

Monday 2 October 2023

By email

Dear Chief Constable Catherine Roper, Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson and John Glenn MP

I am Deputy Chair of Wylve Parish Council. The Chair is away on holiday. I have been asked to contact you all on behalf of Wylve Parish Council regarding the "rave" held on Sunday morning.

In the very late hours of Saturday night and early hours of Sunday morning a rave started, I believe it was close to Wylve probably on private land along Cow Drove. The nuisance manifest itself by heavy and very loud "techno music" that was heard in Wylve, Upton Lovell, Deptford and in various other locations. It lasted for nearly 12 hours.

Salisbury Police Facebook reported as follows:

At around midnight last night (Saturday) we were made aware of a large number of vehicles and people gathering at Dinton, near Wilton.

Officers attended the scene and located approximately 250 vehicles and 400 people at the location.

Detective Chief Superintendent Ben Mant is concerned about the impact the rave has had on the local community.

He said: "We would like to reassure residents that the situation is being monitored and a number of road closures were put in place on roads in the local area to prevent further cars attending. Around 100-200 people are still on the scene with about 70 vehicles. The group have been served a Section 63 order directing them to leave the site."

I am aware that numerous calls of complaint were attempted to Wiltshire Police on 101 - sadly some calls were just not answered and other calls took some 20 minutes to connect. I did speak to a charming person on 101 who assured me that the police were doing all they could.

The "noise" continued until midday on Sunday. That is 11 and 3/4 hours after it was first reported to Police.

Many 100's of local people were inconvenienced, kept awake and subsequently had to avoid cars being driven very erratically away from the site of the 'rave'.

My simple questions are

(1) why did the police not do more once they were aware of the problem?

(2) If there were 'many units' at the site - why was the generator simply not turned off?

(3) Is there a contingency plan in place to deal with similar incidents that will no doubt happen in the future?

(4) What is the point of a Section 63 notice if it has no timely, effective or enforceable actions associated with it?

(5) How many police attended the “rave”?

(6) What was done about the children sleeping in cars, the open use and selling of drugs (I understand arrests were made?) and finally the “attendees” driving away after the event when they were in no fit state to drive?

To my certain knowledge there have been at least 4 similar “happenings” in or around Wyllye in the last few years. Are we just going to have to “put up with it” in the future?

I am also aware that Dorset police have in the past, seized equipment at similar raves. That apparently ended the inconvenience immediately. It can be done!

Yours sincerely

Piers Williams
ON BEHALF OF WYLYE PARISH COUNCIL