

Licensing Application 112861: 'Tea Party Festival Limited' dated 18/01/2019

Objection on behalf of the Caversham and District Residents Association (CADRA)

Introduction

CADRA notes that Tea Party Festival Limited are seeking to relocate their event from Windsor to the Thames Prom, Reading. They have requested and are advertising the next event in Reading to be held on 29 June 2019, though the application is for an annual event for 1 or 2 event days on the last weekend of June. A capacity of 9999 is requested.

Objection

CADRA objects to this application as follows:

A. The prevention of crime and disorder

An event of this scale requires experienced, proven management to maintain safety and security both within the site and the surrounding area. There is no evidence that this is the case. It requires substantial advance planning in conjunction with other agencies which will be severely limited by this late application.

B. Public safety

The event is on the banks of the River Thames and alcohol sales are planned. There is no adequate provision to maintain safety around the river.

C. The prevention of public nuisance

- (i) The site envisaged forms part of a public park. There is no provision for reinstatement of the land or for a site clean-up. Litter around a festival site is a well-recognised issue. There is no provision for measures to deal with this or prevent litter from entering the river.
- (ii) No provision is made for the substantial impact on traffic flow or parking provision. These issues require very careful advance planning taking account of experience of other large events. Inadequate provision will cause substantial public nuisance with traffic congestion and parking in residential areas.
- (iii) No consideration is given to the implications of holding a 2-day event, though this is requested in the application.
- (iv) The impact on the many residential areas around the site has not been properly considered.
- (v) Previous problems have been encountered with substantial noise from fun fairs, but no limitations are imposed.

Conclusion

Events of this scale and in this location require expertise, experience and careful planning. The nature and scale of the organisation as shown at Companies House and elsewhere do not suggest that there is adequate capacity within the organisation for the required expertise and experience. Careful liaison with statutory agencies and local groups is needed so that the lessons learned elsewhere in relation to safety and prevention of nuisance can be identified and appropriate measures put in place.

This application fails in all these respects and should not be granted.

18 February 2019