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From: Clare Heath-Whyte
Sent: 11 July 2018 16:18
To: Licensing
Subject: Event in Morden Park

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From:
Clare Heath-Whyte

To the licensing committee

I would like to object to a licence being granted to the Dynamic music festival on 8th September in Morden Park for the following reasons:

1. Public safety. Having spent several hours guarding our driveway (adjacent to Merton College) during the Eastern Electric festival I witnessed behaviour that presented a threat to public safety. Cars were driving at speed down London Road and dropping off festival goers on verges and double yellow lines putting other road users and pedestrians at risk.

Many festival goers were drunk arriving and at times abusive. A friend's dog was threatened with a broken bottle.

As our daughter's wedding reception is taking place on the afternoon of the 8th September at the Rectory, bordering the park it would be possible to guard the driveway as happened last year as wedding guests would need to access the event. Similarly our garden gates would not be secured as guests would need to come in and out of the garden. As last year 2 people were on constant watch preventing people from accessing our property without such precautions the safety of our property and guests would be at risk.

2: Public nuisance. Public urinating and defecating in St Lawrence Churchyard, College carpark and Rectory drive was common at the Eastern Electric festival. Semi nudity and abusive language mid afternoon in a family area. Used condoms in the church porch. Nitrous oxide capsules scattered on the road, bus stop and in the church grounds. Litter overflowing and not collected. With our daughter's wedding, and presumably other ceremonies taking place in the registry office in the park, these inevitable results of large numbers of festival goers in the vicinity are unacceptable.

Noise: Although sound monitors at Eastern Electric deemed the noise in our garden within legal limits, as an average volume is calculated including silent gaps the general volume was dreadful even inside the house. Windows rattled. Outside in a wedding marquee it would be deafening. As a property adjacent to the park we endure music of varying quality from various events during the summer making our garden often unusable at weekends. The noise is often clearly heard up to half a mile away.

Last year Eastern Electric took place on 1 day. This year it is 2 days. To sneak in another event so soon after with the notice time taking place when many are on holiday is too much. Quite rightly the Merton Green spaces page says an event of more than 5000 people needs at least 6 months notice. This is for good reason. Eastern Electric had that amount of notice and there were still mistakes made. With under 2 months to plan in a new area and venue all the above problems would be more likely to occur. Also other events have already been planned - weddings and the fun run in the park. We specifically checked that there were no events connected to the college or the park on the 8th September several months ago to make sure that these problems did not arise. Lead times are there for a good reason. Merton licensing committee risks losing the trust of the local community if it bends rules for large external organisations and does not listen the concerns of those who live and work here.

Workers at the Travelodge and Harvester adjacent to the park had bad experiences last year. The Travelodge manager has said she will have to add extra security for these events to maintain the safety of guests.

Generally people in Morden have learned not to complain as they believe it achieves nothing. That is a sad indictment of the democratic process.