

Licensing Act 2003 - Representation in respect of an application for a New Premises Licence



Details of person or body making representation	
Your Name:	Alistair Hollis
Your Address:	Noise and Pollution Team City Hall 115 Charles Street Leicester LE1 1FZ

Details of premises representation is about	
Name of Premises:	Africa Music Festival
Address of premises:	Abbey Park
Application No. (if known)	

Please tick one or more of the licensing objectives that your representation relates to:	
Prevention of crime and disorder	No
Public Safety	No
Prevention of public nuisance	Yes
Protection of children from harm	No

Please summarise your concerns about this application:
<p>The application is for a large-scale one-day festival on the 24th August 2024, with live and recorded music until 22:30. The application is for the festival to take place yearly. Abbey Park is a large urban city green space, bordered by a mix of uses. Festivals of this nature have been successfully carried out with proper management and planning on Abbey Park, such as Beyond Festival and PRIDE.</p> <p>Based on the layout map provided, the main receptors likely to be affected are the large residential building, Equinox and the residential properties on Abbey Park Road. There is also a large-scale housing development of 119 dwellings currently under construction at the site of the old bus depot on Abbey Park Road. These properties must be considered as planning permission was granted – this application is for a yearly festival.</p> <p>My concerns about the application are to do with the lack of detail and consideration of noise in terms of prevention of public nuisance. The proposed stage position is inadequate and not based on any noise data. A festival of this size will require a full noise management plan (NMP) including noise modelling written and carried out by a qualified acoustic consultancy. The noise management plan should be completed at</p>

an early stage and included in the application as this will influence the layout of the festival site based on noise modelling. At this point, it is unclear how the applicant has decided on the stage position as no information has been provided as part of the application.

The current stage position is not adequate as it points directly towards the large residential building, Equinox. There is also the likelihood of noise from the sides of the stage, which would affect properties on Abbey Park Road, including the new development. These properties must be considered when looking at licences which are proposed to be yearly events. The NMP should include A-weighted noise limits which represents how human ears perceive sound and C-weighted noise limits, which focusses on low frequency bass, which contributes a large fraction to noise impact. These limits should also be derived from the modelling.

This event should not be considered in isolation due to cumulative impact multiple events can create. Along with the existing PRIDE and the Billy Bates Fun Fair, there are a number of other proposed yearly festivals that have been applied for which further increases the cumulative impact and the need for full consideration of noise.

The Africa Music festival took place on Nelson Mandela Park in 2023 and overall management of noise was poor. I attended on the day and multiple noise level breaches were observed. I raised concerns about the noise breaches, which were relayed back to the front of house. Unfortunately, further breaches after this were observed. The NMP that was submitted and approved by the noise and pollution team was not implemented. I was informed that the consultant was not present on the day either. I accept that there were unforeseen issues with the set-up and on the event day, which contributed to the overall lack of management. As a result, a number of conditions present on the licence were breached.

A number of improvements were suggested by the festival manager following the previous event, Theo, who is also managing this event. It was suggested working with different organisations for both the sound system and the acoustic consultants. This has not been addressed or mentioned in this application, and no contact has been made to the noise and pollution control team. This was mentioned in the SAG on 5th March though details of this have not been confirmed.

I do not believe that this application promotes the prevention of public nuisance. I would recommend refusal of this licence application as submitted based on the above as the current stage layout is not appropriate and no plans, or information for addressing noise has been included.