

**Re: Notice of hearing before a licensing sub-committee 12th June 2014 re. Sunset Festival 2014**

I confirm I will attend the above hearing on 12th June at 10.30.

I consider the hearing to be necessary in order to stop this event taking place.

I believe there will be a number of other people attending the meeting in order to stop this event taking place.

I enclose the following documents:

1. My letter dated and sent to Mr Winter on 28th March 2014
2. Copy of my Representation Form dated 1st June 2014
3. Copy of Representation letter
4. Document in support of my objection

I wish to officially and fervently object to the proposed Sunset Festival at East Pidsley Farm taking place this year or indeed anytime at all in the future.

**Key Points**

**a. PUBLIC NUISANCE**

- i. Noise levels, particularly at night..
- ii. Excess bass levels which are clearly stated on the Sunset website.
- iii. Increase in traffic in very narrow lanes with few passing places.
- iv. Inappropriate and insufficient sound management.
- v. Mobile phone signal insufficient in the area to flag up complaints or problems.

**b. PUBLIC SAFETY**

- i. One way traffic system inappropriate.
- ii. Increase in traffic (600 vehicles and possibly more, camping cars, possible caravans etc.)
- iii. Emergency vehicle access through Sandford and to the site, particularly if an accident takes place in any of the lanes.
- iv. Danger to walkers, horse riders, cyclists, children, dogs on the lanes.

**c. CRIME AND DISORDER**

- I. Drug control

**d. CONCLUSION**

- I. Destroying the ambience of the area
- ii. Safety of livestock.
- iii. Lack of mobile reception for problems.
- iv. Organiser agrees the site is unsuitable

Sarah Hanmer



Withywinds  
Stones Hill  
Sandford  
Crediton  
EX17 4EF

Mr I Winter  
Mid Devon District Council  
Phoenix House  
Tiverton  
EX16 6PP

28<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Dear Mr Winter,

**Re: Event plan, Sunset Festival, East Pidsley Farm, Pidsley Lane, Sandford 28 Aug – 1 Sep 2014.**

I have just learned that a plan has been submitted to Mid Devon Council for a festival to be held at Pidsley Lane this year which is being discussed and considered by Mid Devon Council.

I am writing as I wish to officially and fervently object to this event taking place this year or indeed anytime at all in the future.

Last year my partner and I were subjected to an onslaught of so called music, particularly a thumping bass for several days during this event, which continued on into the evening and indeed the same level of noise persisted all night. Despite closing all the windows, including the bedroom windows, which I always open at night, partly due to a chest problem and fresh air is essential, the noise still penetrated the entire property, which is thatched, has walls of 2ft thick, strong double glazed windows and is therefore exceptionally well sound proofed. We subsequently had little to no sleep for several nights, which not only affected my health, but also my work due to the fact that this had caused sleep deprivation.

During this time, numerous vehicles, some with loud exhausts and fumes sped up and down the narrow twisty road past the house at all times of day and night, several with extremely dubious looking occupants, which caused us to be fearful of our property and also our dog. Sometimes you could smell marijuana emitting from the cars as they passed.

We were kept awake the previous year, but at that stage we did not know why or where this atrocious sound was coming from and thought it was a "one off" party, so we were horrified when it occurred again last year with even more intensity.

We have always enjoyed good music and a party, but this particular type of 5 day event cannot possibly be permitted to take place in this vicinity, as it totally destroys the ambience of this beautiful area of Devon where decent people live and work. It is particularly abhorrent as the application is for the Bank Holiday week and many, especially those of us that work hard all year, look forward to spending a few days break in the peace and tranquillity of our own homes and gardens at this time and some have children who need their sleep prior to returning to school the following week. It was impossible to relax and enjoy this holiday period last year, due to the continuous noise, particularly the very offensive bass tone.

I am Devon born and bred and am horrified that the council can even contemplate considering this event taking place and by appealing to you I trust that you will think better of approving this plan in any way or form and also bear in mind what it could lead to.

Please think about and respect the local residents, some of whom, including ourselves, are worried and apprehensive about the possibility of hundreds and more likely thousands of young people, many of whom will undoubtedly be taking illegal substances of various degrees and camping in close proximity to our properties. We are the people who live here, the event organisers are not local and their main interest is in making money (the ticket prices are £40 - £60 per adult, dogs cost £1.50) and the revellers are generally speaking, not local and only interested in having a good, albeit deafening time and my partner and I are extremely unhappy at the prospect of their presence. It would be unwise for us to go away at this time, as this could present an open invitation for those with less than trustworthy motives.

**The following paragraphs are copied and pasted from the Sunset Festival 2014 website**

<http://www.sunsetcollective.org/sunset-festival-2014>

**“SUNSET FESTIVAL 2014” ...Its going to be big bright and not subtle at all. We reckon your going to be able to see it from the moon when were finished. Or at least Totnes anyway.**

**An extra long five whole days and nights to completely lose yourselves in the collective magic known as Sunset Festival 2014...the biggest cuddle-puddle in the west:) x**

Do we really want this in Sandford?

Kind regards

Sarah Hanmer

CC Mel Stride- Member of Parliament for Central Devon Constituency  
Kevin Finan – Chief Executive Mid Devon District Council  
Amy Tregellas – Head of Communities and Governance Mid Devon District Council  
Paul Williams – Head of Environmental Services Mid Devon District Council



### 2013 Festival noise and traffic

Last year my partner and I were subjected to an onslaught of noise from what we later learnt was known locally as "Roddy's Rave" at Pidsley Farm. Most disturbing was the particularly offensive bass tone thumping for several days during this event, which continued on into the evening and the same level of noise persisted for all or most of the night. Despite closing all the windows, the noise penetrated the property. We subsequently had little to no sleep for several nights, whilst the event continued and the reverberating bass thumping became an increasing irritant.

During the time of the event, numerous vehicles, some with loud exhausts and fumes sped up and down the narrow twisty road past the house at all times of day and night, several with extremely dubious looking occupants and sometimes you could smell marijuana emitting from the cars as they passed.

### Proposed 2014 festival

#### a. PUBLIC NUISANCE

I am horrified that Mid Devon Council can contemplate considering this event taking place again. Last year the TENs licence was for 500 people and this year the application is for a Premises licence and 1500 people and it is particularly abhorrent as the application is for the Bank Holiday week.

Why are the Council even considering giving permission for the event to go ahead and why have they done so in the past? This type of music, psytrance, is synonymous with drugs and generally speaking can only really be tolerated/enjoyed if one is high on drugs. There is a constant deep bass beat and no actual tune, a psytrance type of event attracts those people (usually young people) who take drugs.

#### Sound management

I read with dismay the "sound management plan" as submitted by the festival organisers and I fail to see how the sound management will improve, instead of 2 stages as in the past, they are planning at least 4 stages and 1500 people, hence, with the best will in the world, it will, in all probability be noisier. How can building 4ft earth barriers, using fallen trees and bales of hay prevent intrusive sound travelling to neighbouring houses? The noise from this even will undoubtedly be a serious public nuisance as it was in previous years.

#### b. PUBLIC SAFETY

The Sunset 2014 event website states: *"Due to the increased numbers expected we have introduced a one way traffic system to the site this year. Don't worry we've made it really easy for everyone to understand. All traffic now rotates in an anti clockwork style (that's right to left for those with digital watches) so you don't end up bumping into each other when entering and leaving the site. Traffic stewards will be on hand along with plenty of pretty signs to help you".*

How is this possible? It will surely cause a public nuisance and there must be concern for public safety, not only for local residents but for walkers, some with dogs, horse riders, children on ponies and cyclists, let alone farmers who would find it very difficult to reach their fields and homes whilst avoiding the numerous extra cars many driven by inexperienced young people on our tiny lanes with very few passing places. People tend to drive faster if they know the road is one way. At the parish hall meeting the organisers said they expect 600 vehicles, camping cars, caravans etc. They suggested that we, the local residents should go away whilst it is on.

Due to the narrow lanes and the excess traffic coming and going to and from the festival, mostly through Sandford village, I fail to see how the emergency services would be able to adequately access the site or indeed any property in the vicinity. The quickest route from Crediton is through Sandford village. It is difficult enough at times for a normal size car to negotiate the village lane when cars are parked in the village, but it could be impossible for a fire engine or even an ambulance with this increase in traffic. Should there be an accident the lanes would very easily and quickly become gridlocked.

#### c. CRIME AND DISORDER

The organisers are obviously expecting people to bring and take drugs, as an area is being set up with a service dedicated to helping people undergoing difficult drug-related experiences. Will this be policed by Devon Constabulary?

#### d. CONCLUSION

This 5 day and night event should not be permitted to take place in this vicinity, it totally destroys the ambience of this rural area of Devon where many people live and work in harmony with nature. Some local farmers are concerned about the safety of their livestock. There is little to no mobile reception in the area, how can the organisers say they will use mobile phones as well as radios. One of the organisers at the Parish Hall meeting stated the site is not suitable but the farmer had given them permission to use his land.

Sarah Hanmer

