

26/00171/PREMGR - Public Nuisance Objection: Deficiencies in Noise Assessment and Required Controls - 5th May 2026

Dear Mr Fenton-Jones,

Cc: Michael Cook, Tendring Licensing Department

Further to Environmental Protection's current objection, I have now reviewed the applicant's Noise Impact Assessment and Noise Management Plan.

In my view, the submitted material does not resolve the public nuisance concerns. This is not a modest private event. It is a large-scale, five-day licensed event in a quiet rural/residential locality, publicly advertised as involving approximately 1,000 re-enactors, roaring cannons, muskets, artillery and cavalry, together with camping, alcohol, late-night refreshment, amplified music and public battle re-enactments.

I understand from long-standing residents, some of whom have lived here for around 40 years, that there is no known precedent for an event of this scale or noise character at this location. The applicant's own assessment also proceeds against a low rural background noise environment, including an evening background level of 33 dB LA90,15mins.

The event plainly gives rise to a serious and foreseeable risk of significant disturbance and public nuisance unless the most intrusive elements are tightly controlled. Without such controls, it is not credible to conclude that the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance will be promoted.

The fundamental problem is that the Noise Impact Assessment does not assess the advertised event as a whole. Background noise and the marquee music test were undertaken on site, but the actual re-enactment event was not tested on site. The cannon/artillery source data was expressly measured at a different site, and the battle-noise assessment is then based on isolated source measurements and modelling of individual elements, including one cannon, one musket, 8 muskets and 100 drums.

That is not the same as assessing the combined impact of a major event involving approximately 1,000 re-enactors, cannon fire, massed musketry, drums, crowd noise, possible public address systems, amplified entertainment, camping, alcohol and late-night activity on nearby residential receptors.

Given those deficiencies, Environmental Protection should maintain its objection unless the following minimum controls are secured.

1. All amplified music, late-night refreshment and external bar/campsite activity to cease by 21:00

- The current proposal permits live music until 23:00 on Saturday and Sunday, late-night refreshment until midnight, and alcohol service to re-enactors until midnight. That is inappropriate in a quiet rural/residential location with nearby homes, particularly where the evening entertainment is in a marquee/bar next to the campsite and will involve people leaving the marquee late at night and returning to camping areas in close proximity to residential receptors.

- The applicant may say that the music is "inside" the marquee. That should not be accepted as a sufficient answer. For public nuisance purposes, a marquee is not equivalent to an acoustically enclosed indoor venue. The applicant's own Noise Impact Assessment states that attenuation through the marquee structure is negligible, and the Noise Management Plan states that the marquee has little in the way of attenuation qualities. In practical terms, amplified music, bass, raised voices, alcohol-related noise, crowd movement and late-night dispersal from a marquee/campsite setting are all capable of carrying into the surrounding rural area.

- This is a clear departure from the Council's own policy and guidance. Tendring's Licensing Policy, page 20, sections 5.5 to 5.7, requires applicants to address proximity to residential premises, operating hours, especially 23:00 to 07:00, whether activities are inside or outside, noise-limiting features, wind-down periods, control of outside-area hours, deliveries, collections, clearing glasses/bottles, sound limitation devices and traffic management. The Council's Environmental Health guidance, pages 8 to 9, states that music, singing, speech and bass can be intrusive, that outside noise is likely to cause more disturbance, that outside areas where disturbance may arise should normally cease by dusk or 21:00, whichever is earlier, and that amplified music or

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voices should usually be restricted to indoor activities only. It also specifically identifies marquees and tents used for entertainment as requiring consideration.

There is no credible reason to depart from Tendring Council's published policy and Environmental Health guidance here. The late-night risk is not limited to the music level inside the marquee. It includes bass breakout, raised voices, alcohol-related noise, people leaving the marquee/bar, movement back to the campsite, catering activity, servicing, generators and the general dispersal/wind-down of a temporary event in a quiet rural setting.

Environmental Protection should therefore require all amplified music, late-night refreshment, external bar activity, catering, bottle handling, servicing, generator movement and other avoidable noisy activity to cease by 21:00, in line with Tendring Council's published Environmental Health guidance.

2. No PA, amplified speech or amplified sound outside the marquee/tent area

- The Noise Impact Assessment appears to assess only amplified music in the re-enactors' marquee/bar area. It does not assess any battlefield PA, commentary system, public announcements, outdoor music, public bar speakers or other amplified sound elsewhere on the site.

- This is particularly important because previous concerns have already been raised with Environmental Protection and Licensing about amplified noise carrying from this site/estate to nearby residential properties, including video evidence submitted from my property. In that context, any outdoor PA, commentary or amplified speech would be a significant and foreseeable public nuisance risk.

- The position must therefore be explicit. If outdoor PA or amplified sound is proposed, it has not been assessed. If it is not proposed, it must be expressly prohibited.

Environmental Protection should require a condition that no amplified music, PA system, commentary, announcements, microphones, amplified speech or speakers may be used anywhere outside the assessed marquee/tent area, save for emergency safety announcements only.

3. No cannon fire

- The assessment is based on one Falconet cannon tested at a separate site, with six shots. The Noise Management Plan, however, allows 4 cannons per army, 8 cannons in total, and 6 shots per cannon. That equates to 48 cannon shots in each two-hour battle period, or 96 cannon shots across Sunday and Monday.

- Spread evenly, that is one cannon discharge approximately every 2.5 minutes. The plan does not impose any enforceable limit per 15 or 30 minutes, any minimum gap between shots, or any prohibition on bunched or near-simultaneous firing. "No cumulative volleys planned" is not an enforceable control.

- The applicant's own Noise Impact Assessment identifies the CIEH clay-target shooting guidance as relevant, but then seeks to dismiss its target-level methodology on the basis that re-enactment firing is supposedly lower frequency and lower intensity than clay shooting. That conclusion is not credible here. Cannon fire every 2.5 minutes over a two-hour battle period, alongside muskets, drums, crowds and other battle noise, cannot sensibly be characterised as a low-intensity noise impact for nearby residents. The proposal is also far closer to residential receptors than the buffer distances normally referred to in shooting-noise guidance, making strict controls essential.

- Cannon fire is high-energy impulsive noise with obvious startle potential. Public event material advises that loud noises from cannon and musket are a common occurrence and refers to ear defenders for individuals with sensitivities to loud noise. It is unrealistic to suggest that residents should be expected to use their gardens or outdoor amenity areas while cannon fire occurs every few minutes for two hours on a Bank Holiday weekend. This is even more acute where other residential properties and/or residential land are within tens of metres of the battlefield area.

Environmental Protection should require no cannon fire. If that is not accepted, the fallback should be one cannon per side only, with no more than six cannon shots in total (i.e. 3 per cannon) per day, no simultaneous or

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near-simultaneous firing, a minimum five-minute gap between cannon discharges, and a clear cessation trigger if disturbance occurs or wind conditions favour propagation toward residential receptors.

4. Proper receptor monitoring and cessation triggers

- The current Noise Management Plan is descriptive rather than enforceable. It refers to monitoring, reasonable sound levels and taking action if noise is too loud, but does not provide a precise preventative control regime.
- Monitoring at the site perimeter is not enough. The relevant impact is at residential receptors, including gardens and outdoor amenity areas. There should be defined thresholds, agreed receptor locations, calibrated equipment, written logs and real-time authority to require reduction or cessation.
- Post-event complaint handling is not prevention. Once residents have been disturbed, the licensing objective has already failed.

Environmental Protection should require live monitoring at agreed residential receptor locations, defined noise thresholds, written records, data to be made available to Environmental Protection and affected residents after the event, and immediate reduction/cessation triggers if thresholds are exceeded.

5. No event traffic or pedestrian movement past residential properties

- The applicant's own material states that no event traffic will pass Lodge Cottage, West Cottage or Hall Cottage, and that no pedestrian event routes will pass near those properties.
- That commitment is welcome, but it must be made enforceable. A voluntary statement in supporting material is not enough.
- Given the scale of the event, including camping, alcohol, suppliers, staff, re-enactors, traders and public attendees, this needs to be secured by condition.

Environmental Protection/Licensing should require a binding condition that no event-related vehicle or pedestrian traffic, including public, re-enactors, staff, traders, contractors, suppliers or servicing vehicles, may use the shared residential estate track or pass Lodge Cottage, West Cottage or Hall Cottage, except in emergency.

Conclusion

In short, the submitted documents do not justify withdrawal of Environmental Protection's objection. The assessment is materially deficient because it does not assess the combined event, and the proposed controls are not sufficiently precise, preventative or enforceable.

Please can Environmental Protection confirm whether it accepts that these deficiencies remain unresolved, and whether it will maintain its objection unless the controls above, or equivalent protective conditions, are secured.

If Environmental Protection is minded to withdraw its objection, I would be grateful for a written explanation addressing the deficiencies and proposed safeguards above before the hearing, so that residents have a fair opportunity to understand and comment on the basis for that position.

I would also be grateful if this email could be placed on the licensing file and provided to the Licensing Sub-Committee as part of the material relevant to public nuisance.

Best,

