



Tuesday, 8th March, 2022

Tel: ()
email:

Dear Sirs.

I am writing to strongly object to the Premises License Application made for Melbourne Hall and displayed on the S.D.D.C website. It asks for licensing for up to 5000 people per event and for any number of events between April and October each year. I feel that it is important for me to voice my objections as a resident living in close proximity to the site and someone who may be very much adversely affected by these proposals.

I am very concerned that groups of people, numbering thousands, will impact on a sleeping community of only 6,500. The proposed audience for these events is nearly equal to the population of Melbourne.

2. I am not even sure how many might be allowed to attend. The article with Mr. Lowe in the February Village Voice newspaper talked of 800-1000 attending. The application actually asks for 5,000. Which is the accurate number? Is it the case that a reading public might react less with a projected and likely 800 — thus lower figures are circulated?

Despite Mr Lowe's previous assurance that his audience 'of less than a hundred' would not impact the town at any time I defy him to make the same prediction of 5000. His forecast of groups of local people strolling down to the Hall is ridiculous with a crowd of 5000 people. These people will have had alcoholic drink on summer evenings and be in close proximity with each other. These are the ideal circumstances to ignite public disorder, moving through the town after the concert. Mr Lowe tells us that he will police the events with marshals. However I do not imagine that any number of marshals could pacify a crowd of 5000 in the event of any of a number of problems which might disrupt the concerts.

3. All of Mr Lowe's precautions become overwhelmed at 1000 guests. Mebourne has had its own problem with gangs of drunken youths AND it has an ongoing and serious problem with the use of drugs — and the problems of public order and criminal activity attracted as a result.

Mr Lowe surely cannot be serious when he proposes to offer parking to arriving guests on the field off Blackwell lane. The road outside this field can be devastatingly dangerous. There have been serious accidents there lately and two horses were killed after they were let out of their paddock by wandering visitors and immediately hit by vehicles. The road has a bend at the point of entry to the proposed 'parking' field. It has only one footpath which does not allow two people to walk at ~~feet~~ ^{least}.

The Hall points out that 60 vehicles might find parking here. Where might the other two thousand or so find a spot? It is not possible to slip them in to current available parking spots as Mr Lowe suggested at our last licensing hearing.

A mass influx of 2000+ vehicles

4.

Will overwhelm all of the provision in Melbourne. I would point out the Melbourne Festival, yearly September celebrations where 6000+ strangers come in to the town on two consecutive days. They are encouraged to different parts of the town and arrive and depart over a much longer period - allowing traffic more time to dissipate.

Nevertheless, a crowd, after drinking, wanting to reach their cars and go home, perhaps in the rain, will bring about some very unpleasant public safety issues.

It is also unfortunate that the area singled out to host these hordes is also Melbourne's most historical and scenic area. Many of the houses surrounding the proposed site have children, asleep early.

A crowd of thousands makes a considerable noise - in audience response, in background chat and in chanting and singing. Residents will feel as if a river of humanity is washing between us.

It might also bring a dangerous tide of undesirables to the ~~area~~ area. Inevitably a crowd of people will contain elements who will find Melbourne inexperienced and naive.

5.

When Mr. Lowe first made these proposals on behalf of the Hall there was, certainly in the understanding of the people of Melbourne some confusion about the numbers attending and the means of parking their vehicles. We now know that thousands of vehicles will arrive on the slow constricted approach roads to our medieval town. Thousands will cross a lethal road on a bend in the dark.

A settled, small and settled community awaits developments — with some very real misgivings.

Mr. Lowe is an accomplished speaker, having done this job on behalf of Donington Park. It is an irony, therefore, that Donington Park offers a more professional, safer and less problematic venue — with the space round it to absorb huge numbers and a road system to cope.

Yours