

From: katieheath-whyte  
Sent: 06 July 2018 12:42  
To: Licensing  
Subject: Dynamic Festival 08/09/18 - Complete with Address Details

Dear Mr Barry Croft and the Licensing Team,

I am writing to object to the proposed music festival due to take place on the 8th September this year. I am a resident of Morden and live just outside Morden Park, and am holding my wedding reception in The Rectory garden (just behind the park) on this very date.

The council website advises 'at least 3 months in advance for small events (up to 500 people) and much longer (at least 6 months) if you are hosting a large event (over 5000 people)'. This festival will be an event for over 5,000 people, and has applied for a date only 2 months away. This brings up many problems, not least of all the fact that it gives barely any notice for local residents. Of course, I would not have organised my wedding for the 8th September in my family garden if I knew 6 months ago that a techno festival would be taking place just next door!

It will not only be my family and our guests that will suffer if this event takes place on this date, as I know that a charity mud race for Cancer Research is also due to take place that same weekend. Although this is booked for the 9th September, I am sceptical that by 10.30am the day after the festival, all litter will be able to be removed and the site will be safe for children to run around in. Local parks exist for enjoyment by families and the community, and events like the Mud Run, initially started in Morden by a resident who had recovered from cancer, should be encouraged - not put off by large external events.

The Eastern Electrics festival that took place last year caused significant disruption to the area around Morden Park, including semi-naked attendees urinating in our driveway and in front of Manor House Care Home, and defecating in St Lawrence Church graveyard. It posed a security threat to our house and to the surrounding buildings - the care home had to use one of the festival's security barriers to prevent festival attendees from coming near to the home and threatening staff.

Alcohol and substance abuse was also very evidently rife during Eastern Electrics, and the area around our house was littered by condoms and nitrous oxide capsules after the event.

I hope you will agree that the idea of a similar festival taking place on the same day as my wedding reception is very upsetting. We have already spent several thousand pounds on arrangements for the day and there is no chance that another venue could be arranged at this short notice. Around 200 guests will be travelling to Morden for the day, including several from abroad, who will be staying at the Travelodge. I had hoped for these guests to enjoy visiting the place

that I am proud to live in, and not have to put up with loud noise and disruptive behaviour from festival-goers.

It is my hope that Merton Council will listen to these very valid concerns from a Morden resident, and not set a precedent for other large companies to take advantage of parks meant for residents to enjoy once they realise that Council guidance such as notice periods are not taken seriously.

The Council is able to withhold use of public grounds for various reasons, several of which I believe apply to events of this nature:

- 'that the event is likely to be proved to be of an objectionable or undesirable nature, or could cause an unacceptable level of disturbance to other users of the ground or surrounding residential or commercial properties.'
- 'The Council is of the reasonable opinion that the event may significantly disrupt the enjoyment of the ground by the general public.'

I would love to enjoy what is meant to be the best day of my life, in my family garden and in the area of Morden I love. I trust that you will do all that you can to help me in this.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Heath-Whyte