Luton

Environmental Protection

Noise Control at Outdoor Events with Music

This advice sheet and checklist provides noise control advice to those planning an event which includes amplified music lasting for more than 1 hour.

Please download the advice sheet, **Noise Control at Outdoor Events**, from www.luton.gov.uk/eventnoise, if you are planning an event:

- with only acoustic or quiet background music
- with amplified music lasting for 1 hour or less

THINGS TO DO CHECKLIST	
Before the event	**Done? Yes / No**
1. Decide who will be the **noise control person** for the event. This person will control noise on the day of the event.	
2. Appoint a **noise consultant**. You should use someone who is a member of: • Association of Noise Consultants, Tel: 01727 896092. www.association-of-noise-consultants.co.uk. • Institute of Acoustics:. Tel: 01727 848195, www.ioa.org.uk You will need a noise consultant even if you are organising a free or charity event.	
3. Give your noise consultant a copy of the Requirements for Noise Consultants sheet which is included with this advice sheet.	
4. Visit the event site and make a list of all addresses which may be affected by noise from the event.	
5. Choose a mobile phone number which will act as a Complaint Hotline. The noise control person must have this mobile phone with them throughout the event.	
6. Write a letter and deliver it to all the addresses on the list you have made above. This letter should tell people about: • the event (you could offer free tickets and invite people along) • start and finish times • the Complaint Hotline number if they want to make a complaint. For events in St Georges Square, there is a list of addresses to write to below.	

7. Email a copy of your letter to environmentalhealth@luton.gov.uk. In your email, include: • a list of addresses your letter has been delivered to • the name and contact details of the noise control person • the name and contact details of your noise consultant.	
During the event	
8. Test the Complaint Hotline number to make sure it's working. It's usually best to have the phone on 'vibrate' as you may not hear calls during the event.	
9. Test the contact numbers you have for your consultant.	
10. Deal with any noise complaints in a professional way and take them seriously: • Ask the caller for their name, address and contact number • Advise the caller that their complaint will be investigated by your noise consultant • Pass the details to your noise consultant and ask them to investigate • Ask your consultant to let you know what action has been taken • Call the person who made the complaint to let them know what action has been taken • Make a note of everything you do. **If your consultant tells you the music is too loud, you must ensure that volume levels are reduced**. Usually the bass part of the music is the most disturbing, so reducing the volume of the bass can help.	
11. Make sure the event finishes at the advertised time.	
After the event	
12. Get a report from your noise consultant about the event and email a copy to environmentalhealth@luton.gov.uk	

Any questions?
Please contact the Environmental Protection team.
- (01582) 510 330
- environmentalhealth@luton.gov.uk
- www.luton.gov.uk/eventnoise

Residential properties near to St Georges Square
Flat 1 - 35, Aldwyck House, Dunstable Place, Luton, LU1 2QT (35 flats)
Flat 1 -11, Leeds House, 68-72 George Street, Luton, LU1 2BD (11 flats)
Flats 1 – 41, Collingdon Court, Collingdon Street, Luton, LU1 1ST (41 flats)
Guildford Hall, Guildford Street, 80 – 94 Guildford Street, Luton, LU1 2PA
The Manager, Best Western Menzies Strathmore, Arndale Centre, Luton, LU1 2TR

Luton

Requirements for noise consultants

Before the event

1. Carry out a background noise survey at the nearest residential properties prior to the event commencing. The background noise level should be measured using a sound level meter complying with type 2 or better of BS5969. Time weighting F (fast response) should be used.

2. Liaise with sound system suppliers and the sound engineer to ensure all loudspeakers are aligned and orientated so as to minimise noise disturbance.

3. Ensure any changes to the event, such as stage orientation or speaker positions, are noted in the post event report.

4. Carry out a sound test to determine the maximum music noise level at the mixer desk to ensure the noise levels in Table 1 below are met at the nearest noise sensitive premises. This effectively calibrates the sound system.

During the event

5. Carry out noise monitoring within the venue at the sound mixer position and at locations outside the venue throughout the event. You should not carry out any other activities related to the event.

6. Ensure the following noise levels are met:

Table 1
Music Noise Level (MNL) shall not exceed the background noise level (L_{A90}) by more than 15dB(A) when measured over any 15 minute period during both the sound checks and the event. This level applies between 09.00 and 23.00. Measurements shall be taken 1 metre from the facade of any noise sensitive premises*.
The Sound Pressure Level, at 1 metre from the facade of any noise sensitive premises, shall not exceed 71dB in either of the 63Hz or 125Hz octave frequencies.
For events occurring between 23.00 and 09.00, the music noise shall not be audible within noise-sensitive premises with windows open for ventilation.

* Noise sensitive premises includes residential properties, hospitals or similar institutions, education establishments or places or worship or any premises used for any other purposes likely to be affected by the music noise.

7. Ensure the music noise level is measured using an integrating-averaging sound level meter complying with type 2 or better of BS6698. Time weighting F (fast response) should be used. The MNL in Table 1 is in terms of 15 min L_{Aeq}, however useful control can be exercised by monitoring the L_{Aeq} over 1 minute periods. This enables an early warning of possible breaches to the 15 minute level.

   When measuring L_{Aeq} in order to determine the music noise level, you should avoid local noise sources influencing the result.

   Where the local noise is intermittent, a series of short term L_{Aeq} measurements should be made of the music noise while the local source is absent or has subsided to typically low or mean minimum values. An average of these short term readings will give an estimate of the music noise level. A further option would be to measure the A weighted sound pressure level on a sound level meter complying with type 2 or better of BS5969 with the time weighting set to S (slow response) when the music is at its loudest and not influenced by local noise.

   If the local source is continuous, a measurement of the L_{Aeq} of the local source when the music is not occurring should be made and a correction to the measured L_{Aeq} when the music is occurring made to obtain an estimate of the music noise level.

8. Ensure music noise levels at the start of the event are not too high to allow for an increase during the event. The sound volume level is often increased during the event to enhance the performance.

9. Advise the sound engineer and the noise control person of:
   - breaches of the music noise levels in Table 1
   - occasions where the music noise levels have only just been met.

10. Ensure volume levels are reduced so that music noise levels in Table 1 are met.

11. Investigate all noise complaints reported by the noise control person and take appropriate action.

After the event

12. Send a post-event report to the Environmental Protection team, environmentalprotection@luton.gov.uk. The report should include:

    - Complaints received and action taken.
    - Monitoring results collected on the day.
    - Details of any breaches of the noise levels specified in Table 1 and action taken
    - Any recommendations for future events.