



Event Guidance Note 14

Prevention of Nuisance

As the Event organiser you need to be aware of the specific issues that can give rise to public nuisance and need to be managed as part of the event. Nuisance falls into for specific areas:

- Noise
- Odour
- Litter and Waste
- Light Pollution

The Environmental Health/Environmental Enforcement pages on the Council Website at <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk> will provide further guidance to assist to help you.

You will need to be able to understand the main factors, assess their impact and exercise control. One are that can give rise to significant problems is that of Noise.

Noise Nuisance

Amplified music and other noise associated with events can cause significant problems to neighbouring resident and cause them to make complaints to both the police and the Council.

Key factors to consider.

- Make one person responsible for dealing with all noise issues.
- Identify those that are likely to be disturbed by the noise.
- Let the neighbours know about the nature, timing and duration of your event and let them know what to expect by a letterbox drop, notices in local shops/community centres etc.
- Provide a contact number to receive information and or complaints from local residents.
- Analyse your programme and be considerate about how loudly you will allow the music to be played particularly late at night.
- Keep all doors and windows closed if the noise is inside a building.

- Bass noise levels are the most intrusive and will carry the furthest. Lowering the bass volume can reduce the impact.
- Some of the neighbours could be working or sleeping. Plan how guests leaving late at night can do so as quietly as possible.
- Be reasonable and try to negotiate through any problems caused.
- Beware of gatecrashers who can spoil an event through rowdiness and bad behaviour. You need to control tickets and the entrance to the event.
- Look at the timing of your event and the event profile.
- Events that over run or are particularly noisy will not be tolerated by local communities and neighbours. You need to communicate your plans well and ensure events run to the plan. This will reduce complaints and will help you to be able to run the event again.
- If a Statutory Noise Nuisance occurs the Local Authority are obliged to serve an Abatement Notice on the organiser or the person causing the nuisance. Failure to comply with the Notice could result in the seizure of amplification equipment and/or prosecution.

Firework Displays

Firework displays require careful planning to ensure they do not cause nuisance, distress and danger to those who have not been advised of the event. Overall, displays should be held as early as possible and the type of fireworks should be carefully considered. High impact large professional mortar shells may not be suitable in certain locations.

If you have a very large display that involves the use of professional fireworks and lasers etc then you may need to provide the Civil Aviation Authority with 28 days notice of the event. If your event is under flight paths then you may need to inform Air Traffic Control prior to and on the day of the event.

Special recommended controls are necessary for public and operator safety at such events and a specialist risk assessment should be prepared. Advice on setting up displays is available on the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/fireworks/using.htm>

If you are employing a specialist contractor to deliver your display then you need to include their risk assessment as part of or an appendix to your event plan.