



SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Licensing Act 2003

Representation by an "Other Person" as defined by the above Act.

Note: Please be aware that this form may be viewed by the Applicant or by a representative of the Applicant. It may also be read out in public at the sub-committee hearing.

You may request that the Licensing Authority withholds some or all of your details, however, the withholding of details will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where the Licensing Authority believes there to be a genuine and well-founded fear of intimidation. Any person who wishes the Authority to consider withholding their details is advised to contact the Licensing Department prior to submitting this form.

An "other person" can make representations against a relevant licence application. Representations may be made on behalf of the above by a representative e.g. MP, solicitor, or a friend.

Please indicate in which capacity you are making this representation by ticking a box below:

- X • An individual person
 • A body representing a person e.g. Solicitor
 • A person involved in a business
 • A body representing a business

Representations are only relevant to an application if they relate to at least one of the four **Licensing Objectives** listed below:

- 1. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder**
- 2. Public Safety**
- 3. Prevention of Public Nuisance**
- 4. The Protection of Children from Harm**

Representations may be made at any time during a period of 28 consecutive days starting on the day after the application was given to the Licensing Authority. This period is reduced to the expiry of the 9th working day after the application was given for minor variation applications.

In the case of a closure order issued by the Police, representations may be made during the seven days that follow relevant notice being given to the Local Authority by the Magistrates Court, starting on the day after the notice was received.

Please enter your contact details below: -

Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Tel:	
E-mail:	

Please confirm name and address of person, represented person or business affected, if different from the address given above: i.e. this could be a shop premise in the vicinity but you do not live at the shop premises.

Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	

Address of premises in application causing concern, which you wish to make a representation about

Name of Applicant:	Melbourne Hall (Represented on the application by Roger Lowe)
Address of Premises	Melbourne Hall, Church Square, Melbourne, Derbyshire, DE73 8EN
Application Details:	New premises licence application (Expiry date: 09/03/22)

Please give details of your representation in the box below. Indicate which of the Licensing Objectives your representation refers to by ticking the relevant box/es:

X • The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- X • Public Safety**
- X • Prevention of Public Nuisance**
- X • The Protection of Children from Harm**

**Details of my
REPRESENTATION to the LICENSING APPLICATION
submitted by MELBOURNE HALL [represented on the application by Roger
Lowe]**

1. Prevention of crime and disorder

The issue:

Melbourne Hall Events is planning to bring large groups of people to Melbourne. It's proposing to protect itself with security. But Melbourne itself would have no protection to deter potential crime and disorder throughout the community from up to nearly 5,000 strangers here at once – or even the 800-1,000 they say they plan to start with. How will my property and my family, and that of my fellow residents, be protected from that?

Melbourne's residents have the right to be safe from crime and disorder. Out of any large group, some people are going to be less well-behaved than others, and thus carry the potential for causing disorder if not actual crime.

As well, people who mean to do mischief may or may not arrive directly at Melbourne Hall's proposed events. They could; it would be an ideal means of slipping into a distracted community. Or they could as easily use the mass arrival as cover to keep from being easily spotted. There would be no way to differentiate them on sight from well-intentioned attendees. They certainly wouldn't be carrying signs announcing who they are. They'll look like everyone else.

Melbourne Hall intends to watch out for crime and disorder within its own grounds during its proposed events. But its application has no plans for protecting the community itself although the village would be affected by the crowds it intends to attract. Legally, Melbourne Hall may not be able to be held responsible for what someone it attracts to its private events does elsewhere in the community. But that would be cold comfort to someone who sustained harm in such a way.

In effect, attracting up to 5,000 strangers to swarm into Melbourne and back out, whether for a day at a time or for multiple days in a row, opens the door to people who otherwise would not be attracted here. Even the 800-1,000 people that Melbourne Hall claims it wants to start with could attract people of ill intent.

Under normal circumstances, Melbourne is of a size and nature where such people would reasonably expect to be spotted. That's a natural deterrent to crime and disorder that otherwise might come in from outside sources. Especially in these days when policing has been drastically cut back everywhere, keeping deterrents in place is essential.

Bringing large groups of people into Melbourne, whether once or repeatedly, would negate that overnight. It wouldn't take 5,000 people to cause that. It wouldn't take even half of that, nor half again of that.

Crowds of strangers that have not been invited by the community need to be watched and monitored. It's a telling commentary that Melbourne Hall has made no plans for this. Its application shows only a consideration for itself, and not for the

potential for crime and disorder that it could be imposing on the village in which it sits.

2. Public safety

The issue:

On a daily basis, safely negotiating Melbourne's narrow, curving streets and its 2-lane approach roads requires alertness and caution for drivers as well as pedestrians. Near-misses happen frequently. Three months ago, there was a head-on collision near the entrance to Melbourne Hall. Potentially doubling the village population for Melbourne Hall's events – even if not all attendees arrive in private vehicles – is asking for further such trouble.

Melbourne's quaintly narrow and curvy central streets are part of its charming village atmosphere, but those features also have inherent drawbacks. Residential and business parking along those streets narrows them even more. Vehicles in one lane often must pull over to allow oncoming cars, trucks, and buses to come past. There is very little room for error.

In addition, each of Melbourne's approach roads has only two lanes. Those effectively are often narrowed to a single lane at the village itself. The arrival, departure, and general use by up to 5,000 attendees at Melbourne Hall's proposed events could only exacerbate the daily crunch of vehicular and pedestrian traffic here.

What will happen if emergency vehicles need to come and go on those roads, especially during the height of attendance traffic? What if they need a place to park on a crowded street with no spare parking?

Each road that attendees coming to Melbourne Hall Events would take come with hurdles. Using the roads to the east as an example ... one of the two roads coming from the direction of East Midlands Airport ends in Melbourne as Station Road. It largely passes through countryside. But when it reaches the village it starts passing a nearly continuous stream of compactly spaced houses, many of them housing children of all ages, making it unsuitable as a main approach road.

The alternative road from that direction ends as Blackwell Lane, running beside Melbourne Hall. It is the narrowest of those two-lane roads. It's winding and hilly, and has several blind curves. It's especially dangerous in the dark and in inclement weather. Driving on it requires caution even for residents of Melbourne and surrounding areas who are familiar with it. It would be particularly risky for non-locals both when they're anxious to arrive for Events and when wanting to get on home late at night. Where that road enters/exits Melbourne, parked cars along its edges often narrow it to a single lane.

A 60-space parking area has been proposed for the field off of Blackwell Lane across from the side of Melbourne Hall's tall surrounding wall. If parking does go there instead of on the Melbourne Hall side of that road, woe betide pedestrians trying to walk along that squeezed end of Blackwell Lane to the Hall entrance off of Church Square on the other side of the Lane.

Village residents are used to the high level of caution needed to cross from the

village side of the road to Church Square off of which the Hall is located. Many who wish to walk to The Pond and the public paths beyond it must cross there each day.

Especially on locally busy days that is a distinct challenge, especially for older and younger pedestrians who cannot walk quickly. But it's also a gamble for drivers who must dodge other vehicles as well as pedestrians. Approaches and exits converge there from three directions at once. Local people generally know to take special caution there. As strangers won't have learned that caution, there would be an escalated potential for harm to everyone at this location, whether on foot or using some form of wheeled transport.

As well, attendees would want to park in the most convenient spaces. Their first choice wouldn't be a lot down Blackwell Lane even if the Hall did put one there.

Unfortunately, Melbourne has very little parking space that isn't taken daily by residents and by those who work here and visit routinely (medical personnel, relatives, etc). It wouldn't take many Event arrivals parking in Melbourne's streets to overwhelm the village's most-used roads, and to further jeopardise safe passage for all across all of its busy streets.

3. Prevention of Public Nuisance

The issue:

Having up to nearly 5,000 people regularly in Melbourne through 7 months of the year is a potential prelude to unwelcome noise and other disturbances in the nearby residential neighbourhoods and elsewhere on the village streets.

The proposed location for these events is a private home and grounds that are immediately adjacent to residential areas. Even when there's no deliberate intention of disturbing area residents, multi-day entertainment events for crowds coming to and leaving Melbourne Hall will impact their lives.

Noise from the events themselves may or may not be adequately controlled. Even if it is, 'event noise' isn't just from the event itself. Even at plays and symphonic events, the buzz and activity before, at intermissions, and after the performances are typically spirited. In addition, their pre-and post-gatherings are full of noise from people making up for having to be quiet during the performance. There's no reason why that wouldn't be the same at Melbourne Hall.

Moreover, there's the noise that would be made by attendees outside of the venue. From whatever direction they came, attendees would be arriving and departing past residences that are set flush against the pavement (which most are) or nearly so. The excess daytime vehicular traffic as well as pedestrian traffic would directly affect those residents as they try to go about their daily lives. That includes traffic hampering their safe access to their own homes as well as the vocal noises of attendees coming and going beside their homes.

Nighttime activity is of yet greater concern. With the Hall's doors open until 11:30pm, concentrated rushes of departing attendees past the residences around and

after that late hour could be expected, along with the noise of all the departing vehicles.

As well, exuberant attendees who come out into the community either individually or in groups, whether full of joy, distress, or alcohol, would have yet another impact on the streets and the residents of the village at whatever hours they roam.

If this is allowed to happen, any resident (including those who are ill or infirm) whose tolerance limit is the usual village sounds would be penalised on every event-day.

Melbourne Hall is a private entity planning a private enterprise for its own benefit. It is patently unfair for the community to be expected to tolerate the negative impacts of a private scheme.

But it appears, in fact, that Melbourne Hall *knew* that its plans could negatively impact the community via these public nuisances. (And as well via public safety and/or crime and disorder and/or the potential for danger to children.) The evidence is in its apparent effort to obscure the legal notices that it was required to post along with its premises licence application.

The required published notice was placed in one random issue of the paid-circulation Derby Telegraph – not in the Village Voice which is distributed free to 6,000 Melbourne and other area households. (That's where citizens saw the Melbourne Hall application for essentially 10,000 last year: precisely, 9,999.) This time, only those who happened to buy the 17 February 2022 Derby Telegraph would have had any opportunity to see the required notice. It is not available in the Melbourne library, nor in any other public location in Melbourne.

As to the notice that's required to be posted on the premises, initially it was put on the gate at the farthest southeast corner of the wall around the property, near the weir of The Pool - not in a prominent location easily visible to anyone walking past the Hall in Church Square.

On subsequent instruction from the Licensing Department to move it to "a more visible location" it was placed in the most obscure location that would meet the letter of the law, on the far right window of the Melbourne Hall office across from Melbourne Hall itself. At that, it was soft black print on a white A4 paper against a background of white blinds, not intended to draw attention to itself.

On either occasion, why was it not posted outside the main gate into the Melbourne Hall Courtyard where most people coming past the Hall would be likely to see it even if the gates were closed?

Public notices are meant to give the populace some means of fair notice of plans that could affect them, and to alert to them to the presence of an SDDC application. Especially when both notices were posted as obscurely as could be done, only two reasons for attempting to obscure these notices fall out: (1) An attempt to repress the objections recorded in the representations that you're receiving, and (2) an attempt to avoid calling attention to the application itself until it was too late to object.

It seems abundantly clear, therefore, that (1) Melbourne Hall and those acting on its behalf knew that they would be the net gainer from those plans and Melbourne would be the net loser, and (2) that if the village residents learned about the plans and about the attempt to suppress their rightful citizen input, they would object.

4. Protection of Children from Harm

The issue:

Large groups of strangers coming to Melbourne could bring drugs and alcohol into the community, either intentionally enticing children with them or inadvertently exposing children to them. Such groups also could hide others intent on targeting children for illicit activities.

A crowd of up to 5,000 people is likely to include at least some people who drink irresponsibly, as well as potentially people who take or deal in drugs. Maybe they would attend the event. Maybe they would just arrive with the crowd so they wouldn't be obvious. Maybe they'd arrive separately, attracted by the large group.

Because we want to protect our children from harm, we don't want our young people to encounter this on the streets of Melbourne. The community makes every effort to prevent that from happening. Bringing up to 5,000 strangers here at once is the opposite to that. Bringing even half that number on a regular basis for more than half of the year, or half of that again, would bring the potential for endangerment to our community's youth.

Especially for events that are designed to bring sizeable groups here as quickly as it can be done – and then when the event finishes to herd them back out as quickly as can be done – it would be easy for drug dealers and users and others with ill intent to hide themselves among the attendees. From there they could slip out into the community and seek out our young people who normally feel safe in our streets.

Melbourne Hall plans to protect itself from drugs and alcohol excesses and other illegal behavior within its own grounds. But the Melbourne Hall Events application has no plans to protect Melbourne itself, and in particular its young people, from this kind of harm.

Anyone who targets children for corrupt purposes could hide among the crowds, or could come in separately and stay unnoticed in the overwhelm of sudden activity. Professionals are particularly good at that, but even amateurs can go undetected. Events such as crowds at Melbourne Hall would be a perfect cover for them.

What Melbourne Hall has applied for is not a community undertaking; it is a private scheme. Surely the Licensing Authority does not wish to authorise a private concern to endanger the village of which it is a part, especially not its children.

We cannot keep our children safe from everything. But they should be as safe as possible in their own community.

If possible please suggest alterations to the application/licence that would resolve the problem mentioned above, again paying attention to the licensing objectives

I see no scenario in which the Melbourne Hall Events proposal can work without potentially endangering, stressing, and otherwise impinging on the residents of Melbourne and those who ordinarily work and visit here on a daily basis.

But Melbourne Hall could reimagine its premise and make it work. It has food, coffee, wine, beer and boutique shops. These kinds of activities, if kept to their existing scale or similar, are suitable to its premises, should not disturb the village residents and are unlikely to attract problems to the community.

If Melbourne Hall personnel and its associates want to raise more money than they anticipate clearing through such activity, they should do so in a location and in a way that doesn't infringe on the rights of others. That should simultaneously let them avoid creating public nuisances, fostering crime or disorder, jeopardising public safety, or potentially endangering children.

One option would be for the Melbourne Hall personnel and associates to establish a venue on other land that the Hall personnel own away from any built-up community. That would avoid all the potential problems of imposing it on existing village life.

Another option would be to stage events at Donington Park or another venue, where facilities already exist for even greater numbers than they propose. Doing so would save them the time, trouble and expense of investing in their own infrastructure. It also would reduce the rules and regulations they would be responsible for.

In addition, potentially it could permit them to grow such events even beyond their current vision if they make a success of them. It would also be far better for the environment than constructing yet another venue from scratch. Donington Park doesn't use its stage year 'round, so there should be plenty of room there to accommodate Melbourne Hall events. At least one Melbourne Hall associate has worked there in the past, so they might even gain especially favourable terms. Or Melbourne Hall could negotiate with another already-established venue for the same purpose.

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If the events are held at Donington Park, just two miles away, that would be close for Melbourne residents to attend if they want, while the additional noise from there would hardly be noticeable in the village. If held at another established venue at a similar or greater distance from Melbourne, it likely wouldn't reach Melbourne at all, so either of those two scenarios would work

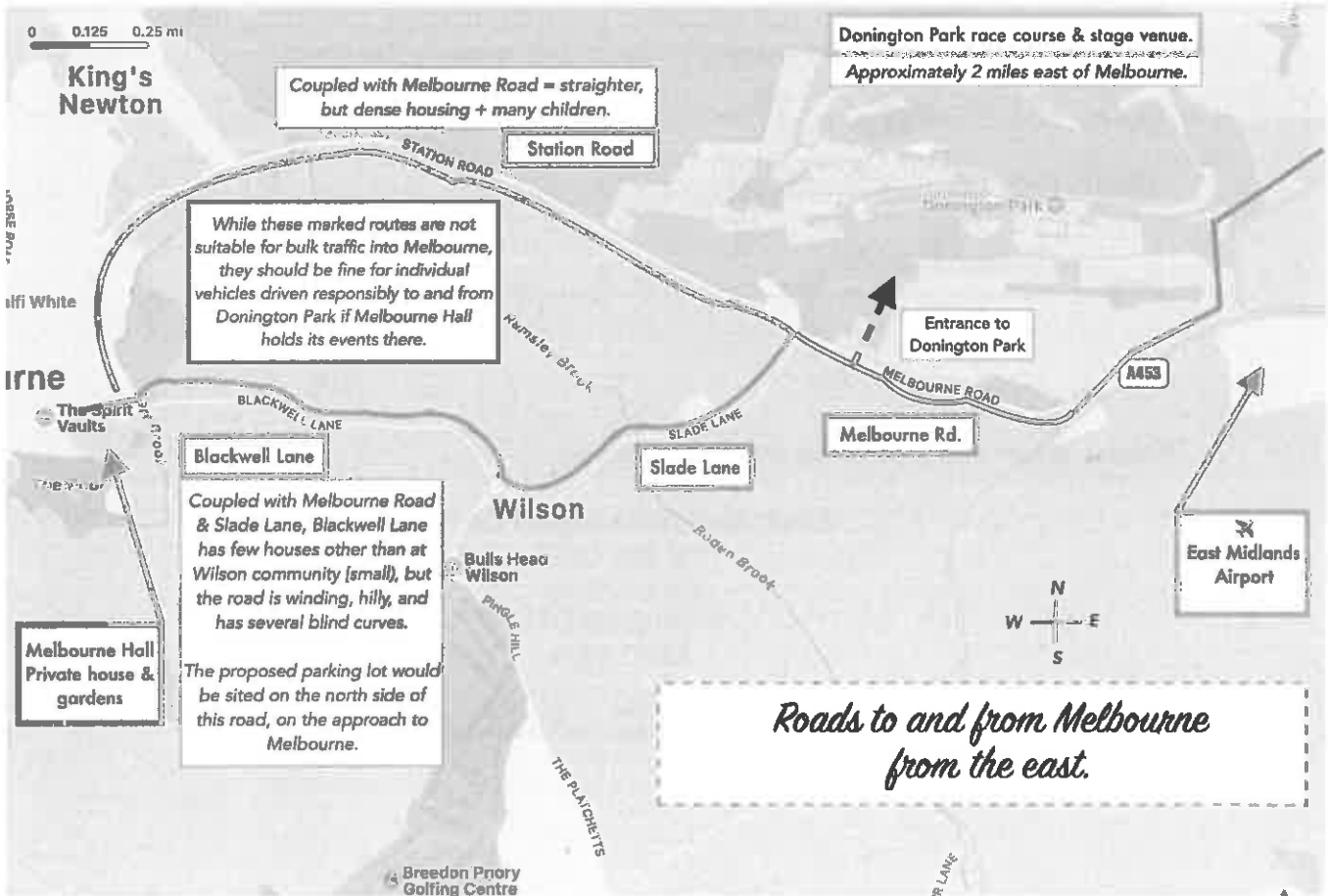
Another advantage to this approach is that established venues will already be set up to deal with the traffic, personal safety issues, sanitation, and all of the other factors involved with large gatherings. It would also avoid excess demands for water, sewer, police, fire, etc in Melbourne, which is not equipped to deal with such pressures.

In fact taking this tack would benefit Melbourne, particularly if these events were held at Donington Park, just 2 miles away. Attendees centred there would be close enough to Melbourne so they could easily make excursions into the village to patronise its businesses – without descending *en masse* with all the problems that brings.

If Melbourne Hall were then to establish the parking lot at the edge of Melbourne that it has proposed, perhaps a wee bit bigger than its announced 60 spaces, that would offer two additional possibilities. (1) It could be a fresh revenue source for the Hall (as well as the rest of Melbourne) both from Events attendees who come on to Melbourne and from others who need parking in town. Or (2) the Hall could benefit Melbourne as well as itself by providing free parking there, and take its gain from those who come on to existing facilities throughout the village.

Any of those alternatives would be better for Melbourne, and better also for Melbourne Hall.

You're welcome.



Once the Licensing Section has received this form you will receive a written acknowledgement and you may be contacted to discuss the issue prior to any referral to a sub-committee hearing.

If referred to a sub committee hearing:

Please tick this box if you do not intend to be present

Please tick this box if you do not intend to be represented

Please tick this box if you would like to remain anonymous

If you wish to withdraw your representation you may do so by confirming this in writing before the end of the last day of the 28 day consultation period.

Signed:

PRINT NAME:.....

Date: 09 March 2022

Please return this form to the following address:

South Derbyshire District Council
PO Box 6927
Civic Offices
SWADLINCOTE
DE11 0AH

Or e-mail the completed form to licensing@southderbyshire.gov.uk