

Appendix 6

Response : Nick Chapman Assistant Environmental Health Manager

Environmental Health Partnership, Dartford & Sevenoaks

Camp Wildfire, The Pinetum, St Clere, Kemsing TN15 6NL : Variation Application

I refer to the above application which has been passed to the Environmental Health team for comment. Whilst I accept that a similar event has operated, without complaint, at this location in previous years, I am concerned that this proposed variation has the potential to result in noise nuisance to nearby residents.

Although residents appear to have been prepared to accept the disruption from one Camp Wildfire event each year, I consider that it is likely that the cumulative impact of up to 4 events will be unacceptable. I also understand that it is currently the applicants intention to operate these 4 events on consecutive weekends each year (3 events in 2021). Whilst I appreciate that this arrangement will result in some operational efficiencies for the applicant, I do not believe it will be acceptable for nearby residents who may very well be impacted each weekend and effectively be exposed to 4 times the amount of noise currently permitted by the existing license. The proposed scheduling of the events is also likely to occur during the warmest part of the summer and at a time when they are most likely to have their windows open overnight meaning they may be little respite for residents.

Whilst the applicant is proposing only a modest increase in the number of attendees to each event, this does represent a significant overall increase each year otherwise quiet and rural area (up to 9500 more attendees per year).

I note that the size of this event has expanded from 499 attendees in 2015 to 3000 (per event) in 2021. As the event has expanded the nature of the entertainment offering has also changed. Late night entertainment provided during the event now comprises a number of prominent DJ's and well known/ popular bands increasing the potential of the event to cause noise disturbances off site. The increase of 500 attendees for each event will also in turn increase the potential for neighbours to be affected by late night crowd noise.

Although the applicant has proposed a number of controls, I am not at present satisfied that they are sufficient to ensure that the events do not give rise to public nuisance.

Following receipt of this application, the Environmental Health Team have been in contact with the applicant in the hope of being able to agree mitigation and conditions to control noise from the proposed events. However we have unfortunately not been able to agree a schedule of conditions within the consultation time frame and consequently I object to this application on the grounds of public nuisance.