



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Introduction of a Noise Management Plan for events on Lion Green

1. Purpose of report

To seek Council's approval in principle for the introduction of a Noise Management Plan for events held on Lion Green, following a formal complaint about noise from the Fringe Festival. The Fringe Festival is a three-day event held every two years. The Council also occasionally receives complaints about the funfair events held on Lion Green.

2. Background

The Council has received one formal written complaint from a resident on Wey Hill concerning noise from the Fringe Festival held last week.

The complainant asked the Council to:

- contact organisers to reduce master volume and bass levels;
- record the complaint as part of the post-event review;
- review the Lion Green hire policy for future years;
- investigate compliance with any agreed noise management arrangements;
- review whether monitoring during the event was adequate; and
- ensure future hire agreements contain enforceable controls on volume, bass, speaker positioning and monitoring.

3. Considerations

Lion Green is surrounded by residential properties, so some noise impact from events is inevitable. However, the Council has received only one written complaint, and the event was a community event attended and enjoyed by many local people.

Waverley Borough Council Environmental Health has advised that noise complaints are considered under the statutory nuisance test in the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and that there are no fixed decibel levels. Matters such as duration, timing, and reasonableness must be considered.

The Council does not have specialist resource to monitor or control event sound levels on site. It is therefore reasonable for responsibility for day-to-day monitoring to remain with the event organiser, supported by clear conditions in the hire agreement.

4. Proposed approach

A Noise Management Plan should be introduced for relevant events on Lion Green. It should require hirers to:

- nominate a responsible event contact;
- monitor noise levels during the event;
- position speakers to minimise impact on nearby homes;
- control bass levels where practicable;
- keep a simple incident/complaint log;
- display clear contact details on site for the public; and
- liaise with Waverley Environmental Health if serious concerns arise.

This approach would not impose fixed decibel caps, but would establish reasonable, enforceable event controls.

5. Material considerations

The main considerations are:

- the community value of the event;
- amenity of nearby residents;
- the Council's limited on-site enforcement capacity;
- the need for a clear complaints route during the event; and
- the fact that Lion Green is a valued community green space and events are part of its established use.

6. Conclusion

A Noise Management Plan offers a proportionate response to the complaint while preserving the Council's ability to continue hosting valued community events on Lion Green.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. agrees in principle to adopt a Noise Management Plan for events on Lion Green (draft attached);
2. requires future hire arrangements to include reasonable noise control measures, event contact details, and a clear complaint process; and
3. notes that any formal complaints during an event should also be referred to Waverley Borough Council Environmental Health.

Haslemere Town Council

Noise Management Plan

For events on council land with live and amplified music

Event site	[insert site name]
Event organiser	[insert organiser]
Date(s)	[insert dates]
Hours of amplified music	[insert times]

1. Purpose

This plan sets out the noise controls for events on council land where there is live and/or amplified music to protect nearby residents and other sensitive receptors.

2. Noise control objective

Amplified music shall be managed so that it does not cause significant nuisance at the nearest noise-sensitive premises.

3. Draft noise limit

Item	Requirement
Monitoring point	Nearest noise-sensitive façade
Measurement	15-minute LAeq
Draft limit	Aim for music noise to remain at least 5 dB below background noise where practicable
Method	Assess in line with BS 4142:2014 (or later update), where applicable

4. Practical controls

Control	Requirement
Speaker direction	Face speakers away from nearby homes where possible
Volume control	A named person must control levels throughout the event
Sound check	Brief sound check only, at the lowest practical level

Time control	Lower levels to be used later in the day, especially after 18:00
Complaints	Provide a contact number for public complaints
Weather	Consider wind direction and any need to reduce levels

5. Monitoring and action

1. Check the source of any increase in noise.
2. Reduce volume immediately if levels become intrusive.
3. Reposition speakers if needed.
4. Record the issue and the action taken.
5. If necessary, pause amplified music until the issue is resolved.

6. Responsibility

The event organiser is responsible for compliance with this plan and for keeping a record of any complaints or noise issues.

7. Review

This plan should be reviewed before each event to confirm that the proposed setup, timings and nearby receptors have not changed.

Note: This is a draft operational limit and should be confirmed against the exact site, layout, duration and nearby dwellings.