

Objections to the application - Annexe 5

Cllr Ann McShee

I have been contacted by a number of residents in Worplesdon, particularly those in Perry Hill, expressing their concerns about this event.

Amongst the concerns are:

- 1.The level of noise that will be generated by the event.
- 2.Possible lack of policing to prevent parking in Coombe Lane, other local roads and the car park at Worplesdon Memorial Hall.
- 3.Concern for the animals that reside at Merrist Wood due to the noise levels.
- 4.A similar event was held last year and the level of noise all day and during the evening was very disruptive to local residents, especially those with young children.

The Merrist Wood event co-ordinator wrote to a Parish Councillor apologising for the bass levels of the music.

- 5.Residents are concerned that the event will go on for too long and suggest that it finishes at 22.30 with the music finishing at 22.00

If a sub-committee is held to discuss this event, would it be possible for a Worplesdon councillor to be in attendance?

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Mrs Susan Lukey

To whom it may concern,

I am unhappy about this proposed music festival,

Firstly, these sort of events create a large amount of noise pollution. Fairlands is a quiet residential estate and this festival will cause a nuisance in our peacefully environment and is very close to us..I feel it is totally inappropriate.

There is also the problem that this may set a precedence for future and possibly larger events.

Secondly, these kind of large gatherings create large amount of litter, One has only to look at the enormous amount of chaos and rubbish left behind at similar events.

Thirdly, we have experienced a number of breakins recently and feel that an extra 5000 people in the immediate area is a risk. There is also the prospect of large amounts of traffic and pollution.

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John Lukey

I wish to object to this proposed event in the strongest terms.

Fairlands Estate is a quiet rural community. We enjoy peaceful surrounding which we value in this World of ever increasing noise of traffic and pollution of one sort or another

Fairlands is home to a large number of retired people who moved here because of the quiet surroundings. These people are not likely to be welcoming a large crowd of 5000 people especially when alcohol is served. Nor are they likely to enjoy the style of music that are played at this sort of venue. There is also the likelihood of crime and disorder Recently we as a community has experienced a number of breakins, and would not want to have so many outsiders Fueled up with drink over a period of two days

I can't say how dissapointed I am that the council would even consider having this event inview of the aggravation it caused to a lot of people last year !

Yours faithfully.

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Gaynor White

Worplesdon Parish Council wishes to object to the proposal to hold a live music festival in the main field of Merrist Wood College on the 3rd and 4th June 2022, on the basis of noise, perception of security, excessive time for the sale of alcohol and the provision of music.

Should the borough council be minded to approve the application, Worplesdon Parish Council wishes to request the following conditions be applied:

1. The sale of alcohol must be strictly limited to 10.30pm.
2. That steps be taken to limit the decibel levels ([as per the advice of the HSE](#)) to prevent distress to local residents and to prevent hearing damage to those attending the event.

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Mary Fuller

As an elderly resident in Fairlands, I am concerned on several fronts about the Festival.

1. fAmplified music Friday until ?? and Saturday until 11.00pm, when I and my husband, who suffers from Alzheimer's are trying to get some sleep.

2. If alcohol is being served until 1.00 am, there may be at least some unruly behaviour and noise then, even if the music has stopped.

3. There have been several incidents in Fairlands of break-ins and suspicious behaviour plus warnings to lock up carefully at night or when in the garden etc.

Our back garden has a gate which leads directly to the roundabout and could be an easy access to our premises.

4. We would be interested to know what kind of policing will be put in place.

Finally, we are not against music or people having a good time, but we would ask that the hours should be shortened please,, and to be reassured that things will not get out of hand..

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Ms Barbara Benn

Hello,

I am writing to register my objections to the proposed music festival at Merrist Wood Agricultural College over the extra bank holiday weekend. We live in Thatchers Lane which backs on to Merrist Wood and the residents are made up predominantly of pensioners or families with young children. This proposal will cause a lot of disruption to our sleep with the noise from the venue and also the amount of cars expected will probably mean our road will be blocked where there are currently not enough spaces for our own vehicles.

Whilst I am happy for daytime celebrations over the Jubilee weekend I am opposed to anything which causes noise pollution late into the evening.

Yours sincerely Barbara F Benn

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Jenny Bower

I wish to strongly object to the above event on basis of;

Public Nuisance

There will be an invasion of 5000 visitors but without military amour over the above two days with many staying overnight for 2 nights. This is asking for trouble between residents and party goers going on into the early hours of the morning over two days. Never has this happened before in the history of Worplesdon.

I live within 400 yards of the planned festival premises and it was bad enough last year when only 1000 thousand attended a similar event. Merrist Wood are incompetent of organising this type of event as agreed by them after last years fiasco. Thats why they have passed total responsibility to those who run Shynefest whoever they are !

The noise from such an event will travel straight across to my house and many other residences, like it did last year. I am led to believe that there are well over a HUNDRED houses that are sited within a comparitively short distance to where the event is planned to take place. On a still summers evening the noise will be horrendous for so many local people. Noise at night travels long distances across what is a very FLAT terraine...

The proposed public drinking up to 1.00am on both nights does not bear thinking about. The alcohol licence should be stopped before 10.00pm at the latest particularly with YOUNG families in proximity.

No doubt those attending will be walking around the surrounding area during day and night and quite possibly become a public nuisance. What chance would I have to listen to my own Jubilee music when it will be drowned out by the even louder noise from the Shynefest music.

It will be complete madness to approve the licensing request in its current form.

Public Security/Safety

Shynefest have not so far considered this issue. There is no way I would be prepared to leave my house over these two two days for fear of it being vandalised by drunken louts in the early hours of the morning on both the Friday and the Saturday nights...

I live in an otherwise quiet lane leading into Merrist Wood which will be inundated with people wanting to get in or out of the festival and within a few yards of my front door. I intend to have a broom stick to hand just in case inebriated people are walking around late at night with nothing else better to do than to look for trouble. The Glastonbury Festival is in the middle of nowhere compared to the 100 or so residences local to the Shynefest Merrist Wood Festival.

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I live in green belt, conservation area surrounded by trees and homes of like minded people. It is ridiculous for Merrist Wood to ever consider agreeing to hold such an event in such a residential area of outstanding beauty.

Coombe Lane is a private road used only for access to Merrist Wood by FOOT. There is parking space in Coombe Lane for residents only, so you can imagine that unless a barrier is erected at the entrance to Coombe Lane then any old Tom Dick or Harry will park down our lane preventing access for emergency vehicles etc as the lane is only wide enough for one car. Incidentally our lane is bordered by common land which is the responsibility of the local parish council. It is prohibited to park cars on such common land.

Many "sat navs" send drivers down our lane in error so I want you to imagine caravans, campavans etc having to turnaround on a single track road. It does not bear thinking about. Shynefest have not got a clue about our local neighbourhood and the impact of its festival on local residents like myself. I guess I speak on behalf of 12 houses linked to Coombe Lane who will be directly effected by the day and night comings and goings over such a long period of time.

I am truly scared about the consequences of holding this event over such a long period of time and with such excessive drinking hours. I will personally hold the regulatory authorities responsible in the event of any trouble/unrest arising in such a residential area.

Again you must refuse this application in view of the extended licencing times and the public nuisance caused by the noise arising over such a long period of time.

Perhaps your council could arrange for the supply of noise monitors before the start of the event so as to ensure the statutory limits are not exceeded ?

Regards,

Jenny Bower

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Roger Bower

I wish to object to the above event planned to take place on 3/4th June.

Public Nuisance

Do we want a Glastonbury type music festival in a residential neighbourhood ?

The event held last year on Merrist Wood premises got completely out of control as admitted by the management of Merrist Wood who said they would not allow a similar event again. They have now broken that promise and support an even larger and longer event to be held on their property ! Last year was for one afternoon and late evening !

Did you know that there are over 150 residences within the noise proximity of Merrist Wood ?

Can you imagine what 5000 people will do when many will be drunk and disorderly or drugged out of their minds over a 48 hour period whilst camping onsite with nothing much more to do than to listen to music in the evenings ?

The noise generated last year meant that many local residents could not sleep even with their doors and windows closed. The noise was so invasive that there was nowhere to hide. And that was for only one day.

The proposed licensing hours are far in excess of needs for such a so-called family event. It is just a way of maximising their profits without due care for those residents in close proximity.

Merrist Wood has the welfare responsibility for many animals but unfortunately the animals cannot answer for any distress that they might feel from loud noise over a long period of time. Clearly Merrist Wood puts money before care of such animals.

Public Safety

How can over 2000 + vans, cars, caravans, camper vans etc arrive much the same time on a Friday afternoon and gain access via ONE narrow entrance to Merrist Wood without causing a huge traffic jam. And then a similar problem on the Sunday morning !

Not sure what arrangements have been made for any visitors becoming ill with limited access for ambulances etc.

This could become a great disaster without due planning and diligence.

Where will blame be apportioned if your council grants permission and something goes wrong in what will be the biggest event in the history of Merrist Wood and Guildford Borough.

Fifteen residents live in Coombe Lane which provides a footpath into Merrist Wood. There is nothing to stop caravans etc parking in Coombe Lane which is a private lane, either side of which is common land where it is forbidden to park cars etc unless for residents use.

*A temporary manned barrier must be erected at the top of Coombe Lane to stop visitors and their transport from entering. However Merrist Wood have passed responsibility to Shynefest who know little or nothing about access via Coombe Lane. This has all the makings of another complete disaster

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for the residents of Coombe Lane. It could turn violent if local residents try to stop cars etc entering Coombe Lane...

Security

We need to know about how the event is going to be policed with so many people attending ?

What will happen in the event of a fight with so many drunk young people in close proximity to each other. Drinking past midnight is going to fuel a lot of rowdy behaviour.

Are you going to rely on a 999 call ?

Don't forget more than a thousand young people will be in attendance from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning...

As I have said before Merrist Wood has abdicated any responsibility.

PLEASE REFUSE THIS LICENCE NOT LEAST BECAUSE IT WILL CREATE A PRECEDENT FOR OTHER SUCH EVENTS TO BE HELD AT THE SAME VENUE AND IN A LARGELY RESIDENTIAL AREA

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Patricia Powell

Dear Sir/Madam

I must write to say how dismayed we are to hear that the above event will be visited by 5,000 with music being blared out over the two days we and our neighbours will want to be celebrating our Queen's Jubilee with family BBQs and maybe street parties.

Last year the beat created by the music penetrated our whole house, vibrating the foundations, we just could not escape it. Merrist Wood wrote a letter promising it would not happen again and that time only 1,000 attended.

We live in Coombe Lane which has pedestrian access to Merrist Wood and we are obviously very concerned that so many young people will be wandering about having been drinking and probably, sadly, taking drugs. We are relying on the College to put a barrier at the end of our lane otherwise we could have dozens of vehicles trying to access the College via our lane. This happened when a Girl Guide event took place a few years ago and caused mayhem with cars taking our Lane thinking that they could access the College, sent down here by Sat Navs.

The distress caused to the many animals at Merrist Wood is another factor, I do not think it is appropriate for a so-called "Agricultural College", whose aim surely is to protect the Countryside and livestock, to hold such an event.

Parking is inadequate for that amount of visitors and public transport very limited at the best of times, let alone over what is a Bank Holiday.

Crime and disorder is another aspect we are afraid will be inevitable with so many revellers which will need a lot of Police and Ambulance attending the event, therefore costs incurred.

Please take this seriously as the Queen's Jubilee is an event we all have right to look forward to celebrating and we will be dreading the noise and disruption we will undoubtedly experience.

Many thanks

Yours faithfully

Patricia Powell

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Chrissy Fuller

Dear Sir/Madam.

I am writing to raise my objections to the shine fest Merrist wood music festival due to take place on June 3-4 2022. I am currently living with my two elderly parents, one of whom has Alzheimer's. To hear that there will be amplified music starting at 5 pm on Friday, all day Saturday through till 11 pm is causing me anxiety about how they will cope. My father is particularly sensitive to sound and is easily distressed by loud noises. Further to this we also find out that alcohol is going to be served until 1 am on Sunday. I would especially like to object to this as how can this happen when the music stops at 11 pm the previous evening. This does not make sense as people will not be behaving in a quiet manner when served alcohol until this time. I'm sure you can understand this and maybe it was an error on the flyer which we received about this festival. In addition to this we have elderly neighbours who are equally upset by loud noises.

On another point, the crime rate in this area has been going up quite alarmingly recently with more reports of burglaries and suspicious people hanging around the area. I feel that this festival could encourage this kind of behaviour.

I do not object to people having a good time in a safe space and appreciate that after all this time in lockdown, a music festival could be a good place to do this. However I would ask you to consider the hours suggested, the noise level for the amplified music to be carefully monitored and for the alcohol to be served until 10 pm at the very latest on Saturday. Our flyer does not tell us what time the event goes through on to on Friday evening either which is an additional concern. Our bungalow backs onto the main road opposite Merrist wood and has a gate leading out to the road so this is a particular concern for us if this event is held at Merrist wood. I would like to know what kind of security measures you are putting in place for this festival if it does go ahead.

I do hope you will take my comment seriously as I believe I speak on behalf of many in my road and indeed area.

Kind regards

Chrissy

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Robin Cull

Hello

I am writing to object against the proposed ShyneFest Merrist Wood Music Festival due to be held on 3rd & 4th June 2022 at Merrist Wood College, Worplesdon.

Merrist Wood College is a wholly unsuitable venue for an event of this type and magnitude. A similar event last year was a significant public noise nuisance. We made multiple complaints to a Merrist Wood College events coordinator who promised to take action but none was. Very loud, bass-heavy music played all afternoon until late at night. It was obtrusive, unabating and rendered my house and garden unusable and uncomfortable to my pregnant wife, toddler and myself.

I also fear a danger to public safety, during the aforementioned event last year my wife (who was heavily pregnant at the time) was verbally abused and physically threatened at Merrist Wood College by event security staff ("bouncers") and attendees when she walked onsite to see what was happening after the music started. A complaint was made again to Merrist Wood College events coordinators.

It is well recognised that large music events are magnets for drink and drug abuse with associated crime and disorder. Worplesdon and Fairlands, the two closest and most affected villages, are small, safe, family friendly communities. An influx of 5000 potentially disorderly partygoers is a recipe for disaster.

The best outcome is to prevent this event entirely. If it is unavoidable I must object to these particular aspects of the licence application:

- Amplified music until 11PM on consecutive nights is totally unacceptable. 9PM is adequately late for a "family friendly" festival, it's not supposed to be a rave.
- Similarly, an 11AM start on Saturday morning is too early. This could lead to up to 12 hours of amplified music which would be intolerable. The permissible start time must be much later. 5PM as on Friday evening is more acceptable.
- A 1AM licence for serving alcohol is ludicrous. This is two hours after the planned end of the amplified music and will drive noise and disturbance well into the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings. Continuing to serve alcohol one hour after an earlier end time to amplified music, say until 10PM, is acceptable.

I hope you will take local objections very seriously and prevent this unwelcome event. If nothing else the terms of the licence must be significantly curtailed over what has been proposed.

Kind regards

Robin Cull

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Colin Powell

Dear Sir/Madam

I strongly object to the Licence Application for a Music Festival for 5,000 people at Merrist Wood College over the Queen's Jubilee weekend on the grounds of public noise nuisance, public safety and prevention of local crime and disorder.

This is a special weekend for the whole country and to have it ruined by incessant horrendous noise is quite unacceptable. We were promised when a previous event was held for only a fifth of that number of people now proposed, it would never be repeated because the noise level was unbearable. 5,000 people converging with drink available to 1am, I dread to think what is going to happen.

Yours faithfully

Colin Powell

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Geoff Burch

Dear Sir/Madam,

Being a resident in Perry Hill for the past 75 years, I'm appalled that the above event for up to 5000 people fuelled with alcohol should ever be considered in an area surrounded by residents like myself that live close by that will be subjected to an awful din for hours on end.

The prevailing South West wind at this time of year will make things even worse and therefore object most strongly and implore that this must not go ahead.

Sincerely

Geoff Burch

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Janet Ashton

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to the license application for a music festival for 5000 people at Merrist Wood College over the Queens Jubilee weekend of 3 and 4 June 2022 on the grounds of public nuisance and public safety.

Public Nuisance

While residents are very proud to have this internationally renowned college with its animal management centre, rare breeds, livestock and horses in Worplesdon, and while residents would like all students to feel welcome and enjoy their time here, this location is unsuitable for such a license with plans for loud amplified music over 2 days.

The proximity to residents homes, including the many resident animals at the college, does not lend itself to this type of event. Only last year, a much smaller event for 1000 people was out of control for an entire day, causing some residents extreme distress and resulting in complaints about the noise.

Both the Merrist Wood Events Manager and the Director of Public Services at the college, wrote to residents and the council after the event to apologise most sincerely, acknowledging the noise was unacceptable and reassuring that, 'this was a one-off event we will make sure it does not happen again.' Their correspondence is attached to this email by way of evidence.

Of course the animals at the college were unable to make their distress known.

Public Safety

Other grounds to object are public safety, with only one narrow entrance and exit for 5000 people at the front of the college. There is inadequate public transport serving the location and not enough space for parking. A fire engine or ambulance would struggle to enter and exit from the one small entrance with parked cars and pedestrians, where any situation or incident risks becoming dangerous. Claims that car traffic will not be high on account of camping pitches is unfounded, especially as there are only approx. 450 such pitches, yet 5000 due to attend.

Other serious issues to consider and address include:

- the facilitation and approval of events that create/support a culture of alcohol and drug misuse among our young people, particularly given the long license application from 11am until 1am the next day; and,
- the obvious and serious distress to the college's animals as caused by loud amplified music and the sudden onslaught of 5000 people in their immediate environment. One hopes the college takes their responsibility to care for these animals seriously as, sadly, there is nothing to accompany this application which indicates they do.

Please refuse this license.

Yours Faithfully,

Janet Ashton

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Raymond Partridge

Dear Sir/Madam

This is to object on the grounds of public nuisance to the application by Merrist Wood Events/Shynefest for a premises licence. The application has no reference but is dated 9.2.22.

Last year there was an event at Merrist Wood which was so loud and went on for so long that it was completely unacceptable and was complained about by many local residents. It completely disturbed our day and part of the night and proved impossible to stop. This is not a suitable location for such events, they should be held where there is space for any noise to dissipate, not adjacent to residential areas.

Merrist Wood is an educational establishment. The disturbance last year showed that it does not have the ability to control the activities of others. It would not be appropriate to expect the police to control such an event, it would be a misuse of an already stretched resource.

By way of evidence I have attached an email from the Merrist Wood events manager Julie Tanner after a particularly noisy event last year. As the disturbance continued after she had visited the site it is clear that Merrist Wood cannot know what degree of disturbance might be caused by any particular event and confirms that it is not able to effect any meaningful control once an event is under way.

I would be grateful if you would kindly acknowledge receipt of this objection.

Regards

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Jessica Cull

To whom it may concern

I would like to object to the ShyneFest event at Merrist Wood on the basis of noise. In August last year an event was held with horrendous loud music and a lot of bass being played. It was very very unpleasant for the houses nearby. I was heavily pregnant and it stopped me from resting, gave me a lot of anxiety and stress. I do not want a repeat of that, and certainly not for a whole weekend.

This type of event and loud music will make being in our house/garden unbearable.

Jessica Cull