

Notes taken from the meeting between organisers of the proposed Downs Music Concert in September 2017 and local residents at St Mary's Church on 28th Feb 2017.

Notes taken by Kate Marshall of Team Love.

Tom Paine (TP) from Team Love opened the meeting with a recap on last year's event and an explanation of the timeline of how the application would proceed for the proposed event for 2017. He explained that there was an agreement in principal from the Downs Committee for the event to take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 along the same size, style and structure as the 2016 event.

It was explained to all that the next stage of the application process was for a Premises Licence Application to be submitted by the organisers. As soon as this is submitted TP stated that all who attended the meeting and had given emails would be notified and sent copies of both the application and site plan. Residents were informed that from the day after submission there would be a period of 28 days whereby residents and responsible authorities could make representations against the grant of the licence. Reasonably assuming that there would be representations against the application, a licensing hearing would likely be called mid to late April and a decision on the award of the licence would be made then.

TP led the discussion on to resident's experiences of last year's event. It was agreed that the plans in place for resident parking, resident only access, security, waste management and public routes to and from the site worked well and caused a minimum of disruption to local residents. The main concerns, as all present were aware, stemmed from the noise caused from the event on the day, and the build and break of the event site.

\*Steel-shield and track-way – Exploring ways to go up quicker due to noise of the machines / delivery trucks and looking untidy mid build - TP is speaking to the contractors to ensure enough staff and correct machinery to install the fencing.

\* Plant on site too noisy - TP assured they are looking into plant with white noise alarms across site rather than 'beeping' tone and to explore use of extra 'banks men' working with site machines.

\*Bone yard location - TP plans to move this away from all the residential area to minimize disruption due to heavy usage through the build and break

\*Residents raised the issue of build and break security working overnight not to have their car doors/windows open playing music at all different times of the evening - TP will be addressing this with the security company and making sure this is in the brief for all overnight teams in position

\*Residents raised concerns of security and other crew sleeping over - TP confirmed this will be outlined in everyone's contract of employment that there will be no overnight sleeping on the Downs in Cars / tent and live in vehicles

\*Main Stage position was a major concern for some residents. Main concern was disruption from bass / low-end frequencies collecting directly behind the main stage. TP explained that repositioning of the main stage was being explored to help prevent this and moving the stage further away from the residents of Seawalls Road. Other measures to reduce disruption include reducing the amount of monitors on stage, heavy draping on stage and configuring sub-bass in a specific formation to stop the energy moving backwards from the stage.

\* Residents raised concerns that the letter drops to invite people to the meeting was not thorough or efficient enough -

- Recommended to be addressed personally to each person
- Email on the letter in a different colour making it hard for a lot of people to read and understand it reflecting on the lack of response and low attendees to the meeting
- No number on the letter making anyone who doesn't email unable to feedback
- Need to be fully aware of the actions to be able to complain

\* Sound Levels on the day of the event.

TP explained that the same levels as were granted in 2016 would be applied for with the 2017 event. 70db for the headline acts, with 68 and 65db for the earlier acts.

Residents expressed strong disappointment with this decision stating that they considered 70DB too loud and also above the recommended venue limit of 65DB.

TP discussed this with residents and explained the organiser's reasons for wanting this limit. He undertook to continue working with the council to see if a 65DB at external residential properties could be achieved, whilst still maintaining an essential level of sound on the site, through moving the main stage position. Residents also explained it was the lower frequency of sound that caused the main disruption and TP promised to examine if these levels could be reduced.

\* Parking stopped on Circular Road by council officials week before the show - TP explained that this was considered essential to ensure deliveries could be made to site.

\* Mobile signal dropped in the area Sat from 5pm raising concern if residents /friends and family needed to call for any matter – TP would look into working with local mobile companies to see if a booster mast or similar could be installed for the event.

\* Blackboy Hill – some local residents concerned that this area was very busy from after 3pm needed some system and order in place. TP explained that last year the heavy rain seemed to

keep people in this area for longer than anticipated. Organisers would speak with Police to see what their opinion was and if extra arrangements should be made

\* Drugs taking and selling – Residents wanted to have a clear understanding of the policy in which we work towards and the police role on the site. One resident reported an incident of a under-18yr old being offered drugs of an unknown description. TP remarked that unfortunately this incident hadn't been reported to organisers or police on the day of the event so had no information on it from the day. TP explained that the event had around 200 SIA security working on the day, and that bag searches were mandatory to enter site – whilst Police weren't working within the site on the day, there was a Police Command stationed inside the Event Control on the site and Police would be welcome to attend any incident within the site should the Commander deem necessary. TP would talk to police to seek opinion on extra 'plain-clothed' security working across the site on the day.

\* First Bus - No4 was stopped without any notification at all on bus stops or anything. TP did explain this was something out of our control and we have clearly stated this cannot happen this year at all and there is no need to divert this bus.

\* Resident parking - worked well everyone is happy please can we keep Holly Bush Lane in the scheme and also stay mindful of anyone wanting to go to the Bee Festival.

Gerry Bird from SP-RA was last to speak in the meeting, putting across his member's concerns over the event. Spoke positively of the event organisers work and responsibility with last year's event, but that concerns were still held over the location and suitability of the site for an event of this kind – and that other sites should be considered.