

EX 031 - Chelmsford Local Plan Examination
Hearing Session for Matter 6b – Housing Provision in Growth Area 2
Location 5 Great Leighs
Question 65 a - g

This note is in response to the Inspector's request to know the geographic location of noise complainants related to Chelmsford (Gt Leighs) Racecourse. A response has been prepared from the Council's Environmental Health team, as follows:

We generally get a few noise complaints in relation to the outdoor music events they hold each year (since 2015). They have had around 4 or 5 such events each year. They now take place nearly always on Friday or Saturday nights, last about 90 minutes, and end by 11pm. The noise complaints we have received do not refer to the 'normal' operation of the racecourse, i.e. when used for horse racing.

This year we had 5 complaints in relation to an event they had on 1st September (finished at 22.45). 7 in total for 2018. 3 in 2017. 6 in 2016.

Previous visits by officers to monitor noise levels have not established noise nuisance. However, our Out of Hours Noise Officers will continue to visit if noise complaints are received out of hours to monitor the levels and take action as appropriate.

Most (if not all) of the noise complaints in 2018 were from outside CCC boundary, in Great Notley/Braintree. The (prevailing) wind can take the noise out of the borough towards Braintree. Wind direction can play a big part in determining what areas are affected – on that night it was clearly those to the North/North east of the racecourse. We have, however, had complaints previously from Great Leighs and other areas in CCC area.

My own view is that the complaints we have not, to date, been justified as there has only been 4 or 5 days each year when the noise has caused disturbance, it normally only lasts 1.5 hours and has finished at a reasonable time.

December 2018