

### Response to Planning Representation

Since we opened in 2008, we have been doing Marquee events and it has only been recently, the summer of 2014 that we have received Marquee complaints– believed to be caused by the relocation of the Marquee in April 2014 onto the green in line with Aigburth Vale.

From the beginning of these noise complaints we have consulted with the Environmental Health authority and worked at ways to abate illicit noise levels. It was ultimately agreed that the Marquee be moved from the offensive area. Our thinking is to return the Marquee to the area where no one has complained for the past 5 years.

To further this, we have appointed Direct Acoustic Solutions Ltd, an independent noise specialist from Sussex, to provide an assessment and plan a noise mitigation strategy for the planned area of the Marquee.

The scope of the noise assessment report is as follows: a) To provide details of a background noise survey at the nearest noise sensitive dwellings. b) To provide a noise assessment of the potential noise impact on noise sensitive dwellings c) To provide recommendations of appropriate noise mitigation methods to assist the noise mitigation strategy.

Our aim is to follow the recommendations of the report and work closely with the Environmental Health authority to ensure the noise levels for the planned Marquee are of an acceptable level. The noise assessment report is included as part of the supporting documentation provided.

Following a recent telephone conversation with Stuart Clark from the planning department, below we have attempted to answer some considerations we believe may be relevant to planning.

- 1) Marquee events are no bigger than Hall events, if anything, they are smaller. The attraction of the Marquee is the decoration and uniqueness but not the size. The Hall by contrast can cater for over 300 people if using the whole hall. In fact, we have had as many as 500 registering runners using the Hall in July for the Sefton Park 5 miler; and the Marshalls Presentation Day is up to 23 Football teams ranging from tiny tots right up to open age football.
  - 2) Parking has never been an issue at the hall and we surmise that's because most people attending an event aren't driving, plus there is plenty of ample parking right around the perimeter of the Hall. The worst parking we experience is when bowling matches have been on when everyone drives and parks at the top end of Aigburth Vale – there used to be somewhere in the region of 20 to 30 cars twice a day, four times a week.
  - 3) We no longer allow live bands in the Marquee – they must go via a PA/amplified sound system that will be regulated to a level that is to be agreed with Environmental Health.
  - 4) We now push guests to use a resident DJ instead of wayward DJs/Entertainers who might try to abuse noise levels. Although the recommendations from acoustic solutions should eradicate this issue.
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- 1) Although the Liverpool Cricket Club is a larger site than APH as pointed out by planning, the end of their Marquee, which sites their stage and dancefloor, is actually approx. 52m away from noise sensitive dwellings / residential premises; plus they have no specialist acoustic installation equipment to abate noise levels. In contrast, we aim to have our Marquee sited so the music is installed approx. 90m away from the residential premises of complaint plus, have the appropriate noise mitigation measures and equipment in place.
  - 2) By re-locating the Marquee back to the original area, or even further away from Aigburth Vale, where there were no complaints for the past 5 years, the Marquee is not visible from the road side of Aigburth Vale. In fact, there is a 14 foot perimeter thick beech hedge and smaller stone wall surrounding the perimeter on the gardens – plus when sited at the back of the building, there is also the building itself masking the view and noise levels of the Marquee.

We hope to demonstrate we are taking all the appropriate action to ensure our neighbours' welfares are regarded. We want the Hall to be successful and enjoyed by all. Our neighbours' concerns are extremely important to us. We would ask planning to consider the effectiveness of returning the Marquee to the area where there has been no complaints for the past five years, coupled with the installation of the new sound mitigating measures & equipment; and later, a planned knock through onto the Sefton Park side of the Hall.

We would ask planning to be mindful that while there may be genuine complaints - there may also be malicious grievances because the use of our green is not agreeable to everyone.

This point is highlighted further in the supporting documentation.

Finally, up until very recently, APH were completely unaware planning permission for a Marquee was required. We were ill informed by past Marquee hire companies citing there would be no need due to it being a temporary structure. We honestly apologise for any fault regarding planning permission.

We wish to work obediently with the local planning department in the future to ensure we meet all necessary requirements to put up a temporary Marquee. ..

### Miscellaneous Considerations.. -----

Liverpool cricket club – no planning, larger marquee, LOTS more events, marquee actually only 52m from residential housing even though larger plot the marquee is sited nearer houses than we are.

Alicia hotel weddings and residents next door – no mention here that it generates traffic and taxis!?

Sefton park hotel marquee is extremely close to residential area – no planning, lots of events every year, residential area on the park, lots of people and taxis etc.

Police riverside club – marquee, no planning

NONE of the above have the SUPER acoustic levelling system we have to reduce noise. NONE of these have had an environmental acoustic / sound level analysis report to

build a sound mitigating report and then work to that report to ensure the noise levels are of the correct level. WE HAVE!

Planning mentioned a concern of the numbers of guests Marquee could generate. We have the Mossley hill 5 miler with up to 500 runners registering at the hall and is no problem. Over 200 of these are there in the evening for the presentation night. And the hall itself generates 200 to 250 people for functions and there is no problem with that... by contrast the Marquee only accommodates 150 to 200 people and we won't have a Marquee event and Hall event at the same time.

A representation from planning was made at the licensing review... No representation from Environmental Health nor from the Police was made. At the licence review even the neighbours who were making the review complaint confirmed and re-iterated that they didn't mind the Marquee up at the back of the building where it used to be – where it has previously been for the past 5 years without complaint. .... even said they had been to a Marquee event there and they had a good time and that the event was managed and run very well.