

Report from **The Friends of Cherry Orchard Park** on the  
**Licence Application Hearing, 22.01.2015**

Rochford District Council applied for a Licence so that the following activities could be carried out at  
**Cherry Orchard Country Park**  
**Cherry Orchard Way**  
**Rochford**  
**Essex, SS4 1PN**

**Plays, films, live music, recorded music, performance of dance  
and anything of a similar nature**

Monday to Sunday 09.00 to 00.00hrs

Late night refreshment – Monday to Sunday 23.00 to 09.00hrs

**The Friends of Cherry Orchard Park made representation which was delivered to RDC by the due date, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The Group was invited to be represented at the Hearing and to speak.**

RDC, the Applicant, put forward their plans. During their presentation it became clear there was some confusion over the number of 'amplified music' events/days in the application – 3 events over 3 or 4 days. We requested they amend their application before the Committee consider it and they agreed to specify there should be a max of 3 days only. We then requested that if there were to be no overnight events they could amend the 'light refreshment' hours. This they declined to do leaving it for the committee to decide. (NB. It should be noted there is no restriction on 'community' type events eg Country shows, dog shows etc). We also placed great emphasis on the inference in the application that overnight camping could be allowed. We were advised by the legal rep that this is not covered within this license application.

The Objectors were invited to speak. Acting Chair JE presented the Statement on behalf of the group.

The panel retired to consider the application and the objections received.

Having listened to the four speakers' objections and considered the 30 plus written objections received, the panel agreed the Licence Application with the following conditions/restrictions in place.

The conditions put forward by the Police and other 'Responsible Authorities' were accepted (these are standard but very rigorous in terms of Health and Safety, Access, the prevention of illegal substances etc).

They confirmed that 'Amplified music events' would be limited to 3 days a year and must finish by 23.00. Late night refreshment hours are to be reduced from 23.00 to 09.00am to 23.00 to 01.00am. Although not covered by this application, the Committee added a stipulation that RDC's rental agreements must confirm that the site must be cleared at the end of each day thus preventing the inclusion of over night camping as part of an event.

While there was no adjustment to the license area or permitted numbers, the Friends are relieved and pleased that the Committee shared their view that overnight events are wholly unsuitable for the location and were heartened at the amendments and conditions put in place to prevent it.

What happens next :-

The Friends Group Committee will be considering what action to take next including all or some of the following:-

1. Seek clarification from RDC on some of the procedural issues concerning the hearing,
2. Seek clarification on acceptable sound levels
3. Seek clarification on when a Wildlife Survey will take place (this was raised at the hearing).
4. Seek clarification on the potential risks to the area from allowing a large scale event to take place in the absence of Bye-Laws.
5. Contact other interested Parties eg Western Front Assoc, Badger Protection, Essex Wildlife Trust, Keddies etc to ensure they are aware and involved where appropriate
6. Consider involving local press
7. Consider how we ensure we are informed when an event has been applied for
8. Consider what actions, if any, might need to be taken during an event

Please let us know if you would like to see any additional actions considered.