

New Premises Licence for Morden Park 4-5th August 2018

Applicants: We are the Fair Ltd

Application Reference: WK/201708658

I am writing to object to the granting of a licence for this event on the following grounds:

1. Excessive Noise

For those of us living near the park, the noise produced for the 12 hours of the event is excessive and annoying. Granted, at the 2017 event it was measured to be within safe levels, however the peak levels we experienced were unacceptable, and the annoyance of having a constant thudding throughout the day was also unacceptable.

The organisers demonstrated in 2017 that they were unfit to manage the noise:

(a) as the event started there was a period of very loud noise for around a minute, which shook our house.

(b) it took several hours for a measurement to be made after complaints were made

(c) the telephone operators lied to callers, telling them that “no-one else had complained”. A friend from another part of Morden called after we had called at least twice to complain, and was told this.

2. Antisocial Behaviour

The organisers have demonstrated themselves unfit to control the behaviour of the large crowds who would attend these events.

In 2017 we had young women urinating on our drive, men defecating in the churchyard, evidence of sexual activity behind the church porch, and aggressive behaviour towards us as we attempted to guard our property. Rubbish (mostly half-full bottles of alcoholic drink) was also thrown into the churchyard. The organisers made no attempt to clear the rubbish in the churchyard, and it was left to us and to council members to guard the area and tidy up.

This is unacceptable. It is not acceptable for the organisers to claim “we will do better this year” – they have demonstrated their incapacity to control behaviour and litter, and the licence should not be granted.

3. Excess Alcohol Consumption

Many people attending the festival in 2017 had already drunk a considerable amount of alcohol before they arrived. The evidence for this was in their behaviour (see above) and the considerable amount of empty alcoholic drink bottles left in the churchyard and along the path.

The licence application should be rejected because further consumption would be excessive.

4. Detriment to our Sunday Services

We will have three church services in St Lawrence Church, which borders the park, on Sunday 5th August 2018. I stood in the church while the 2017 festival was on, and the constant thud-thud-thud noise of the festival filled the church. This noise would ruin our services on that day, from 11am onwards, and this is unacceptable.

Our congregation members usually park in various areas near to the church, which would be unavailable due to the crowds. Granting this licence would effectively be restricting the freedom of our congregation members to practice their faith.

It is also likely, given the behaviour witnessed in 2017, that congregation members may be subjected to antisocial behaviour from festival goers.

5. Ruining a Wedding

We have a wedding booked for the afternoon of 4th August 2018. The noise nuisance of the festival, the behaviour of festival-goers, and the access restrictions will ruin this event for the couple.

The application for a licence should be rejected.

David Heath-Whyte

30th November 2017

Rev. David Heath-Whyte, Team Rector, St Lawrence Church, Morden Parish.

