

6 June 2022 **Additional information from Mill Hill Preservation Society (Final Version)**

Reply to email of 27 May 2022 from Elisabeth Hammond [Elisabeth.Hammond@Barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Elisabeth.Hammond@Barnet.gov.uk)

including response to Mr Agombar of Viking Events

As this is sent 9 working days before the hearing on 16 June, please could you circulate it to all parties.

Dear Elisabeth Hammond,

Thank you for forwarding Mr Agombar's response to our objection. We really appreciate his attempts to address our concerns. It would have been helpful to have these points made part of the public announcement of the licence application, as well as a poll of the local residents to judge local feelings. In this sense, a public hearing is appropriate.

#### **A. Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

We are reassured about the recruited management team, the security teams and cooperation with the police. However, with past experience in Trent Park, similar measures were insufficient to persuade local residents, as few improvements were made from one year's event to the next.

#### **B. Public Safety - Waste management and litter**

We are pleased to read about the litter management plan and would like to see the litter picking plan/ map. Would there be litter bins that are used? Videos of past festivals at Trent Park show that the grass underfoot was full of litter:

[51st State Festival 2016 @ Trent Park - YouTube](#) [51st State Festival - YouTube](#)

#### **C. Prevention of Public Nuisance**

##### *Exclusion of regular users*

It can be concluded from Mr Agombar's response that because the event is making use of the Power League car park, the regular Power League users will be discouraged from coming for that weekend. The cricket players will certainly be excluded from their Copthall Fields site. We assume that the 'build and break' mentioned refers to setting and dismantling the facilities, which is bound to take one or more days either side of the event, and will exclude 50% of the site from regular users.

##### *Parking*

We are pleased to read about the planned shuttle service to and from the two local stations.

Greenlands Lane is 600m long from end to end, and no more than 3 cars wide. With cars parked on both sides, the 1200m available will only allow the 800 cars 1.5 m each, which is less than the length of an average car, let alone allowing space to manoeuvre. A detailed map for the 800 spaces would be appreciated.

### *Toilets*

The total number of toilet units Mr Agombar mentions is greater than the minimum number of 132 specified by a [www.andyloos.co.uk](http://www.andyloos.co.uk) (which we considered in our objection as too few). There is only one 'trailer' mentioned, which is a type of 'luxury' toilets with a bank of sinks. The vast majority of the toilets appear to be single-module units, which are unlikely to have a sink in them, and most probably just a hand-sanitiser.

The Purple Guide Mr Agombar mentions is a subscription-only publication made by the events industry [The Purple Guide](#) - it is not issued by the government and is not accessible to the Mill Hill Preservation Society.

### *Noise*

Mr Agombar's response does not mention any decibel limits and at which distances they apply. We are pleased to hear that the decibel levels will be monitored and recorded. A level of general sound above 70 dB is known to cause annoyance. However the annoyance threshold for low frequencies which are a large part of amplified music, is considerably lower at around 60 dB

[\(PDF\) Low frequency noise and annoyance \(researchgate.net\)](#) . Personal experience has shown that sound levels are very rarely adjusted once an event is in progress.

### *Contacting Local Residents*

Mr Agombar states that *"We have had a number of local residents contact us with positive feedback on the event, along with requests for tickets"*. It would be valuable for us to see which streets were contacted and all the feedback responses received.

I have spoken to some residents of the closest streets (Featherstone Road, Tithe Walk) and they were not leafleted or consulted. It appears that the event has been widely advertised in advance of the licence being agreed, which seems extraordinary, and suggests that this is a fait accompli. None of this gives confidence in the proper governance of consultation processes.

### **Conclusion**

These large events represent a commercialisation and appropriation of public green space which affects thousands of residents, especially if the events are more than a one-off occurrence. There are purpose-built sites for this types of event, such as the Wembley Arena and the O2 Center, where the sound is contained and all the facilities and transport are already provided.

Therefore, given our concerns, the unspecified public consultation, and the fact that these events could come back every year, it would seem fair that the licence application is given a public hearing.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth Silver

For the Mill Hill Preservation Society

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