

## Representation

(Comments from Deborah Fletcher, Licensing and Compliance Officer in red)

With reference to the attached Licencing Application posted by Solfest Ltd on land owned by DA Harrison's near Tarns Silloth I object for the following reasons.

1. The licence appears to be an open licence with no specific dates given. If this licence is granted, I assume that would allow Solfest to hold multiple festivals at any time over the year. This is unacceptable as up to now each event has been preceded by at least 2 weeks of traffic delivering toilets, marquees, PA equipment etc. 5 days of the event where we have to suffer the noise, drunks relieving themselves on the road side opposite us, the smell from bonfires, rubbish thrown from passing car, people treating the back roads as a private race track, and then at least 2 weeks afterwards when the mess is tidied out of the festival fields. Once a year is bad enough.

The number of events is not stipulated on the licence. The festival has traditionally only been held once a year. Discussions regarding the wording of a condition to restrict the event to once a year are ongoing.

2 Traffic and "Traffic management". In 2019 I objected to the new site for Solfest on the following grounds:-

*"Sun 28/07/2019 20:19*

*With reference to Licensing Application BRA1236108 for Solfest Ltd, I object on the grounds that the proposed site does not have adequate road access for the volume of traffic that Solfest generates. This traffic is not restricted to the weekend of Solfest as there are the weeks before when it is being set up and the weeks after when cleaning up is supposed to take place.*

*Previous Solfest events have been held adjacent to the B5301 and traffic management for these was inadequate with regular traffic jams due to people trying to access the site. This years proposed site is now on a single track road C2019 which has a poor junction at the end with the B5301 and several bends with poor visibility near to the site. From past experience I do not believe Solfest Ltd have the ability to keep the road clear and traffic flowing freely to allow access to local residents."*

Solfest's traffic management that year consisted of a poorly signed one way system that was publicised on the Solfest website but locals were not made aware of. We had to put up with 5 days of considerably more traffic than these roads can handle, with cars trying to go both ways and no one giving way to other road users.

3. Noise. Due to the new location of the festival, the main stage now looks to be on the highest point of land from Maryport to Abbeytown and Silloth to Aspatria. In 2019 the volume level increased steadily over the weekend such that on the Sunday night / Monday morning you could actually feel the bass through the floor. When I attempted to complain about noise levels at 3:00 on the Sunday morning the 24-hour telephone line that Solfest provided went straight to voicemail, either other people were complaining at the time or the phone had been switched off. We finally got a call back at 8:00 with the comment "You left a message last night, what did you want"

4 Health. Due to the current Covid pandemic the thought of several thousand strangers descending on the neighbourhood does not fill me with great pleasure. From the amount of signs that have been placed on gates it looks like they are planning a larger gathering than past years.

Mr Kay has agreed to a condition that will ensure he complies with whatever national guidelines are in place at the time of the event.

During the 2019 event I unfortunately had to email Deborah Fletcher regarding issues we were experiencing at the time. Hopefully you have these on file still and I would be grateful if you would take them into account when you review this planning application.

I can confirm that I corresponded with the author between 22 – 26 August 2019. Concerns were raised over traffic management. Concerns were passed to the premises licence holder during the event. The emails contained links to videos which are no longer available online.

The emails contained reference to not being able to contact the premises licence holder regarding noise issues.

After the festival had finished there were concerns over litter in the hedgerows. This was forwarded to the premises licence holder and remedied.