

From: David French
Sent: 11 July 2018 14:57
To: Licensing
Subject: Re Application Reference WK/201803623

Dear Sir/ Madam

We are Merton residents and live next door to Morden Park.

We wish to object in the strongest possible terms to a license being granted for the Diynamic music festival to take place in the park on Saturday 8th September 2018.

Re Application Reference WK/201803623

We have written to Siobhain McDonagh to express our concerns and await her reply.

The festival was originally due to be held over two days, 8/9 September in North Greenwich. The organisers now wish to condense the event into one day, with increased capacity and "two stages" as they are cramming all the booked performers into the one day.

We are very concerned with the escalation of these types of event in Morden Park. Last year the Eastern Electric music festival was extremely disruptive locally and was not policed or stewarded at all well. It is a national sized event with people coming from all over the south of England. It seems it is now going to be an annual event in Morden Park and of course is taking place this year on 4/5 August. We have lived next door to the park for over 30 years and the disruption and noise caused by this one event last year was unprecedented. The litter and mess created and the anti-social behaviour of a significant minority of the festival goers was alarming to say the least. There were incidences of public disorder in Morden town centre as well as around the park area.

We may have to live with that event but imagine our dismay now that we have heard of a similar large scale music festival looking for a home. This will not be a one of. If it works well from the festival's point of view, it, like the Eastern Electric event will wish to return year after year.

We are not against the park being used for festivals and smaller scale music events. It is a wonderful facility with the purpose built stage and we have been to many events and indeed taken part in some as local professional musicians. So we are not saying an across the board "not in my backyard". It is the huge scale of these now increasing number of events that concerns us. September 8th is not school summer holidays, it is during term time. Young children will have restarted regular Saturday activities, for instance using the swimming pool. We ourselves do home tutoring which will have started on that day and are genuinely concerned that our young students and their parents will be at best seriously inconvenienced by possible disruption. At the Eastern Electric festival last year we had great difficulty getting in and out of our property and there were incidents of drunken behaviour, verbal abuse, litter and loitering in St Lawrence Church yard and surrounding our home.

The organisers of Diynamic music festival are looking for a new home. Does it have to be Morden Park with housing all around when it is already going to be the venue of a major music festival just one month before? We realise that offering a license to this festival will bring in

significant remuneration for the council but at what cost to the environment and local residents?
To police these events properly is also going to be expensive.

As a council, can you please take local residents wishes into account. We know others share our concerns and may yet write to you on this. We really do not want Merton Council to grant this license for yet another large scale music festival in the park when up to only two years ago there were none.

Sincerely,

David & Vivienne French