

Representations from Little Waltham Parish Council in relation to the application by Regala Properties for a Licence at Wheeler's Farm

Little Waltham Parish Council wishes to **object** to the grant of a licence to Regala Properties at 1 Wheeler's Farm, Wheeler's Hill, Little Waltham on the following grounds -

1. The prevention of public nuisance

The Parish Council notes that part of the application is for live music from 1pm to 10pm. The concern is that such events will generate a noise nuisance which will adversely impact upon local residents not just along Wheeler's Hill but in the village centre of Little Waltham which will go on late into the evening.

By way of evidence, previous music events at the property on 24th July 2021 and 4th September 2021 resulted in a number of noise complaints to the Parish Council and more particularly to Chelmsford City Council. An out of hours noise duty officer attended the village and met with a Parish Councillor during the day of the event on 4th September 2021 to monitor the noise and clearly noted that it could be heard from inside the Councillor's home with doors and double-glazed windows shut.

It is noted that the suggestion is that there will be in the region of 12 events a year. The Parish Council considers this would place an excessive burden upon residents to tolerate the noise which is not acceptable.

It is noted that it is proposed to serve food and alcohol up to 11pm at night together with 'regulated entertainment'. This will result in people leaving the site very late in the evening which will result in noise nuisance and inconvenience to residents.

It is not clear what the parking arrangements will be for the venue and previous events resulted in vehicles choosing to park in the laybys along Essex Regiment Way and on grass verges along that road as well. Some vehicles were even observed parked on Wheeler's Hill roundabout itself. In addition, a number of vehicles were parking in the village centre. Not only does this present a nuisance to residents in the vicinity but is a danger to public safety as well.

A substantial amount of litter was also generated by the previous events and bags of litter and general random rubbish was observed on the verges and in laybys in the vicinity and there is a concern that this will again be a burden for residents.

2. The prevention of Crime and Disorder

At previous events the Parish Council was made aware of the fact that people connected to the event were urinating in hedges within the Parish particularly in Wheeler's Hill West

3. Public safety

There is a substantial concern in relation to public safety as at previous events, those attending were parking along the verges and laybys of Essex Regiment Way and it meant that they were walking along the road to access the venue. As Essex Regiment Way is a fast-moving A road with a 60mph speed limit at that point and there are no pavements to use this is clearly highly dangerous. As the verges were full of parked cars people were observed walking along the road and a resident reported a drunken lady staggering into the road at one point. This presented a direct danger both to the safety of those walking along the road and motorists as well. A Councillor also observed many people walking along Essex Regiment Way on 4th September event to access the venue at 7pm when it was dusk and thus visibility was reduced presenting an even greater danger especially as the carriageway is unlit.

At previous events the Police had to attend due to the chaos caused by the sheer numbers of departing vehicles. Those attending the event also presented a danger to other road users by caused obstruction whilst trying to park on verges, executing U-turns in the road and blocking the roundabout.

At a review of a previous licence for this site a restriction of 1,500 people was put in place so the current application for up to 4,999 would seem to be outside the safe limits for the site.

The concern of the Parish Council is that even with better traffic control in place this is a difficult area to manage as the access to the venue is only a few yards from a roundabout on the busy Essex Regiment Way. The Parish Council contends that the reality is that this is not a suitable area for such events to be held as it is so difficult to manage the traffic and for those attending the event to be safe and in addition it is too close to residential properties and the village centre thus results in a substantial noise nuisance.