickets allowed us to be on a picnic table of 6 people from one family./support bubble only.

All the tables were marked with the ticket holders name on them in chalk and you had to stay on that particular table all evening.

The Bar had a 'Social distancing' policy, as did the food vans, of 2m+ per customer. There was a Socially Distanced Open Air Cinema running at the same time as the music so the music could not be loud. At all times we could speak without having to raise our voices and hear each other talking.

Those attending were really friendly, nice and respectful of the beautiful environment they were in and included a large amount of local people of all ages.

We had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with our family surrounded by a great bunch of people.

Number 16

I write as a member of the family that owns the land at Horseheath that has been the subject of complaints by Horseheath Parish Council, and therefore accept that I have a conflict of interest. Nevertheless, having attended both 'festivals' for a relatively brief time, I have to say that I do not recognise the portrayal being presented by Horseheath Parish Council at all, which contains a number of seemingly trumped up charges.

The council has put up multiple signs in and around Horseheath headed "Notice of Application for a review of Premises Licence". The last paragraph of that sign reads "It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, the maximum fine for which on summary conviction is £5000."

It appears to me that Horseheath Parish Council have knowingly made false statements in respect of the application.

Number 17

I have worked at Vicky Fenton's festivals for two years they are extremely nice people the festivals are very well organised and the crowds are very polite and well behaved we were always able to hear each other speak the music was not at all loud and the

Covid rules were taken very seriously and definitely followed all the tables were spaced out and people were not breaking any rules.

Number 18

This mail is in respect to the licencing review of Spaced Out Festival initiated in response to a licence review request from Horseheath Village Council (HHPCC)

Personal Details: I'm a 32 year old professional who lives within 2 miles of the event site (Steventon End). I attended the event this year with a group of friends. All of us were full-time professional workers over the age of 30, some with young children.

Response to some of the specific allegations raised by HHPCC:

1. Excessive Noise – Our allocated table seating area was within 10 meters of the main music-audio equipment on-site. At no time did I need to raise my voice to the group I was sat with in order to be heard clearly. By definition, the noise level could therefore not have exceeded those associated with normal speech at a distance of 10 meters from the source. HHPCC implies that the noise was excessive. It stands to reason normal-volume talking could not be classed as being within this category. Given the physical impossibility of noise being amplified over distance, I cannot agree in any way with the assessment by HHPCC that noise levels were in any way even approaching excessive. Additionally, on my return home to Steventon End – roughly equidistant from the site to Horseheath village – I could not hear the event.
2. COVID rules – On arrival our re-arranged group (maximum of 6 people) was allocated a table which we were escorted to by a member of staff. The table had white markings surrounding it and we were advised we could not exceed them unless we were getting a drink or going to make use of the toilet facilities. Queuing for the bar was managed effectively using barriers to mitigate the risk of any crowding at the bar space. I can not agree that I observed COVID rules being breached at this event. Security staff were clearly highly visible and present at all times and I observed on multiple occasions them reminding attendees of their obligations. The layout of the site and use of space clearly mitigated the risks that would be present in a more confined indoor event of any type.
3. Damage to the site – I have been legally visiting the horseheath site for a number of years with the landowners permission. I noticed no damage or change to any of the flora. In fact I was greatly impressed by the obvious effort that had been taken to maintain the integrity of the site, including the refusal to have glass on-site and the use of natural removable materials in

any temporary structures. I have experience of working for some years in a UNESCO world heritage site – the Okavango Delta – where incredibly strict environmental protections are enforced due to the significantly more complex and fragile ecosystem that that which is present in Cambridgeshire. I therefore feel I am in a strong position to recognise clear instances of environmental damage and degradation, specifically elements of ecosystem degradation that may not be apparent to most individuals. I could see no evidence of any such degradation at horseheath. I commend the organisers for taking clear and intentional steps to ensure the preservation of flora and fauna at the site.

4. Nature of the attendees – As per the e-mail address and signature below, I'm a professional working for a multi-billion Euro multinational firm. I attended the event with six friends who cover a range of professions, including a head-teacher and psychiatrist. We enjoy this event because it attracts an older more mature audience of respectable individuals. I recognised a good number of local people at the event who are members of the surrounding communities, many in their 40's and 50's. I can not reject more strongly that this event attracts individuals who in any way are likely to negatively impact the local area.

Other points of note:

1. On review of the supplied documentation I cannot support any of the allegations raised by HHPCC and note the total lack of qualitative and quantitative data provided to support the points set-out. In addition, the economic benefit to the area in a time when we look to be entering the largest recession in the last half-century should not be over-looked. The older, more mature and financially stable audience this event attracts spills over in to local hospitality, e.g. AirBNB bookings. It additionally generates income for local small firms and individuals directly engaged to deliver services to the event.

2. On review of the material published on the Parish Council website – see screenshot inserted at the foot of this mail – I have deep concerns with the way qualitative data has been obtained by HHPCC. As part of my career I work with large organisations, including the UK government, to design and run representative experiments. We use qualitative and quantitative data gathered through these to help us allocate hundreds of millions of pounds in funding across different programs of work.

Ensuring data collected is representative is crucial to obtaining a balanced picture from which we can make clear and rational decisions. The advertisement screenshotted at the foot of this mail is the only one present on the HHPCC website relating to the

spaced out festivals licencing review. There are a number of features present here that create significant issues:

- **Non-representative sampling:** an advertisement placed on a website is automatically not representative of the population – in this case the ‘population’ in question being the residents of Horseheath parish. Key to generating representative sample data is randomization across the sample population. We have no data on who in the impacted population visits HHPCC website, but it is very likely not representative of the population. For example, elderly residents are unlikely to access webpages. This is why UK government does not use digital-only sampling.
- **Selection bias:** Once we move past the issue of sampling, we next need to look at the repetitiveness of the qualitative data being solicited. On this topic there is a critical issue with the flyer shown below and via this link in as far as it specifically bars positive data from being supplied. This is clearly shown in the wording of the flyer - the original header is fine as the text “do you have an opinion about crofts wood this summer” implies both negative and positive qualitative data is valid for submission. However, it is clear from the remainder of the text, which includes a series of unsubstantiated negatively-framed statements presented as fact after paragraph 1, that the sampler is only collecting negative qualitative data. The key here is the phrase “No?” in bold under paragraph 2. Whilst the rest of the wording is suggestive but not explicit, this phrase sets an unambiguously condition – namely that you can only submit information if that opinion is in the negative. I have never seen a more blatant example of selection bias. Therefore the data gathered by HHPCC is not just likely to be negative, it must be negative.

Consequently HHPCC have, unintentionally I’m sure, not just skewed their sample of opinions, but not actually collected a sample at all. In order for data to be considered as representative then really we would need to select a statistically relevant random sample (32 people should be fine) from the area and define clear criteria for data collection – normally when gathering qualitative data of this nature a lickert scale response to defined questions that relate to local and national legislation would be optimal.

Number 19

1 Infringement of the Licence by the designated premises supervisor

- a) The supervisor has arranged events including 6 days of activity on site during the summer of 2020 in contravention of the licence (paragraph 2) – 20th June, 21st-23rd August and 12th-13th September.

Camping options for the “Sunset Social” event on 12th-13th September advertise tents as being available from 11th-13th September 2020 (see <https://www.woodvilleproject.co.uk/pages/sunsetsocials>), suggesting paying guests were actually on site for three separate days.

My Little Festival’s website advertises a much wider range of events than the licence allows (see <https://mylittlefestival.uk/#ourevents>). These include Festival themed parties, weddings, a family festival called the Wildwood Rumpus held over 2 days, corporate events and other parties.

The Wildwood rumpus family festival was also scheduled to occur on 19th September 2020 but has been cancelled (see <https://thewildwoodrumpus.com/>).

- b) No consultation of the local Parish Council by the event organiser in advance of the events occurred in contravention of the licence (paragraph 20).
- c) It appears no checks of the decibel levels at nearby residential properties was carried out, so that local residents in Horseheath village and Cardinals Green were disturbed, contravening the licence (paragraph 22). Multiple complaints were received by the Parish Council.
- d) It appears the supervisor has allowed continued activity and disturbance of the local residents outside the scheduled time of the events on Sunday 13th September. Multiple complaints were received by the Parish Council up to the early evening.

2 Concerns within the Licensing Objectives

1 Public Safety

- a) Deviation from a submitted safety plan for 21st-23rd August
For this event, during a period of high alert for Covid, attendees were routed through Horseheath, through College Farm and along farm tracks. We understand this was not in the originally agreed event safety plan.
- b) Lack of Covid Secure practice 12th-13th September
Bell tents have been on offer for festival events. Bell tents are available for up to 5 people; there is no stipulation with regard to Covid in relation to the hiring of tents; the organisers appear to condone up to 5 people, possibly from different households sleeping together inside a bell tent.

Eye witnesses to this event, which occurred on the weekend before the “Rule of 6” was introduced, state that there was no social distancing occurring during

the event. The premises supervisor herself describes the event as a “bloody good party” on her Facebook page on 16th September. This event was put on after Michael Gove had appealed to the population not to attend parties that weekend.

Other large public events were cancelled (Trial limited attendance at Cambridge United and the Imperial War Museum at Duxford Air Show).

2 Public Nuisance

- a) Activity in excess of the Licence As described in section 1 there have been more days of events – and therefore public music heard in Horseheath - than the licence permits.
- b) Excess noise The Old Red Lion in Horseheath is 950 metres from the stage in Crofts Wood and dwellings in Cardinals Green about 1400 metres. There have been multiple complaints that the music was loud and disturbing inside and outside houses. This included a report of children’s sleep being disturbed during the weekend of 12th-13th September.
- c) No consultation with local Parish Councils
There was no communication with Horseheath Parish Council prior to the event on 21st-23rd August or in preceding years. This meant that the Parish Council could not engage with the premises supervisor with regard to the event and had no dedicated “help line” to ring. The Parish Council found the premises supervisor number on the Wild Wood Events website.
- d) Items left in the wood
Eye witnesses describe deckchairs and litter left to the South of Crofts Wood.

3 Crime and Disorder

- a) Potential for illegal raves and other rural crime such as poachers and local burglaries
The premises supervisor herself records concerns about illegal raves and thefts on her public Facebook page dated 16th September:
“After a few negative things happening post event including booze being stolen from the site on Monday morning, I have now heard someone plans an illegal rave in my woods this weekend. I have invested 5 years of hard work, blood, sweat tears and love into the place and risked losing everything. Each year the party I created grows and I invest more – my stages are permanent and other things like bars live there too and need to be protected as does my licence and relations with

the villagers.”

The Parish Council is aware of police activity in relation to poachers on Friday 21st August and in September. It is apparent that increased attention to this rural site may increase crime on the site and by extension locally.