

From: Andrew Palfreyman
Sent: 30 July 2018 09:18
To: Licensing
Subject: Dynamic Festival application, 8/9/18, WK/201803623

30th July 2018

Dear Sir / Madam

Reference WK/201803623

Music Festival Application: Dynamic Festival, 8th Sept 2018

I am writing with respect to the above music festival application and have reservations.

I am not against the idea of a music festival in the park as such, despite living in earshot of Morden Park, but more on the effects upon on the property within the local community.

Last year there was a music festival. With respect to my church, St. Lawrence, people were using the churchyard and the driveway up to two houses, including that of our rector, as a toilet. Many people dropped bottles of drink in the churchyard, which as you realise is situated on the main road, London Road. A number of nitrous oxide bottles were also found around the lych-gate (our war memorial), and used condoms were found behind the porch as well. (This would seem to imply that the graveyard was being used for sexual activity.)

Aside from the offence of church property being used in this manner, it would seem to me that festival organisers, and Merton Council if they were to grant permission, have a duty to ensure both that adequate toilet and rubbish facilities are provided (which to be honest I expect they are) and that the local area is cleared of rubbish afterwards with respect to those who decide not to make use of such facilities.

I can understand that the Council wish to promote music festivals as such as a good thing, and will be in favour of the economic benefits that such festivals bring. However, with this comes the responsibility to protect the area. This would include the social cost of clearing the area afterwards and any policing necessary to deter anti-social behaviour, which was reported last time.

Given the poor results last year, our church has organised a rota of 'stewards' with respect to our churchyard for another festival on 4th and 5th August to try to deter such anti-social behaviour. If permission were to go ahead for Dynamic Festival on 8th September, such voluntary protection would seem to be needed again.

Frankly, local organisations should not need to make plans like this to cover the social costs that belong to others. The festival organisers, in this case MJMK promoters, and the Council need to ensure that sufficient planning is put into place to minimise offence and disturbance in the local area, which should include teams that clear the area afterwards. If this cannot be guaranteed I would request that such festivals are turned down until such social infrastructure can be put in place.

Yours faithfully
Andrew Palfreyman
(St Lawrence church member)

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