

**From:** Walsh Mary  
**Sent:** 12 December 2017 13:57  
**To:** Licensing  
**Cc:** MCDONAGH, Siobhain  
**Subject:** application WK/201708658

I am resending my email with additional information, as requested. I trust that you will now be able to accept our representation. Regards, Mary Walsh.

Dear Sirs,

We just cannot believe that the council would be even contemplating allowing another Eastern Electrics Music Festival in Morden Park, yet alone one that will last two days instead of one!

We live in Wolsey Crescent, a matter of meters from the boundary of Morden Park, and yet we had very little forewarning of the event which took place on 5th August 2017. We found out second-hand via "Nextdoor Morden Park". All we had seen was some very small print licensing application tied to the park fence as we drove past and assumed it was for a beer tent at the usual August Bank Holiday park show. As far as we know, nobody in our road was leafleted, although a counsellor friend told me that they had leafleted roads in the St. Helier ward. I complained to our local counsellor, Stan Anderson, and his excuse for the council allowing the event to take place was that the Government had cut funding and the council needed the money. I do not feel that a park bequeathed to the people of Morden by Gilliat Hatfeild should be treated in this way. Local residents were denied access to a large part of the park, not only on the day but for many days either side – and this was a time of school holidays when families could not access their local park. The noise was dreadful, with very loud base beats permeating every part of our existence, so much so that in the end we had no choice but to escape to the Surrey countryside for as long as possible!

The damage to the fabric of the park has lasted months and it would be a travesty to repeat such destruction. We took pictures of the ground weeks afterwards and the area has, to this day, still not recovered fully.

We pay high council tax in this road, but on this occasion we were treated as if we did not matter to the council at all. I have even heard that there was supposed to be an offer of some free tickets, but that didn't even come our way – not that I would have wanted to attend such an event, but it is the principle that counts! Even police and emergency service objections were disregarded by the council.

We were also incensed about the total disregard towards those young couples who had booked their weddings on that weekend at the Registry Office, which is yards from the sound stage, and I know that there is a wedding booked at St. Lawrence church next to the park on 4th August 2018.

Neighbours at the park end of our road had people urinating in their front gardens and I know that many attendees also abused the grounds and graveyard of St. Lawrence church, which I attend. These abuses were reported to the council by Reverend Heath-Whyte in his feedback dated 15th August 2017.

The organisers of the event failed in a number of ways, including disorganised queueing in front of the college (for which I saw they apologised to attendees at a later date, although they made no apologies to local residents for what we went through!) They did not provide sufficient toilet facilities and they did not police enough areas, including the area around the church. There was litter, including empty drinks cans and bottles, nitrous oxide cannisters, food wrappers, and condoms everywhere. The next morning I still saw a lot of litter along the outside of the park fence and also on the grass areas at the bottom end of our road. Someone eventually came along with a sack and cleared up, but it should have been done as the event was taking place. There was a lot of drunken behaviour and, clearly, there was some drug and chemical abuse. I am very concerned about how congregation members are going to manage to attend St. Lawrence on the Sunday if the event is anything like this year!

A young man of our acquaintance was due to attend the event this year, but he changed his mind when he found out that there was going to be a knife contest between a number of young people - basically to see who had the best, and I presume most lethal, knives.

When the event was reported in the local paper it was hailed as a success and not one of the negative effects was mentioned!

Morden Park is for the local people, not for the council to use as a money-making venue!

I have been a labour voter all my voting life, but I will have to seriously consider placing my vote elsewhere should this disregard for residents in our area continue. I will be copying my comments to our local MP.

Yours faithfully,

Mary Walsh

On behalf of Mary, John and Sarah Walsh,