Guidance Note (GUI) **7**

**Prevention of Nuisance**

You need to be aware that there are four specific issues that cause public nuisance and need to be managed:

1. Noise
2. Odour
3. Litter and waste
4. Light pollution

**Preventing Noise Nuisance**

Amplified music and other noise associated with events can cause significant problems to

neighbouring residents and cause them to make complaints to the Police and Council. If an unreasonable and persistent noise disruption is caused or a statutory noise nuisance is identified, the Local Authority is obliged to serve a Community Protection Warning / Community Protection Notice and / or an Abatement Notice on the organiser or person causing the nuisance. Failure to comply with the Notice could result in the seizure of the noise making equipment and/or prosecution. The organiser of any musical event should be aware of the Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts and have a written Noise Management Plan that addresses the significant issues of concern and include reference to:

* Duration and hours that music will be played.
* If the event organiser will be employing an independent noise consultant.
* All noise complaints being forwarded to Environmental Protection within 7 days of the event, and finally.

**Neighbourhood Noise Checklist**

* Make one person responsible for dealing with all noise issues. Consider who are you likely to disturb?
* Let neighbours know about the nature, timing and duration of your event and tell them what to expect by a letterbox drop, notices in local shops/community centre etc.
* Provide a contact telephone number to receive information/complaints from residents.
* Be considerate about how loudly music is played, particularly late at night.
* Keep windows and doors closed if the noise source is inside a building.
* Bass level noise is the most intrusive – lowering the volume of the bass will help to reduce how far the sound carries.
* Some neighbours could be working or sleeping, try to encourage guests leaving late to leave as quietly as possible.
* Be reasonable and try to negotiate through any problems.
* Gate-crashes can spoil an event and cause rowdiness, so try to control tickets and the entrance to your event.
* Consider the timing of your event?
* Events may not be as well tolerated or acceptable if they run late or are particularly noisy. Please make every effort to talk to your neighbours, as it will reduce complaints.

**Firework Displays**

Firework displays can cause considerable nuisance, distress, and danger to those who have not been advised, or considered, in the planning of an event. Displays should finish, as early as possible and in most locations the use of 'mortar shells' and similar high noise fireworks is not considered appropriate. You should also bear in mind the proximity to Durham and Tees Valley Airport to the event site and provide the Civil Aviation Authority with a minimum of 28 days’ notice of fireworks, the use of lasers or similar displays. They will advise on the related legislation-based practices that must be followed to ensure public

safety. Consultation must also take place with Air Traffic Control prior to the event and on

the day of the event. If you are employing a professional to provide your firework display this should be considered as part of the risk assessment produced in relation to their activity.

**Floodlighting**

The floodlights shall be orientated and shielded or otherwise designed and positioned as such not to cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties.

**Contact**

Environmental Protection Team

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