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## MEMORANDUM

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To: Democratic Services

From: Andrew Pickup, Principal Environmental Health Practitioner

Tel: 020 8545 3887

Date: 29 January 2018

**LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HEARING – 30 JANUARY 2019  
BLUE BOX EVENTS LTD  
EASTERN ELECTRICS, MORDEN PARK**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE LICENSING HEARING FOR  
EASTERN ELECTRICS**

I refer to my representation, dated 3rd December 2018 relating to the licence application to hold a dance music festival in Morden Park. My initial comments were based on the application submitted at the time which was a 3 day festival and up to 30,000 attendees. No details of noise control measures were submitted with the initial application.

The use of open space should be available to all including festival events bringing levels of diversity into the Borough of Merton, but this should still be subject to some limitations to provide a suitable degree of protection for residents who have likely lived in the area for some time who are not expecting to be unduly disrupted during their own leisure period.

Following the amendment to the application, which has resulted in a reduction of the duration of the festival it is likely there will be a lesser impact than the 3-day event. It seems appropriate to adjust the noise criteria slightly from those initially suggested whilst still providing a good degree of protection for residents in close proximity to Morden Park and further afield.

I have discussed the noise issues arising from last years' festival with the organisers and the level of complaints that had been received by the Council. We requested that a suitable and workable Noise Management Plan was produced prior to the sub-committee hearing. This has now been undertaken.

The Noise Management Plan is a working document that has a main objective about how and by who the noise is monitored and managed, together with how complaints are handled, recorded and actioned.

The noise management plan allows for flexibility in measurement locations and these will be agreed prior to the event and could be dependent of weather conditions but we would expect these to include locations close to residential properties.

The noise levels contained in the Noise Management Plan are lower than the previous event, which was an important factor to ensure a reduction in the impact the festival has on residents. The average target level is 65dB(A) when measured over a 15 minute period with a maximum of 70dB(A), and a low frequency target level of 85dB at 63Hz at which point further investigation is required and any possible action carried out to meet this level. Following the draft submission of the Noise Management Plan, which was reviewed, Environmental Health provided feedback requesting amendments and these have been included in the final version of the noise plan which is now acceptable to Environmental Health. The plan is attached as Appendix 1.

In summary, the plan largely incorporates the conditions outlined in my initial representation but allows some slight flexibility on noise levels given the reduced event duration.

Staff from Environmental Health would be present at the event to monitor compliance with the Noise Management Plan and undertaking noise assessments.

I would recommend that, if granted, the following conditions are placed on the licence;

- 1) The Noise Management Plan, which incorporates details of resources, monitoring strategy, noise levels, monitoring sites, sound attenuation at each 'venue', noise and sound system management together with Local Authority liaison and complaint handling shall be implemented and adhered to throughout the duration of the event.
- 2) Noise levels monitored should applied one metre from the façade of the nearest noise sensitive premises.
- 3) The organisers for the festival to take full responsibility for the setting up and management of the noise hotline which must be available throughout the event.
- 4) Amplified music for the event shall not be permitted outside the hours of 11:00 to 22:30 Saturday and 11:00 to 22:00 on Sunday with the exception of sound tests.

In addition and to provide some comparison or perspective on the levels, a few examples are provided on the chart in Appendix 2.

Appendix 3 shows noise limits at other festivals. The shows Morden Park having the lowest.

Andrew Pickup  
Principal Environmental Health Practitioner

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