

Agenda Item 7

Change.org petition to Merton Council: A selection of comments from the **610** people who have signed the petition so far.

"I am getting married on the same day, and having my reception in my family garden which is just next to Morden Park. The noise in the garden was horrendous during the Eastern Electrics festival and I'm very upset at the prospect of this happening on my wedding day! Thanks Lorna for creating this petition!"

"I'm signing because it seems unfair that couples getting married that day were not made aware of the plans for a festival at the time of making their arrangements. They cannot now change their plans - please find another venue for the festival so that everyone has a great day."

"It's not suitable for a residential community and the last one was extremely disruptive"

"I don't want my weekend disturbed.... And my niece's wedding day ruined!"

"It's so unfair to couples who have booked their weddings with no clue that this was on the cards. There's no compassion or thoughts on how this affects everyone's special day which has been planned and paid for. No amount of money can compensate for this appalling act of selfishness. We will all remember our ceremonies for the wrong reason. Once again Merton constituents suffer."

"This is so unfair on these couples"

"It is unfair and to offer a refund is insulting. You must know the time, effort and money it takes to organise a wedding."

"This is not fair. The venue should have been closed in advance."

"I'm all for festivals but it's ridiculous that, of all the suitable venues in London for a dance and house festival, the council allow it to happen in the middle of a residential area. Eastern Electric Festival kept my daughter awake and nobody in the immediate area could escape the decibels. It needs to move to a proper music venue such as Knebworth or Milton Keynes - but I suppose an unsuspecting little park in Morden saves the pennies for the organisers and makes the money for the council doesn't it?"

"It's a residential community and a similar festival last year ended up being super disruptive. They should choose a different location - it's not fair to the community and all the couples who are getting married."

"I am due to be a guest at a wedding & staying in the adjacent Travel Lodge over the wedding weekend. I am 80 years old & am worried by both noise & safety walking to & from the hotel."

"My friend is getting married right by the park and it would completely ruin the day. She planned this day over 6 months ago!"

"It's a residential area! These sorts of festivals should not be happening here!!!"

"They have spent a lot of money after saving so hard only for their day to be spoiled by unwanted noise, music and people. Please listen to this young couple. thanks"

"I have a friend getting married that day and, with enough notice, they would not have chosen to clash with a loud festival, but as things stand they cannot possibly change so the day will be spoiled."

"People shouldn't be finding out there'll be a musical festival on at the same time of their wedding when it's too late to change!"

"They should have made you aware. We hear this festival and we live about a 15 month walk so will be horrendous on your wedding"

"There was enough noise and disgusting behaviour with the EE festival. Also that poor couple it's a disgrace the way they are being treated."

"Shocking disregard for the people of Merton by allowing these festivals with little thought or care for disruption caused.

The disgusting mess left by the EE patrons last weekend was unnecessary and left for us locals to "enjoy" long after they were home and tucked up in bed.

I got married in Morden Park registry office years ago we have lovely photos in the park, that will not be possible for these couples booked for 8 Sept. I feel for them Don't do it Merton!!"

"Poor planning to permit this festival close to a public space clearly dedicated for weddings...."

"I really hope they don't have their special days ruined please please help!!"

"It's disgraceful that Merton Council can be so callous on a Bride and Grooms Big Day"

"I cannot stand another weekend of that horrendous racket. Also this poor couple will have their special day ruined."

"Really hope the petition is successful , especially for Katie's wedding ❤️👍 Our daughter , Grace, is a friend of theirs & has been looking forward to it for ages. We're all really upset and concerned for the family who have worked so hard to put on a wedding reception at home only to be ruined by a local festival . There are so many other festivals which have been organised well in advance that people can go to this summer !"

"The event will impinge on two weddings already arranged right next to it. As the festival will negatively affect two pre-existing events, it should not go ahead."

"As a Morden resident I think it is bang out of order to go ahead with festivals, 1, without checking if any weddings are going in and ruining people's big days, and 2, not giving local residence prior notice"

"It's unfair and people should be told in advance so they can re-arrange the day."

"I think it is too short notice for the couple to change their arrangements"

"I live some way away from Morden Park and could hear the last festival music loudly for hours. I felt VERY sorry for anyone living nearby. It would certainly have a ruinous impact on weddings."

"It's a shame to spoil a couples day"

"The organisers should have applied for this festival to go ahead at least a year ago, as did the people getting married . That way everyone would have known and could have arranged accordingly. I live up by the A3 slip road to Malden way roundabout and heard the Electra music last weekend. That was too much for me. How the locals nearest to it put up with it I don't know. We know councils like to make money but not at the expense of the residents. Festivals like this should be away from residential communities. Some people work shifts and were probably trying to sleep and those that weren't were trying to enjoy a peaceful sunny weekend."

"Morden park should not run two different types of events on the same day. The noise level in such a built up area is not acceptable"

"Im signing as a local resedent and dog walker who uses the area every day 365 days a year.

I.love music , i want to keep it live , i go to venues and festivles .

BUT this is not a festival venue this is a park in a high residential area . We have had to endure the festival destroying our park and parking for Wimbledon yet again destroying our green sight , now this .

Who in Metton is getting back hands to let these events go ahead .

We are the residents , we have a say .

And we say NO !”

“I’m signing because no one deserves their wedding day ruined and a 12-hour rave will most certainly do that. The last rave was so loud it could be heard from 3 miles away, so let’s consider people who want to enjoy themselves on one of the most important days of their lives.”

“The noise is ridiculous. It’s a residential area. It’s not appropriate here.”

“Feel really sorry for any couple getting married with this festival going . The noise was unacceptable . No consideration has been given to residents and this couple should have been given due warning as I’m sure they would have chosen another date .”

“The council should of applied for permission sooner and their actions have potentially caused at least 2 families a lot of stress. Please reconsider.”

“I just hope all those people who booked a wedding for that day have been informed of this rave occurring. Alternatively, if the council are allowing this type of event then the registry should be closed for that day.”

“Unfair on the couple getting married.”

“The noise was deafening”

“This will be the second music festival of the year at this venue. If the noise is at the same level as the one in August, couples looking for a romantic wedding will be very disappointed. Sadly I think Merton council are more interested in making money than being decent.”

“Katie's wedding celebrations, planned for ages, will be messed up by this festival. Morden Park is a completely inappropriate space for these large events.”

“It’s really poor planning from the council to do this and even worse to notify people who had booked weddings in. Someone at the council needs to be made accountable for this.”

“This is disgraceful / you need to consider anything else that might be happening at a venue (particularly people’s weddings !!!!!) before you agree to something that will cause so much disruption!”

“It’s a joke no respect for the residents”

“I’m all for music festivals but in a venue that’s away from residential properties. It’s not just the aftermath of the event but the lack of respect toward local folk who may have things planned which a music festival could effect/spoil.”

“Lets hope they see reason and get the festival cancelled for this year. Then get them to apply for one next year,giving everyone the chance to object!”

“This is utterly unacceptable on one of the most important day of someone’s life. Totally monetary driven!!!”

“Wedding comes before festival”

“Very unfair”

“This is so unfair to couples who had no prior knowledge of this event.”

“Come on we have had one festival & the park is on a hill & the sounds carries for miles! It’s ridiculous how evasive it is - go & have these festivals in a wide open space that doesn’t effect anyone! Also if people have booked weddings unbeknown to them about them festival it is so out of order. It must be cancelled.”

“Morden need to start listening to us!”

“Its a disgrace. Spoiling couples special day.”

“There’s a responsibility on Morden Council to forewarn this couple. Merton Council failed in that responsibility. I’d be interested in a comparative study of the levels of college & higher education levels achieved by Merton staff & managers, compared to neighbouring boroughs. Lower, I very much suspect.”

“Couples book their weddings a long time in advance and should have been given warning that this event was happening then they could have chosen whether to go ahead or choose a different date. Surely the festival organisers must do the same - book a year or more in advance”

“Morden Park is in the heart of a quiet residential area and not the kind of place to be holding festivals of this magnitude.”

“A wedding can take years to prepare and save up for. Cost a lot of money and is a once in a lifetime Opportunity. When these couple booked they were not made aware of the festival so they could make an informed decision to book their date or an alternative.”

“The last festival was a major disruption to my levels of anxiety. It was an horrendous weekend and I am very upset that residents do not seem to be considered”