

## Annex 7

### IP6 Representation

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to register my objections to the Oktoberfest Beer Festival currently being considered as an event scheduled to take place in Town Park and for which a licensing application is currently being considered.

The event organisers have been promoting the event using the following descriptions:

*“featuring 30,000 litres of beer” and “Europe's biggest Bier tent”*

*“Bavarian style entertainment ranging from traditional folk to ‘Oompop’ - expect foot stomping, table bashing and hearty singing galore” and “including a showcase [of] some of the best and authentic oompah bands”*

*“traditional German grub from the outdoor food court”*

In other words, this is no celebration of the craft of the beer maker - the emphasis from the start has been on attendees being encouraged to guzzle as much beer as possible, to expect loud rowdy music and for themselves to make as much noise as possible while they are there.

I see from the website (<https://www.oktoberfestenfield.co.uk/faq>) that it appears there are to be three sessions: Friday Evening 6-11pm; Saturday Afternoon 12-5pm; and Saturday Evening 6-11pm. Three thousand people are expected to attend each ‘session’

I object to a license being granted for this event for the following reasons:

- **Prevention of public nuisance;**

My observations regarding public order are as follows:

- The emphasis on swilling large volumes of beer in these five hour sessions is likely to lead, firstly, to large numbers of drunken people in what is really quite a small park and then possibly spilling out into the streets. In this respect, the thought of an additional 3,000 drunken people suddenly being disgorged into the Town at 5pm on Saturday does not bode well for public order. While there are some public toilets in the shopping precinct, it is unlikely that out of town visitors will be able to readily find these, and the resulting likelihood is that neighbouring gardens and doorways will be used as ‘facilities’.
- Second, the Saturday afternoon session will empty just as shoppers start to go home, meaning that there will be significant additional strain on public transport.
- The noise from the ‘Oom-pah’ and ‘Oom-pop’ bands, together with the “table bashing” and “hearty singing” being encouraged by the organisers

in their promotional material will, without doubt, yet again leave residents who border the park exposed to extreme noise nuisance. Additionally, residents will have to put up with the stink of frying food for five hours on Friday and for 10 hours on Saturday. In a larger park where these activities can be kept well away from residential areas this might be acceptable; in a small park bordered on three sides by residential properties this is absolutely unacceptable.

Given the amount of nuisance that is almost guaranteed to be caused by this event, it is difficult to understand how this could ever have been considered an appropriate event to take place in a small park such as Town Park, which is bounded by residential properties and barely two minutes' walk away from the crowds of shoppers in the Town Centre.

- **Prevention of crime and disorder**

Given the points above, there has to be some concern at the likelihood that there will be disorder, possibly criminal activity, when 3,000 drunken people spill out from the Park into the Town and attempt to find public transport. I have already alluded to the likelihood of attendees failing to locate the few public toilets in the Town and therefore using gardens and doorways *en route* to the bus stops and stations.

While not all the 3000 attendees at each session are likely to be male, nonetheless there has to be a strong likelihood that a majority of attendees will be males, and I very much doubt that our Safer Neighbourhoods team has the capacity to control in the region of 2,000 'boozed up' young men trying to find their way back to public transport. The strong likelihood of fights breaking out in the Town Centre and around the train stations has to be recognised. This is not, in my view, an acceptable risk.

- **Public safety**

Several of the points I have listed under 'Prevention of Public Nuisance' and 'Prevention of Crime and Disorder' each have implications for public safety.

I note that the organisers of the 'Grandslam' concert originally planned for Trent Park recently issued a statement saying that they:

*"regret to announce that, due to transport and security issues, the Grandslam 2018 concert with Simple Minds, Pretenders and KT Tunstall on Monday 27 August has been cancelled."*

Trent Park is a very large park, located just a few minutes' walk from Cockfosters Station, from which tube trains depart every few minutes; on average every four minutes on Friday evening and throughout the day on Saturdays (<https://tfl.gov.uk/tube/timetable/> Piccadilly Line).

In contrast, on Friday nights there are four trains an hour from Enfield Chase, while Enfield Town provides only half-hourly departures. On Saturdays both Enfield Town and Enfield Chase provide only a half-hourly service (<http://ojp.nationalrail.co.uk>).

There is therefore significantly more restricted transport available in Enfield Town; given the concerns over transport issues that led to the Trent Park concert being cancelled, why was the Oktoberfest proposal not immediately reviewed too at that point and cancelled for this reason? There have to be very real concerns regarding the ability of local trains and buses being able to cope with these large numbers of additional travellers, mostly drunk, being disgorged from the event at the end of each session and looking for trains and buses. There is likely to be significant overcrowding at both the train stations. Likewise, given that the main intention of the proposed event is for attendees to drink as much as possible, there have to be security concerns arising from this as people become frustrated if they are delayed in gaining access to the station. Have any plans been put in place to manage the crowds likely to build up in and around Enfield Town and Enfield Chase stations?

- **Protection of children from harm**

Town Park contains a dedicated children's play area. I understand from Cllr Terry Neville that you apparently do not intend to close off Town Park to residents during the event, as you did for the alleged 'Balloon Festival', and am pleased to hear this. However, this means that there will presumably be young children in the park during the Saturday afternoon session, witnessing adults who have basically turned up with the main intention of getting drunk and rowdy.

I am not entirely sure that any particular or specific harm is posed to children by the event, but (assuming attendees behave in line with the exhortations of the promoters) it will not present an edifying view of adults. Instead, children attending the play park on Saturday afternoon will be treated to a view of crowds of noisy, drunken adults behaving irresponsibly, and, possibly (as indicated above) much worse. Is this really the type of behaviour we wish to promote to our young people?

I therefore wish to object in the strongest possible terms to a license being granted for this event.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Linda Miller**