

ANNEX 2

Noise Guidance for Community Street Closures

The purpose of this note is to provide advice to groups or organisations to enable them to carry out their own assessment of noise created by the Community Street Closure they are proposing to arrange. The purpose of such an assessment is to gauge the likely effect on nearby residents and to prevent the noise level being such that there is a loss of amenity, or worse still a noise nuisance and resultant complaints.

When considering a Community Street Closure there is a variety of information that is required, including:

- The exact boundary of the site.
- The position of all potential noise sources on the site, this may include loudspeakers, vehicles, crowds, generators etc. If using amplified sound you must use a directional sound system.
- The times of the event and the times of any associated practise sessions.
- The time and duration of any necessary building and dismantling operations.
- The day chosen, e.g. Sunday is generally regarded as a more noise sensitive day than a weekday.
- How often the Street Closures will be held, i.e. annually, once only, etc.
- Traffic movements associated with the Community Street Closure.
- Identify the local noise receptor population and especially any sensitive locations such as schools, libraries and health care premises.

The aim should be that the level of noise from the Community Street Closure within nearby premises should not cause a loss of amenity or nuisance to occupiers. For instance, the level of noise may be acceptable during the day time when people are active and background noise levels are at their highest but the same noise after perhaps 2000 hours may prevent people, especially children, from sleeping and this would almost certainly be unacceptable.

The Community Street Closure Organiser should ensure that people in the vicinity of the Street Closure are well informed about the exact times and dates of potentially noisy activities at least 14 days in advance of the Street Closure. This may be by letter to nearby residents or by signs posted on the site. Whatever method is used, it should clearly identify the contract holder and how they can be contacted before and during the event to discuss noise issues and to respond to any complaint.

The Community Street Closure Organiser must also have the authority to influence the level of noise created during the Street Closure as well as identifying points around the site where the noise can be subjectively monitored. These sites should be visited at frequent intervals during the period of noise generation to assess the likely affect on conversations, sleep, etc., depending on the time of day or night.

In the event that levels are witnessed that are excessive then measures should be taken to reduce the sound levels immediately.

Everything creates noise and it would be unrealistic for anyone to expect silence within their environment. However with some planning and forethought, it is possible to minimise the effects of noise from leisure and sports activities so that the general good is maintained.

Finally, remember the key points:

- Assess the likely noise when planning a Community Street Closure.
- Take steps to minimise the noise levels.
- Appoint someone to be responsible for the noise issues involved.
- Inform the population that may be affected.
- Ensure that people know who is in charge and how to contact them before and during the Community Street Closure.
- Assess the noise during the Community Street Closure and modify the volume to avoid noise nuisance, if necessary.