

Licensing  
Barnsley Metropolitan  
Borough Council

- 8 JUN 2009  
Corporate Mail Room

Broad Close Farm  
Cone Lane  
Silkstone  
S75 4LY  
6.6.09

Dear Sir

**New Premise Application – Bomfest 2009 Silverwood Campsite Silkstone**

I am writing to express severe concerns over the above application

My land adjoins Silverwood Campsite, land which is used for grazing sheep and cattle. My concerns are as follows;

- 1) Extreme noise – at the time of the event there will be ewes with young lambs in the adjacent field, the noise could cause them to panic and lambs to become separated from their mothers which could result in the death of the lamb. Cattle also will be grazing in the field, extreme noise could cause them to stampede, damaging both themselves, fences and people using the footpath through the field. I have no alternative grazing land which the stock could use. In previous years smaller motorcycle rallies have been held at Silverwood with live music. At these events the level of noise has adversely affected livestock causing the problems described above but at these past events the loud music has only been for a few hours and ended at 11.00 pm. The suggestion of loud music for a continuous period of over 15 hours is potentially a serious hazard for the stock as well as being painful and intrusive for the residents of Silkstone and the surrounding areas.
- 2) Glass and other litter left in the field – it is possible that bottles and cans may be abandoned in the field, the broken glass could severely injure sheep, lambs and cattle. Other litter such as plastic could be swallowed by cattle causing death. This has been a serious problem with previous large events at Silverwood.
- 3) Parking and access – I understand from attending Silkstone Parish Council on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> that no provision for parking has been made although there was a suggestion that Fall Bank Industrial Estate could be used but this had not been confirmed. A shuttle bus would be made available to take people to the site but as the access is unsuitable there is a proposal for attendees at the event to be bussed into Silkstone allowing them to then walk to the site. This would involve a footpath through the above mentioned pasture land. A large number of people (3,500 attended last year's event as reported in the Barnsley Chronicle 5/6/09) passing through the field would again cause panic in the stock, especially after dark. The path is narrow, although as a public footpath it is open to all, it is not designed to carry 3,500 people there and back, it is difficult for two people to walk abreast, winding, and close to a steep precipice obscured by trees and bushes. A large group of people using this path would result in damage to fences and stiles, allowing the stock to wander, probably onto the A628, which at this

- point is bendy and outside of the speed limit, possibly causing a major accident. The resultant carnage of animals and injury to drivers is unimaginable.
- 4) Damage to stiles – there are 5 stiles to cross on the route to Silverwood from Silkstone, they are designed for one person to use at a time, large numbers of people attempting to use these at the same time will result in severe damage and again the situation of animals wandered on roads and into gardens
  - 5) Damage to woodland – to reach Silverwood from Silkstone it is necessary to go through part of the Fall Wood, this is an area of natural beauty enjoyed by many, the paths are narrow. In the situation of many people using the paths at the same time it is highly likely that precious woodland would be damaged and trees and natural habitats destroyed
  - 6) Injury to people – a large number of people on a narrow path, possibly in the dark and next to a steep ravine with a stream at the bottom is a situation where individuals could easily be hurt especially if they have consumed alcohol and are not as vigilant as they might be in other circumstances. It is also possible that the frightened animals, upset by the loud music, will rampage around the field and could cause injury to visitors who are in a dark and unfamiliar environment.
  - 7) Communication – as the owner of the adjacent land which is planned to be used as access for this event we would have expected the Bomfest organisers to have liaised with us to avert possible problems. We have had no contact from the organisers and only heard about the plan to use the public footpaths through our land by attending the Parish Council meeting. It would appear that the logistics of getting 3,500 people to and from the event has not been adequately planned. It is clear that adequate official parking has not been arranged which could result in serious problems in the narrow streets of Silkstone.
  - 8) Noise for residents - as one of the nearest dwellings we would expect severe noise nuisance from this event, we have had this with previous events, never for this extreme length of time, and find it a severe disruption of a quiet country village. Many of the residents are elderly, my grandfather whose home is bordered by the footpath discussed above is very elderly and frail. It is unacceptable that the pleasure of some should cause such distress and pain to others.
  - 9) Insurance and Health and Safety – it would appear that the issue of Health and Safety has not been fully addressed, expecting so many people to walk on un-surfaced paths, through livestock, on a narrow path with drops to one side, especially after dark, could prove hazardous. We have not been consulted on these issues nor informed as to the position regarding insurance claims from damage caused. It is not clear if our farm insurance would cover personal injury in this situation where the footpath is being used for activities other than the norm.

While we are keen supporters of the Scout movement and of Silverwood Scout Camp we feel that this event is inappropriate and too large for this site.

I would be very happy to discuss this with you and show you around the areas we consider to be problematic.

Yours faithfully  
J P Charlesworth

