

Environmental Protection Team – Noise Advice

The following advice is provided by the Licensing Authority on behalf of the Environmental Protection Team ('EP Team') of Mid Sussex District Council.

The EP Team is a consultee for Temporary Event Notices (TEN). They will consider whether an objection to the TEN should be submitted based on any of the four licensing objectives (particularly prevention of public nuisance). It is likely that an objection will not be raised on the majority of cases, but it is important that organisers take steps to consider the noise implications of their event.

Irrespective of whether a TEN or alternative licensing permission is in place, everyone (individuals, businesses, charities, etc.) is subject to the normal rules relating to noise and statutory noise nuisance. For example, a statutory noise nuisance would occur if noise from an event unreasonably affects occupiers of other premises. Where such a situation occurs, a formal abatement notice may be served, which, if ignored, could lead to a prosecution (maximum fine of £20,000 upon conviction) and/or seizure of noise equipment.

In view of the above, it is strongly recommended that the following steps are taken to help reduce the likelihood of other persons being affected by noise from your event:

- The responsibility to prevent a public nuisance usually rests with the organiser of the event so they need to ensure noise mitigation methods are implemented
- Plan the event carefully to ensure that noise levels are not unreasonable for any nearby residents given the time of day or night and the duration of the event. Consideration should be given so that the loud speakers are not facing towards, or located, near windows or doors.
- Whilst care should be taken not to disturb residents at any time, particular care must be taken for events that continue after 23:00 hrs as this is the time most people will expect to be able to sleep. Therefore, noise from events should not be more than barely audible at the boundary of other premises.
- Publicise the event in advance including its purpose and finish time. Letter drops to neighbouring residents is advised and should contain a contact telephone number of the event organiser during the event, as this will go a long way to appease most potential complainants.
- Monitor noise from the event by periodically walking around the boundary. This will give the best idea as to how well noise is being contained or indeed where it is escaping. However, it is advisable that this is not done by someone who has been in a noisy environment for the preceding ten minutes as their hearing would have become less sensitive.
- Have a procedure in place to control noise levels (liaison with any band/DJ, doors and windows kept closed, event finishes promptly at the appropriate time, etc.).
- When guests leave, ensure that they do so calmly and quietly. If guests go on to cause a nuisance when they are off the premises, complainants will still consider you responsible for their behaviour.

If you would like any additional information or advice from the EP Team, please visit

http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/Noise_guidelines_for_Pubs_Clubs_etc.pdf,

Telephone 01444 477292 or email envhealth@midsussex.gov.uk