

Noise Management

El Dorado Festival

Noise Management at El Dorado Festival is undertaken on behalf of the organisers by F1 Acoustics Company Ltd (F1AC). <https://www.f1acoustics.com> The primary consultant is Robert Miller MIOA(E).

F1AC produce a Noise Management Plan (NMP) in advance of the event which must be approved by Herefordshire Council's Environmental Health team (HCEH). During the course of the event, F1AC provide competent and experienced staff on site to monitor noise at off-site receptor locations (those specified in the Premise Licence, as well as other locations informed by factors such as complaints and meteorological conditions).

The existing Premises Licence contains some 11 conditions specific to noise and the Prevention of Public Nuisance. Within these conditions are agreed dB levels that the music noise from the event must not exceed.

As part of the NMP, the organisers must publish a noise complaints hotline, which is to be staffed for the duration of the event.

In 2018 (29/06/2018 – 01/07/2018) the noise complaint hotline received a total of 15 calls. As a result of which (if the caller provided their address) the noise consultants attended the location and took readings of the music noise levels. This was possible for 11 of the 15 received calls. At all of the locations visited, the dB levels recorded did not exceed those specified in the Premises Licence.

Despite the fact that no conditions of the Premises Licence were breached in 2018, both the event organisers and the noise consultants agreed that local residents *had* been impacted by the event, despite the agreed dB levels had not been exceeded.

Subsequently, the planning for the 2019 iteration of the event involved a redesign of the site layout (including reorientation of some of the stages and sound systems) and a new noise modelling calculation.

Noise modelling allows the noise consultant to input site-specific plans (including geographical undulations) in to software produced by the manufactures of the audio equipment used at the event to accurately predict the dB levels throughout the site and the surrounding areas. This produces a 'heatmap' which is useful for the consultants as they can make minor adjustments in the planning stages which can create a significant benefit off-site at the time of the event.

The organisers now only work with one provider for audio equipment across all stages of the event site. This simplifies the work process in terms of managing noise at the event as the noise consultants only have one company to liaise with.

Following the 2018 event, the consultants also met with HCEH and agreed to include additional monitoring locations in the NMP to reflect those locations that had been

affected. This resulted in the following locations being agreed as the off-site receptor points for 2019:

Clenchers Mill Lane, Eastnor (*existing Premises Licence condition*)

Valentines Cottage, Hollybush (*existing Premises Licence condition*)

Caves Folly Nursery, Colwall (*existing Premises Licence condition*)

Hancocks Lane, Little Malvern (*existing Premises Licence condition*)

Rose Mead, Evendine (*existing Premises Licence condition*)

Oakland Drive, Ledbury (*new location as per the 2019 NMP*)

Worcester Road, Near Massington Lodge (*new location as per the 2019 NMP*)

Ledbury Road/Floyds Lane, Wellington Heath (*new location as per the 2019 NMP*)

Gullet Quarry (*new location as per the 2019 NMP*)

As the NMP must be agreed with HCEH prior to the event and is an enforceable condition under the Premises Licence, the addition of these new monitoring points offers the same protection to both local residents and HCEH as if they were directly included as conditions on the Licence.

The wording of the Licence also allows for any other additional location to be included as a monitoring point should this be required in the future.

As well as responding to calls from local residents, the noise consultants are on duty throughout the event constantly monitoring dB levels at the locations listed above. They continually liaise with sound engineers on site in order to manage noise from the event, often instructing them to make small reductions to overall volume levels at or adjustments to specific frequencies at a particular stage.

In 2019, the organiser's noise complaint hotline received no calls. The consultants were made aware of one noise complaint that had been made directly to HCEH from a resident in the Wellington Heath area. This area was monitored throughout the weekend and at all times music from the event was inaudible at this location.

We are therefore confident that we can demonstrate that at no times were any licence conditions breached in terms of music from the event exceeding agreed dB levels. We also hope that we have demonstrated a desire to be sympathetic and responsible event organisers, by responding to complaints and taking steps to amend operations on site to minimise any potential impact.

As part of this Licence application the site layout has been amended significantly and a number of additional stages and music venues have included. In 2019 there were 8 stages present on site. This Licence would permit an additional 8 stages. Of these new stages, 4 would be considered 'micro venues' with capacities of up to 200 persons and 4 would have capacities between 200 – 750 persons.

Following this site redesign, a further noise modelling exercise has been undertaken (the results of which are attached) and demonstrate that noise from the event, together with

the additional mitigating measures described above, are sufficient to promote the Licensing objective of the prevention of Public Nuisance.