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Ms L Shaw  
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Your Ref: EN/08/0271  
Our Ref: APP/N1920/C/10/2136252  
**Further appeal references at  
foot of letter**  
Date: 19 January 2011

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Dear Ms Shaw

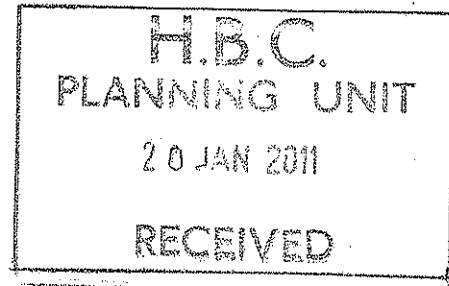
**Town and Country Planning Act 1990  
Appeals by Mr Syamasundara Das  
Site at International Society Krishna Consciousness, Bhakt, Dharam Marg,  
Hilfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford, WD25 8EZ**

I enclose a copy of the appellant's proof of evidence.

Yours sincerely

pp Craig Maxwell

325(BPR)



**Further appeal references:- APP/N1920/A/10/2133063 and APP/N1920/X/10/2133093**

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Planning appeal by Syamasundara das  
for the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

**BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR**  
**HILFIELD LANE, ALDENHAM, HERTS WD25 8EZ**

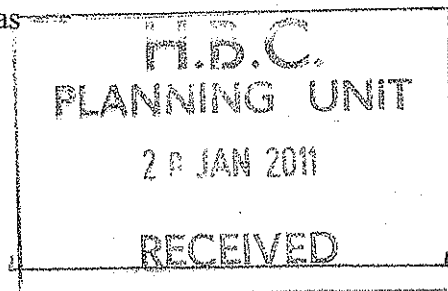
Appeal references: APP/N1920/A/09/2133063, 2133093 and 2136252

LPA references: TP/2009/1913, TP/2009/1874, EN/08/0271 & others

# THEOLOGICAL ASPECTS

Statement by Gauri das

January 2011



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### **Summary**

This evidence explains the nature of Krishna Consciousness and the importance of the wedding ceremony within the Vedic tradition. Known as the Hare Krishna movement, ISKCON is a worldwide confederation with around 10,000 temple devotees and 250,000 congregational devotees. Since 1973, Bhaktivedanta Manor has become one of the most important Temples within the Hindu community. On Sundays, a thousand or more people may visit the Manor.

Marriage and family are of central importance for Hindus. Bhaktivedanta Manor fulfils the aspirations of having a wedding at a religious site, and conducted in a manner which will inform, uplift and inspire. It is a sacred celebration which honours the vows between bride and groom, and celebrates marriage as the foundation of a happy and charitable society.

I explain that the whole site of the Manor is a 'Dhāma' – a sanctified place – and the importance of carrying out the sacrament of marriage on the holy site. The Bhagavad-gita demonstrates that, in the Hindu tradition, no ceremony can be complete without the giving of remuneration, or charity (dakshina) to the priests and the distribution of sanctified foods or sacrificial remnants (yagna-sista, prasada). I also take a stand against those who would make moral and value judgements on our religious tradition based upon implicit and unexpressed socio-religious habits and presumptions, particularly where they may be alien and conflict with the tradition.

## ***Introduction***

1. My name is Gauri das. I have been a full time and active member of ISKCON since 1983, and was President of the Temple for a period between 2006 and 2008. I continue to be responsible for planning matters at Bhaktivedanta Manor.
2. The purpose of this proof is to explain the nature of Krishna Consciousness and the importance of the wedding ceremony within the Vedic tradition.

## ***The International Society of Krishna Consciousness***

3. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (Srila Prabhupada) established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in 1966. It belongs to the Gaudiya Vaisnava tradition of Hinduism, a devotional tradition based on the teachings of Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam.
4. Better known as the Hare Krishna movement, ISKCON is comprised of more than 350 centres, 60 rural communities, 50 schools and 60 restaurants worldwide. It is a worldwide confederation with around 10,000 temple devotees and 250,000 congregational devotees.
5. The precepts and practices of ISKCON were taught and codified by the 15th century saint and religious reformer Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and his principle associates, the Six Goswamis of Vrindavana. The mission of this non-sectarian, monotheistic movement is to promote the well being of society by teaching the science of Krishna consciousness according to Bhagavad-gita and other ancient scriptures.
6. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, whom devotees revere as a direct incarnation of Krishna, gave a powerful impetus for a massive bhakti (devotional) movement throughout India. Under his direction hundreds of volumes on the philosophy of Krishna consciousness were compiled. Many devotees have followed in the line of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu including, in the 19th century, an outstanding Vaisnava theologian, Bhaktivinoda Thakura who brought Krishna consciousness to a modern audience.
7. Bhaktivinoda's son, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami, became the guru of Srila Prabhupada and instructed him to spread Krishna consciousness in the West. Srila Prabhupada was responsible for the introduction of the religion to the United Kingdom in the late 1960s.

## ***Description of the purchase of the Manor and its history and functions.***

8. Bhaktivedanta Manor was acquired by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in 1973 as a result of the growing number of Hare Krishna devotees. George Harrison, who was very sympathetic to the Hare Krishna Movement in the early 1970's and even up to his last years, was

central to the purchasing of the Manor. Bhaktivedanta Manor immediately became a very important place of pilgrimage for those familiar with the religious traditions of India. Our founder Srila Prabhupada wanted the Manor to be a place of spiritual sustenance for its members and congregations and at the same time he wanted the Manor to be a place where rural life coupled with Krishna Consciousness could be practically demonstrated.

9. Some of the elements of the Manor that have been manifested over the past 30 years include:

**Shrine** – a place of worship according to the authentic scriptures of Vedic India

**Theological College** – a college for residential and non-residential students to study the philosophical and practical manifestation of a life of devotion to Lord Krishna

**Nursery and Primary schools** – a small devotional nursery and primary school

**ISKCON Educational Services** – hosting and visiting schools and other educational institutions in order to teach Hinduism and engage with the national school curriculum

**Farm and Dairy** – producing milk products for the use of the residents and visitors and demonstrating practical cow protection

**Horticultural fields and greenhouses** – producing vegetables, fruits and flowers for the use in the Shrine, and by residents, other centres and visitors

### ***the Importance of marriage within Krishna Consciousness***

10. Most religions, including Hinduism, hold that marriage is a sacred commitment for life. We believe that a stable marriage produces harmonious family relationships, leading to a productive contribution by the whole family to the Hindu community in particular and to society as a whole. Marriage and family are of central importance for Hindus, and a wedding is seen as an opportunity for many friends and well-wishers to welcome a new couple into the community.
11. The average Hindu wedding lasts for ninety minutes and takes the form of prayers by the priest, a reading, one or two songs in the Sanskrit language, various 'pujas' or ceremonials, the vows of the couple, the kindling of a small sacred flame and the blessings of community elders. Wedding ceremonies at Bhaktivedanta Manor follow the traditional Vedic form, holding firmly to the Sanskrit prayers and ancient traditions, but conducted throughout with an English explanation: Since 1999, marriages have been solemnised at the Manor in accordance with a civil marriage certificate. Prior to obtaining that certificate, only the religious ceremony could be performed at the Manor.
12. Since 1973, Bhaktivedanta Manor has become one of the most important Temples within the Hindu community, not only in the UK but in Europe as a whole. As to that, there can be no dispute. On Sundays, a thousand or more people may visit the Manor. They will worship and pay their respects to the Deities in the Temple room, may attend one of the numerous religious classes, may use the Sunday school for their children and may partake of a sanctified meal. During the summer two-day Janmashtami Festival, tens of thousands of people visit the Manor to celebrate the appearance of Lord

Krishna. The importance of the Manor to the Hindu community was fully recognised by the Inspector in his Report on the 1996 Inquiry and is reflected in the above figures for attendance. Since the opening of the new road, access to the Manor has been gained from Hilfield Lane thereby avoiding the village of Letchmore Heath.

13. To a great number of Hindus, the Manor is their special place of worship - their Temple. When their children are born, they bring them to the Temple to be blessed. Later they ask the priests to come to their homes and give their children their first grains. The congregation invite the devotees to their homes for religious talks and devotional songs. They aspire to achieve a life devoted to Krishna and to keep a life of faith.
14. In the Hindu Tradition, there are a number of very important events in a person's life that are marked with a special ceremony and religious observance. Of these, the marriage ceremony is the most important.
15. As the daughters and sons of our congregation come of marriageable age and find their chosen partners, they naturally want to have their marriage in the place that has nourished them and has helped them to find or keep a spiritual focus. They want a marriage with spiritual significance, one that has meaning and one that they will remember with happiness. For many, Bhaktivedanta Manor, where religious orthodoxy can be combined with a beautiful setting, is the only conceivable place to have their marriage ceremony. For its part, the Manor recognises the importance of the marriage ceremony as reflecting the sacredness of marriage and also recognises the legitimate desires of its congregation. It is for those reasons that we host and conduct marriage ceremonies.
16. There is only one religious building for every 11,000 Hindus in this country. As a compromise, some Hindu weddings do take place in hotels, school gymnasiums or other venues in order to accommodate large numbers of guests. However it is held to be a blessing to be able to hold one's wedding in, or near, a sacred place. Most Hindu weddings are still conducted in either Sanskrit or one of 15 Indian languages. The younger generation consider themselves British, yet Hindu by faith. Their first language is English and they sometimes do not understand the language of the traditional ceremony. They also have many English colleagues and friends. When they invite those friends to their wedding they want them to be able understand everything that takes place.
17. Bhaktivedanta Manor thus fulfils the aspirations of many of this generation to have a wedding at a religious site, and conducted in a manner which will inform, uplift and inspire all their guests. It is a sacred celebration which not only honours the sacred vows between bride and groom, but celebrates marriage as the foundation of a happy and charitable society.
18. As Syamsundara das explains, we are able to host up to 250 guests within the Manor itself. However, some families wish to invite more guests than that number. Accordingly, we have, during the

summer months, erected a modestly sized marquee within the grounds. There is no consumption of alcohol at these events (or elsewhere in the Manor at any time), and no provision for a wedding 'reception' (see below). Thus no additional music or entertainment takes place.

### ***Theological context***

19. With respect to the location of the marriage ceremony, it is important to be aware of our concept of 'Dhāma'. The whole site of the Manor is a 'Dhāma' – a sanctified place. In accordance with the religious tradition of Krishna Consciousness, it is important that the sacrament of marriage is carried out on the holy site, and not just in the Temple room and in direct proximity to the shrine.
20. The shrine is important. It is a central focal point. However that does not detract from the important theological concept that the entire Temple property is a holy place. The fact that acts are performed in the holy Dhāma, including birth ceremonies, wedding ceremonies and the like, has a significant bearing on their outcomes as a result of having taken place in this location. This is an important concept for Hindus.
21. The founder Saint (acārya) of ISKCON temples throughout the world taught this principle to the members. He explained that Temples and Temple properties are like spiritual embassies, within which apply a different form of natural laws. This theological distinction arises because the entire site is dedicated to serving God's will. Thus, as members of the faith community enter the temple gates, they are aware that they are crossing the threshold of a sanctified and thus sacred space. It may also be noted that the full name for the Temple in Letchmore Heath is Bhaktivedanta Manor Dhama. This principle can also be identified in the speech and writings of the community, as the use of the word 'temple' may equally apply to the shrine, the Temple room, or the entire estate.
22. Based on this understanding of the sanctity of the estate, members of our faith community are encouraged to perform important ceremonies (rites of passage) at Bhaktivedanta Manor or Dhāma. Confusing this as some promotional strategy or crude profiteering venture is ill-conceived and offensive. The institution of marriage is of profound significance to the Hindu community, where a happy family is considered to be the basis of a content and prosperous society. Here, at Bhaktivedanta Manor, every attempt is made to secure the sanctity and success of marriage, and to oppose the commercialisation, or Bollywood-isation, of the marriage ceremony. The gradual erosion of religious content and thus the sanctity of the ceremony, by event managers and hotel locations, have not been helpful in our view.
23. We do therefore promote Bhaktivedanta Manor as an appropriate location for the sacred ceremony of marriage – a ceremony to be conducted by a religious leader on behalf of God. This is a theological stand and one which cannot be brushed aside.



## 7. *Bhagavad gita*

24. Having attended meetings where our planning applications have been discussed, I have identified two other areas of concern over the theological interpretation of our belief – these are the wedding ‘reception’ and money.
25. The Hindu approach to these topics is clearly and succinctly set out in the Bhagavad gita (v17.13):

vidhi-hinam asrstannam  
mantra-hinam adaksinam  
sraddha-virahitam yajnam  
tamasam paricaksate

### WORD FOR WORD

vidhi-hinam -- without scriptural direction; asrsta-annam -- without distribution of prasadam; mantra-hinam -- with no chanting of the Vedic hymns; adaksinam -- with no remunerations to the priests; sraddha -- faith; virahitam -- without; yajnam -- sacrifice; tamasam -- in the mode of ignorance; paricaksate -- is to be considered.

### TRANSLATION

Any sacrifice performed without regard for the directions of scripture, without distribution of prasadam [spiritual food], without chanting of Vedic hymns and remunerations to the priests, and without faith is considered to be in the mode of ignorance.

### *Application to the Wedding ceremony*

26. For Hindu practitioners, no ceremony can be complete without the giving of remuneration, or charity (dakshina) to the priests and the distribution of sanctified foods or sacrificial remnants (yagna-sista, prasada) to all those who attended the ceremony. Both aspects are needed for the ceremony to be rendered complete. The serving of prasadam as a wedding meal is an important element of the ceremony.
27. The associations of partying and jollification that can accompany the idea of a wedding ‘reception’ do not reflect upon what takes place at the Temple during a wedding ceremony. For instance, I have heard the idea proposed on several occasions that our ‘receptions’ (as they are presumed to be) should take place at some other location. Although this may be a common practice for other faiths or non-faiths, the idea of separating this physically and temporally from the wedding ceremony does not work well for Hindus. In presuming some prototype marriage of universal application, I have even heard it said that the Manor should follow the rule ‘when in Rome, do as the Romans do.’ In my submission this is a wholly unacceptable attitude in a situation where we are all, Anglican, Moslem, Hindu and atheist alike, legitimate citizens of the new ‘Rome’ of today’s Britain.

28. For Hindus the distribution of sanctified food is inseparable from the ceremony itself. The idea of a reception as a live band / disco, with a dinner program is something quite separate from what constitutes an appropriate ceremony. As Syamsundara das explains, once the ceremony has come to a close, we play background music whilst the bride and groom are photographed and the guests receive their wedding meal of sanctified food. It is undoubtedly an occasion that is generally experienced as happy and joyful, but set deeply within a religious context.

### **Finance**

29. Viewing weddings at the Temple as a commercial event, based upon the remuneration received by the Temple, is also a foreign interpretation of Hindu ceremony. The giving of Dakshina, is an important and unavoidable aspect of any Hindu ceremony. It is not morally suspect, but rather an act of piety. It is not commercial, it is simply the way things are done in our tradition. If the Temple was to insist upon extortionate contributions for the performance of weddings, in that case such a criticism may be valid. If one takes a detailed look at the costs involved in getting married at the Temple, it is very plain to see that such criticism is incorrect.

### **Conclusion**

30. The Council, in the way that it has handled and refused our planning application, appears to be making moral and value judgements on our religious tradition. When it comes to what may constitute appropriate or inappropriate religious ceremony and practice, I consider this to be the privileged reserve of the theology and theologians of the religious tradition itself. For councillors or others to make value judgements in this area, based upon implicit and unexpressed socio-religious habits and presumptions, which are alien to the tradition itself and potentially in conflict with it, is bad practice.
31. I respectfully invite the Inspector to allow this appeal.

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# AIRO

PLANNING APPEAL BY  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS (ISKCON)  
BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR,  
HILFIELD LANE, ALDENHAM  
HERTS, WD25 8EZ

PROOF OF EVIDENCE ON NOISE

M SAWYER  
JANUARY 2011

Planning Inspectorate References

APP/N1920/A/09/2133063  
APP/N1920/A/09/2133093  
APP/N1920/A/10/2136252

LPA References

TP/2009/1913  
TP/2009/1874  
EN/08/0271

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### APPENDIX A

Measurements without Weddings - May 2009

### APPENDIX B

Measurements with Weddings - June 2009

### APPENDIX C

Long Term Measurements - May and June 2009

### APPENDIX D

Measurements with Weddings - July and August 2010

### APPENDIX E

Definition of Units and Terms

### APPENDIX F

Plan showing Measurement Locations

1. **CREDENTIALS OF WITNESS**

- 1.1 I am Mark Sawyer and I am employed by Acoustical Investigation & Research Organisation Ltd (AIRO) in the joint roles of Senior Consultant and Laboratory Supervisor.
- 1.2 Since 1977 I have been engaged in the field of acoustics and vibration with AIRO. I have a Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control with merits awarded by the Institute of Acoustics and I am a Member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA). I represent the British Measurement and Testing Association on the British Standards Institution sub-committee EH/1/4 - Machinery noise.
- 1.3 Acoustical Investigation & Research Organisation Ltd (AIRO) is an independent consultancy, which operates in the fields of acoustics and noise control. The services offered in the noise control field are purely and only of a consultancy nature, AIRO being neither a manufacturer nor a contractor in this sphere. Since its incorporation in 1958 AIRO has acted on behalf of a wide spectrum of clients including Government Departments, local authorities, industry, architects, consulting engineers and the public at large. AIRO is accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) as a UKAS testing laboratory No. 0483.

## 2. INSTRUCTIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- 2.1 AIRO has been instructed by ISKCON to provide specialist advice in relation to noise monitoring of Marquee Weddings at Bhaktivedanta Manor and to assess how these may affect the village of Letchmore Heath, with particular reference to this planning appeal.
- 2.2 My colleagues at AIRO have previously assisted ISKCON during the period 1994 to 1996 which included the 1996 Public Inquiry.
- 2.3 I have also assisted ISKCON with noise monitoring of Marquee Weddings and other events during 2004 and from 2009 to the present I have visited the site on many occasions during weddings and when no weddings have been held. I have taken extensive noise readings from within, on the perimeter and outside the site. I have had extensive discussions with ISKCON's representatives about noise issues. I prepared a witness statement for, and was due to be called as a witness at, the abortive inquiry in 2009. I therefore have experience extending over a number of years, and am familiar, with noise issues in relation to the appeal site.

3. STATEMENT OF TRUTH

- 3.1 I understand that my duty in writing this report is to help the Inquiry on the matters within my expertise, and that this duty overrides any obligations to the persons from whom I have received instruction or by whom I am paid. I confirm that I have complied with that duty in writing my report. I believe that the facts I have stated in the report are true and that the opinions I have expressed are correct.
- 3.2 I confirm that insofar as the facts stated in my report are within my own knowledge I have made clear which they are and I believe them to be true, and that the opinions I have expressed represent my true and complete professional opinion.

Signed on 14 January 2011 by M Sawyer  
14 January 2011 M Sawyer MIOA

#### 4. PLANNING CONDITIONS AND MEASUREMENTS

##### 4.1 Present Planning Conditions

4.1.1 As a result of a previous Public Inquiry in 1996 the Secretary of State set planning conditions 21 and 22 to control noise emanating from the site as a whole. These conditions are:-

21) *As measured under 'free-field' conditions at a height of 1.5 metres above ground at points 1 and 2 shown on the attached plan COND 1 at the boundary of the Manor:*

- a) *between the hours of 07:00 and 22:30 the noise emitted from the site shall not exceed 55 dB  $L_{Aeq}$  over any 1 hour period;*  
*and*
- b) *between the hours of 22:30 and 07:00 the noise emitted from the site shall not exceed 45 dB  $L_{Aeq}$  over any 1 hour period with the exception of one day per calendar year (Janmashtami) when the noise emitted from the site shall not exceed 55 dB  $L_{Aeq}$  over any 1 hour period between 22:30 and 01:00 and 45 dB  $L_{Aeq}$  over any 1 hour period between 01:00 and 07:00.*

*This condition shall not apply to fireworks, which are the subject of condition 20.*

22) *At no time may sound amplification equipment be operated within the area shown hatched (i.e. eastern and northern sides of the Manor grounds) on attached plan COND 1. Elsewhere on the open site (i.e. outside the permanent Manor buildings) or in temporary tented enclosures, no sound amplification equipment shall be operated at any time before 07:00 hours in the morning or after 22:30 hours at night with the exception of one day per year (Janmashtami) when such equipment may be operated until 00:30 hours. Any public address system shall only be used on the days on which festivals are to be held and those days, not exceeding four in number in any one calendar year, on which the local planning authority give prior written consent for the use of a public address system.*



4.1.2 The current planning application to temporarily erect a marquee adjacent to the main Manor building to be used for wedding ceremonies was made in October 2009 and was refused in July 2010 by Hertsmere Borough Council. It should be noted that the Council has not objected to the application on noise grounds.

4.1.3 This proof relates to the noise aspects of the planning appeal which concerns the wedding marquee and related activities.

#### 4.2 Measurements without Weddings - May 2009

4.2.1 Measurements have been made by AIRO of noise levels in the absence of the wedding marquee in order to establish typical background noise levels. The measurements were made on Saturday 23 May 2009 at Positions 1 and 2 as defined in the 1996 planning conditions. AIRO letter ref MS/CES/6304/L1 dated 28 May 2009 presents the results of the measurements which is attached as Appendix A. A plan showing the locations of Positions 1 and 2 and the other positions to which I refer later in this proof is attached as Appendix F.

4.2.2 The following table presents a summary of the measured noise levels for the 2 measurement positions in the absence of the wedding marquee:

Measurement Period	Location	$L_{Aeq}$ (dB)
09:40 to 10:40	Position 1	52.5
12:57 to 13:57	Position 1	54.2
17:25 to 18:25	Position 1	52.5
11:25 to 12:25	Position 2	50.0
14:05 to 15:05	Position 2	51.3
18:35 to 19:35	Position 2	49.9

4.2.3 During these measurements the major noise sources identified which contributed to the overall noise levels were vehicles using The Green through Letchmore Heath, helicopters and light aircraft using Elstree

Airfield, commercial aircraft at higher altitudes and birdsong from the surrounding trees. Additional contributions included lawnmowers, trimmers, delivery vans associated with the Manor kitchen, and during the evening fan noise from the kitchen. At various times voices near the Manor and round the village pond were audible. Additionally, the M1 motorway was audible between lulls in activity at Position 2.

#### 4.3 Measurements with Weddings - June 2009

4.3.1 Measurements have also been made by AIRO of noise levels whilst 9 weddings were in progress in the marquee. These measurements were made during the period from Friday 5 to Saturday 27 June 2009.

4.3.2 Values of  $L_{Amax}$ ,  $L_{Aeq}$  and  $L_{A90}$  were recorded with varying measurement durations dependant upon the location and noise environment at the time. The measurements were made at a height of 1.5 m at the following locations with the results of the measurements presented in Appendix B.

Position 1: Located on the eastern boundary between the Manor and the village of Letchmore Heath, adjacent to the original gated entrance to the Manor.

Position 2: Located on the eastern boundary between the Manor and the village of Letchmore Heath, adjacent to the northern edge of the village pond.

Position A: Approximately 2 m from the northern boundary in the Flower Garden.

Staff Car Park: In the north west corner of the staff car park approximately 3 m from the boundary fence with the adjacent paddock which forms part of Letchmore Farm.

Inside Marquee: At a number of random locations.

Outside Marquee: Approximately 10 m from the eastern façade and 3 m from the access road to the staff car park.

- 4.3.3 A Brüel & Kjær type 2260 Modular Precision Sound Analyser fitted with type BZ 7210 Sound Analysis Software was used for the measurements. The calibration of the equipment was set at the start of the measurement periods, checked periodically, and also checked at the end of the exercises using a Brüel & Kjær type 4231 Acoustical Calibrator.
- 4.3.4 Observations taken at the time of our measurements are summarised below.
- 4.3.5 All measurement locations were subjected to a range of noise sources with some noise sources audible at all locations. Light aircraft and helicopters from Elstree Airfield and commercial aircraft at higher altitudes were audible at all measurement locations including inside the marquee. Birdsong was audible at all locations except inside the marquee. Vehicles through Letchmore were major noise sources at Positions 1 and 2 and also audible at Position A in the Flower Garden. At various times the M1 motorway to the south and west was audible at all locations except Position 1 and inside the marquee. Construction works on farm buildings then in the course of being erected (including plant movements, sawing and hammering) were audible at all locations except Position 1.
- 4.3.6 From Position A in the Flower Garden the sounds of car doors being closed and conversations in the Staff Car Park were audible, however conversations could not be understood. The car park is used for many functions which run on the Manor site and it is therefore unclear what proportion of the vehicle movements are wedding related. An external listener would not be able to distinguish between wedding related and non-wedding related vehicle movements emanating from the car park.
- 4.3.7 Appendix B presents the schedules of noise level recorded from our attended measurements at a number of points round the grounds of the

Manor. From our measurements inside the marquee whilst the priest is officiating at the ceremony and whilst ambience music is being played (without the hubbub of wedding guests) the  $L_{Aeq}$  are typically in the range 65 to 70 dB, with  $L_{Amax}$  values up to 80 dB. Hubbub and ambience music increases the  $L_{Aeq}$  noise level within the marquee although 70 dB is not exceeded. Random infrequent events such as clapping, cheering and dropping of chairs result in  $L_{Amax}$  values in excess of 80 dB. These are however few and far between.

4.3.8 Naturally noise from within the marquee whilst weddings are in progress is clearly audible 10 m outside the marquee. In the Staff Car Park at the nearest boundary fence (between the Staff Car Park and paddock of Letchmore Farm), which is approximately 50 m from the marquee, noise from this source is significantly reduced such that the wedding ceremony is only just audible, and only in calm weather conditions. After the wedding service period the general noise level in the marquee increases slightly due to the combination of ambience music and general hubbub noise of conversation. This is audible but not always clearly identifiable at the nearest boundary fence, and is again influenced by weather conditions. Many people visit the Temple on a regular basis with Saturday late afternoon and early evening being a popular time for family groups. During this time, particularly on fine days, the sounds of children playing on the climbing frames in the walled garden are audible. The climbing frames are close to the marquee but separated by the staff car park access road and therefore are a similar distance from the nearest boundary. Noise levels from the children playing are often greater than noise levels from the marquee. It would be wrong to associate these with the marquee as the children and their parents are not, for the most part, wedding guests.

4.3.9 Throughout the various surveys which have been undertaken, no sounds which can be directly attributed to the wedding marquee have been heard at Position 1 or Position 2.

4.3.10 Cheering and clapping can occasionally be heard at the nearest boundary. They are however short in duration and could only be heard in calm weather conditions.

4.3.11 No noise events which could be directly attributed to the wedding marquee were audible at Position A, the northern end of the Manor's Flower Garden. The measurements recorded at this position are probably the most significant so far as residential amenity is concerned, since it is closest to the nearest residential property.

#### 4.4 Long Term Measurements - May and June 2009

4.4.1 In addition to the measurements which are described in Sections 4.2 and 4.3 above a long term unmanned survey ran in parallel using automatic data logging equipment. The equipment was located at Position A at a height of 1.5 m. The survey ran from the afternoon of Thursday 21 May 2009 to midnight on Sunday 28 June 2009.

4.4.2 The equipment was set to record hourly values of  $L_{Amax}$ ,  $L_{Aeq}$  and  $L_{A90}$ . The equipment was serviced twice a week, normally Monday and Thursday mornings, with no data recorded during these hours.

4.4.3 A Cirrus CR:703B Data Logging Sound Level Meter was used for the survey. The calibration of the equipment was set at the start of the survey, checked at each service and at the end of the survey using a Cirrus CR:511E Sound Level Calibrator.

4.4.4 All AIRO's measurement equipment is routinely calibrated as part of our quality control regime with all calibrations traceable via an unbroken chain to National Standards.

4.4.5 Throughout the measurement period, and those undertaken in Section 4.3 above, weather conditions have been generally fair with wind speeds from calm to 6 m/s and directions to cover all points of the compass. Daytime

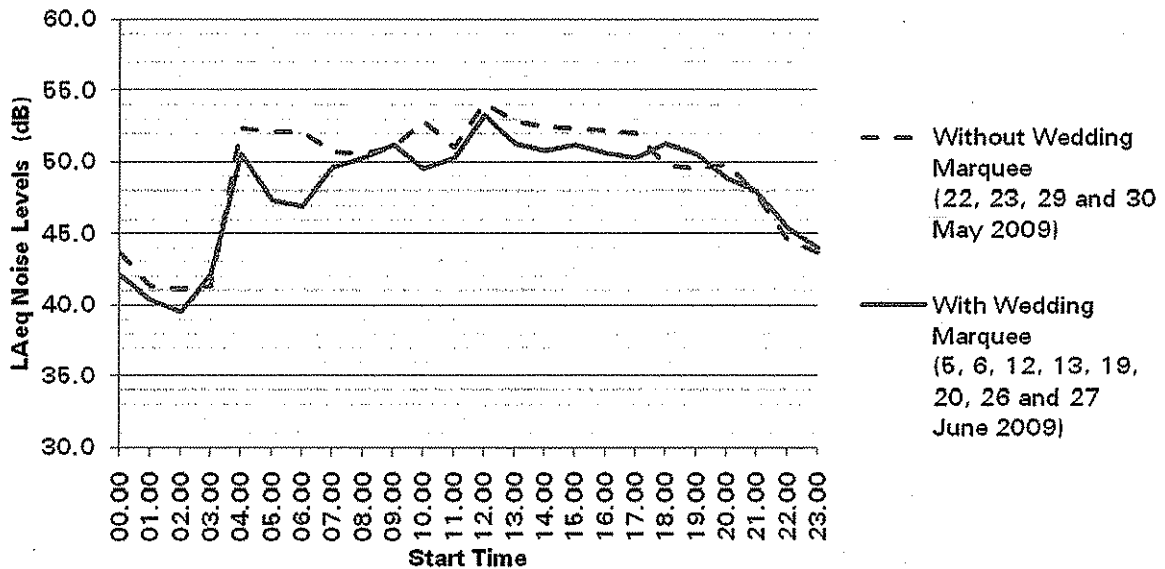
temperatures have ranged from 11°C to 25°C, with lower values during the night time hours. Most days have been dry, a few have had prolonged wet periods and some have had short sharp cloudbursts of heavy rain. The afternoon wedding of Saturday 27 June included heavy rain with thunder and lightning which started at approximately 17:30 hours.

4.4.6 Appendix C presents the results of our long term unmanned survey undertaken at Position A. In order to rationalize the data we have compared Fridays and Saturdays (the most common days for weddings) both with and without marquee weddings.

4.4.7 The following table presents the arithmetic average of hourly  $L_{Aeq}$  values for the 2 Fridays and 2 Saturdays from 22 to 30 May when there were no marquee weddings, and compares them with the arithmetic average of hourly  $L_{Aeq}$  values for the 4 Fridays and 4 Saturdays from 6 to 27 June when 2 marquee weddings took place on each day. The results of the comparison are also presented graphically.

Start Time	Average $L_{Aeq}$ (dB)	
	Without Wedding	With Wedding
00:00	43.6	42.0
01:00	41.3	40.3
02:00	41.1	39.5
03:00	41.3	42.1
04:00	52.3	50.5
05:00	52.1	47.3
06:00	52.1	46.9
07:00	50.7	49.6
08:00	50.6	50.3
09:00	51.0	51.2
10:00	52.8	49.5
11:00	51.0	50.3
12:00	54.1	53.3
13:00	52.8	51.3
14:00	52.4	50.8
15:00	52.3	51.3
16:00	52.2	50.6
17:00	52.0	50.3
18:00	49.7	51.3
19:00	49.5	50.5
20:00	49.8	48.8
21:00	47.7	47.9
22:00	44.5	45.4
23:00	43.6	44.0
Average 09:00 to 21:00	51.6	50.8

### Comparison of $L_{Aeq}$ Noise Levels With and Without Wedding Marquee



4.4.8 From the above table and graph, which compare noise levels measured at Position A, it can be seen there is no overall increase in noise level as the result of weddings in the marquee. This reinforces my previous observations that marquee weddings are not audible at this location. The table and graph actually show that noise levels in the Flower Garden are quieter with a marquee wedding (average  $L_{Aeq}$  50.8 dB) than without a marquee wedding (average  $L_{Aeq}$  51.6 dB) although this is considered to be a statistical anomaly.



#### 4.5 Measurements with Weddings - July and August 2010

- 4.5.1 Measurements have also been made by AIRO during 2010 whilst four weddings were in progress in the marquee. These were made on Friday 30 July, Thursday 12 August and Friday 13 August 2010 with measurements made in the Flower Garden, the Staff Car Park and inside the marquee. The results of our measurements are presented in AIRO letter ref MS/CES/6304 dated 18 August 2010 which is attached as Appendix D.
- 4.5.2 From the northern end of the Flower Garden (in other words, from about Position A), which is approximately 20 metres from the façade of the nearest property, the wedding marquee was occasionally just audible, but only for very short periods, and only in lulls between other activities.

5. **MITIGATION MEASURES**

- 5.1 Morning weddings at the Manor commence after 09:30 hours and finish by mid afternoon, and afternoon weddings finish by 20:30 hours.
- 5.2 It has been considered prudent to set up a noise management plan which includes a noise limiter to control the maximum noise level which can be generated by the sound amplification system in the marquee. The noise limiter is of the compression type and is located between the amplifier and loudspeakers. This allows low intensity signals to pass without interruption but limits (compresses) signals above a pre-determined level to control the maximum noise level which can be generated by the loudspeakers. In summary, however high the gain (volume) control is set on the amplifier the pre-determined noise level is not exceeded

## 6. NOISE LIMITER

- 6.1 A sound amplification system is included within the marquee to provide background music while the wedding guests are arriving, to provide assistance to the guests in following the wedding service, and to provide ambience in the post-wedding period.
- 6.2 The sound amplification comprises a mixer desk with a microphone input for use by the priest and a CD input to enable music to be played. 10 loudspeakers (each rated at 200 watts peak/50 watts continuous) fed via a power amplifier are fixed to the metal framework of the pitched roof of the marquee in 2 rows of 5 loudspeakers. The loudspeakers are orientated downwards towards the guests and are hidden from view behind the internal fabric of the marquee.
- 6.3 A noise limiter (Behringer Autocom composer PRO-XL MDX 2600) was installed on 18 June 2009. The calibration of the limiter was set on 19 June 2009 prior to the morning wedding with the peak limiter set to +15 dB. The settings of the limiter are such that amplified speech or music do not exceed 68 dB  $L_{Aeq}$  and 78 dB  $L_{Amax}$ .
- 6.4 The noise limiter has been successfully used for all marquee weddings from 19 June 2009 for the remainder of the 2009 season, and for the whole of the 2010 season. Further, the noise limiter will be used in all future marquee weddings.
- 6.5 The limiter is of the compression type and therefore the output from the loudspeakers will not exceed the pre-determined level irrespective of the input signal level. The limiter is housed in a locked cabinet with the keys in a safe location and therefore its settings cannot be tampered with.
- 6.6 The staff of the Manor are satisfied that the noise levels set by the noise limiter permit wedding guests properly to follow the wedding service and to enjoy the background music before and after the ceremony. For my

part, I am satisfied that it prevents noise from the sound amplification system adversely impacting upon residential amenity.

## 7. NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 7.1 I am confident that, with the noise limiter in operation the Manor is able to ensure that the noise from the sound amplification system in the wedding marquee will not be audible at neighbouring residential properties. Discussions about the precise wording of conditions are continuing and will be reported on as soon as a mutually satisfactory conclusion has been reached.
- 7.2 My preference would be that a management plan should be agreed with Hertsmere Borough Council in order to control noise emanating from weddings within the marquee.
- 7.3 Planning conditions 21 and 22 set limits on noise levels which may be emitted from the Manor and grounds, and therefore are applicable to weddings in the marquee also.

Consideration may be given to imposing the following three:

Weddings shall not take place in the marquee on Wednesdays or Sundays.

Sound amplification equipment used in connection with wedding ceremonies may be operated within the marquee only. It may only be operated between the hours of 09:30 and 20:30 on wedding days. A noise limiter shall be used with the sound amplification system and shall be set in the presence of or with the agreement of Hertsmere Borough Council.

Public address systems shall not be used at weddings (see Appendix E for a difference between PA systems and sound amplification systems as used in this proof).

## 8. RESPONSES TO SUBMISSIONS

### 8.1 Letchmore Heath Village Trust

- 8.1.1 Paragraphs 17 to 20 relate to noise issues. The Manor has accepted there was an occasion during 2008 when the marquee sound system was heard within the village, and has apologized. A noise limiter was installed in June 2009 as part of the sound amplification system which has been set to ensure this does not occur again.
- 8.1.2 The Village Trust wishes all wedding activity to be inaudible. Inaudibility is subjective and depends on the individual, and also their tolerance to noise and different types of noise. The existing planning conditions 21 and 22 are objective and are therefore not subject to the above uncertainties. They are overriding conditions which therefore also apply to marquee weddings. The operating levels used by the Manor mean that the marquee sound amplification system with its noise limiter is almost inaudible at the nearest property and in the village as a whole.
- 8.1.3 As stated previously morning weddings commence after 09:30 hours, and afternoon weddings finish by 20:30 hours. It is therefore not possible for weddings to be heard in the village at night which is generally taken as the hours 23:00 to 07:00.
- 8.1.4 The noise management plan includes the use of a noise limiter which has been pre-set and therefore cannot be turned up on the day.
- 8.1.5 My experience to date is that car door slams are not audible at the agreed monitoring Positions 1 and 2. These are sometimes audible at the northern end of the Flower Garden which is close to the nearest property but it is not possible to determine if they are due to wedding guests or other activities at the Manor. Deliveries are already made to the Manor and are not expected to increase as a result of marquee weddings.

## 8.2 Mr Southern, Letchmore House

8.2.1 Paragraph 4 relates to noise issues.

8.2.2 The level of the sound amplification was not responsible for the abandonment of the 2009 appeal.

8.2.3 The sound amplification system has included a noise limiter since mid June 2009. The level at which the limiter has been set has not been changed since it was installed, and the Manor are able satisfactorily to work within those settings.

8.2.4 With the levels which have been set on the limiter the wedding marquee is occasionally just audible, only then for very short periods and only in lulls between other activities.

## 8.3 Phillips Planning Services Ltd acting for Local Residents

8.3.1 Paragraphs 5.15 to 5.22 relate to noise issues.

8.3.2 As a point of clarity, The Equus Partnership were employed by Hertsmere Borough Council in 2009, not 2008.

8.3.3 Phillips Planning Services paragraph 5.17 reproduces paragraphs 150 to 153 from The Equus Partnership. My copy of their evidence which was obtained at the time of the 2009 Planning Appeal identifies these as paragraphs 154 to 156. Further, the wording in paragraphs 150 (a) and 154 (a) are different. I am however satisfied the remainder is identical, accepting the different paragraph numbering.

8.3.4 The Manor has installed a noise limiter which has been in use since mid June 2009. As a result of its installation the wedding marquee can only be heard occasionally, only for very short periods of time, and only in lulls between other activities.

8.3.5 The Manor staff are satisfied with the level at which the noise limiter has been set.

8.3.6 A maximum of two weddings are held in a day. Morning weddings commence after 09:30 hours and afternoon weddings finish by 20:30 hours and therefore are not going to affect sleep. In any event, weddings, if they can be heard at all within residential property, would not be at a level that will disturb sleep.

#### 8.4 Various Other Objections

8.4.1 A number of objections have been received from the residents of Letchmore Heath and surrounding environs, mostly following a common theme.

8.4.2 Residents seem to confuse the current appeal with the events of the major festivals.

8.4.3 Morning weddings start after 09:30 hours and finish by mid afternoon, and afternoon weddings finish by 20:30 hours and therefore do not run on into the late evening.

8.4.4 A noise limiter has been installed and is used with the sound amplification system within the marquee. As a result of this, noise levels in the Flower Garden from the wedding marquee can only be heard occasionally, only for very short periods of time, and only in lulls between other activities.



## **APPENDIX A**

**Measurements without Weddings - June 2009**

# AIRO

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MS/CES/6304/L1

Syamasundara Das  
Wedding Manager  
International Society for Krishna Consciousness  
Bhaktivedanta Manor  
Dharam Marg  
Hilfield Lane  
Aldenham  
Watford  
Herts  
WD25 8EZ

28 May 2009

Dear Syamasundara Das

## BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR - BACKGROUND NOISE MEASUREMENTS

As previously agreed we attended the Manor during Saturday 23 May 2009 to provide an objective appraisal of noise levels within the vicinity of Bhaktivedanta Manor. The specific object of the exercise was to determine noise levels in the absence of the planned marquee in which wedding ceremonies would take place.

### Measurement Procedure

Noise monitoring was undertaken between 09:40 and 19:35 hours on Saturday 23 May 2009 at locations along the northeastern boundary between the grounds of the Manor and the village of Letchmore Heath. To be consistent the measurements were made at Positions 1 and 2 which are shown on "Plan COND1" and form part of the planning conditions set by Hertsmere Borough Council. Position 1 was located adjacent to the original gated entrance to the Manor, with Position 2 adjacent to the northern edge of the village pond. Both measurement locations were approximately 2 metres inside the boundary. A copy of "Plan COND1" is attached.

Following Hertsmere Borough Council's planning condition 21 measurements were made under "free-field" conditions at a height of 1.5 metres above ground to determine the  $L_{Aeq}$  over 1 hour periods.

The measurements were made using a Brüel & Kjær type 2260 Modular Precision Sound Analyzer fitted with type BZ 7210 Sound Analysis Software.

All AIRO's measurement equipment is routinely calibrated as part of our quality control regime with all calibrations traceable via an unbroken chain to National Standards.

In addition, the calibration of the measurement chain was set at the start of the survey period, checked periodically throughout the day and also checked at the end of the survey period using a Brüel & Kjær type 4231 Acoustical Calibrator.

Weather conditions throughout the survey period remained dry with calm to light southerly winds.

### Results of Noise Measurements

The results of the measurements made at the two measurement locations between 09:40 and 19:35 hours on 23 May 2009 are presented in the following table in terms of the hourly  $L_{Aeq}$  values along with vehicle passby counts.

Measurement Period	Location	$L_{Aeq}$ (dB)	Traffic Flow
09:40 to 10:40	Position 1	52.5	81
12:57 to 13:57	Position 1	54.2	80
17:25 to 18:25	Position 1	52.5	68
Arithmetic Average		53.1	
11:25 to 12:25	Position 2	50.1	108
14:05 to 15:05	Position 2	51.3	114
18:35 to 19:35	Position 2	49.9	77
Arithmetic Average		50.4	

It should be borne in mind that although the planning conditions are described in terms of noise emitted from the Manor grounds the measurement equipment is not able to discriminate between this and noise source contributions from outside the grounds. The reported levels are therefore due to all noise sources from both within and outside the ground of the Manor.

### Observations

The following presents a summary of the observations made at the 2 positions throughout the day.

Position 1 is adjacent to the original gated entrance to the Manor. Major noise sources at this location include vehicles using The Green through Letchmore Heath, helicopters and light aircraft using Elstree Airfield, and larger aircraft at higher altitudes. Birdsong from the surrounding trees was almost continuous. During the morning a lawnmower, followed by a strimmer, were audible somewhere in the southern parts of the village. During the early afternoon a lawn tractor operating on private land adjacent to the overflow car park was audible. Within the grounds of the Manor a delivery van drove up to the Manor kitchen, loaded and/or off-loaded and drove away. Occasionally at various times during the day voices were heard for short periods from the kitchen area, and during the evening fan noise became audible as the general background noise level in the area reduced.

Position 2 is adjacent to the village pond. Major noise sources at this location also include vehicles using The Green through Letchmore Heath, helicopters and light aircraft from Elstree Airfield, and larger aircraft at higher altitudes. Birdsong from the surround trees was almost continuous which was interspersed with that from waterfowl round the ponds. The village pond was visited throughout the day by family groups and conversations were audible. At this location the M1 motorway

was clearly audible in between lulls in activity from other events. From within the ground of the Manor occasional voices from the general direction of the Manor House were audible throughout the day, and a roller shutter assumed to be associated with a delivery van was heard to close during the evening.

The following table presents a schedule of typical event noise levels throughout the day at the two positions.

Event	Sound Pressure Level (dB)
Birdsong	~60
Vehicle passbys on The Green	60 to 65
Helicopter	55 to 60
Passenger aircraft	60 to 65
Light aircraft overhead	~60
Delivery van leaving Manor kitchen	55 to 60

With the exception of the delivery van associated with the Manor kitchen no car door slams were heard from within the grounds of the Manor. By contrast door slams from The Green and Back Lane were audible throughout the day, particularly from Position 2 during the evening.

### Discussion

A wedding took place in the Temple Room of the Manor during the afternoon, starting at 16:00 hours. Noise measurements were not taken during this period but did restart at 17:25 hours when a number of the wedding party were still present.

A large construction project is currently in progress in the grounds of the Manor which had been stopped for the day to ensure these did not influence our measurements.

Weather conditions were settled with long periods of no air movement. During these periods there was no noise from the trees which form a canopy over the two measurement positions. Occasionally a light breeze caused the trees to sway which increased the background noise.

### Conclusion

This report has presented the results of a survey made to determine background noise levels adjacent to the northeastern boundary fence between Bhaktivedanta Manor and Letchmore Heath. From the results of our measurements it can be seen that the recorded noise levels range from 49.9 dB(A) to 54.2 dB(A). On average the measured levels are 2.7 dB(A) higher at Position 1 than Position 2, primarily due to the closer proximity of vehicles using The Green through the village. The measurements were made approximately 2 metres inside the boundary. If they had been made immediately outside the boundary, as required by the planning conditions, then it would be expected that they may be marginally higher due to the closer proximity of road traffic.

Yours sincerely

*M Sawyer*

Mark Sawyer

## **APPENDIX B**

**Measurements with Weddings - June 2009**

Bhaktivedanta Manor - Manned Noise Measurements

Friday 5 June 2009 - Morning Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
2	10:02 - 5 mins	59.5	48.1	40.2
A	09:40 - 5 mins	54.8	45.0	40.4
Outside Marquee	10:25 - 2 mins	56.5	49.2	--

Notes: Wedding in marquee attended by 220 guests  
Construction works at farm

Bhaktivedanta Manor - Manned Noise Measurements

Friday 5 June 2009 - Afternoon Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
1	17:12 - 15 mins	67.4	56.1	42.6
	- 30 mins	68.1	56.8	43.2
	- 60 mins	75.0	56.5	42.6
	includes 178 vehicles in 60 mins on village roads			
2	15:58 - 15 mins	62.5	52.3	47.6
	- 30 mins	63.8	53.9	48.2
	includes 176 vehicles in 30 mins on village roads			
2	18:40 - 15 mins	60.9	48.2	41.2
includes 34 vehicles in 15 mins on village roads				
Inside Marquee	17:00 - 5 mins	74.0	60.5	51.0
Outside Marquee	16:50 - 5 mins	--	~53.0	--
includes vehicles on access road to staff car park				
Outside Marquee	19:00 - 5 mins	68.0	53.0	50.6
$L_{Amax}$ 68.0 dB due to a shout				
Excludes vehicles on access road to staff car park				
Hubbub noise only i.e. no music				

Note: Wedding in marquee attended by 395 guests  
 No construction works at farm  
 Rain showers

Bhaktivedanta Manor - Manned Noise Measurements

Friday 12 June 2009 - Morning Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
Staff Car Park	10:17- 10 mins $L_{Amax}$ 74.8 dB due to ox cart with children	74.8	50.7	41.8
Inside Marquee	10:35- 5 mins	80.1	62.0	51.0
Inside Marquee	10:58- 8 mins	71.0	57.6	45.8
Outside Marquee	10:03- 10 mins includes 12 vehicles on access road to staff car park	71.2	52.2	43.0
Outside Marquee	10.45- 10 mins $L_{Amax}$ 64.0 dB due to light aircraft	64.0	51.5	44.2
Outside Marquee	11:10- 10 mins excludes vehicles on access road to staff car park	60.7	48.8	44.2

Notes: Wedding in marquee attended by 185 guests  
Construction works at farm



Bhaktivedanta Manor - Manned Noise Measurements

Friday 12 June 2009 - Afternoon Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
1	16:53 - 15 mins	72.4	57.2	45.8
	- 30 mins	72.4	56.0	44.2
	- 60 mins	72.4	56.1	44.6
	includes 83 vehicles in 30 mins on village roads			
2	15:45 - 15 mins	66.7	51.7	43.2
	- 30 mins	66.7	52.6	44.0
	- 60 mins	76.0	53.3	45.0
	$L_{Amax}$ 76.0 dB due to aircraft includes 143 vehicles in 30 mins on village roads			
A	19:12 - 15 mins	63.1	45.5	40.2
	$L_{Amax}$ 63.1 dB due to aircraft			
	$L_{A90}$ 40.2 dB influenced by pump in residential garden			
Staff Car Park	18:15 - 5 mins	59.0	47.1	43.4
	19:02 - 5 mins	56.5	46.5	41.8
	19:30 - 5 mins	63.2	50.8	41.4
	19:50 - 5 mins	63.6	50.2	42.6
	20:00 - 5 mins	59.9	48.1	43.8
	20:30 - 5 mins	58.6	48.2	46.2
	$L_{Amax}$ levels due to car door slams in car park From 20:00 M1 becomes increasingly more noticeable At 20:20 music in marquee stopped			
Inside Marquee	18:52 - 5 mins	78.9	68.3	64.2
	$L_{Amax}$ 78.9 dB due to male voice ~ 2 m away			
Inside Marquee	19:22 - 5 mins	82.7	66.8	61.2
$L_{Amax}$ 82.7 dB due to male voice shout				
Outside Marquee	17:58 - 5 mins	69.4	54.5	48.0
	18:05 - 5 mins	66.9	53.7	48.6
	19:40 - 5 mins	70.0	54.7	47.8

Notes: Wedding in marquee attended by 240 guests  
Construction works at farm stopped at ~ 17:00  
Music in marquee stopped at 20:20

Bhaktivedanta Manor - Manned Noise Measurements

Saturday 13 June 2009 - Afternoon Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
Staff Car Park	18:15 - 10 mins	67.8	51.8	48.4
	19:06 - 10 mins	74.9	53.8	47.8
	19:19 - 5 mins	68.1	52.1	48.0
	20:01 - 5 mins	82.5	55.8	48.6
	20:15 - 5 mins	61.4	53.4	50.8
	$L_{Amax}$ 74.9 dB due to child scream			
	$L_{Amax}$ 82.5 dB due to car horn			
Inside Marquee	18:53 - 5 mins	94.2	66.7	58.8
	19:50 - 5 mins	80.6	69.0	64.0
	$L_{Amax}$ 94.2 dB due to dropped chair			
	$L_{Amax}$ 80.6 dB due to dropped chair			
Outside Marquee	18:30 - 20 mins	75.0	58.1	53.6
	19:27 - 10 mins	85.3	55.2	48.2
	$L_{Amax}$ 85.3 dB due to table dropped			

Notes: Wedding in marquee attended by 340 guests  
 No construction works at farm  
 Many children in adventure playground area

Bhaktivedanta Manor - Manned Noise Measurements

Friday 19 June 2009 - Morning Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
Inside Marquee	09:45 - 5 mins	70.5	64.5	61.0
	10:00 - 5 mins	70.1	63.1	60.2
	10:05 - 5 mins	71.3	63.5	60.8
	Music and hubbub noise			
Inside Marquee (wedding service)	10:20 - 5 mins	72.3	60.4	50.6
	10:29 - 15 mins	74.4	62.1	51.8
	10:47 - 5 mins	72.6	60.5	50.6
	10:55 - 5 mins	75.0	62.6	51.2
	$L_{Amax}$ 75.0 dB due to clapping when garlands exchanged			

Notes: Wedding in marquee attended by 270 guests  
Construction works at farm

Bhaktivedanta Manor - Manned Noise Measurements

Friday 19 June 2009 - Afternoon Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>
Inside Marquee (wedding service)	15:55 - 10 mins	73.3	58.2	48.2
	16:05 - 5 mins	72.0	62.4	52.0
	16:20 - 5 mins	68.8	56.7	48.4
	17:04 - 8 mins	83.7	62.0	46.8
	<i>L<sub>Amax</sub></i> 83.7 dB due to clapping at end of service			
Inside Marquee (post wedding service)	17:14 - 5 mins	80.8	65.9	61.6
	17:42 - 5 mins	74.9	65.7	62.2

Notes: Wedding in marquee attended by 260 guests  
Construction works at farm stopped at ~ 17:10

Bhaktivedanta Manor - Manned Noise Measurements

Friday 26 June 2009 - Morning Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)			
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$	
Staff Car Park	12:21 - 5 mins	62.3	49.8	43.6	
Inside Marquee	09:50 - 6 mins	73.9	61.7	57.4	
	09:58 - 6 mins	75.5	62.7	59.0	
	10:05 - 6 mins	69.4	61.8	58.6	
	10:34 - 12 mins	84.4	64.2	51.2	
	10:47 - 10 mins	76.5	63.1	47.4	
	11:07 - 12 mins	75.5	59.7	50.0	
	11:23 - 10 mins	74.9	60.1	48.0	
	11:48 - 10 mins	79.6	63.2	49.2	
	12:45 - 5 mins	78.5	66.7	62.4	
	12:55 - 5 mins	77.1	67.1	64.4	
	13:25 - 10 mins	79.0	63.3	59.4	
	13:48 - 7 mins	83.4	67.3	62.4	
	14:20 - 10 mins	90.6	68.7	57.4	
		$L_{Amax}$ 84.4 dB due to child crying			
		$L_{Amax}$ 79.6 dB due to clapping at vows			
	$L_{Amax}$ 78.5 dB due to bangs at farm construction site				
	$L_{Amax}$ 79.04 dB due to a phone conversation at 2 m				
	$L_{Amax}$ 83.4 dB due to nearby conversations				
	$L_{Amax}$ 90.6 dB due to dropped chair				
Outside Marquee	10:17 - 12 mins	82.0	56.6	50.6	
	11:00 - 5 mins	72.0	53.0	42.4	
	11:35 - 10 mins	68.9	54.9	48.6	
	12:00 - 10 mins	74.9	57.8	50.0	
	12:30 - 10 mins	67.2	57.2	53.6	
	13:13 - 10 mins	71.6	59.6	62.2	
	14:08 - 10 mins	81.1	59.6	52.6	
		$L_{Amax}$ 82.0 dB due to cheers as groom arrives			
	$L_{Amax}$ 74.9 dB due to cheers as service ends				
	$L_{Amax}$ 67.2 dB due to car door closing				
	$L_{Amax}$ 81.1 dB due to cheers as bouquet thrown				

Notes: Wedding in marquee attended by 300 guests  
Construction works at farm

Bhaktivedanta Manor - Manned Noise Measurements

Saturday 27 June 2009 - Afternoon Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
A	17:35 - 2 mins	66.6	51.1	44.0
Staff Car Park	16:48 - 30 mins	77.9	53.2	42.0
	$L_{Amax}$ 77.9 dB due to metal trays dropped in van			
Inside Marquee	15:44 -10 mins	70.9	57.1	51.4
	16:04 - 5 mins	79.7	66.2	60.2
	16:22 - 12 mins	79.8	66.6	60.0
	17:25 - 6 mins	69.7	57.6	49.2
	17:50 - 5 mins	87.6	74.7	65.0
	17:56 - 10 mins	84.1	68.3	63.0
	18:07 - 5 mins	83.4	70.7	68.0
	18:20 - 5 mins	94.5	74.0	69.6
	18:33 - 5 mins	86.1	77.0	74.2
	18:41 - 20 mins	91.2	76.9	72.6
	19:05 - 20 mins	86.6	72.0	69.2
	19:34 - 5 mins	88.8	72.6	67.4
	19:45 - 10 mins	87.8	69.5	63.6
	20:03 - 10 mins	82.9	65.8	60.8
	20:20 - 10 mins	86.6	67.1	62.2
	20:35 - 30mins	80.8	64.8	59.6
	$L_{Amax}$ 79.7 and 79.8 dB due to priest announcements			
	$L_{Amax}$ values above approximately 85 dB due to thunder			
	$L_{Amax}$ 84.1 dB due to clapping at end of service			
	$L_{Amax}$ 86.6 dB due to chair stack collapse nearby			
Outside Marquee	16:39 - 10 mins	70.4	54.7	48.0

Notes: Wedding in marquee attended by 430 guests  
 Construction works at farm stop at approximately 17:00  
 Rain (heavy with thunder) starts at approximately 17:30

## **APPENDIX C**

**Long Term Measurements - May and June 2009**

Location: Bhaktivedanta Manor - Position A (Flower Garden)

Monday 18 May 2009

Tuesday 19 May 2009

Wednesday 20 May 2009

Thursday 21 May 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	<i>L</i> <sub>AMax</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>Aeq</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	--	--	--
01:00	--	--	--
02:00	--	--	--
03:00	--	--	--
04:00	--	--	--
05:00	--	--	--
06:00	--	--	--
07:00	--	--	--
08:00	--	--	--
09:00	--	--	--
10:00	--	--	--
11:00	--	--	--
12:00	--	--	--
13:00	--	--	--
14:00	--	--	--
15:00	--	--	--
16:00	--	--	--
17:00	--	--	--
18:00	--	--	--
19:00	--	--	--
20:00	--	--	--
21:00	--	--	--
22:00	--	--	--
23:00	--	--	--
Max.	--	--	--
Average	--	--	--
Min.	--	--	--

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	<i>L</i> <sub>AMax</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>Aeq</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	--	--	--
01:00	--	--	--
02:00	--	--	--
03:00	--	--	--
04:00	--	--	--
05:00	--	--	--
06:00	--	--	--
07:00	--	--	--
08:00	--	--	--
09:00	--	--	--
10:00	--	--	--
11:00	--	--	--
12:00	--	--	--
13:00	--	--	--
14:00	--	--	--
15:00	--	--	--
16:00	--	--	--
17:00	--	--	--
18:00	--	--	--
19:00	--	--	--
20:00	--	--	--
21:00	--	--	--
22:00	--	--	--
23:00	--	--	--
Max.	--	--	--
Average	--	--	--
Min.	--	--	--

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	<i>L</i> <sub>AMax</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>Aeq</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	--	--	--
01:00	--	--	--
02:00	--	--	--
03:00	--	--	--
04:00	--	--	--
05:00	--	--	--
06:00	--	--	--
07:00	--	--	--
08:00	--	--	--
09:00	--	--	--
10:00	--	--	--
11:00	--	--	--
12:00	--	--	--
13:00	--	--	--
14:00	--	--	--
15:00	--	--	--
16:00	--	--	--
17:00	--	--	--
18:00	--	--	--
19:00	--	--	--
20:00	--	--	--
21:00	--	--	--
22:00	--	--	--
23:00	--	--	--
Max.	--	--	--
Average	--	--	--
Min.	--	--	--

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	<i>L</i> <sub>AMax</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>Aeq</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	--	--	--
01:00	--	--	--
02:00	--	--	--
03:00	--	--	--
04:00	--	--	--
05:00	--	--	--
06:00	--	--	--
07:00	--	--	--
08:00	--	--	--
09:00	--	--	--
10:00	--	--	--
11:00	--	--	--
12:00	--	--	--
13:00	--	--	--
14:00	--	--	--
15:00	73.8	59.6	46.1
16:00	71.8	56.9	46.1
17:00	69.1	52.6	45.3
18:00	71.6	51.5	46.1
19:00	73.7	51.8	44.7
20:00	67.5	53.3	45.5
21:00	78.8	52.2	45.2
22:00	65.8	49.1	45.3
23:00	61.9	47.1	43.8
Max.	73.8	59.6	46.1
Average	--	--	--
Min.	67.5	51.5	44.7

Friday 22 May 2009

Saturday 23 May 2009

Sunday 24 May 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	<i>L</i> <sub>AMax</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>Aeq</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	51.1	43.3	40.7
01:00	49.3	41.9	39.6
02:00	51.9	42.3	39.7
03:00	52.9	43.1	40.5
04:00	70.2	52.8	45.3
05:00	70.3	51.7	47.4
06:00	71.2	55.0	49.3
07:00	71.9	53.4	47.4
08:00	75.1	53.7	47.1
09:00	69.0	52.4	47.2
10:00	75.8	52.0	45.8
11:00	70.1	54.5	46.7
12:00	75.0	61.0	45.9
13:00	72.7	51.3	46.2
14:00	66.8	51.1	46.8
15:00	65.6	51.6	47.0
16:00	84.0	61.4	46.5
17:00	85.2	59.1	46.6
18:00	69.8	51.5	46.6
19:00	66.8	51.2	46.4
20:00	69.8	51.2	45.7
21:00	67.8	48.8	44.3
22:00	62.9	48.8	44.1
23:00	63.8	47.1	43.3
Max.	85.2	61.4	47.2
Average	--	54.0	--
Min.	65.6	51.1	45.7

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	<i>L</i> <sub>AMax</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>Aeq</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	54.1	46.2	42.8
01:00	58.1	44.2	41.4
02:00	51.4	41.5	38.3
03:00	53.4	38.9	36.3
04:00	73.0	52.3	42.4
05:00	69.1	51.0	43.3
06:00	68.5	49.6	42.9
07:00	72.5	51.2	39.1
08:00	72.6	49.8	39.6
09:00	67.2	50.1	42.9
10:00	68.2	49.9	43.3
11:00	66.0	49.1	43.6
12:00	73.6	54.6	43.7
13:00	76.1	59.5	45.1
14:00	70.4	52.7	42.6
15:00	67.9	48.2	42.0
16:00	66.2	47.6	40.6
17:00	64.0	48.6	41.8
18:00	63.9	47.6	42.4
19:00	63.0	47.8	42.5
20:00	67.9	48.2	43.2
21:00	66.0	48.9	43.9
22:00	65.4	48.1	44.3
23:00	60.1	47.2	44.4
Max.	76.1	59.5	45.1
Average	--	50.3	--
Min.	63.0	47.6	40.6

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	<i>L</i> <sub>AMax</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>Aeq</sub>	<i>L</i> <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	54.6	47.1	44.5
01:00	53.4	44.4	39.1
02:00	47.8	39.1	36.5
03:00	51.3	38.7	36.2
04:00	70.1	51.7	40.1
05:00	67.8	47.9	37.5
06:00	64.8	47.0	36.8
07:00	69.0	49.7	37.7
08:00	64.9	47.2	37.7
09:00	60.7	46.3	38.0
10:00	63.6	45.5	37.7
11:00	66.7	46.5	38.3
12:00	67.1	45.0	38.4
13:00	62.0	46.4	39.2
14:00	63.5	45.6	39.2
15:00	63.9	46.7	39.2
16:00	65.5	46.1	39.3
17:00	74.4	49.7	40.2
18:00	65.9	47.6	40.5
19:00	75.3	47.9	41.7
20:00	84.3	55.2	41.8
21:00	68.8	45.0	40.5
22:00	60.8	41.2	39.0
23:00	50.5	39.2	36.5
Max.	84.3	55.2	41.8
Average	--	47.4	--
Min.	60.7	45.0	37.7

Notes:

All Max. & Min. values given at the base of each table are for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.

All Average values given at the base of each table are arithmetically calculated for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.



Location: Bhaktivedanta Manor - Position A (Flower Garden)

Monday 25 May 2009

Tuesday 26 May 2009

Wednesday 27 May 2009

Thursday 28 May 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	44.1	38.5	36.7
01:00	49.4	37.9	36.1
02:00	51.8	37.2	35.3
03:00	60.0	37.4	35.1
04:00	66.1	50.1	39.7
05:00	74.5	47.6	39.4
06:00	75.3	47.7	39.8
07:00	71.9	49.7	40.1
08:00	69.3	47.3	39.7
09:00	72.1	56.1	41.6
10:00	71.2	48.6	41.5
11:00	73.8	50.3	40.2
12:00	69.1	48.3	40.8
13:00	64.6	46.9	39.3
14:00	67.3	46.9	39.0
15:00	68.0	46.8	39.0
16:00	77.2	48.4	42.2
17:00	64.8	48.4	42.3
18:00	74.4	49.9	42.8
19:00	69.8	48.9	39.6
20:00	69.0	50.0	40.5
21:00	64.7	48.8	42.0
22:00	64.5	45.8	40.3
23:00	63.7	43.5	40.2
Max.	77.2	56.1	42.8
Average	--	49.1	--
Min.	64.6	46.8	39.0

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	57.1	41.8	39.2
01:00	52.0	42.1	38.6
02:00	51.7	39.4	36.8
03:00	58.9	43.5	38.4
04:00	70.9	51.7	45.7
05:00	63.1	49.7	44.8
06:00	67.4	51.0	47.8
07:00	68.5	52.5	47.6
08:00	67.1	50.3	47.1
09:00	74.5	52.6	48.3
10:00	--	--	--
11:00	74.1	52.3	47.6
12:00	71.9	51.8	46.9
13:00	75.1	51.9	46.2
14:00	70.0	51.6	46.8
15:00	69.8	52.7	47.8
16:00	69.2	51.0	46.1
17:00	70.3	50.5	46.8
18:00	66.3	50.5	46.8
19:00	73.8	50.1	45.3
20:00	70.1	49.9	45.2
21:00	76.0	50.8	44.6
22:00	63.9	48.0	44.4
23:00	63.8	46.4	44.0
Max.	75.1	52.7	48.3
Average	--	51.4	--
Min.	66.3	49.9	45.2

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	52.9	44.5	42.2
01:00	50.2	43.6	41.2
02:00	59.2	44.1	40.9
03:00	49.7	42.6	40.1
04:00	72.4	49.7	42.9
05:00	69.9	50.0	45.6
06:00	63.9	51.6	47.9
07:00	68.7	52.7	48.9
08:00	65.7	52.0	49.3
09:00	71.1	53.6	49.9
10:00	70.7	53.4	49.2
11:00	76.5	56.5	51.7
12:00	74.5	55.0	51.3
13:00	76.1	55.0	51.1
14:00	74.2	56.1	51.5
15:00	70.6	54.1	50.9
16:00	69.7	54.0	50.4
17:00	74.7	54.0	49.1
18:00	74.3	52.1	49.0
19:00	71.0	51.7	47.8
20:00	73.5	49.8	45.4
21:00	83.1	50.4	43.2
22:00	70.5	48.8	43.7
23:00	65.3	46.4	43.2
Max.	76.5	56.5	51.7
Average	--	53.8	--
Min.	69.7	49.8	45.4

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	52.5	43.6	41.1
01:00	50.7	42.8	40.2
02:00	63.1	44.3	41.8
03:00	56.7	44.2	41.5
04:00	79.3	51.2	44.8
05:00	63.5	50.8	46.0
06:00	70.8	52.4	47.7
07:00	73.7	50.9	44.9
08:00	66.3	50.3	45.6
09:00	71.2	49.7	44.8
10:00	74.5	53.5	42.9
11:00	72.6	57.4	45.5
12:00	71.7	55.0	45.8
13:00	67.2	55.2	45.6
14:00	70.0	50.7	44.3
15:00	77.4	51.7	43.1
16:00	66.8	51.2	44.1
17:00	69.6	54.1	43.2
18:00	67.0	49.7	42.1
19:00	68.1	48.3	40.5
20:00	72.5	48.4	41.3
21:00	66.4	46.7	39.5
22:00	62.1	45.2	39.3
23:00	56.8	44.5	41.0
Max.	77.4	57.4	45.8
Average	--	52.1	--
Min.	66.8	48.3	40.5

Friday 29 May 2009

Saturday 30 May 2009

Sunday 31 May 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	58.9	43.8	38.7
01:00	46.1	38.4	36.2
02:00	47.1	40.2	37.3
03:00	60.9	40.4	36.3
04:00	66.2	51.1	42.6
05:00	80.9	51.3	41.2
06:00	80.5	52.3	43.4
07:00	70.1	48.0	42.0
08:00	64.0	47.9	40.8
09:00	73.0	50.0	41.4
10:00	74.6	58.1	44.0
11:00	68.1	50.5	42.3
12:00	74.8	51.2	41.5
13:00	--	--	--
14:00	67.1	48.1	42.6
15:00	67.6	50.5	43.1
16:00	70.5	51.7	42.9
17:00	72.0	50.2	42.0
18:00	75.1	49.6	41.6
19:00	64.9	48.5	41.9
20:00	68.0	49.3	40.9
21:00	63.5	45.7	39.5
22:00	65.2	43.0	39.0
23:00	50.8	40.5	38.7
Max.	75.1	58.1	44.0
Average	--	50.7	--
Min.	64.9	48.1	40.9

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	51.3	40.9	38.9
01:00	46.1	40.5	38.3
02:00	48.2	40.3	38.0
03:00	63.2	42.9	38.5
04:00	73.7	53.0	44.0
05:00	72.2	54.4	43.4
06:00	65.9	51.4	43.5
07:00	67.7	50.2	42.5
08:00	68.7	50.9	42.6
09:00	66.8	51.5	42.4
10:00	72.4	51.3	41.5
11:00	63.4	50.0	43.0
12:00	66.3	49.7	43.3
13:00	67.0	47.7	41.5
14:00	75.2	57.5	43.2
15:00	76.0	58.9	40.2
16:00	73.0	48.2	39.8
17:00	66.9	50.2	41.6
18:00	70.9	50.1	41.2
19:00	71.9	50.3	41.8
20:00	65.9	50.5	40.7
21:00	71.2	47.3	36.0
22:00	54.2	38.1	35.9
23:00	60.4	39.7	36.5
Max.	76.0	58.9	43.3
Average	--	51.3	--
Min.	63.4	47.7	39.8

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	48.1	37.7	35.8
01:00	49.3	37.3	35.5
02:00	51.2	36.7	34.7
03:00	71.6	44.2	35.5
04:00	83.9	54.8	43.2
05:00	70.5	49.9	40.0
06:00	71.1	51.0	39.0
07:00	71.2	49.7	39.4
08:00	66.4	48.7	39.3
09:00	70.8	50.1	40.6
10:00	75.8	50.4	40.7
11:00	64.7	48.4	41.9
12:00	68.6	49.3	40.9
13:00	66.0	47.4	39.9
14:00	67.0	48.7	40.8
15:00	63.0	47.6	39.9
16:00	76.2	50.9	40.3
17:00	80.6	53.1	41.6
18:00	69.5	48.5	41.0
19:00	72.3	51.5	40.1
20:00	63.8	48.0	39.6
21:00	65.6	45.6	36.7
22:00	56.8	37.8	35.7
23:00	58.1	37.0	35.0
Max.	80.6	53.1	41.9
Average	--	49.5	--
Min.	63.0	47.4	39.6

Notes:  
 All Max. & Min. values given at the base of each table are for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.  
 All Average values given at the base of each table are arithmetically calculated for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.

Location: Bhaktivedanta Manor - Position A (Flower Garden)

Monday 1 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	45.8	36.2	34.8
01:00	41.5	36.1	34.6
02:00	54.3	37.2	34.8
03:00	66.1	42.5	35.4
04:00	69.5	52.9	41.3
05:00	67.5	48.5	39.3
06:00	74.9	49.0	41.4
07:00	72.2	50.3	41.2
08:00	71.8	52.4	41.0
09:00	75.2	57.7	41.0
10:00	--	--	--
11:00	--	--	--
12:00	70.2	49.2	40.3
13:00	65.6	46.3	39.8
14:00	65.9	47.8	40.4
15:00	70.1	54.4	41.8
16:00	71.2	53.0	41.9
17:00	75.7	50.3	41.0
18:00	63.4	46.1	39.9
19:00	80.3	50.3	40.9
20:00	80.1	49.1	39.2
21:00	73.4	48.7	36.8
22:00	57.1	38.7	35.9
23:00	53.7	36.7	34.7
Max.	80.3	57.7	41.9
Average	--	50.4	--
Min.	63.4	46.1	39.2

Tuesday 2 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	55.0	35.9	33.8
01:00	43.2	34.7	33.2
02:00	56.7	35.0	33.4
03:00	70.8	44.9	35.1
04:00	70.2	53.2	41.3
05:00	72.2	51.7	39.7
06:00	71.5	49.6	40.5
07:00	70.1	51.5	41.8
08:00	82.2	50.0	41.1
09:00	70.0	49.1	41.2
10:00	70.4	48.5	40.7
11:00	67.5	47.4	40.0
12:00	68.6	47.2	39.3
13:00	70.7	47.6	38.5
14:00	65.9	43.7	38.5
15:00	67.3	47.3	39.5
16:00	64.9	44.9	38.4
17:00	64.9	47.2	38.9
18:00	66.6	47.9	39.0
19:00	65.9	46.6	38.8
20:00	72.4	48.8	37.7
21:00	66.3	46.1	37.8
22:00	62.3	41.4	38.2
23:00	61.3	41.7	39.0
Max.	72.4	49.1	41.2
Average	--	47.2	--
Min.	64.9	43.7	37.7

Wednesday 3 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	52.3	41.5	38.6
01:00	51.0	42.1	38.8
02:00	61.9	39.5	35.0
03:00	62.8	42.2	35.0
04:00	70.0	52.1	38.7
05:00	67.3	48.6	36.8
06:00	69.5	47.8	38.3
07:00	70.9	49.1	39.7
08:00	70.1	49.6	40.3
09:00	68.6	48.0	39.6
10:00	70.6	49.5	39.3
11:00	67.0	48.8	41.0
12:00	73.5	48.8	41.5
13:00	67.8	47.8	40.1
14:00	66.2	47.2	40.1
15:00	74.4	49.5	40.5
16:00	68.7	50.2	41.3
17:00	68.5	46.9	39.2
18:00	68.6	47.8	39.2
19:00	71.5	48.6	38.8
20:00	66.7	45.3	37.4
21:00	66.5	45.5	35.2
22:00	60.8	37.7	34.1
23:00	55.7	37.5	33.8
Max.	74.4	50.2	41.5
Average	--	48.2	--
Min.	66.2	45.3	37.4

Thursday 4 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	44.3	35.1	33.7
01:00	43.6	35.1	33.8
02:00	42.7	35.8	34.0
03:00	57.0	40.3	35.0
04:00	69.9	51.5	39.6
05:00	82.9	48.4	39.7
06:00	71.5	47.8	41.0
07:00	66.5	49.0	39.6
08:00	75.0	49.9	39.7
09:00	66.6	48.2	41.1
10:00	--	--	--
11:00	69.5	46.8	40.9
12:00	66.7	47.8	41.2
13:00	70.4	47.9	40.7
14:00	67.0	47.2	39.5
15:00	75.9	50.7	40.3
16:00	71.3	49.4	40.0
17:00	70.9	45.3	38.9
18:00	69.3	46.2	38.6
19:00	66.3	45.4	37.4
20:00	67.9	46.7	36.9
21:00	71.5	44.3	38.1
22:00	67.3	44.9	37.1
23:00	51.0	40.9	37.5
Max.	75.9	50.7	41.2
Average	--	47.4	--
Min.	66.3	45.3	36.9

Friday 5 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	50.6	42.1	39.4
01:00	46.9	38.0	35.4
02:00	50.6	36.8	34.9
03:00	58.1	38.9	35.6
04:00	71.2	52.2	38.7
05:00	72.9	48.7	37.9
06:00	70.1	46.1	38.5
07:00	69.6	49.0	39.5
08:00	71.8	48.3	40.1
09:00	73.1	48.3	39.5
10:00	70.0	50.6	39.9
11:00	69.7	49.7	42.0
12:00	65.6	48.6	42.7
13:00	70.1	49.8	43.5
14:00	74.6	50.2	43.2
15:00	70.0	50.8	43.7
16:00	66.3	47.9	40.5
17:00	76.6	50.7	39.2
18:00	67.1	47.4	40.9
19:00	64.6	47.7	42.3
20:00	65.9	47.5	42.1
21:00	61.9	45.5	39.9
22:00	63.5	43.4	40.4
23:00	60.4	45.9	43.1
Max.	76.6	50.8	43.7
Average	--	49.1	--
Min.	64.6	47.4	39.2

Saturday 6 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	62.0	43.7	41.0
01:00	49.5	39.4	37.2
02:00	45.5	37.7	36.0
03:00	62.0	38.9	36.0
04:00	64.5	50.2	39.0
05:00	66.7	48.1	40.6
06:00	63.7	46.3	41.5
07:00	67.3	47.3	41.4
08:00	71.7	48.9	42.4
09:00	75.8	50.0	44.5
10:00	75.1	48.5	42.8
11:00	69.4	49.8	42.3
12:00	68.2	47.3	42.2
13:00	71.3	49.1	41.9
14:00	73.4	51.9	41.8
15:00	75.9	50.4	40.9
16:00	74.6	51.7	41.1
17:00	71.0	47.3	40.1
18:00	67.8	46.4	40.9
19:00	75.8	47.7	40.1
20:00	66.0	46.3	38.8
21:00	71.6	47.6	36.4
22:00	60.5	37.6	35.2
23:00	45.6	37.9	36.0
Max.	75.9	51.9	44.5
Average	--	48.9	--
Min.	66.0	46.3	38.8

Sunday 7 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	52.2	38.2	36.1
01:00	49.9	36.9	35.1
02:00	62.0	48.5	35.9
03:00	63.6	47.7	38.6
04:00	75.1	53.0	45.4
05:00	66.7	49.4	42.0
06:00	95.9	59.7	40.8
07:00	98.2	64.8	52.3
08:00	68.2	51.1	41.3
09:00	68.9	50.4	40.0
10:00	68.7	49.9	40.2
11:00	69.2	51.7	41.9
12:00	71.7	51.5	41.7
13:00	75.5	52.3	43.3
14:00	72.7	50.7	42.2
15:00	64.9	47.9	40.1
16:00	70.3	48.3	40.0
17:00	74.3	50.9	44.1
18:00	74.8	51.2	44.0
19:00	70.5	51.2	44.9
20:00	75.4	49.7	43.9
21:00	71.6	49.8	41.1
22:00	71.6	47.7	38.4
23:00	56.8	39.9	36.9
Max.	75.5	52.3	44.9
Average	--	50.5	--
Min.	64.9	47.9	40.0

Notes:

All Max. & Min. values given at the base of each table are for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.

All Average values given at the base of each table are arithmetically calculated for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.

Location: Bhaktivedanta Manor - Position A (Flower Garden)

Monday 8 June 2009

Tuesday 9 June 2009

Wednesday 10 June 2009

Thursday 11 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	$L_{AMax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
00:00	49.9	37.2	33.6
01:00	53.2	36.5	34.1
02:00	49.6	34.7	33.0
03:00	55.3	35.3	33.1
04:00	67.4	48.9	38.6
05:00	64.5	46.7	37.5
06:00	74.1	47.0	37.0
07:00	67.2	47.8	39.1
08:00	75.4	60.1	41.4
09:00	--	--	--
10:00	73.3	45.3	38.0
11:00	77.8	47.3	39.5
12:00	71.0	48.3	39.5
13:00	67.9	48.9	39.2
14:00	90.9	61.5	38.8
15:00	67.8	48.2	39.8
16:00	70.0	47.7	39.3
17:00	67.0	46.9	39.1
18:00	74.5	51.3	38.8
19:00	74.1	49.4	38.0
20:00	77.7	48.4	37.3
21:00	65.7	44.2	34.2
22:00	50.9	35.3	32.1
23:00	54.0	32.8	30.9
Max.	90.9	61.5	39.8
Average	--	49.4	--
Min.	67.0	45.3	37.3

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	$L_{AMax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
00:00	68.8	36.3	31.3
01:00	49.9	35.2	32.3
02:00	60.0	38.8	35.7
03:00	65.0	39.7	36.4
04:00	66.3	50.4	38.7
05:00	65.9	44.3	36.1
06:00	65.8	45.4	37.5
07:00	76.5	50.3	38.5
08:00	72.6	47.8	40.2
09:00	70.4	48.4	39.7
10:00	72.2	47.0	38.1
11:00	67.9	46.7	39.1
12:00	68.8	46.6	38.8
13:00	65.8	45.0	36.7
14:00	62.6	45.9	39.2
15:00	73.1	47.9	40.9
16:00	78.8	52.9	42.2
17:00	64.0	46.2	39.8
18:00	68.2	46.2	39.3
19:00	64.1	46.4	38.2
20:00	67.1	45.6	39.1
21:00	65.7	46.4	39.3
22:00	62.6	44.6	40.2
23:00	58.8	41.1	37.3
Max.	78.8	52.9	42.2
Average	--	47.1	--
Min.	62.6	45.0	36.7

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	$L_{AMax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
00:00	50.2	37.6	35.1
01:00	54.9	38.4	34.3
02:00	49.5	34.8	32.1
03:00	56.8	36.8	31.1
04:00	78.8	50.3	36.9
05:00	79.8	47.3	36.6
06:00	69.5	48.0	38.0
07:00	78.5	51.3	37.9
08:00	81.7	54.2	40.4
09:00	71.5	48.6	40.3
10:00	65.5	49.6	43.1
11:00	75.3	47.8	42.8
12:00	63.4	48.0	42.6
13:00	70.3	50.9	42.2
14:00	72.3	50.9	41.8
15:00	67.0	50.7	47.2
16:00	73.2	54.6	45.3
17:00	70.1	51.6	45.2
18:00	73.0	53.8	47.2
19:00	69.9	50.7	44.0
20:00	82.6	51.2	46.7
21:00	69.7	51.0	45.0
22:00	70.1	49.2	44.7
23:00	66.7	49.3	44.9
Max.	82.6	54.6	47.2
Average	--	50.7	--
Min.	63.4	47.8	40.3

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	$L_{AMax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
00:00	79.4	47.1	44.1
01:00	62.0	43.2	39.6
02:00	56.0	41.8	38.2
03:00	54.3	41.9	37.9
04:00	69.4	49.1	42.0
05:00	66.3	49.0	43.6
06:00	67.4	50.0	46.3
07:00	76.6	51.6	46.8
08:00	74.0	51.0	45.8
09:00	74.3	52.4	45.1
10:00	75.4	50.6	44.3
11:00	--	--	--
12:00	70.8	52.3	45.9
13:00	77.4	51.9	43.9
14:00	76.8	52.3	44.2
15:00	72.9	49.6	42.6
16:00	77.0	51.1	45.0
17:00	85.1	63.6	45.6
18:00	73.1	50.2	43.0
19:00	77.4	52.0	43.5
20:00	78.6	49.0	42.4
21:00	66.6	46.3	39.3
22:00	71.2	46.5	38.0
23:00	56.1	42.1	39.1
Max.	85.1	63.6	45.9
Average	--	52.3	--
Min.	70.8	49.0	42.4

Friday 12 June 2009

Saturday 13 June 2009

Sunday 14 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	$L_{AMax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
00:00	50.0	42.2	39.4
01:00	48.9	40.3	37.2
02:00	49.9	39.8	36.7
03:00	66.5	45.8	37.2
04:00	77.3	52.7	41.6
05:00	63.5	47.5	42.5
06:00	68.8	45.7	38.7
07:00	70.7	48.2	37.7
08:00	68.6	48.6	39.4
09:00	77.2	48.6	39.0
10:00	67.6	49.1	39.2
11:00	70.3	47.9	42.2
12:00	76.1	50.4	42.6
13:00	70.1	50.4	42.5
14:00	66.0	49.4	42.7
15:00	64.9	49.5	42.3
16:00	71.5	51.0	43.4
17:00	69.6	49.4	42.2
18:00	74.1	49.1	40.9
19:00	68.3	48.7	38.3
20:00	69.5	48.9	42.2
21:00	87.6	50.4	41.1
22:00	69.2	47.2	40.3
23:00	55.2	41.2	38.6
Max.	77.2	51.0	43.4
Average	--	49.4	--
Min.	64.9	47.9	38.3

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	$L_{AMax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
00:00	58.1	40.2	37.6
01:00	62.4	40.6	36.8
02:00	55.0	40.2	37.2
03:00	64.2	41.6	36.4
04:00	69.2	50.3	39.8
05:00	72.3	47.3	39.9
06:00	65.2	47.0	40.2
07:00	72.6	49.5	40.9
08:00	80.7	53.7	43.5
09:00	83.1	62.9	44.3
10:00	68.1	52.3	42.5
11:00	80.0	54.8	44.2
12:00	75.8	60.0	45.9
13:00	73.4	58.9	44.3
14:00	67.8	50.3	43.5
15:00	68.9	46.9	43.0
16:00	71.8	50.2	43.4
17:00	75.1	50.2	44.1
18:00	76.1	49.7	44.2
19:00	69.0	48.6	44.7
20:00	69.7	47.7	43.1
21:00	70.6	49.0	42.1
22:00	73.9	48.2	41.7
23:00	64.0	46.0	42.6
Max.	83.1	62.9	45.9
Average	--	52.7	--
Min.	67.8	46.9	42.5

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	$L_{AMax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
00:00	58.9	43.6	40.7
01:00	51.9	44.6	42.0
02:00	53.7	44.8	41.7
03:00	59.6	44.7	40.0
04:00	64.9	49.1	41.8
05:00	72.8	49.3	43.0
06:00	64.1	46.7	40.7
07:00	67.6	46.9	38.3
08:00	96.3	55.5	38.0
09:00	71.3	47.3	37.3
10:00	69.6	47.3	37.4
11:00	72.0	49.0	40.0
12:00	74.9	51.0	40.6
13:00	74.2	50.1	38.3
14:00	67.0	48.1	39.6
15:00	65.0	46.2	40.0
16:00	63.0	46.6	39.6
17:00	70.3	48.9	39.3
18:00	63.8	46.6	40.3
19:00	72.3	49.8	41.1
20:00	70.4	48.8	39.2
21:00	65.5	50.1	42.2
22:00	67.3	48.1	41.9
23:00	69.1	45.9	34.8
Max.	74.9	51.0	41.1
Average	--	48.3	--
Min.	63.0	46.2	37.3

Notes:

All Max. & Min. values given at the base of each table are for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.

All Average values given at the base of each table are arithmetically calculated for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.

Location: Bhaktivedanta Manor - Position A (Flower Garden)

Monday 15 June 2009

Tuesday 16 June 2009

Wednesday 17 June 2009

Thursday 18 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	54.1	38.3	34.7
01:00	49.8	38.4	35.8
02:00	53.0	42.3	36.0
03:00	63.6	43.6	36.0
04:00	67.7	49.8	39.9
05:00	75.4	47.3	38.2
06:00	85.4	54.3	40.7
07:00	70.1	49.6	39.4
08:00	74.3	58.9	40.3
09:00	69.2	49.1	38.8
10:00	66.0	49.1	37.7
11:00	--	--	--
12:00	69.9	48.8	38.7
13:00	74.4	49.7	39.2
14:00	70.6	49.2	41.4
15:00	66.1	48.3	42.8
16:00	69.6	49.3	41.8
17:00	67.0	48.6	43.2
18:00	72.6	51.4	44.1
19:00	76.6	56.6	40.9
20:00	70.4	48.4	41.4
21:00	66.3	48.2	37.9
22:00	69.5	49.1	38.7
23:00	64.0	48.2	41.3
Max.	76.6	56.6	44.1
Average	--	49.9	--
Min.	66.0	48.3	37.7

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	61.1	45.5	41.6
01:00	58.3	45.6	41.0
02:00	48.4	41.1	38.6
03:00	59.7	43.8	38.6
04:00	70.5	50.0	44.3
05:00	72.9	50.2	44.9
06:00	65.2	50.2	44.9
07:00	70.9	50.9	40.2
08:00	69.0	48.4	40.9
09:00	78.0	53.2	40.3
10:00	74.2	52.0	41.7
11:00	65.9	48.8	41.0
12:00	67.1	47.3	38.7
13:00	72.6	49.3	37.8
14:00	75.1	50.7	40.0
15:00	68.1	47.0	39.3
16:00	69.2	48.4	41.1
17:00	69.6	50.5	44.3
18:00	78.1	52.7	46.6
19:00	74.9	53.0	45.3
20:00	68.7	50.0	44.4
21:00	67.7	50.2	43.5
22:00	66.8	47.2	42.0
23:00	66.7	46.7	42.1
Max.	78.1	53.2	46.6
Average	--	50.2	--
Min.	65.9	47.0	37.8

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	51.3	43.1	40.6
01:00	52.8	41.4	38.3
02:00	49.1	41.0	38.0
03:00	64.5	43.4	38.0
04:00	72.6	49.8	43.1
05:00	69.2	48.7	44.4
06:00	67.2	50.5	46.0
07:00	67.5	50.5	45.9
08:00	67.4	50.7	45.9
09:00	70.2	51.4	45.9
10:00	71.8	52.1	47.2
11:00	73.0	55.0	49.5
12:00	70.3	54.2	49.8
13:00	79.2	55.4	50.0
14:00	72.8	54.7	50.3
15:00	71.2	54.8	50.9
16:00	75.3	54.1	50.3
17:00	75.8	54.8	49.8
18:00	74.7	53.0	48.7
19:00	70.8	52.6	47.8
20:00	64.4	50.1	46.3
21:00	67.4	48.4	44.6
22:00	68.4	48.3	43.0
23:00	69.0	47.3	42.7
Max.	79.2	55.4	50.9
Average	--	53.5	--
Min.	64.4	50.1	45.9

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	54.6	43.7	41.2
01:00	53.5	43.0	40.2
02:00	51.2	42.9	40.2
03:00	62.3	47.0	39.9
04:00	75.1	50.2	45.2
05:00	66.4	50.1	46.9
06:00	65.3	50.4	47.3
07:00	69.5	49.6	45.7
08:00	66.3	49.5	45.6
09:00	--	--	--
10:00	--	--	--
11:00	74.8	53.9	46.2
12:00	73.8	52.6	47.2
13:00	72.2	51.2	45.9
14:00	72.9	52.2	46.4
15:00	66.1	50.4	47.2
16:00	72.2	52.9	48.3
17:00	65.6	50.5	47.0
18:00	66.4	51.2	47.1
19:00	78.7	54.3	46.2
20:00	73.0	51.8	45.2
21:00	68.7	49.7	44.1
22:00	66.8	47.2	43.3
23:00	66.8	47.1	43.5
Max.	78.7	54.3	48.3
Average	--	52.1	--
Min.	65.6	50.4	45.2

Friday 19 June 2009

Saturday 20 June 2009

Sunday 21 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	51.1	44.7	42.5
01:00	54.7	43.4	41.1
02:00	53.5	43.6	41.2
03:00	62.5	46.2	42.2
04:00	66.8	48.9	45.0
05:00	65.7	50.4	47.1
06:00	63.8	50.8	48.0
07:00	68.0	50.2	46.2
08:00	73.7	50.3	46.5
09:00	77.6	51.6	46.2
10:00	69.7	50.4	45.5
11:00	81.0	54.2	45.3
12:00	86.6	67.6	46.9
13:00	74.9	50.7	44.8
14:00	75.8	51.6	45.5
15:00	71.5	50.3	45.0
16:00	69.2	49.8	45.2
17:00	67.2	49.5	45.0
18:00	64.9	48.7	44.7
19:00	86.9	57.1	44.0
20:00	70.9	49.8	42.9
21:00	70.3	48.7	42.3
22:00	70.4	49.7	43.2
23:00	62.5	46.9	43.1
Max.	86.9	67.6	46.9
Average	--	52.6	--
Min.	64.9	48.7	42.9

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	53.3	46.0	42.7
01:00	72.2	44.2	40.8
02:00	50.1	42.4	40.0
03:00	51.3	43.0	39.9
04:00	66.3	47.3	42.2
05:00	63.2	46.2	41.9
06:00	70.0	48.9	43.5
07:00	64.6	49.4	41.0
08:00	75.4	52.2	42.2
09:00	74.2	52.2	42.1
10:00	70.3	50.3	42.9
11:00	70.3	50.4	43.4
12:00	71.3	50.9	43.5
13:00	71.8	50.4	42.7
14:00	74.9	53.7	43.4
15:00	76.7	61.6	43.5
16:00	77.4	60.8	43.8
17:00	68.9	49.2	42.5
18:00	67.2	50.3	43.2
19:00	72.2	48.9	42.5
20:00	65.6	47.8	41.9
21:00	71.5	49.6	40.6
22:00	63.8	45.6	39.3
23:00	59.9	43.4	40.5
Max.	77.4	61.6	43.8
Average	--	52.2	--
Min.	65.6	47.8	41.9

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASD</sub>
00:00	59.6	42.6	39.5
01:00	50.5	40.8	38.7
02:00	57.5	41.8	38.4
03:00	51.6	39.9	37.1
04:00	68.9	47.9	40.3
05:00	62.9	46.7	40.5
06:00	65.4	46.4	40.6
07:00	69.6	48.5	40.1
08:00	73.5	50.9	37.7
09:00	70.2	49.6	37.1
10:00	68.6	49.9	38.4
11:00	69.0	48.7	38.4
12:00	71.0	48.9	40.6
13:00	66.9	48.0	41.1
14:00	69.2	52.2	41.8
15:00	70.0	49.1	41.3
16:00	75.8	50.8	41.8
17:00	66.2	48.6	41.6
18:00	76.8	52.1	41.1
19:00	70.0	51.0	41.5
20:00	73.1	49.1	41.4
21:00	67.4	49.8	42.2
22:00	66.3	48.8	36.2
23:00	61.4	40.1	32.3
Max.	76.8	52.2	41.8
Average	--	49.8	--
Min.	66.2	48.0	37.1

Notes:  
All Max. & Min. values given at the base of each table are for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.  
All Average values given at the base of each table are arithmetically calculated for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.

Location: Bhaktivedanta Manor - Position A (Flower Garden)

Monday 22 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASo</sub>
00:00	57.8	36.4	31.5
01:00	47.0	33.3	31.3
02:00	47.4	32.7	30.4
03:00	54.0	33.5	30.2
04:00	61.1	46.3	36.2
05:00	62.1	43.0	36.7
06:00	72.6	50.3	36.1
07:00	65.4	47.5	38.5
08:00	75.5	60.0	41.6
09:00	70.3	48.8	40.0
10:00	65.0	47.4	38.8
11:00	--	--	--
12:00	70.7	50.0	39.5
13:00	71.7	48.2	39.2
14:00	67.5	46.7	39.7
15:00	71.0	50.0	40.0
16:00	74.9	49.6	39.6
17:00	64.4	45.8	38.4
18:00	71.4	51.6	39.0
19:00	63.0	46.3	37.1
20:00	64.7	47.0	38.0
21:00	73.1	49.8	38.7
22:00	67.2	46.2	38.2
23:00	60.8	43.4	38.0
Max.	74.9	51.6	40.0
Average	--	48.3	--
Min.	63.0	45.8	37.1

Tuesday 23 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASo</sub>
00:00	48.4	39.7	37.3
01:00	55.3	39.8	36.8
02:00	47.6	39.8	37.5
03:00	69.4	42.1	38.1
04:00	67.9	48.8	41.1
05:00	67.3	46.1	42.2
06:00	73.3	47.3	39.5
07:00	72.3	45.1	38.6
08:00	71.2	47.1	39.5
09:00	75.8	48.9	39.6
10:00	69.9	50.5	41.0
11:00	73.2	56.5	43.0
12:00	75.9	60.2	41.2
13:00	76.7	47.2	39.7
14:00	69.2	46.4	39.7
15:00	68.0	45.2	40.5
16:00	67.4	45.2	40.1
17:00	66.6	43.4	38.2
18:00	66.2	44.9	38.4
19:00	66.6	44.6	37.6
20:00	73.5	46.6	37.3
21:00	60.8	42.7	36.9
22:00	49.7	38.0	36.2
23:00	73.3	46.5	35.3
Max.	76.7	60.2	43.0
Average	--	48.3	--
Min.	66.2	43.4	37.3

Wednesday 24 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASo</sub>
00:00	54.5	36.1	34.0
01:00	53.9	37.0	34.5
02:00	53.7	36.7	34.1
03:00	59.5	40.6	34.2
04:00	64.7	48.4	37.1
05:00	66.5	45.6	38.2
06:00	77.7	50.9	41.3
07:00	92.4	50.1	40.6
08:00	74.3	49.3	40.6
09:00	65.5	47.3	41.5
10:00	77.3	47.0	39.9
11:00	71.1	50.9	42.6
12:00	64.6	45.9	40.3
13:00	66.0	47.1	40.9
14:00	63.8	47.3	44.2
15:00	73.1	47.4	42.9
16:00	78.1	48.6	43.6
17:00	68.3	47.7	42.7
18:00	67.6	47.5	42.9
19:00	78.2	47.3	42.4
20:00	67.1	46.5	42.0
21:00	61.9	45.5	41.6
22:00	51.1	43.6	41.4
23:00	52.6	43.9	41.7
Max.	78.2	50.9	44.2
Average	--	47.5	--
Min.	63.8	45.9	39.9

Thursday 25 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASo</sub>
00:00	47.6	43.8	41.5
01:00	48.2	44.0	41.5
02:00	47.5	43.8	41.2
03:00	51.6	43.6	41.1
04:00	67.4	48.3	42.7
05:00	91.3	50.3	42.1
06:00	71.7	47.9	38.2
07:00	93.4	52.6	38.0
08:00	76.6	51.4	40.2
09:00	67.7	47.2	40.7
10:00	66.9	47.1	40.4
11:00	--	--	--
12:00	65.0	47.8	42.0
13:00	63.9	48.9	41.0
14:00	65.3	46.9	40.8
15:00	66.1	47.8	41.6
16:00	70.3	48.8	40.9
17:00	70.7	49.9	41.0
18:00	65.7	44.9	39.7
19:00	61.5	46.3	40.0
20:00	74.6	51.2	37.6
21:00	61.3	44.2	36.0
22:00	71.2	43.2	34.3
23:00	53.6	38.8	33.8
Max.	74.6	51.2	42.0
Average	--	47.9	--
Min.	61.5	44.9	37.6

Friday 26 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASo</sub>
00:00	42.9	35.0	33.6
01:00	49.3	36.2	33.3
02:00	44.3	35.1	33.2
03:00	54.4	37.0	32.9
04:00	61.8	47.0	37.8
05:00	58.2	43.4	36.5
06:00	60.2	44.1	37.3
07:00	69.6	55.9	40.7
08:00	63.0	52.2	39.2
09:00	73.5	46.5	40.3
10:00	66.3	45.2	37.7
11:00	68.9	46.8	40.3
12:00	74.9	52.0	42.7
13:00	65.8	51.7	44.7
14:00	66.8	51.4	44.7
15:00	71.7	53.6	44.8
16:00	69.2	48.3	44.5
17:00	66.0	48.4	43.9
18:00	79.8	51.7	44.7
19:00	64.2	48.0	41.9
20:00	63.0	48.0	40.9
21:00	63.3	47.3	41.5
22:00	65.0	49.1	39.9
23:00	63.3	48.3	39.8
Max.	79.8	53.6	44.8
Average	--	49.3	--
Min.	63.0	45.2	37.7

Saturday 27 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASo</sub>
00:00	50.5	42.2	38.9
01:00	47.2	40.1	37.9
02:00	46.2	40.4	38.0
03:00	64.0	45.2	39.8
04:00	69.3	55.0	43.3
05:00	62.6	47.1	42.7
06:00	59.1	46.6	41.7
07:00	61.1	47.2	39.5
08:00	62.0	47.9	40.9
09:00	61.4	49.2	43.2
10:00	61.3	49.5	42.7
11:00	61.0	48.9	42.2
12:00	67.8	49.7	41.1
13:00	68.4	49.4	40.0
14:00	63.9	47.5	39.5
15:00	62.3	46.7	39.0
16:00	62.2	45.3	38.6
17:00	87.5	57.7	40.0
18:00	91.7	67.0	45.2
19:00	74.7	57.4	46.5
20:00	72.0	54.3	44.9
21:00	59.7	45.3	38.0
22:00	53.6	42.4	36.9
23:00	58.6	42.6	37.8
Max.	91.7	67.0	46.5
Average	--	51.9	--
Min.	61.0	45.3	38.6

Sunday 28 June 2009

Start Time	Noise Level (dB)		
	L <sub>AMax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>ASo</sub>
00:00	55.9	43.9	40.2
01:00	46.5	42.1	40.0
02:00	69.3	46.5	39.7
03:00	54.4	43.6	40.2
04:00	65.0	48.3	41.0
05:00	58.6	45.1	40.2
06:00	63.5	47.0	39.6
07:00	63.4	47.2	38.6
08:00	59.6	45.7	37.5
09:00	72.6	49.7	37.6
10:00	71.7	50.3	39.4
11:00	65.2	47.4	39.5
12:00	62.5	48.1	39.7
13:00	64.9	50.0	37.3
14:00	64.7	46.1	36.7
15:00	58.4	46.5	40.8
16:00	64.3	47.1	41.5
17:00	64.8	47.3	41.0
18:00	70.0	51.3	40.8
19:00	69.7	51.5	42.7
20:00	57.6	45.1	40.7
21:00	63.8	46.4	37.9
22:00	67.2	50.1	36.2
23:00	63.6	44.0	34.8
Max.	72.6	51.5	42.7
Average	--	48.4	--
Min.	57.6	45.1	36.7

Notes:

All Max. & Min. values given at the base of each table are for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.

All Average values given at the base of each table are arithmetically calculated for the 09:00 to 21:00 hours time period.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Measurements with Weddings - July and August 2010**

# AIRO

ACOUSTICAL INVESTIGATION &  
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MS/CES/6304

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18 August 2010

Dear Gauri

## NOISE MONITORING OF MARQUEE WEDDINGS

This letter presents the results of our noise monitoring of Marquee Weddings held in the grounds of Bhaktivedanta Manor over the last few weeks. The results of our measurements are subsequently compared with the 1996 local planning conditions which apply to the Manor and its grounds, and the proposed planning conditions which were being discussed in May of this year.

The Marquee is located approximately 100 m west of the Manor House. The geo-grid surface is to the west of the Marquee, with the staff car park to the northeast, and the visitors car park to the southeast.

### Measurement Procedure

Measurements were made at three locations as described below:

- In the Flower Garden at its northern end. This is approximately 20 m from the nearest residential property.
- In the Staff Car Park in its northwest corner. This is the closest boundary to the Marquee.
- Inside the Marquee in the northeast quadrant.

All the measurements were made under "free-field" conditions at a height of 1.5 metres above ground using a Brüel & Kjær type 2260 Modular Precision Sound Analyzer fitted with type BZ 7210 Sound Analyzer Software.

The calibration of the measurement chain was set at the start of each survey period, checked periodically throughout the measurement period and also checked at the end of the survey period using a Brüel & Kjær type 4231 Acoustical Calibrator.

In addition, AIRO's measurement equipment is routinely calibrated as part of our quality control regime with all calibration traceable via an unbroken chain to National Standards.

### Measurements

Noise surveys were made of 4 weddings on 3 days during the period 30 July 2010 to 13 August 2010. The surveys were made with no prior notice made to the Manor.

The following tables present the results of our noise surveys.

#### Friday 30 July 2010 - Morning Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
Flower Garden	09:58 - 15 mins	65.1	47.1	40.4
Staff Car Park	10:20 - 20 mins	67.9	46.6	40.2
Inside Marquee	10:45 - 15 mins	80.9	66.2	49.6
Flower Garden	11:07 - 15 mins	66.5	49.8	42.2
Staff Car Park	11:28 - 15 mins	65.9	49.2	43.6
Inside Marquee	11:50 - 15 mins	80.8	68.1	46.8
Staff Car Park	12:12 - 5 mins	53.3	43.0	41.2
Inside Marquee	12:21 - 5 mins	78.2	61.4	56.8

#### Notes:

1. I estimated the wedding was attended by 150 to 180 guests.
2. Weather conditions were dry with a calm to light westerly breeze.
3.  $L_{Amax}$  65.1 dB due to a commercial aircraft.
4.  $L_{Amax}$  67.9 dB due "1, 2, 3" followed by cheering and clapping from the Marquee, total duration  $\approx$  5 secs.
5.  $L_{Amax}$  80.9 dB due to clapping as grooms screen removed, duration  $\approx$  2 secs
6. From the Flower Garden chanting from the wedding marquee was just about audible (but not measurable) in lulls between other activities.
7. In the Staff Car Park chanting from the wedding marquee was audible (but not understandable) for approximately 50% of the time. The wedding was not however audible during its quieter periods.



Thursday 12 August 2010 - Afternoon Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
Flower Garden	15:25 - 10 mins	61.9	49.2	46.2
Inside Marquee	15:40 - 15 mins	75.2	61.5	57.6

Notes:

1. The planned wedding attendance was 250 guests.
2. Weather conditions were damp with light rain showers and light westerly winds.
3. At approximately 16:00 hours the weather became inclement with steady persistent rain and therefore the measurement survey was abandoned.
4. The above measurements were made prior to the start of the wedding whilst the guests were arriving.

Friday 13 August 2010 - Morning Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
Flower Garden	11:00 - 15 mins	65.9	50.0	43.4
Staff Car Park	11:27 - 15 mins	66.3	50.5	45.0
Flower Garden	11:48 - 15 mins	62.7	48.0	44.0
Staff Car Park	12:10 - 10 mins	61.8	48.9	46.4

Notes:

1. The planned wedding attendance was 300 guests.
2. Weather conditions were damp with a calm to light northwesterly breeze.
3. Chanting from the wedding marquee was just audible (but not understandable or measurable) for 1 to 2 minutes in the Flower Garden.
4. Chants from the priest, clapping and cheering were measured at between 47 dB to 51 dB in the Staff Car Park.
5. Although not included in the above data an  $L_{Amax}$  71 dB from a passing helicopter was noted.

Friday 13 August 2010 - Afternoon Wedding

Location	Measurement Period	Noise Level (dB)		
		$L_{Amax}$	$L_{Aeq}$	$L_{A90}$
Flower Garden	16:30 - 15 mins	59.6	48.8	43.6
Staff Car Park	16:50 - 15 mins	67.6	48.7	41.4
Inside Marquee	17:10 - 15 mins	81.3	64.6	45.6
Flower Garden	17:50 - 15 mins	62.5	45.9	41.4
Staff Car Park	18:12 - 10 mins	59.4	45.8	39.6
Flower Garden	18:25 - 5 mins	72.2	51.5	41.4

Notes:

1. The planned wedding attendance was 240 guests.
2. Weather conditions were damp with occasional light rain showers and a calm to light northwesterly breeze.
3. From the Flower Garden a beating drum at the wedding marquee was faintly audible (but not measurable) for a few seconds.
4. From the Staff Car Park the priest was audible but not quite understandable, and music was audible as of Indian origin.
5.  $L_{Amax}$  67.6 dB due to a commercial aircraft.
6. From the Flower Garden clapping ( $\approx 3$  secs) and whistling ( $\approx 1$  sec) were just audible and presumed to mark the end of the wedding ceremony.
7. With the wedding ceremony over Indian music was audible within the Staff Car Park.
8.  $L_{Amax}$  72.2 dB due to a commercial aircraft.

It should be borne in mind that the noise levels reported in the above tables are due to all noise sources as the measurement equipment is not able to discriminate between noise from the wedding marquee only, or the grounds of the Manor, or from outside the boundary of the Manor. The measured levels therefore include a variety of noise sources such as:

- Light aircraft and helicopters from Elstree Airfield and larger commercial aircraft at higher altitude.
- Bird song.
- Wind noise in the surrounding trees, particularly in the Flower Garden.
- Traffic on the M1 motorway which is more noticeable with a northwesterly breeze.
- Cows mooing and gates being shut at the farm buildings.
- A circular saw in use in the farm buildings.
- Traffic movements in Letchmore Heath, only noticeable from the Flower Garden.
- Vehicle movements, door slams and conversations in the Staff Car Park (very little car park activity was audible from the Flower Garden).
- Children's voices from the Manor school.
- A pump (maybe for a pond, swimming pool or A/C unit) runs continuously on adjacent land immediately to the northwest of the Flower Garden.
- Occasional shotgun blasts, barking dogs and sirens, all distant.

## Discussion

The results of our measurements are compared against the 1996 Hertsmere Borough Council conditions. Condition 21a requires the noise emitted from the Manor and its grounds shall not exceed  $L_{Aeq}$  55 dB over any 1 hour period at points 1 and 2. These are located on the eastern boundary fence line and therefore this condition is not directly applicable to the current measurements. However, it is worth noting that the highest recorded  $L_{Aeq}$  in the Flower Garden was 51.5 dB(A), and the arithmetic average of the 8 measurements was 48.9 dB(A). On a similar basis, the highest recorded  $L_{Aeq}$  in the Staff Car Park was 50.5 dB(A), and the arithmetic average of the 7 measurements was 47.5 dB(A). These measured levels are significantly lower than the 55 dB(A) condition which would therefore be satisfied if it applied in these areas also.

Discussions with Hertsmere Borough Council during May 2010 resulted in the following proposed conditions:

*"The level of noise measured as  $L_{Aeq}$  15-min emitted from the wedding marquee hereby permitted shall not exceed the  $L_{A90}$  15-min noise level as measured at the boundary of the nearest noise sensitive premises. The level of noise measured as  $L_{Amax}$  emitted from the wedding marquee hereby permitted shall not exceed the  $L_{A90}$  15-min noise level by more than 10 dB(A) as measured at the boundary of the nearest noise sensitive premises."*

The measurement point in the Flower Garden is approximately 20 metres from the façade of the nearest noise sensitive premises and therefore is representative of this property in terms of its exposure to noise from all sources including the wedding marquee. The background noise level results ( $L_{A90}$ ) range from 40.4 to 46.2 dB(A) with a calculated arithmetic average of 42.8 dB(A). The  $L_{Aeq}$  results over the same time periods range from 45.9 to 51.5 dB(A) with a calculated arithmetic average of 48.9 dB(A), and are therefore approximately 6 dB(A) higher than the  $L_{A90}$ . It should again be borne in mind that the measured  $L_{Aeq}$  values include all noise sources, not just noise from the wedding marquee. From my subjective appraisal of the noise climate the wedding marquee was only audible in the Flower Garden for short periods and typically only when there were lulls in other activities. It is therefore my opinion that if the  $L_{Aeq}$  due to the wedding marquee could be measured in isolation then it would be numerically equal to or lower than the  $L_{A90}$  noise level and therefore meet the proposed condition.

On a similar basis the measured  $L_{Amax}$  values in the Flower Garden range from 61.9 to 72.7 dB(A) and are typically 19 to 30 dB(A) greater than the background  $L_{A90}$  noise level. These events are predominantly due to aircraft movements. As discussed above the wedding marquee was only audible in the Flower Garden for short periods and typically only when there were lulls other activities. It is therefore my opinion that  $L_{Amax}$  values from the wedding marquee would not be greater than 10 dB(A) above the  $L_{A90}$  noise level and therefore the proposed condition would be met here also.

## Conclusion

This report presents the results of noise surveys made to determine noise levels at Bhaktivedanta Manor in the Flower Garden and in the Staff Car Park whilst wedding ceremonies were taking place in the wedding marquee. From the results of our measurements we conclude if the 1996 planning conditions were applied to these locations then the conditions would be satisfied. We also conclude that the proposed condition from May 2010 which relates specifically to wedding marquee noise at the nearest noise sensitive premises would also be satisfied.

Yours sincerely

*M Sawyer*

Mark Sawyer

## **APPENDIX E**

### **DEFINITION OF UNITS AND TERMS**

## DEFINITION OF UNITS AND TERMS

### **Noise Units - $L_{eq}$**

Noise levels are generally presented in terms of dB(A), that is "A-weighted" decibels. The "A-weighting" is an internationally agreed frequency response generally similar to that of the human ear so that A-weighted sound levels in dB correspond reasonably well with what is heard.

Because environmental noise levels can vary continuously, it is necessary to use an index that involves some form of averaging over an appropriate time period to arrive at a single figure estimate of the overall noise level for appraisal purposes.

A common form of averaging is to consolidate all the variations in a noise climate into a single value known as the  $L_{Aeq}$  or equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level. As its name suggests the  $L_{Aeq}$  is a measure of the acoustic energy of a fluctuating noise climate over a given period expressed as the single continuous noise level having the same energy as the time varying signal. The  $L_{Aeq}$  is widely used as a measure of various types of environmental noise and is also the unit preferred in Government planning guidance. In recent times there has been a rationalization of noise units and the A-weighted  $L_{eq}$  level may now be designated as  $L_{Aeq,T}$  in dB where  $T$  represents the time period of the measurement.  $L_{Aeq,2s}$  denotes a 2 second  $L_{Aeq}$  while  $L_{Aeq,16h}$  would signify a 16-hour  $L_{Aeq}$  value.

### **5.1 Sound Amplification Equipment**

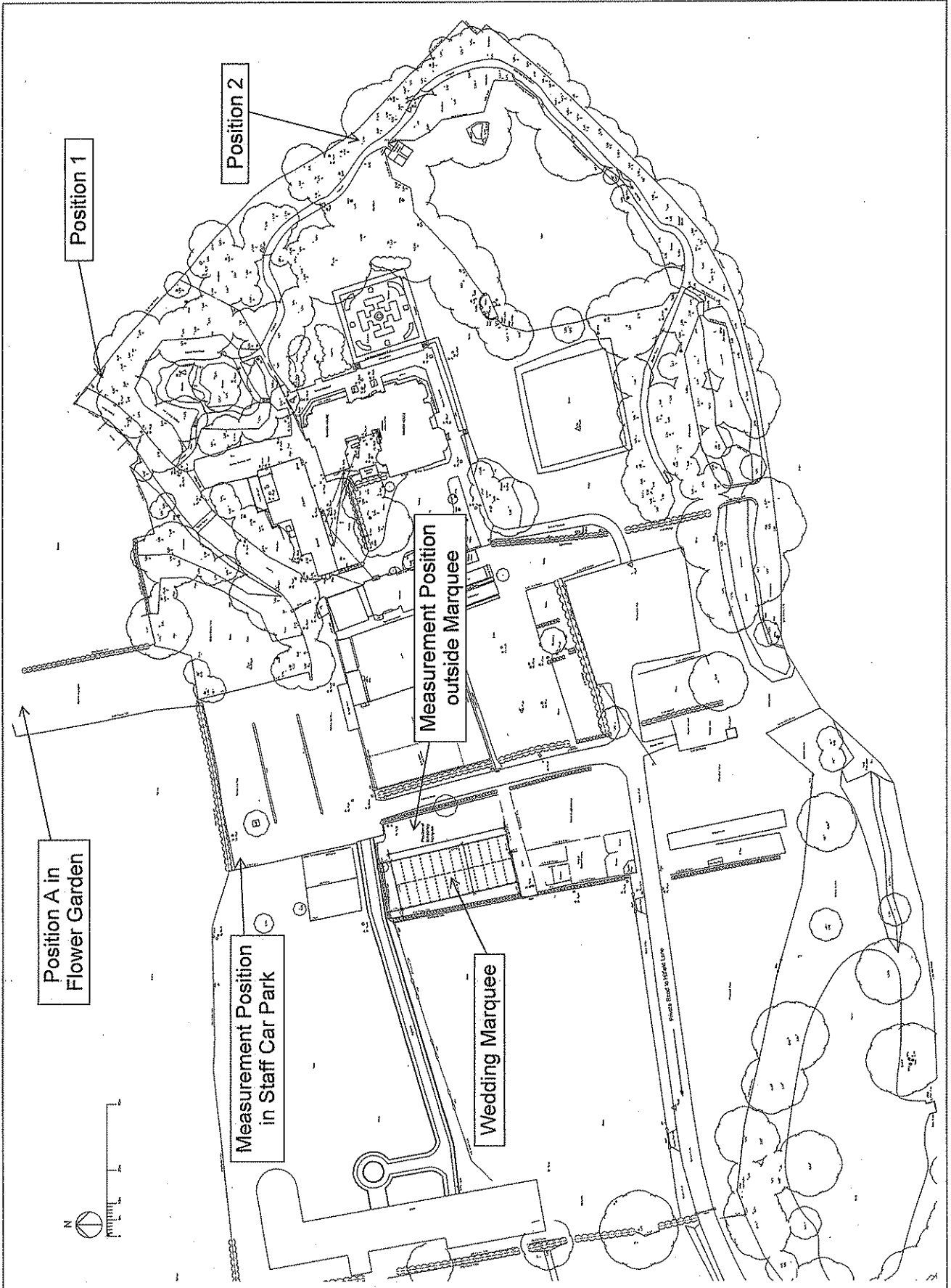
Equipment set up within the Marquee to reproduce background music while the wedding guests are arriving and departing and to provide assistance to the guests in following the wedding service itself when the gathering is large.

### **Public Address System**

A site wide system set up externally, normally for festival days, to allow health and safety and crowd control messages to be broadcast widely around the site when there are very large numbers of people assembled within the Manor grounds.

**APPENDIX F**

**PLAN SHOWING MEASUREMENT LOCATIONS**



<p>Site Plan</p>	<p>Bhakivedanta Manor, Dharam Marg, Hillfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford, WD25 8EZ</p>	<p>Site No. BM-M Drawing No. S02 Scale of A1 1:500 Date 22.09.08 Drawn RP</p>	<p>MALCOLM PAWLEY ARCHITECTS 15 MARSH LANE, LONDON SE14 4AG TEL: 020 774 8400 FAX: 020 748 4410 WWW.MALCOLMPAWLEY.COM</p>
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Planning appeal by Syamasundara das  
for the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

**BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR**  
**HILFIELD LANE, ALDENHAM, HERTS WD25 8EZ**

Appeal references: APP/N1920/A/09/2133063, 2133093 and 2136252

LPA references: TP/2009/1913, TP/2009/1874, EN/08/0271 & others

# **WEDDING MANAGEMENT**

Evidence of Syamasundara dasa

January 2011

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Figure 1 Comparison of Temple and Marquee footprint

## Summary

For a number of years, a marquee has been erected for a few weeks during the summer months in the grounds of the Manor and wedding ceremonies have been held there. In this statement, I address a number of practical aspects surrounding the use of the marquee.

The marquee is described, and the way in which weddings are organised explained. The reasons for using a temporary marquee are set out. I explain that the erection of the marquee is a flexible expedient that allows weddings to proceed without unduly compromising other religious functions and activities within the main building.

I conclude by respectfully inviting the Inspector to allow this appeal, subject to conditions as considered necessary.

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 My name is Syamasundara dasa.
- 1.2 I have been part of ISKCON's congregation since 1978 and a full time member since 1982. I enrolled in theological training in 1982 and stayed on as a full time volunteer. In 1987, following my own marriage, I was employed by the Society. In 1999, I was appointed Wedding Manager with overall responsibility to provide wedding services for our congregation within the Temple, bearing in mind established festivals and other major commitments; and booking parameters set by the Temple Management. I relinquished this role at the end of August 2010, and another member of staff has taken over this responsibility.
- 1.3 As wedding manager, it was my responsibility to ensure that the ceremony, the setting, and all guest arrangements were as well managed as possible.
- 1.4 For a number of years, a marquee has been erected for a few weeks during the summer months in the grounds of the Manor and weddings have been celebrated there. In this statement, I address a number of practical issues surrounding the marquee that have arisen in the present appeal.

## **2 Description of the Marquee**

- 2.1 The marquee is 36m long by 15m wide and is made from the usual white vinyl sheeting. It has an aluminium frame placed on the ground. A short peg is inserted into the ground at the base of each upright to provide limited lateral stability. No external pegs, spikes or other ground fixings, and hence no external guys or ropes, are involved. Electricity is the only service provided to the marquee, via a temporary land line from a supply point nearby. No other services, such as water, toilets, or heating, normally associated with permanent buildings, are installed. The internal floor consists of thin timber panels, placed on the ground and slotted together. A silk lining is hung from the ceilings and walls and a stage measuring approximately 8 by 4 metres (25ft by 13ft) is erected in the middle along one of the long sides. At three sides there are double access doors. The eastern facing doors open up onto a large grassed area bordered by a hedge. The frame of the marquee and its vinyl covering are erected in one day. On the second day, we lay the floor, erect the stage and hang the silk lining. We re-paint the flooring on the third day. The furniture is introduced on the fourth day and on the fifth day we are ready to hold the first weddings. If pushed for time, it is possible for us to have the entire marquee ready within two days.
- 2.2 At the end of the 11-week period, the flooring, furniture and staging is removed in a day, and the marquee completely dismantled on the following day.

- 2.3 The grassed area on which the marquee sits will be yellowed after the eleven weeks use. However, it recovers well. If there are patches that do not recover, then we re-seed straight away.
- 2.4 All chairs and tables are inside the marquee. Seating for the guests is placed in rows around the stage area. On the northern side of the marquee, we place some tables for the bride, groom and those who will join them on the head table. There are also some additional tables for elderly and disabled guests. Sometimes the guests will ask to have a full dining set up. We will then hire tables and set these out around the marquee depending on numbers. On the southern side of the marquee we set out a number of tables from which prasadam (sanctified food – see the evidence of Gauri das) will be served (canteen style). There is also a table for drinks (non-alcoholic) and refreshments available to the guests as they arrive.
- 2.5 The stage is raised up about 1 metre to facilitate the participation of the guests to the wedding so they can see everything that is going on. On the stage will be appropriate seating for the priest, bride, groom, best man, best lady, parents of both bride and groom, and the registrar.
- 2.6 I have indicated broadly on Figure 1 where the stage, seating and tables are located. The application plans SO2 and SO3 show the location of the marquee in relation to the main Manor building (where there are toilets) and nearby visitor, staff and overflow parking areas.

### **3 Days when weddings are held**

- 3.1 During the time that the marquee is erected, we can hold up to two weddings a day. In the past, these have been mainly held on Friday and Saturday with a few on other weekdays through the period.
- 3.2 It has been suggested that we will hold weddings simultaneously in the Temple room and the marquee. We do not do so and we do not wish to do so. One of the reasons why we use the marquee for weddings is so that we can balance the needs of our visitors to the shrine and those attending weddings. Simultaneous weddings would not give us that balance. There is much demand for weddings at Bhaktivedanta Manor. However, the Manor has strict booking parameters that keep the balance about right between the needs of those wanting a wedding and the needs of our residents and visitors.
- 3.3 Another way in which we keep the balance is by not having weddings on Sunday. As this is the main day to visit the temple, we wish to keep Sunday especially reserved for this type of religious observance. Visiting the Temple is an occasion for personal and private devotion to the deities (*darshan*) and, at the same time, takes place in a public place (the Temple room). The marriage ceremony is a private event of a very different nature, and can overwhelm congregational visitors when held in the main building (see section 10 below). Nonetheless, when the marquee is in place, guests often visit the shrine to take darshan either before or after the wedding ceremony, but this

would be individually or in small groups and so does not disrupt or even disturb the regular schedule of worship.

#### **4 The Timings for a wedding using the marquee**

4.1 The daily schedule for the marquee weddings is as follows:

##### Morning Wedding

0930 Guests start arriving

1000 Wedding Starts

1200-30 Wedding Ends – Serving of prasadam begins

1430 Meal ends and guests leave.

##### Afternoon Wedding

1530 Guests start arriving

1600 Wedding Starts

1800-30 Wedding ends – Serving of prasadam begins

2030 Meal ends and guests leave.

#### **5 Sound Requirements**

- 5.1 In order to create the appropriate atmosphere for the wedding guests we play background music, using a sound amplification system, from 0930 until the start of the wedding. Once the wedding has started, the sound system is used to amplify the priest's words, so that all the guests can participate in the wedding ceremony. The close attention that the guests give to the wedding is one of the specific qualities of a wedding at Bhaktivedanta Manor and is one of the reasons for choosing the Manor as a wedding venue. It is therefore important that we amplify the priest's words during the ceremony.
- 5.2 Once the ceremony has come to a close, we again play background music whilst the bride and groom are photographed and the guests receive their prasadam or wedding meal.
- 5.3 Since 2009, we have used a sound amplification system together with a noise limiter. This has been set so that the amplified sound cannot be heard outside the grounds of the Manor.
- 5.4 I note that the Council's reasons for refusal in respect of the present application do not include any relating to noise. However, a number of the local residents have raised noise as an issue. Since 2008, ISKCON has had the benefit of the services of an acoustic consultant. It was on his recommendation that the current noise limiter was fitted in 2009. Since then, we have received no complaints about

noise from the weddings either directly from our neighbours or indirectly via the Council. In the circumstances, I am satisfied that both the wedding ceremony itself and subsequent meal are largely inaudible from neighbouring residential properties. We are prepared to accept condition(s) to ensure that this continues to be achieved.

## **6 Period of Marquee use**

- 6.1 From informal discussions held with Margaret Young of Hertsmere Borough Council Planning office in 2007, we came to a figure of 11 weeks for the marquee erection. We considered that this period was a reasonable compromise. In a previous application, we had requested permission for 4 months of the year.
- 6.2 The intention is to remove the marquee from the site two weeks in advance of the Janmashtami Festival. The Janmashtami festival follows a lunar calendar. As such it changes from year to year and could be held at any time from early August until early September. In 2011, Janmashtami falls in the middle of August; so the period of eleven weeks would run from 22 May to 7 August.
- 6.3 The Manor wedding website shows the different services we offer depending on whether the wedding is held in the marquee or the Temple room – it does not imply that we will hold weddings in both places simultaneously. I again emphasise that our need is to host the weddings in the summer using a marquee and the rest of the year in the Temple room.

## **7 Vehicle Parking**

- 7.1 There are two car parks at the Manor, with total space for about 175 cars. This is generally sufficient for weddings with 250 guests or less. For larger weddings, the geo-grid adjoining the marquee is brought into use as overflow vehicle parking. In some cases, one or more coaches may be used to bring guests, which reduce the number of vehicles needing to be parked on the site.

## **8 Positioning of the Marquee over the years**

- 8.1 Before using the present location, we erected the wedding marquee in the walled garden near the main building. This was considered sufficiently close to the main building for good access to the Temple room and the toilet facilities there. After comments from Hertsmere's planners about the location of the marquee and its effect on the listed building, we decided to move it into a more distant location. The area chosen is in an enclosed area screened on three sides by a high hawthorn and fruit tree hedge. This area is just the right size and also offers a degree of seclusion and privacy for the wedding function. The position is about 100 metres from the main building and this is about 50m further away from the main building than the original site. On the other hand, it is closer to the main

car park and in an obvious location for visitors unfamiliar with the layout of the site, which enables them to orientate themselves quickly and easily.

## **9 Fireworks**

9.1 During the planning meeting deciding on the marquee application in 2009, it was mentioned by a gentleman opposing the application that we had fireworks as part of the wedding. I can confirm that the weddings do not at any time use fireworks in any part of the ceremony. I expect that the confusion arose because fireworks feature, and are permitted in the 1996 decision, during two other festivals held at the Manor at a different time of the year. The main festival that has fireworks is Diwali in the Autumn and this is widely advertised with the local villagers. Apart from that there is a festival in the spring where one firework is used. These festival fireworks may have been blamed on the wedding marquee use.



## 10 Reasons why we need the Marquee for conducting the Marriage ceremony

- 10.1 Due to the significance of the Manor within the Hindu community, it is the focus for a large congregation. Connected with the religious services for the congregation are courses, functions, open days, weddings and other activities. At the same time, the Manor is a residential theological college and the needs of the residents must also be taken into account. The erection of the marquee is a flexible expedient that allows weddings to proceed without unduly compromising other religious functions and activities within the main building.
- 10.2 The Manor has been hosting weddings since its earliest beginnings in 1973. However, this gradually increased over the following years to the point where we are now conducting just over 100 weddings a year, with the emphasis on the summer. For example, in 2010, there were 50 weddings in the marquee during the 11-week summer period; and 60 weddings during the rest of the year for which the Temple room was used (Table 1). Bookings for 2011, as at December 2010, are given in Table 2.

**Table 1: All Weddings in 2010**

month	no. of weddings in month	average no. of wedding guests
Jan	5	200
Feb	8	180
Mar	7	210
Apr	7	210
May	9	220
<b>Jun</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Jul</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>310</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>270</b>
Sept	4	190
Oct	8	180
Nov	6	180
Dec	6	210

**Table 2: Bookings for 2011**

month	no. of weddings in month
Jan	6
Feb	6
Mar	6
Apr	9
May	6
<b>Jun</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Jul</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>5</b>
Sept	1
Oct	8
Nov	6
Dec	9

- 10.3 The use of the marquee during the summer period means that the Temple itself is free of weddings for this 11-week period. This is followed by Janmastami festival, when the intensive preparations preclude the possibility of holding weddings; and then by a further two week period which Hindus devote to remembering their ancestors and when they would not consider getting married. This is an important release and balance for other visits to, and functions of, the Manor. Weddings start again later in September. The use of the marquee means that no weddings are conducted inside the main building during a period of nearly four months in the summer, which is generally the busiest period at the Manor so far as other visitors are concerned.
- 10.4 Hindu weddings usually have a large guest number requirement: for example, 1,000 or more guests might be invited to a typical Patel wedding. The Manor does not have facilities for such large

numbers. We limit the wedding guest numbers to 250 during eight months of the year and then during the marquee period we can conveniently accommodate a maximum of 500 guests.

- 10.5 The reason for the limit on the number of guests becomes obvious when the space within the Temple building is compared with the footprint of the marquee, as given in Figure 1 attached. This has two plans, one showing the principal function rooms of the Temple, and the other the footprint of the marquee, at the same scale. When we hold a wedding in the Temple, around 100 guests can be accommodated seated on the floor (not on chairs!) in the Temple room. The remainder will be in the Reception room, where the ceremony is relayed via a video link. Prasadam is served in the Dining room, and guests overflow into the Reception room. For a wedding with 250 guests, it is only possible to seat a few for the ceremony, so the majority have to stand.
- 10.6 The contrast with the marquee is obvious. The marquee has a single open space with a total floor area more than double that available in the main building. Up to 500 seats can be provided, so that all guests can be seated during the ceremony. Without interruption, prasadam can be served in the same space; some of the guests may be formally seated at tables, others are able to use the seats already in place for the ceremony.
- 10.7 It should be noted that the present application (for 2010 and 2011) was submitted well in advance, at the end of September 2009, to give the Council time to determine the application. In the event, it was not put before the Planning Committee until nearly four months later at the end of January 2010 and, even then, was deferred and no decision taken until June 2010.
- 10.8 For 2010 and 2011 we deliberately asked those booking to limit the guest numbers for marquee weddings to 300. This is so that, should our application fail, we would be able to accommodate most weddings in the Temple room, albeit with considerable disruption (see below). Not all families have observed this limit, and one or two weddings have had as many as 500 guests. The limitation on guest numbers has probably kept the numbers down, so the averages given in the above table for the marquee period may not be entirely representative.
- 10.9 In 2011, we have informed the families that we reserve the right to choose which venue (marquee or Temple room) will be used, and have further restricted weddings to Fridays and Saturdays. This is reflected in the reduced bookings for the marquee period.

## 11 Other practical considerations

- 11.1 There is no consumption of alcohol at these events (or elsewhere in the Manor at any time), and no provision for a wedding 'reception'. Thus no additional music or entertainment takes place.
- 11.2 It has been suggested by some who oppose the marquee application that our weddings are a commercial venture. The suggestion appears to have been made in order to denigrate the religious significance of holding weddings at the Manor and to argue that, in its desire to make provision for larger weddings, ISKCON is mainly driven by grubby commercialism. We reject that suggestion, which is as unworthy as it is untrue, and reflects a mis-directed attempt to apply secular western standards to an entirely different moral and cultural phenomenon. In his evidence, Gauri das sets out the theological context for the wedding ceremony.
- 11.3 There is no need to advertise weddings at the Manor – the demand exists without any promotional effort. The Manor has an excellent reputation for weddings services throughout our congregation and with families planning their weddings. Much is made by the Letchmore Heath Village Trust (LHVT) of our website and the information about weddings provided there. The fact is that in order to deal with a lot of routine questions, and to inform our families, we have put our wedding brochure and related information on the Manor website. That brochure is the same as the one that we personally give to the wedding families.
- 11.4 Whilst the marquee is up, all weddings will be held there. Sometimes families with very close ties to the Manor request that their wedding be held in the Temple room – this is discouraged. We do not hold two weddings simultaneously as that would clash with the needs of the wedding families and take away their exclusive and special experience. If the marquee is being used for a wedding, we would not and do not use the Temple for a wedding simultaneously. We do not want to host two weddings at the same time.
- 11.5 The price difference between Temple room weddings and marquee weddings is £750. This difference in price is simply to cover the additional cost of hiring and preparing the marquee.
- 11.6 The marquee is a very good compromise between the needs of our wedding families and needs of the Temple functions.
- 11.7 When I took over the management of the wedding department in 1999 we were already using a marquee to host our larger guest numbers and, as I understand it, had been doing so for a number of years prior to my appointment. Since then, this has continued with different size marquees and for different periods. The current planning application in terms of size and time is a sensible balance until such time as a permanent solution is found (see below).

11.8 If permission for the temporary marquee was refused, it would put great pressure both on our ability to serve our families' needs for weddings and at the same time provide for our other temple services. Weddings would then have to be hosted in the Temple room and we would have to be firm about keeping the number of guests down to 250.

11.9 On the other hand, if permission was granted and this fact became known, it is possible that there would be a few new weekday wedding bookings – at most half a dozen – and the guest numbers for the existing bookings might be increase slightly – possibly from 250 to 300 on average.

## **12 Future Plans**

12.1 At the invitation of the local planning authority, ISKCON is preparing a scheme to construct a permanent hall somewhere on the site. One of the requirements is that this should have a space large enough to accommodate weddings with up to 500 guests. The scheme has yet to be drawn up, or planning permission obtained. Ultimately, if permission is granted for a permanent hall, all weddings would take place there and would no longer be held in the Temple room at any time of the year.

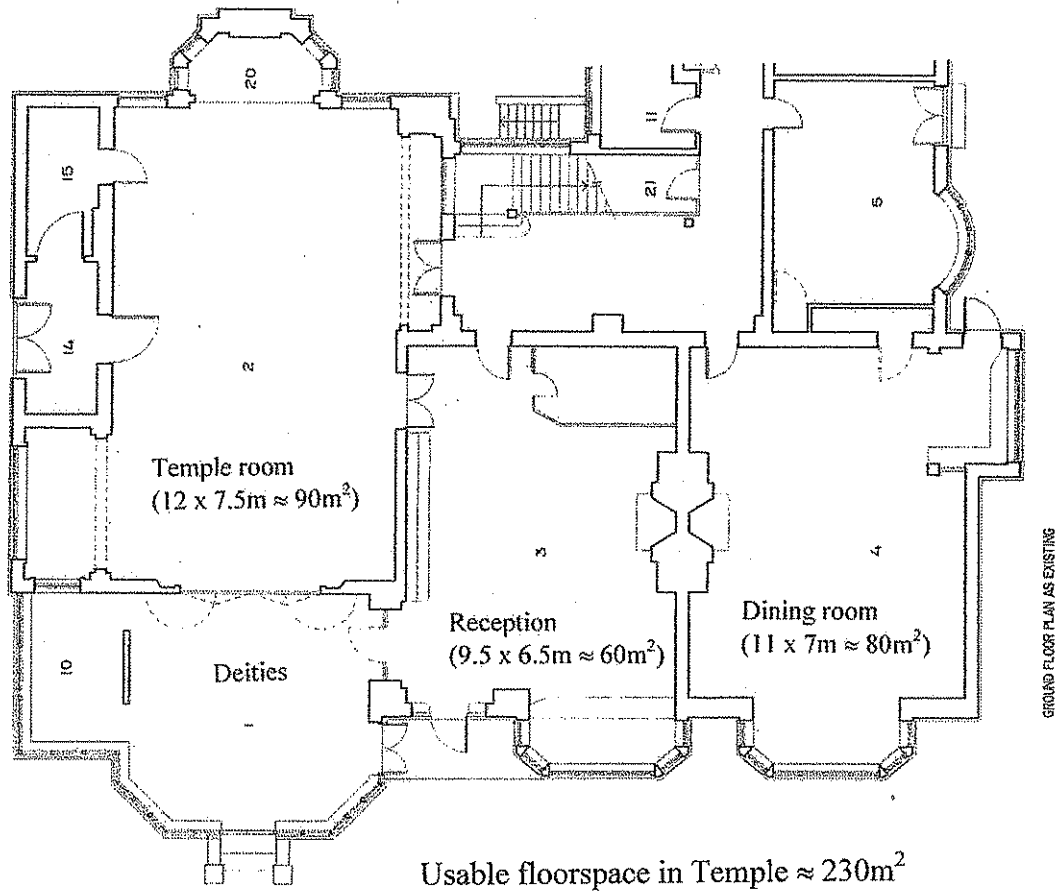
12.2 In the meantime, if the outcome of this appeal is favourable, we would seek to continue using a marquee during the summer period until such time as the situation with a permanent building has been resolved.

## **13 Conclusion**

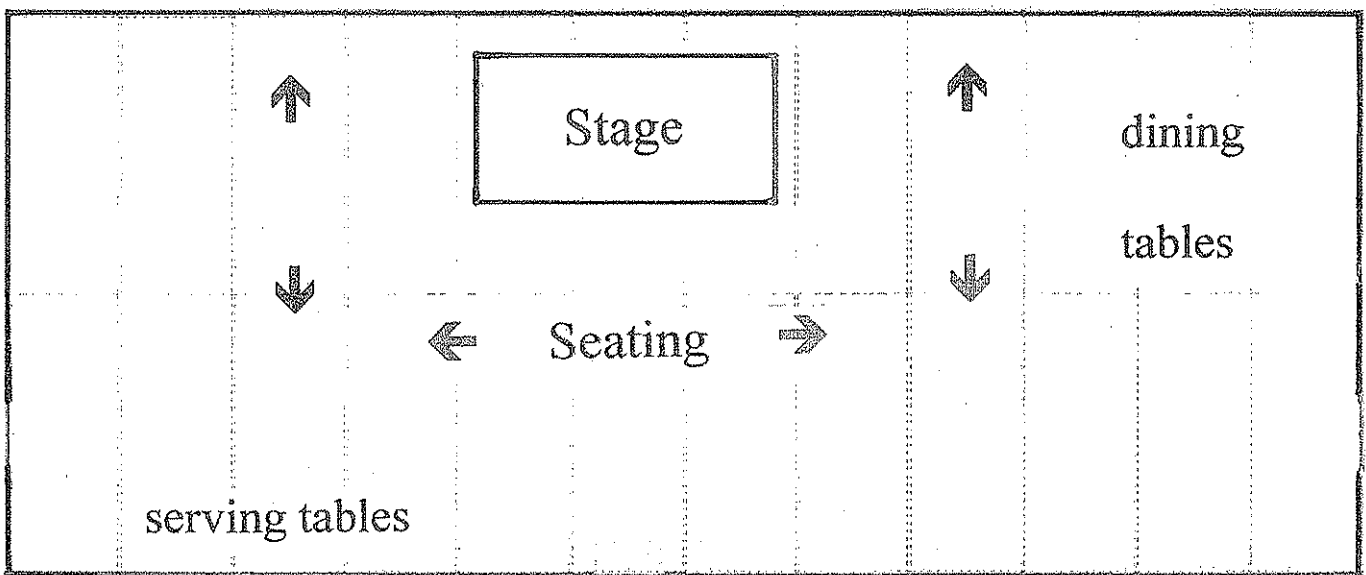
13.1 In conclusion, I respectfully invite the Inspector to allow this appeal.

\* \* \* \* \*

Figure 1 – Comparison of Temple and Marquee footprint

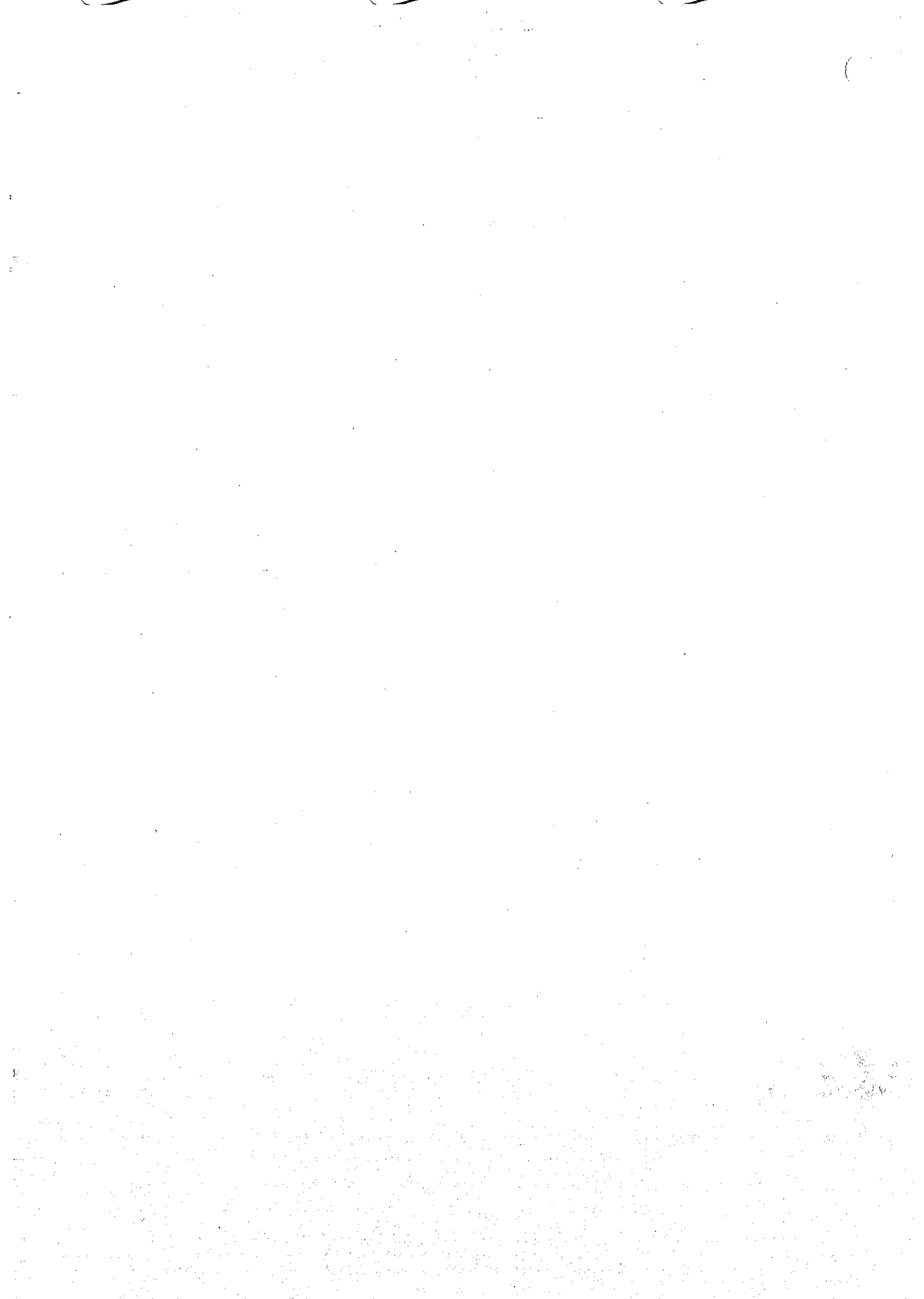


Marquee footprint (36 x 15m = 540m<sup>2</sup>)



both plans to the same scale (1:200 @ A4)

5 metres



TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990  
Sections 78, 195 and 174

Planning appeals by Syamasundara das  
for the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

**BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR  
HILFIELD LANE, ALDENHAM, HERTS WD25 8EZ**

Appeal references:

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LPA references: TP/2009/1913, TP/2009/1874, EN/08/0271 & others

# PLANNING EVIDENCE

on behalf of the Appellant

prepared by Peter Trevelyan  
ABT Planning & Highways Consultancy,  
3 Abbey Mill End, St Albans AL3 4HN  
01727-843656 t&f  
January 2011

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## *Appendices*

Appendix 1 – correspondence relating to the application (11 pages)

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ABT response 12 February 2010	4
HBC letter 22 February 2010	9
ABT response 23 March 2010	11

Appendix 2 – correspondence relating to the Enforcement Notice (8 pages)

ABT letter 22 July 2010 and response to S330 notice	1
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## QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

My name is Peter John Trevelyan. I am principal of ABT Planning & Highways Consultancy. The practice provides professional advice on town planning and highways matters and is based in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

I have a Master of Arts degree from Cambridge, a Master of Science degree in transport planning and a Diploma in Town Planning. I am a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute, a Fellow of the Institution of Highways and Transportation, and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport.

My professional experience extends over three decades and includes advising clients, in both the public and private sectors, on the planning and highways aspects of a wide range of development proposals. These include commercial, housing, retail and roadside facilities developments.

During this period, I have been instructed by a number of local Councils, including Oxfordshire County Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Maldon District Council, Chiltern District Council, and Hertsmere Borough Council, to prepare and present evidence on their behalf at planning appeals and Local Plan Inquiries.

Having acted for ISKCON since 1993, and given planning and highways evidence on their behalf at earlier appeals, I have visited the Manor many times. I am therefore quite familiar with the appeal site and its general surroundings. I have often visited while the wedding marquee has been erected on the appeal site, and have observed a number of weddings held in the marquee, and also in the main building.

### Professional statement

The evidence which I have prepared and provide for these appeals in this proof of evidence is true and has been prepared and is given in accordance with the guidance of my professional institution. I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.

# 1 SUMMARY

These appeals arise from S78, S195 and S174 appeals relating to temporary erection of a wedding marquee in 2010 and 2011 at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

A description is given of the marquee (the S195 appeal is otherwise only addressed in legal submissions). Salient features of the planning history of the site, the planning reports, comparable examples, and planning policy are identified.

It is argued that the erection of **temporary structures** comes within the wider definition of development set out in PPG2 paragraph 3.12 and this is the correct test to determine if a **temporary structure** is 'not inappropriate' or 'inappropriate'.

## *Conclusions – the S78 appeal*

The marquee is not inappropriate development in the Green Belt (paragraph 3.12 of PPG2). In the alternative, harm by reason of inappropriateness would be small, and other harm would be very limited in extent. Against this has to be balanced the legitimate desire of the Hindu community to be able to hold their most sacred ceremony in their life at the Manor. In my view, the benefit to the Hindu community clearly outweighs the harm to the Green Belt, and very special circumstances (paragraph 3.2 PPG2) therefore exist.

The temporary marquee would have no material affect on the amenity of local residents or the public at large and there no planning reasons why the development should not be permitted. Planning permission should therefore be granted (the S78 appeal).

## *Conclusions – the S174 appeal*

The enforcement notice on its face is ambiguous and potentially over-enforces the breach of planning control about which the Council are concerned. The Inspector is invited to vary the terms of the Enforcement Notice, and determine the ground (a) appeal according to the findings on the S78 appeal.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### *The appeals*

2.1 These appeals relate to erection of a temporary marquee for weddings for 11 weeks in 2010 and 2011 at Bhaktivedanta Manor (the Hare Krishna Temple near Watford) on a site to the west of the main building. They derive from the following:

- A planning application (ref: TP/09/1913) for the "*Erection of a temporary marquee for 11 weeks in 2010 and 11 weeks in 2011*" – the S78 appeal.
- An LDC application (ref: TP/09/1885) which sought a Lawful Development Certificate for the "*temporary erection of wedding marquee within the grounds at Bhaktivedanta Manor*" – the S195 appeal.
- An Enforcement Notice dated 18 August 2010, in which the Council described the development as "*The erection of a marquee on the land shown edged red on the attached plan, in excess of the 28 days in total in any calendar year allowed under Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B of the General Permitted Development Order 1995*" – the S174 appeal.

### *The S78 appeal – Planning Application TP/09/1913*

2.2 The planning application was submitted on 27 October 2009. It was validated on 17 November 2009. On 26 January 2010 the Council wrote requesting more information; a response was provided by email dated 12 February. A subsequent request for further information was sent on 22 February 2010; my response was dated 23 March 2010. Copies of this correspondence are appended.

2.3 The planning committee first considered the application on 29 April 2010. The planning officer noted, in her report, that the description of planning application TP/09/1913 had been amended to read:

*"Erection of temporary wedding marquee between 6 June and 22 August 2010 and 22 May and 7 August in 2011 and associated car parking (Amended description 19/04/10)".*

The officer report recommended approval. The Committee resolved that:

*"further consideration of the application be deferred to enable the applicant to (1) submit a Master Plan, detailing the future development plans of the site; and (2) to provide further information in respect to noise figures, in relation to the impact of noise on Letchmore Heath residents, following consultations with the local residents, through the Aldenham Parish Council and local Ward Members."*

2.4 The planning committee considered the planning application at its next meeting on 3 June 2010. They had before them a recommendation to grant permission, subject to conditions (including two additional conditions). The Members decided to refuse the application. After the lapse of nearly a month, a decision notice was issued on 1 July 2010, reading as follows:

*"The applicant has failed to adequately demonstrate a case of very special circumstances to justify the proposed development in this Green Belt location. The proposal is therefore found to be contrary to policy CI of the Hertsmere Local Plan 2003, policy CS12 of the Council's emerging Core Strategy, December 2008 and the guidance of PPG2 - Green Belts."*

***The S195 appeal – LDC Application TP/09/1885***

2.5 The LDC application was refused on 9 July 2010. The development was described as "temporary erection of marquee."

***The S174 appeal – Enforcement Notice dated 18 August 2010***

2.6 The Notice was served by letter dated 20 August 2010. The 'unauthorised development' was identified simply as the erection of a marquee on land edged red on an attached plan. The red line on the attached plan showed the entire 30ha landholding at the Manor, without specifying where or when or why the alleged marquee had been erected. On 10 September 2010, I wrote to the Council (see Appendix 2) noting that the Notice was not limited in terms to the wedding marquee. It referred only to 'marquee' in the generality and therefore embraced any marquee erected at any time within the red line area (the whole 30ha of the Manor grounds) whether or not used for weddings. The Notice also referred to 'moveable structures', again in the generality. I suggested that not only was that wording imprecise, it was also unreasonable. The implications of the wording of the Notice are considered further below.

***The Issues***

2.7 The following issues are identified (in the pre-Inquiry Statement) as the main issues in the appeal:

- a) Is planning permission required for the erection of the marquee? (the S195 appeal)
- b) If planning permission is required, is it appropriate or inappropriate development in the Green Belt?
- c) If it is inappropriate development, do very special circumstances exist?

- d) If very special circumstances exist, are there nevertheless good planning reasons why the development should not be permitted?
- e) The issue of administrative consistency.

2.8 The first issue will be addressed in legal submissions. Save for a description of the marquee, it is not appropriate that this issue should be addressed in evidence. Detailed evidence relating to nature of the marquee, the wedding ceremony and the way the marquee will be used is presented by Syamasundara das, ISKCON's former wedding manager. The religious aspects are addressed by the former Temple President Gauri das. Technical evidence relating to noise has been prepared by Mark Sawyer of AIRO. This evidence provides the general planning context, and deals specifically with the second to the fifth issues. I also look at the correspondence from local residents, and comment as appropriate on significant points raised therein.

### *Definitions*

2.9 Throughout this evidence certain phrases are used as shorthand as follows:

- **ISKCON** – the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (represented by Syamasundara das, the appellant)
- **The Manor** – Bhaktivedanta Manor, in Letchmore Heath, where ISKCON is located. The main building contains a **Temple** room, with a Shrine where the deities are situated.
- **the Council** – the local planning authority, Hertsmere Borough Council
- **Festival field** – the large field on the western side of the Manor

### *Description of the marquee*

2.10 The rest of this section is taken from the Planning Statement accompanying application TP/09/1913.

2.11 The wedding marquee that my clients use is 36 metres long, by 15 metres wide (floor area = 540 m<sup>2</sup>). The eaves are 3 metres high, and the height of the ridge is 5.5 metres (see photographs at the end of the Planning Statement – these were both taken from the access driveway at the corner near the visitor car park). The marquee has an (internal) aluminium frame. This is placed on the surface and a short peg is inserted into the ground at the base of each upright to provide limited lateral stability. No external pegs, spikes or other ground fixings, and hence no external guys or ropes are involved. The cladding material is white vinyl fabric, with clear plastic panels along one long side, and three doors (one in the long side and one at either end – see elevations PO2 and PO3).

- 2.12 The frame of the marquee and its outer covering is erected in one day. Then, internally, a (painted) wooden floor is laid and a stage 8 by 4 metres in size (not 6 by 3 metres as suggested in the Planning Statement) placed in the middle along one of the long sides. The interior is lined with drapes, and seating and tables brought in.
- 2.13 The stage is raised up about 1 metre to facilitate the participation of the guests to the wedding so they can see everything that is going on. The stage has seating for the priest, bride, groom, best man, best lady, bride's parents, groom's parents and the registrar.
- 2.14 Electricity is the only service provided to the marquee, via a temporary land line from a supply point nearby. This is used for internal chandelier lighting and a small sound amplification system. No other services, such as water, toilets, or heating, normally associated with permanent buildings are installed. The internal floor consists of thin timber panels, placed on the ground and slotted together.
- 2.15 The marquee is supplied by a business that specialises in providing temporary tented accommodation; it is not in business as a builder. The entire structure can readily be assembled in one day using limited equipment (eg. spanners and screw-drivers).
- 2.16 Once the internal fittings have been removed, the marquee is dismantled in one day. The grassed area on which the marquee sits will be yellowed after the eleven weeks use, but quickly recovers although some areas may be re-seeded to encourage re-growth.

#### *Description of appeal site*

- 2.17 The marquee has been located in a small grass area just outside the enclosed garden to the west of the main Manor building – the appeal site. This grass area is surrounded by tall hedgerows, which will be roughly 3.5 metres high during the summer (having been cut to around 3 metres in the winter) on three of the four sides (west, north and east). These help to create a strong sense of enclosure. There is a 1.2 metre high wooden post and rail fence along the southern boundary (a photograph of the appeal site in May 2009 is appended to the Planning Statement). There are a couple of gaps in the hedge along the northern boundary, and a gate in the post and rail fence on the southern boundary. This gate gives access to a track which leads to the enclosed garden and the Manor itself or, in the opposite direction, to the Festival Field. The area lies outside the formal garden area of the Manor. It has been a small grass field for more than twenty years, fenced off from the adjoining field to the west. The surrounding hedges were planted within the last ten years.

### *Description of surroundings*

- 2.18 The blue line boundary for the application has been drawn around ISKCON's current landholding at Bhaktivedanta Manor. This is an area of nearly 30 hectares in total.
- 2.19 Bhaktivedanta Manor was built in 1884 on the site of a much older property. The main building is in a mock Tudor style with sham timber framing. It includes a Temple room (in which is a Shrine where the various Hindu Deities are sited), dining hall, theatre, and a suite of rooms dedicated to the founder of ISKCON; together with reception, administration and dormitory accommodation. There are various outbuildings and an enclosed garden.
- 2.20 The Manor is a Grade II listed building, having been added to the list in August 1985. The use of the buildings by ISKCON is consistent with the aim of central government policy in relation to the beneficial use of listed buildings. In 2004 / 2005, ISKCON carried out a major programme of repair and maintenance to the building.
- 2.21 The Manor is located in its own extensively wooded grounds. These comprise formal and enclosed garden areas, lawns, wooded areas and a lake. The whole estate now extends westwards to Hilfield Lane including a number of open agricultural fields.
- 2.22 In 2008, ISKCON commenced construction of new agricultural buildings to house the expanding herd of cattle maintained at the Manor. Permission for the development was granted in 2007 (TP/07/0263) following an appeal in 2005 in which the quantum of floorspace for the agricultural buildings was established. The buildings were progressively brought into use during 2009 and that project is now complete.
- 2.23 Following an important appeal decision in 1996 (see below), the Manor is now accessed direct from Hilfield Lane, with its own dedicated driveway. There is also a gated access to Letchmore Heath, now closed to vehicular traffic. This was used as a pedestrian entrance but for some time now has been kept permanently padlocked. The visitor parking area and a separate staff car park (with a combined total of about 175 car spaces) and overflow parking on the Festival Field were all established pursuant to a condition attached to the 1996 permission.



2.24 The Manor is located in the south-western side of the village of Letchmore Heath. The village has developed in a diverse and piecemeal fashion around the village 'Green', at the junction of three lanes. Open street frontage land is a significant element in the traditional appearance of the village, which includes a popular pub fronting onto the Green. The village is set within the 'Letchmore Heath Conservation Area' and the application site is just within the western edge of the conservation area.

### 3 RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

- 3.1 ISKCON have owned the Manor since 1973. A series of enforcement actions lead ultimately in 1996 to the appeal decision allowing public worship etc. at Bhaktivedanta Manor. The significance of this decision is discussed below, followed by relevant information about the planning history of the site.

#### *The 1996 appeal decision*

- 3.2 An important phase in the history of ISKCON's occupation of the Manor occurred during the mid-1990's. Following a period in which a number of Enforcement Notices had been issued, arising largely because of the adverse affect of activities at the Manor on the amenity of Letchmore Heath, a planning application was submitted in an endeavour to resolve these issues. The proposal comprised three elements – (a) a change of use to regularise worship at the Manor, (b) permission to construct a new access driveway to Hilfield Lane and (c) conditions to safeguard the amenity of Letchmore Heath. Ultimately, the proposal was considered at a major Public Inquiry in 1995, and the SoS decided in 1996 to grant permission:

*“for the change of use of Bhaktivedanta Manor, Letchmore Heath, to a residential and non-residential theological college and religious community, together with use for public worship (including the observance of religious festival days) and the construction of a new driveway and access to Hilfield Lane, subject to conditions ...”*

This permission has allowed the Manor to continue operating as one of the premier Hindu Temples in Europe whilst, at the same time, preserving the amenity of the occupiers of properties nearby.

- 3.3 The 1996 decision was of significance to ISKCON in a number of ways. In particular, it removed the uncertainty over the continuation of public religious worship at the Manor. It also demonstrated that the construction of the new access driveway and associated works “*would not cause ... any great harm to the countryside in this area*” (paragraph 19 of the decision letter refers). Furthermore, it included a condition (No. 12) that, inter alia, required the designation of areas for ‘overflow’ parking. The adjoining field (now called the ‘festival field’) was designated for this purpose.

### *Weddings at the Manor*

- 3.4 For over thirty years the Manor has been a venue for weddings. The shrine in the Temple room is the main focus for guests visiting the Manor and it is the largest space within the building. Although weddings are performed in the Temple room during the year, because the space is limited it is too small to accommodate most Hindu families. Also, while the Temple room is in use for a wedding other temple-related activities have to be relegated to less suitable rooms or cancelled.
- 3.5 It is important to note that weddings are an integral part of the authorised use (see section 5 below). Weddings would continue throughout the year at the Manor whether or not this appeal is granted.
- 3.6 A marquee has been used during the summer period for weddings since at least 1999. Until 2007, the marquee was located in the enclosed garden. In 2008, the marquee was relocated to the current application site. The use of the marquee in the summer months of June and July has enabled the Manor to accommodate weddings with up to 500 guests. Further details are given in evidence by Syamasundara das.

### *Analysis of the officer report to the Planning Committee*

- 3.7 On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008, ISKCON applied for permission to erect a temporary marquee in the grounds of the Manor for 11 weeks in 2009. The subject matter of that application was precisely the same as the subject matter of the present application. Only the dates differed. The application was supported by a planning statement and a design and access statement. In recommending the grant of permission, officers advised that:
- there would be no material impact on the Green Belt, and in particular, upon its openness;
  - informed by that conclusion, either the proposal was appropriate development or that very special circumstances existed;
  - any potential noise problems could be addressed by way of conditions;
  - it was unlikely that the marquee would be visible outside the Manor.
- 3.8 Planning permission was refused for Green Belt and noise reasons. ISKCON appealed, but the subsequent inquiry was aborted for various reasons including shortage of inquiry time.

3.9 The present planning application from which the S78 appeal derives was submitted on 27 October 2009. As noted above, it was eventually determined by the local Planning Committee some 34 weeks later, on 3 June 2010 (although the refusal notice was not issued until 1 July 2010). The planning officer's report to the Committee comprised (i) a report first presented at the meeting on 29 April 2010, (ii) a supplemental report, and (iii) an update sheet. The planning officer recommended approval.

(i) the report for the 29 April 2010 meeting

3.10 The report notes (paragraph 3.2) that full permission was sought for a temporary marquee for 11 weeks, and that it would predominantly be used on Fridays and Saturdays. [There is an error in this paragraph; it noted that the application site was located to the east of the Manor House. In fact the application site is located to the west of the Manor House.]

3.11 Key issues are identified in section 9. I single out 'principle of development', 'impact on residential amenity' and 'car parking and impact on highway' as of particular import.

3.12 In respect of the 'principle of development', the report makes clear (paragraphs 10.5 and 10.6) that the officers were cognisant of the comments in the Planning Statement about the size of the weddings that can be accommodated at the Manor, and the benefits of the marquee use in that it allows existing temple related activities to continue as normal. The officers considered that the temporary erection of the marquee for 11 weeks of the year would not result in any long-term affects on the openness of the Green Belt. This was considered sufficient to outweigh any harm that may be caused by the development. The conclusion (10.7) was that the proposed development would comply with relevant development plan policies (i.e. approved policy C1, draft policy CS12, and PPG2). I agree with this conclusion.

3.13 In respect of residential amenity, the report notes (10.11) the advice of the Environmental Health Department that noise levels at the nearest residential property are similar to what could normally be expected within the early hours of the morning in a rural location. The conclusion was that, subject to conditions, the development would therefore comply with relevant development plan policy.

3.14 Regarding highways and parking (10.17) it is noted that the car parking on the site would appear to be sufficient to accommodate the additional 150-175 cars for each event. The officers considered that this would represent an intensification of the use of the site, but concluded that it would be unlikely to result in a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area or the openness of the Green Belt.

(ii) the supplemental report for the 3 June 2010 meeting

3.15 This report noted, under the heading 'Master Plan', that discussions on a planning brief for the Manor had been arranged (paragraph 3.1). On the subject of noise, officers proposed what they considered was a workable condition.

(iii) the update for the 3 June 2010 meeting

3.16 This report notes that a meeting was held with the Manor in May 2010 to discuss production of a planning brief. Two conditions relating to noise were proposed. The officers reiterated (page 3) their conclusion that the development "*would not result in any long term effects on the openness of the Green Belt*".

3.17 In conclusion, therefore, an experienced senior planning officer of the Council has, on two separate occasions roughly a year apart, considered the proposal to erect a marquee in the grounds of the Manor. Despite the committee's rejection of the advice given in the first report, the officer again tendered the same advice in the second report that the harm to the Green Belt would be minimal, and recommended granting permission.

*Other similar proposals in Hertsmere*

3.18 None of the three reports relating to the appeal proposals at this Inquiry (or that relating to the issue of an enforcement notice) and presented to the Committee in 2010 (and discussed above) made reference to other similar examples elsewhere in Hertsmere. This is a somewhat surprising omission as information on this issue was provided by the same officer in the report on the previous planning application TP/08/1595 when recommending approval for a temporary wedding marquee in 2009. Partly as a consequence, I dealt specifically with this issue in the Planning Statement (paragraph 2.19ff) accompanying the application now the subject of this appeal.

3.19 The above information was presented in evidence at the previous public inquiry. The Council did not challenge the factual information nor did they present any countervailing examples.

3.20 This omission is significant because it goes to the heart of the issue of administrative consistency. Failure to draw the attention to other equivalent examples in the same administrative area opens the door to inconsistent decision-making. I believe that in all other examples relating to applications for temporary marquees in the Green Belt permission has been granted, hence those at the Manor have been the only exceptions.

(1) Willows Farm AL4 OPF

3.21 A temporary Marquee has located at The Willows Farm Village site since at least 2000 (application ref: TP/2000/0853 refers). This has been renewed in subsequent years and then, in 2008, the applicant sought permission for a period of five years, which has been granted. Relevant extracts from the Council's website are appended. Of particular note is the size of the proposed marquee (3,500 m<sup>2</sup> – ten times the area of the appeal proposal), the temporary 8-week period, the commercial nature of the use (including a dodgem race track), and that there is no reference to the Green Belt in the reason for the grant, although there is a mention in the reason for imposition of Condition 2.

(2) Shenley Cricket Centre WD7 9DW

3.22 In 2008, the Council granted permission for a temporary marquee 24.5 by 12.25m (297 m<sup>2</sup>) for a total of 5 months in 2008 and 2009. (Note: this appears to be a temporary expedient followed approval, on appeal, of a scheme to demolish the existing clubhouse and erect a 2 storey replacement clubhouse – ref: TP/07/1012 – the time limit on which the club has recently sought to extend – ref: TP/10/2228).

3.23 In assessing the proposal, the officers rejected the agents' assertion that the development could be regarded as appropriate development in the Green Belt (paragraph 10.3 of report). This was on the basis that it was not small-scale unobtrusive spectator accommodation, and that the marquee would be on site for 5 months and would be only slightly smaller than the existing pavilion. However, it was recognised that a case of very special circumstances had been made out and permission was granted.

(3) Southridge Animal Centre EN6 3LZ

3.24 Application ref: TP/10/0992 sought retrospective permission for the retention of two marquees to provide reception extension & dog training area, for two years. The floor area of the main marquee was given as 250 m<sup>2</sup>. Permission was granted.

(4) Tyttenhanger House AL4 OPG

3.25 Application ref: TP/06/0122 is also comparable to the appeal proposal. Permission was sought for the partial change of use for hospitality function (weddings) together with occasional erection of a marquee (12m by 30m typically) on Saturdays and Sundays. This was approved for 3 years, without any restrictions on the dates when the marquee may be erected. The marquee could in principal be erected every week-end throughout the year – making a total in excess of 100 days – although this would be unlikely in practice. This is considerably in excess of the 77 days (over 2 years) sought for the appeal marquee.

*Comments on the reason for refusal*

3.26 The sole reason for refusal states that *“The applicant has failed to adequately demonstrate a case of very special circumstances to justify the proposed development in this Green Belt location. ...”* This was the outcome of a resolution proposed by members, contrary to the recommendation of the officers. The minutes of the committee meeting note only that *“debate continued and members concluded that they were not satisfied that very special circumstances had been demonstrated adequately to allow the marquee ...”* No further elucidation is provided.

3.27 A brief justification of the reason for refusal was provided in two paragraphs (3.3 and 3.4) of the pre-Inquiry statement for the Council. This was a *post facto* justification, prepared by Mr Smith, a consultant then only recently appointed to give evidence on the Council’s behalf. The argument is advanced that, because it is possible to hold weddings in the existing building, there is no essential need for the erection of the temporary wedding marquee:

*“Whilst the marquee would clearly be useful for holding weddings, it is not an essential requirement. Weddings are held throughout the year in the existing buildings. Given the case presented on behalf of the appellant, it is evident that very special circumstances do not exist to justify the erection of the marquee as proposed ...”*

The foregoing statement focuses attention on the essentiality of the wedding marquee in so far as it affects the case for very special circumstances. The limitations of this approach are explored in detail in the evidence for this appeal.

*Planning context*

3.28 The appeal site is located within the metropolitan Green Belt. Hence it is necessary to consider planning policy applying to development in the Green Belt. The application site is mostly within the Letchmore Heath conservation area. Bhaktivedanta Manor is a listed building. The planning officer, however, took the view that the development was unlikely to result in an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area, nor result in a detrimental impact on the setting of the listed building (it should be noted that the appeal site is outside the curtilage of the listed building). Neither the decision notice nor the pre-Inquiry statement for the Council mention the conservation area or the setting of the listed building. I therefore consider there is no requirement to discuss either aspect further.



## 4 PLANNING POLICIES

### *Development plan policies*

- 4.1 The statutory development plan comprises East of England RSS (May 2008) and the Hertsmere Local Plan 2003. There is an emerging Core Strategy.
- 4.2 The reason for refusal refers to the adopted local plan policy C1 (“Green Belt”), and policy CS12 of the Council’s emerging Core Strategy, and PPG2.
- 4.3 The pre-Inquiry statement for the Council refers additionally to policies C4 and S7 from the adopted local plan; and PPS1 and PPS7.

### Local Plan, Policy C1

- 4.4 Policy C1 sets out the basic Green Belt policy for the Local Plan by confirming that the Council will follow Government policy as set out in PPG2:

#### **Policy C1 : Green Belt**

Within the Green Belt, as defined on the Proposals Map, there is a general presumption against inappropriate development and such development will not be permitted unless very special circumstances exist. Development proposals within the Green Belt will be assessed in relation to the guidance set out in section 3 of PPG2 ‘Control Over Development’.

The effect is to ensure that policy follows that set out in Government Guidance in PPG2, confirming PPG2 as the determining policy statement in respect of the Green Belt. The second sentence of Policy C1 also includes the rider that “*Development proposals within the Green Belt will be assessed in relation to the guidance set out in section 3 of PPG2*”. This approach is carried forward in Policy CS12 of the Core Strategy DPD (December 2008).

### Local Plan, Policy C4

- 4.5 Policy C4 sets out criteria for development in the Green Belt as follows:

#### **Policy C4 : Development Criteria in the Green Belt**

In addition to Policy C1 and any other specific policies set out in this Plan particular regard will be paid to the following criteria when considering proposals for development in the Green Belt:-

- (i) developments should be located as unobtrusively as possible and advantage should be taken of site contours, landscape features, etc. to minimise the visual impact. Buildings should be grouped together and isolated buildings in the countryside should be avoided;
- (ii) wherever possible, developments should use materials which are in keeping with those of the locality. Where modern materials are acceptable they should be unobtrusive in the landscape;

- iii) proposals must comply with the County Council's policy for traffic on rural roads;
- iv) the scale, height and bulk of the development should be sympathetic to, and compatible with, its landscape setting and not be harmful to the openness of the Green Belt; existing trees, hedgerows and other features of landscape and ecological interest should be retained and be reinforced by additional planting of native species or other appropriate habitat enhancement in order to enhance the character and extent of woodland in the Community Forest;
- v) account will be taken of any lost contribution to farm economics and management, with a strong presumption against development which would fragment farm holdings.

In my submission, it is not open to the Council in its pre-inquiry statement to allege a breach of a policy to which it makes no reference whatsoever in its reason for refusal. If, however, I am wrong, then I consider the first four items of the above policy in detail below.

#### Local Plan, Policy S7

4.6 This policy reads as follows:

##### **Policy S7: Community Centres and Religious Buildings**

Proposals involving the provision of new or enhanced community centres and religious buildings will be granted permission where it can be demonstrated that the use and choice of location will principally serve a local community and the site would be or could be made easily accessible by a range of transport options. In addition, proposals should:- (i) make adequate provision for car parking and have no adverse impact on the highway network;(ii) have no significant impact on adjoining properties; and (iii) not detract from the visual amenity of the area.

The officer report concludes that (11.1) that the proposal would comply with Policy S7. I agree.

#### ***National Policy guidance – PPG2***

4.7 Because the appeal site is located in the Green Belt, Government guidance on Green Belt is of central importance to this appeal. This is set out in PPG2:

*“3.1 The general policies controlling development in the countryside apply with equal force in Green Belts but there is, in addition, a general presumption against inappropriate development within them. Such development should not be approved, except in very special circumstances. See paragraphs 3.4, 3.8, 3.11 and 3.12 below as to development which is inappropriate”.*

*“3.2 ... Very special circumstances to justify inappropriate development will not exist unless the harm by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations. ...”*

*“3.4 The construction of new buildings inside a Green Belt is inappropriate unless it is for the following purposes ... essential facilities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation, for cemeteries, and for other uses of land which preserve the openness of the Green Belt and which do not conflict with the purposes of including land in it (see paragraph 3.5 below) ...”.*

*“3.12 The statutory definition of development includes engineering and other operations, and the making of any material change in the use of land. The carrying out of such operations and the making of material changes in the use of land are inappropriate development unless they maintain openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt.”*

I shall address these paragraphs in the following section of my proof.

4.8 Putting the above in context, I consider the correct approach to Green Belt policy is as follows;

- (1) determine whether the development is or is not ‘inappropriate’, then
- (2) if the development is not ‘inappropriate’, determine whether the application accords with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- (3) if, on the other hand, the development is ‘inappropriate’, consider whether very special circumstances exist and, if so, whether there are nevertheless good planning reasons why the development should not be permitted.

4.9 Regarding the formulation of the Green Belt test, I consider this should be as follows: ‘given that inappropriate development is by definition harmful, the proper approach is whether the harm be reason of inappropriateness and the further harm caused to the openness and purpose of the Green Belt is clearly outweighed by the benefit to the appellant’. This is a paraphrase of the decision of Sullivan J. in *Doncaster MBC v SSETR* [2002] JPL 1509 paragraph 70 which has subsequently been viewed favourably by the Court of Appeal. In my submission, the question of essentiality (paragraph 3.4) has no place in the “very special circumstances” test (paragraph 3.2).

#### PPS1 and PPS7

4.10 Regarding PPS1, I note the requirement to “take into account the needs of all the community, including particular requirements relating to age, sex, ethnic background, religion, disability or income.” (paragraph 16). This is supported by PPS7, where the first of its Key Principles states that “Decisions on development proposals should be based on ... the consideration of ... social inclusion, recognising the needs of everyone”.

## 5 THE CASE FOR THE APPELLANT – THE GREEN BELT ISSUE

### *Introduction*

- 5.1 In this section I deal with issues (ii) whether the marquee is appropriate or inappropriate development; and (iii) if it is inappropriate development, do very special circumstances exist? Both issues arise because of the location of the appeal site in the Green Belt.

### *Is the marquee appropriate or inappropriate development?*

- 5.2 As set out in section 4 above, PPG2 sets out the policy context for this issue. The starting point is that Marquee is a temporary structure, for which I consider the relevant policy is set out in paragraph 3.12. My considered opinion is that paragraph 3.4 deals with “construction of new buildings” and is therefore directed specifically and exclusively at **permanent buildings** as that word is understood in ordinary everyday language. Support for my understanding of paragraph 3.4 comes from the indents of that paragraph each of which, I would suggest, is referring to permanent buildings and none of which can be readily applied to a temporary structure such as a marquee, still less to one that would be erected for such a short time each year.
- 5.3 The erection of **temporary structures** comes within the wider definition of development set out in paragraph 3.12. Therefore, the correct test to determine if a **temporary structure** is ‘not inappropriate’ or ‘inappropriate’ is, using the words of PPG2, whether the structure itself maintains openness and does not conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt. The marquee does not have to meet the paragraph 3.4 test of essentiality. The associated occasional car parking, if indeed it is a Green Belt issue, also falls to be considered under paragraph 3.12, and not paragraph 3.4.

- 5.4 In respect of temporary uses in the Green Belt, a marker of 28 days has been established by the GPDO. This represents a point below which the majority of temporary structures and uses (including marquees, and car parking) are deemed 'not inappropriate' by definition. Hence, the openness of the Green Belt is deemed preserved or maintained by such development. Practice, as evidenced by the Willows Farm example, demonstrates that this is a lower, but not an upper limit. To put this in context, the erection of a tent or marquee (of whatever size) in the grounds of a property for a short period (for a single wedding, say) is held to maintain openness, whereas erection of a marquee for 364 days would not. Clearly there is a continuum between these two extremes and it is a matter of judgement as to where on this continuum between 'maintain' and 'harm' a particular proposal lies. It is of some significance that the enforcement notice in the present case excludes from its ambit the 28 days provided under the GPDO.
- 5.5 The evidence is that Hertsmere use this approach, or something very similar, in other cases in its area. In the closely comparable example of Willows Farm cited above there is no reference to Green Belt issues in the reason for the grant. It seems reasonable to conclude that the planning officer must have determined that a 3,500 m<sup>2</sup> marquee (a floor area more than 6 times larger than the appeal proposal) erected for two months every year for five years for a commercial purpose was 'not inappropriate' development.
- 5.6 With respect to the appeal marquee, this will be a temporary structure, of a fleeting rather than a permanent character. It will be relatively small in scale (540 m<sup>2</sup>). It will not change in any material way the nature, character or use of the land on which it is located, nor will it interfere with the actual physical characteristics of the land. Hence it is submitted that, on the continuum between the two extremes of 'maintain' and 'harm' to the openness of the Green Belt, it falls on the 'maintain' side. Hence it is 'not inappropriate'. Nor does it conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt, an issue to which I shall briefly return below. It is significant that, in 2009, this assessment was also shared by the Council's own Policy Section, whose advice was "*there is no objection in principle to the siting of a marquee for a temporary period of time ...*" (see consultation responses to the earlier application ref: TP/2008/1595).

- 5.7 Should the argument that relevant policy is set out in paragraph 3.4 and not 3.12 prevail, then, in the alternative, I would argue that the marquee is without doubt an 'essential facility' for a subsisting use (weddings) that preserves the openness of the Green Belt. The 'essential' need for the marquee is set out in evidence by my colleagues from ISKCON, and relates primarily to the need to minimise disruption to the regular routine of worship, and to the worshipers themselves. Furthermore, the marquee is small, unobtrusive and, most importantly, temporary. Hence it is closely comparable to the examples of 'essential facilities' given in paragraph 3.5 of PPG2.
- 5.8 On either approach, my view is that the correct assessment is that neither this marquee, temporarily erected for a limited time, nor the associated occasional car parking, if a Green Belt issue, are inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

#### *Very Special Circumstances*

- 5.9 On the other hand, if the proposal is considered to represent inappropriate development in the Green Belt, then it is argued that harm by reason of inappropriateness is very limited, and more than balanced by the case for very special circumstances that was submitted to the Council. This was considered and accepted by the planning officers. This has been amplified at some length in the evidence presented by Syamsundara das.
- 5.10 In order to put the planning context for this evidence of very special circumstances, it should be noted that the site for the marquee is within the area for which permission was granted on appeal in 1996 for change of use of Bhaktivedanta Manor to "a residential and non-residential theological college and religious community, together with use for public worship ...". At the planning inquiry the issue of very special circumstances was explored at length, and the Inspector's conclusions (supported by the SOS) read:

*396. In dealing with the weight which I conclude should be attached to the very special circumstances in this case, I return to a matter which, I believe, irrespective of its Green Belt location, is a relevant material consideration in this case - namely the extent to which it is reasonable for a significant group of the community to be able to worship according to their religious beliefs and tenets. It is a matter of undisputed fact that Bhaktivedanta Manor has a special relevance to the Hindu community and provides a level of worship and pilgrimage which is manifestly important to Hindus. In this regard Bhaktivedanta Manor is without rival or comparability elsewhere in the UK. In its present location it is well placed to serve the religious and cultural needs of Hindus living in North London, Harrow and Barnet.*

*397. As well as providing these people with the quality of worship and religious development to which they aspire, the religious significance of Bhaktivedanta Manor is acknowledged by other church and lay people. Indeed one attribute of the project referred to by virtually all who have spoken or written - including those opposed to it on other grounds - is its important religious significance and the contribution it makes to religious choice.*

5.11 In a report on the 1987 enforcement appeal which preceded the 1996 decision, an earlier Inspector found:

*“As to public worship, the public were permitted to attend services at all times. The Manor was proud to keep open house, and the gates were locked only for a few hours during part of the night. No visitor had to ask for any permission to enter. The services in the temple were conducted on exactly the same basis as in an Anglican or any other church, although there was no parish roll or register of communicants. Members of the public were invited to celebrate weddings, with a religious ceremony after the civil one, and this also could be described as an element of public worship.”* (my underlining). Taken from the Commission report in *ISKCON v UK* (1994), 18 E.H.R.R. CD133.

5.12 Whilst the first extract (and the 1996 decision generally) does not deal explicitly with weddings, I consider it is an unchallengeable premise that weddings are an integral part of the religious and cultural needs of all communities, the Hindu community not excepted (a view supported in the extract from the 1987 enforcement appeal quoted above). The position of the Manor is exactly analogous to an active Anglican church building; in planning terms, weddings, baptisms and christenings, and memorial (funeral) services would be viewed as an integral, commonplace, and unchallengeable part of the use of such a building for public worship. Hence, I consider that it is right that the Hindu community should be able to marry at the Manor and, in planning terms, wedding ceremonies are encompassed within the approved change of use.

5.13 As Syamasundara das explains, weddings are celebrated in the Temple room throughout the year. These are not at issue. The summer is the preferred season for weddings. The temporary marquee enables the implications of this seasonal preference to be met without sacrificing the quality of service and keeping disruption to the regular routine of worship, and to the worshipers themselves, to a minimum.

5.14 It should be noted that the marquee is located within the area for which the change of use was granted by the 1996 permission. Hence, there is *de facto* no change of use involved in the use of the appeal site for weddings as the use already subsists by virtue of this permission.

- 5.15 Given the proposed siting of the marquee and the short period for which it would be erected, any harm to the Metropolitan Green Belt would be minimal. The Council's officers themselves advised in respect of application TP/2008/1595: "... given that the structure and activity within it are for a temporary period only and that the land on which it would be sited would be reinstated at the end of the period, which can be secured by condition, it is considered that the temporary erection of the marquee for 11 weeks of the year would not result in any long term effects on the openness of the Green Belt." The identical conclusion is reached in paragraph 10.7 of the officer report on the current appeal application.
- 5.16 I have also considered whether or not the temporary marquee would conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt (PPG2 paragraph 1.5). The only purpose with which it might conceivably be found to conflict is the second: "assisting in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment". Given that the marquee would be temporary and will not change in any material way the nature, character or use of the land on which it is located, nor interfere with its actual physical characteristics, I consider that there would be no encroachment on the countryside. Therefore, I see no conflict with this second purpose.
- 5.17 I conclude that in this case any harm by reason of inappropriateness, if it is material, is small, and other harm is limited in extent (as explored below). Against this has to be balanced the legitimate desire of the Hindu community to be able to hold their most sacred ceremony in their life at the Manor, on the one hand without unrealistic restrictions on numbers of wedding guests and on the other hand without inconvenience to the regular activities at the Manor and to devotees and other visitors. In my view, the need clearly outweighs the harm, and Very Special Circumstances therefore exist.

#### *Previous developments at Bhaktivedanta Manor*

- 5.18 It is relevant to consider the way in which the Council has dealt with previous planning applications at Bhaktivedanta Manor. The table below sets out the description of each application. I have excluded the permission for the new agricultural buildings, because this was largely the outcome of complex negotiations following an appeal decision. I have also excluded applications before 2006 that pre-dated the requirement to set out reasons for granting permission.



Application	Reason for grant
TP/09/1565 Erection of oak timber, free standing shelter with cedar shingle roof & matching nursery roof	The principle of development is considered acceptable due to the fact that its limited size and well screened location would maintain the openness of the surrounding Green Belt and would not conflict with purposes of including land in the Green Belt. In addition the need for development has been highlighted by the current lack of covered outdoor play facilities. Finally, the proposed development would not detract from the existing Listed Building nor would it have a detrimental impact preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of the Conservation Area or the nearby residential properties. The proposed development would therefore comply with Policies C1, C4, D21, E16, E22 and E23 of the Hertsmere Local Plan, Policies CS12 and CS20 of the Council's emerging Core Strategy for Submission to the Secretary of State (Dec 2008) and PPS2- Green Belts.
TP/08/1522 Erection of two polytunnels for agricultural purposes.	The application has been fully considered having regard to Policies C1, C4, D21, and E22 of the Hertsmere Local Plan 2003. The proposal is acceptable and would not have an unacceptable material impact on the visual amenities of the area, the openness of the Metropolitan Green Belt, the amenities of the nearby residents, or the character and appearance of the conservation area, and as such complies with the above policies.
TP/07/0161 Erection of polytunnel for agricultural purposes (to be sited at former Holland Farm)	The application has been fully considered having regard to Policies C1 and C4 of the Hertsmere Local Plan 2003. The proposal is acceptable and would have no material detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the Green Belt or the amenities of neighbouring property.
TP/06/0654 Erection of polytunnel for growing flowers	The application has been fully considered having regard to Policies C1, C4, E16, E22, E24, E28 and D21 of the Hertsmere Local Plan 2003. The proposal is acceptable and would have no material impact on the amenities of the surrounding area and, as such, complies with these policies.

5.19 The examples given in the table demonstrate that permanent structures have been found to maintain the openness of the surrounding Green Belt and not to conflict with purposes of including land in the Green Belt. It is also significant that the lack of covered play facilities has been accepted as evidence of need – a very similar scenario to the need for an enclosed space for weddings.

***Policy C4 – development criteria in the Green Belt***

5.20 This sub-section is without prejudice to my primary contention that the Council cannot simply add on consideration of policy C4 when nothing about it appears in the reason for refusal. Policy C4 is concerned with the design of the development in the Green Belt and its relationship to the surrounding locality. My comments are set out below.

5.21 Regarding item (i) *“developments should be located as unobtrusively as possible and advantage should be taken of site contours, landscape features, etc. to minimise the visual impact....”* I consider that the location chosen for the marquee is as unobtrusive as is possible and it will have a minimal visual impact both inside and outside the site (see below). Hence it fully meets this criterion.

- 5.22 Regarding item (ii) *“developments should use materials which are in keeping with those of the locality. Where modern materials are acceptable they should be unobtrusive in the landscape ....”* This criterion is obviously particularly directed at permanent buildings. The fabric used for the marquee is white (the interior would otherwise require greater levels of internal illumination). This is the norm for temporary marquees for weddings, regattas, country fairs and the like, and examples can be seen in many places throughout the countryside, notably during the summer period. In my opinion, glimpses of white marquees are widely accepted as temporary features of the landscape. As observed below, even from within the Manor grounds and overall estate, the marquee would be unobtrusive. Hence, the development is consistent with this criterion.
- 5.23 Regarding item (iii) *“proposals must comply with the County Council's policy for traffic on rural roads”*, it is understood that traffic on the rural roads is not an issue raised by the Council.
- 5.24 Regarding item (iv) *“the scale, height and bulk of the development should be sympathetic to, and compatible with, its landscape setting and not be harmful to the openness of the Green Belt; existing trees, hedgerows and other features of landscape and ecological interest should be retained”* my comments on ‘openness’ are set out above. As is clear from comments elsewhere, I do not believe that the landscape setting would be in any material way affected by the marquee. All existing features are retained. Hence, the proposal is consistent with this criterion.
- 5.25 Item (v) – farm economics – is not applicable to this proposal.
- 5.26 I conclude that the proposal would not conflict with the relevant criteria in Local Plan Policy C4.

#### ***Conclusion – Very Special Circumstances***

- 5.27 It is concluded that the marquee is not inappropriate development in the Green Belt. In the alternative, if this conclusion is rejected, I consider that harm by reason of inappropriateness would be small, and other harm would be very limited in extent. Against this has to be balanced the legitimate desire of the Hindu community to be able to hold their most sacred ceremony in their life at the Manor. In my view, the benefit to the Hindu community clearly outweighs the harm to the Green Belt, and very special circumstances therefore exist.

## 6 AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

### *Introduction*

- 6.1 In this section I deal with issue (iv) if very special circumstances exist, are there nevertheless good planning reasons why the development should not be permitted? This largely arises because appeal correspondence from some local residents raises concerns about traffic and parking, visual amenity, and noise. The question is whether the amenity of nearby residents would be affected in any way if the summer weddings booked for 2011 (86 as of December 2010) took place in the marquee instead of in the main Manor building?

### *Nearby residential development*

- 6.2 The nearest properties to the Manor are the residential dwellings in Letchmore Heath. There is a group of properties to the north of the Manor that are approximately 150 metres from the appeal site. These properties – Manor Cottage, Leaper Cottages, Farm Cottage, and Letchmore Heath Farmhouse and Barns – are all on the road called ‘The Green’ that runs through the centre of the village. The rear gardens of these properties extend west- and south-wards, so that the nearest garden (adjoining the Manor’s flower garden; an area just to the north-east of the staff car park, used for growing flowers) is about 100 metres from the appeal site. These are the residential properties that are relevant to consider.
- 6.3 Expert evidence on noise was prepared for the previous appeal by Mark Sawyer of AIRO. He has updated this evidence, and a copy is available as part of the evidence for the appellant. At present, it is not the intention of ISKCON to call him to give evidence but that may change if any of the third party objectors propose calling technical noise evidence. Here I deal with traffic, parking and visual amenity, and briefly summarise the situation in relation to noise.

### *Traffic and parking*

- 6.4 The assumption is that the summer weddings booked for 2011 would all take place whether or not the marquee is in place. As Syamasundara das points out in evidence, if permission was granted, it is possible that there would be a few new weekday wedding bookings – at most half a dozen – and the guest numbers for the existing bookings might be increase slightly – possibly from 250 to 300 on average. It follows that, if permission were granted for this appeal, there would be a small net increase in traffic to and from the Manor.
- 6.5 Traffic counts on the access driveway show that typical flows to and from the Manor for an average Friday are 450 vehicles one-way, 500 for a Saturday (and 1,000 on a Sunday). Wedding attendance is an activity that embraces families as a whole, and includes all generations. Hence car occupancy tends to be high. (From surveys taken during festivals, I have observed an average of 3.5 persons per car. I consider a similar figure would apply to wedding guests arriving by car. For some weddings, a coach or coaches are booked to bring groups of guests – this reduces the overall traffic flow.) The net increase in traffic is likely to be small – compared to a wedding with 250 guests, a single wedding with 500 guests would add less than 75 vehicles arriving, and then leaving a few hours later.
- 6.6 For morning marquee weddings, guests are advised to arrive about 0930 hrs. Guests depart from 1430 hrs. For afternoon marquee weddings, guests are advised to arrive about 1530 hrs, and depart from 2030 hrs. Hence none of this additional traffic would occur in peak highway hours. Almost all Manor visitors arrive via the A41 and Sandy Lane, the most frequently used route for traffic to and from the Manor. Without going into great detail, I consider that the minimal additional vehicles in an off-peak period on occasional weekdays, and a very minimal increase on Fridays or Saturdays, would have no detectable effect on the operation of the A41, the Sandy Lane signals, or the nearby sections of Sandy Lane and Hilfield Lane; nor would it have any effect on the amenity of any residential properties.

- 6.7 There is permanent parking for around 175 vehicles on the existing staff and visitor car parking areas. In most circumstances, this is sufficient for weddings with 250 or fewer guests. There is also a large area for overflow parking nearby on the Festival Field (damage to the ground in wet conditions has meant that this area has had to be stabilised with geo-grid and the grass reinstated – the subject of a separate planning application). I consider that there is more than sufficient parking to accommodate the maximum number of wedding guests within the site, and there would be no effect whatsoever on the amenity of residential amenity.
- 6.8 I conclude that no highway or parking issues are raised by the appeal proposal.
- 6.9 I am aware of allegations made in correspondence that some wedding guests arrive by car in the village of Letchmore Heath. This may be because they were following satnav guidance. As a matter of record, the post code for Bhaktivedanta Manor has recently been changed so that when used with a vehicle satnav the driver is directed to the entrance gate in Hilfield Lane. I am unable to comment on the frequency with which this occurred in the past, but I believe that this anomaly has been dealt with through the recent change in the postcode address.

#### *Visual amenity*

- 6.10 The proposed site for the marquee is well screened by existing tall and deep mature hedgerows on three sides. The site is located fairly centrally between the Manor grounds and Festival field. It is further screened by the established hedges and mature trees that surround the Manor estate.
- 6.11 In respect of residential amenity, the roof of the marquee would just be visible from the walled residential garden that adjoins the eastern side of the Manor's flower garden. I believe that it would not be visible directly from the principal windows of any residential dwelling in Letchmore Heath.
- 6.12 In respect of public viewpoints, in the summer months I walked the length of footpath 29 that runs from Letchmore Heath past the south of the Manor to Hilfield Lane, and there are one or two places where a determined observer would be able to identify the marquee. However, the dense screen vegetation means that the marquee is not a visual feature of any material significance. At the same time of year, I also walked along footpath 28 to the north-west of the site (between Grange and Summerhouse Lanes) and it is not possible to see the marquee.

6.13 The marquee will be in situ during the height of the summer, when all trees and hedgerows are in full leaf. Consequently, it is difficult to see the marquee from public footpaths or other public vantage point outside the Manor estate (and, in future years, as the extensive planting within the Manor estate matures, even this may be impossible). Therefore, the effect on public visual amenity would be vanishingly small.

#### *Noise*

6.14 As to the issue of noise:

- a) On the 2008 application, Council officers concluded that any problems from noise could be controlled by condition.
- b) Thereafter, the Council retained Mr. Grey to give evidence at the subsequent appeal. The Appellant retained Mr. Sawyer.
- c) The Appellant's position then, and now, is that there is no material impact on residential amenity by way of noise emanating directly or indirectly from the marquee, whether by way of music, by way of hubbub or any other way.
- d) At para 10.11, the officer's report on the present application advised Members:

*"In relation to the current application, following the evidence collected by both parties at the weddings carried out in 2009, the information collected by the noise consultant on behalf of the Manor and previous noise monitoring submitted as evidence at the time of the Inquiry has been submitted by the applicant in support of their application. Following consultation with the Borough Council's Environmental Health department on this information, they have advised that the information shows that the noise levels on the site do vary from day to day, however, the maximum noise levels during the weddings very rarely exceed 70dB LAMAX. Within the supporting statement submitted by the applicant, they have suggested a condition that would limit the noise level inside the marquee to a maximum of 70dB LAeq. Environmental Health have also calculated that at 50m away this noise level would drop to 36dB and at 150m, which is also the location of the nearest residential property, the noise levels would drop to 27dB which is a similar noise level to what could normally be expected within the early hours of the morning in a rural location."*

- e) Accordingly, the officers again recommended a noise condition, which the Appellant accepts, which would ameliorate any noise problem and with which the Appellant has complied and will comply.
- f) It is of some significance that, in relation to the present application, members of the Council committee did not feel confident about sustaining that particular ground of refusal.

6.15 This aspect is dealt with in evidence by Mark Sawyer. His conclusions are that there would be no overall increase in noise level as the result of weddings in the marquee.

*Conclusion*

6.16 ISKCON's position is that the temporary marquee would have no material affect on the amenity of local residents or the public at large. Conditions can address concerns that this may not happen and provide reassurance for the Council and local residents. Hence there no planning reasons why the development should not be permitted.

## 7 THE ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEAL

### *Background*

- 7.1 Regarding the Enforcement Notice issued by Hertsmere Borough Council dated 18 August 2010, the Appellant has claimed (Grounds of Appeal, dated 10 September 2010) that the Notice was ambiguous, uncertain and imprecise. It did not clearly tell the Appellant what it had done wrong or what it was required to do to remedy that wrong. The Notice was therefore bad on its face. In a letter (also dated 10 September 2010) the Council was invited to withdraw the Notice.
- 7.2 Subsequently (on 19 October 2010) following an exchange of emails with the Council's Enforcement Team Leader, Mr Whittaker, it emerged that *"the Council does not accept that the Enforcement Notice is ambiguous. The Notice relates to the wedding marquee that your client erected over the summer of 2010"* and *"the matters in dispute very largely replicate those already in issue under the S78 and S196 appeals"*. Mr Whittaker made reference to the Council's pre-Inquiry Statement - at that stage an internal document that was not available to the appellant - and stated *"... your letter raises concerns about the drafting of the Enforcement Notice, and I trust that the Council's pre-inquiry statement makes the Council's position clear in this regard"* and *"the Council would be content for a plan to be added to the Enforcement Notice showing the exact position of the wedding marquee"*.
- 7.3 In subsequent email correspondence (22 October 2010) with the Council's planning consultant, it was agreed that a meeting should be held to discuss the wording of the Notice. The objective was to agree a mutually acceptable modification to the wording. A meeting was held in the middle of November 2010, and it was agreed that the Council would respond to a specific proposal for a change to the wording of the Enforcement Notice. As of the beginning of January, no further communication has been received from the Council or their planning consultant. It is therefore assumed that the Council maintains its position that the wording of the Enforcement Notice should stand. The relevant correspondence is appended to this proof.
- 7.4 The Inspector is respectfully reminded that the enforcement notice is an important document. If confirmed it could have serious implications so far as the criminal law is concerned. I am advised that, as a matter of law, an enforcement notice, on its face, should cover the breach of planning control alleged by the local planning authority, but no more. It can under- but not over-enforce.



7.5 At present, the enforcement notice on its face is ambiguous and potentially over enforces the breach of planning control about which the Council are concerned. It is simply no answer to say that matters are quite clear from extraneous correspondence passing between the parties. Any criminal prosecution would be based upon the wording of the enforcement notice not upon what the parties understood those words to mean. However, the Appellant remains content for the enforcement notice to be varied to refer simply to the wedding marquee. In the circumstances, the Inspector will be invited to exercise his powers under section 176 of the Act to vary the terms of the Enforcement Notice by substituting a modified version, and should then proceed to determine the appeal using that as the basis. Our proposal is that the relevant sections of the Notice should be modified as set out below. The implications for the four grounds of appeal are then considered.

3. THE MATTERS WHICH APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE THE BREACH OF PLANNING CONTROL

Without planning permission, the unauthorised development comprising:

The erection of a marquee for the purpose of conducting weddings on the land shown hatched blue on the attached plan S25C, in excess of the 28 days in total in any calendar year allowed under Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B of the General Permitted Development Order 1995.

5. WHAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DO

No Marquee (or any associated miscellaneous items including but not limited to floorings & fixings) for use for the purpose of conducting weddings shall be erected or placed on the land edged red shown on the attached plan S25C for more than 28 days in total in any calendar year as permitted under Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B of the General Permitted Development Order 1995.

The Ground (a) appeal - that planning permission should be granted for what is alleged in the notice.

7.6 This is addressed in the preceding sections of this evidence.

The Ground (c) appeal - that there has not been a breach of planning control

7.7 Legal submissions relating to these matters have already been circulated in connection with an appeal to the Secretary of State (PINS ref: 2133093) against the Council's refusal to grant a Certificate of Lawful Development.

The Grounds (b) and (f) appeals

- 7.8 The appeal has been made on four Grounds - (a), (b), (c) and (f). Assuming that modifications to the Notice along the lines of those proposed are accepted, the Appellant would withdraw the Grounds (b) and (f) appeals.

## 8 OTHER MATTERS

### *Future years*

- 8.1 The outcome of this appeal may have implications for the future of weddings at the Manor.
- 8.2 The situation regarding 2011 is described by Syamasundara das in evidence. Wedding bookings have been made for 2011 which, even if this appeal fails and permission is refused, will nonetheless take place at the Manor.
- 8.3 Looking further to the future, my clients have been considering the possibility of constructing a permanent building within the Manor estate. This would be designed to provide a space that could *inter alia* accommodate weddings and, hence, remove the need for a temporary marquee. I can confirm that discussions are proceeding with Council officers. ISKCON recognise that such a proposal would have to be advanced through the normal planning process.
- 8.4 Speculation as to how the outcome of this Inquiry might influence the intention of ISKCON to seek planning permission in future for a permanent building would be unproductive. Any future application for a permanent building will be judged on its own merits. This appeal stands or falls on different merits. However, I do expect a principle to be established relating to use of temporary wedding marquee that could apply until such time as a permanent building is, or is not, permitted and constructed.

### *Conditions*

- 8.5 Conditions were initially proposed in the Planning Statement accompanying the application. Later, at the time of the planning committee, there were discussions with the Council. More recently, there have been discussions with the Council's consultant, but not yet concluded. Once agreement has been reached on suitable worded conditions, these will be reported to the Inspector.

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Peter Trevelyan (January 2011)

## EXTRACTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE

### *Willows Farm, Coursers Road, Colney Heath, AL4 0PG*

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Application Number: TP/08/0899

Proposal: Temporary use of land to erect a marquee for corporate Christmas parties with dodgems and parking between 10th November and 5th January each year for a five year period.

Responses: Neighbours Received: 0. Representatives: In Favour: 0. Against: 0. Petitions: 0

Delegated Decision: Grant Permission. *"The application is granted as it would not have an undue detrimental impact on the surrounding area in amenities or in aesthetics and as it would comply with the relevant Local Plan policies."*

Conditions:

- 1) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in full accordance with the details shown on the approved plans. Reason: To ensure the permission is implemented as approved. (HPL Policy R3)
  - 2) The development hereby permitted shall be for a limited time period in each year, commencing 10 November and expiring on or before 5 January, when the use shall cease and the land shall be reinstated so that the former use may resume. Reason: As stationing of the Marquee and use in this location all year round would significantly undermine the purpose and objectives of the Green Belt and would be contrary the Hertsmere Local Plan Policy C1.
  - 3) The development hereby permitted shall be for five years until season 10 November 2012 to 5 January 2013, after which the use shall cease and the land shall be reinstated so that the former use may resume. Reason: to enable the local planning authority to review the matter at the end of limited period having regards to current national and local planning policies and to accord with the terms of the planning permission.
- 

Application Number: TP/07/0578

Proposal: Temporary use of land for siting of marquee for corporate Christmas Parties and parking between 8th November 2007 and 3rd January 2008 and dodgem car track. Marquee size approx. 3,500 sq metres floorspace (covering an area roughly 75 by 60 metres).

Extract from the applicant's D&A Statement:

*"We submit that the proposed temporary change of use of land is not inappropriate development as set out in paragraph 3.12 of PPG2, and would not conflict with Green Belt aims. The proposed use is unique, taking place at a special time of year and is entirely temporary in nature. At the end of the limited period the marquee will be removed and the Site will be left in a clean and tidy condition."*

Delegated Decision: Grant Permission. *"The application is granted as it has no detrimental influence to the surrounding area in amenities or in aesthetics"*.

Conditions:

- 1) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in full accordance with the details shown on the approved plans. Reason: To ensure the permission is implemented as approved. (HPL Policy R3).
  - 2) The development hereby permitted shall be for limited time period only commencing 8th November 2007 and expiring on or before 3rd January 2008 when the use shall cease and the land shall be reinstated so that the former use may resume. Reason: to enable the local planning authority to review the matter at the end of limited period having regards to current national and local planning policies and to accord with the terms of the planning permission.
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## *Trevelyan Appendix 1*

<b>Correspondence relating to the application</b>	<b>(11 pages)</b>
HBC letter 26 January 2010	1
ABT response 12 February 2010	4
HBC letter 22 February 2010	9
ABT response 23 March 2010	11



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AL3 4HN

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: TP/09/1913  
Contact: Karen Garman  
Extension: 4335  
Email: karen.garman@hertsmere.gov.uk  
Fax: 020 8207 7444  
Date: 26 January 2010

Dear Mr Trevelyan

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS

**Application Number: TP/09/1913**

**Site Location: Bhaktivedanta Manor, Dharam Marg, Hilfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford, WD25 8EZ**

**Site Description: Erection of temporary marquee for 11 weeks in 2010 and 11 weeks in 2011.**

Thank you for your application which was made valid on 17 November 2009. Following further consideration of the information submitted with the application, I am writing, using powers under section 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988, to request further information to enable the Council to fully assess and determine the application.

### Number of weddings

The application as submitted seeks permission for the erection of the marquee to accommodate weddings for 11 weeks in 2010 and 2011 being:

- 6 June – 22 August 2010
- 22 May – 7 August 2011

You identify in the planning statement that two weddings per day could take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, however this statement does not identify a maximum number of weddings that are expected to be held each year. It is also noted that you do not currently propose any conditions restricting the total number of weddings.

Could you please therefore clarify the total number of weddings you expect to take place in 2010 and 2011 so that a determination in relation to the overall impact of the weddings can be made.

### Number of wedding guests

Submitted as part of the planning statement, in relation to traffic matters, is a breakdown of expected attendances for the weddings presented as those with less than 250 guests and those with more than 250.

Could you please provide a further breakdown of this information indicating the actual numbers of guests attending each wedding for both years.

In addition to this, the Council's external consultant, Paul Grey, has advised me that following conversations with Bhaktivedanta Manor's consultant, Mark Sawyer of AIRO, a specific request was made for details of the confirmed number of guests that attended each wedding in 2009. Following this, an email was received by Paul on 3 August 2009 confirming that this information would be sent asap. However, this information has still not been received. Therefore could you please confirm the number of wedding guests attending all weddings in 2009?

### The use of the Marquee

The planning statement highlights that the weddings are not to be held on Sundays as this day is reserved for congregational worship. Could you please confirm whether it is proposed to use the marquee during the Sunday Darshan's, and if so the number of people expected to attend.

### Structure of the Marquee

Within the planning statement reference is made that the marquee does not require point foundations or any external/permanent fixings, pegs or guy ropes. Concern has been raised in relation to the stability of such a large structure which is not substantially attached to the ground. Could you therefore please provide a brochure/further details from the suppliers of the marquee that you are proposing to use.

### Noise Monitoring

Owing to the sensitivity of the Marquee for which permission is sought, Paul Grey, the Council's external consultation in relation to noise had expected a Noise Impact Statement to be submitted with the application. In addition to this the planning statement does not provide any objective assessment of the noise impact of the proposal. Therefore, the Council is mindful that the extant permission for the site permits the use of the grounds for activities that have the potential to generate significant noise on a specified number of days each year. It is also understood that the noise generated during this years Janmashtami Festival was monitored by the Manors independent Consultant. Therefore could you please supply the results of this monitoring including any subjective comments regarding the character of the noise emissions witnessed by the Consultant.

In addition to the monitoring for the Janmashtami Festival, the planning statement also confirms that noise monitoring was undertaken during 2009. Partial results of this were submitted as part of the evidence for last years Inquiry. Therefore, please could you provide the full results of this monitoring exercise and any other surveys that you may have carried out.

### Sound Amplification Equipment

Throughout the planning statement reference is made to the need for a sound amplification system. Paul Grey as requested that, as sound propagation characteristics of PA systems can be influence by their design could you please:

- Provide details relating to the proposed sound amplification system, and in

- particular, the number, layout and location of the speakers;
- Highlight any changes between the proposed equipment and that used during the 2009 weddings.

### Car Parking

The planning statement highlights that, in relation to the car parking on the site, should the parking demand be greater than what can be accommodated within the existing staff and visitor car parks then the festival field adjoining the application site is designated, following the 1996 appeal, to be used as an area for overflow parking. Could you please provide a plan of the site indicating this area (the festival field) of overflow car parking as allowed as part of the 1996 appeal decision.

I am aware that this application has now gone beyond the 8 week deadline for determination. I would therefore request that this additional information is submitted to the Council by 15 February 2010 so that further progress can be made on the determination of the application.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly,

Yours sincerely



**Karen Garman**  
**Senior Planning Officer**



**Application reference: TP/09/1913**

**Erection of temporary marquee**

**BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR**

**Response to request for further information**

With reference to your letter of 26 January 2010, the following information can be provided.

***Number of weddings***

1. Information is requested on the total number of weddings expected in 2010 and 2011. At the time of writing, 57 bookings have been made for 2010, but only 4 for 2011.

2. To date, we have not considered limiting the number of weddings held in the Marquee because our view is that such a condition is unnecessary. Nonetheless, I have discussed this with my clients and, if you feel it would be of assistance, they would accept a condition limiting the number of weddings to be held in the Marquee to 66 during each of the years 2010 and 2011.

***Number of wedding guests***

3. You ask for a more detailed breakdown of the number of guests attending the weddings in 2010 and 2011. The fact is that at this stage my clients have only approximate

indications of guest numbers for fewer than half of the bookings in 2010 (and no information for 2011).

4. Paragraph 5.18 of the planning statement gives summary figures for each of the years 2003 to 2009 of the number of weddings where the guest numbers exceeded 250. It would not be realistic to present more precise figures at this stage.

***Number of wedding guests in 2009***

5. I apologise if this information was not provided last year. The relevant table is set out below.

**Marquee Weddings and (actual) Guest Numbers 2009**

	from	to		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Jun	1st	7th	am					220	315	
			pm					395	185	
	8th	14th	am					185	130	
			pm					240	340	
Jun	15th	21st	am					275	430	
			pm					200	370	
	22nd	28th	am				311	300	250	
			pm				350	210	430	
Jul	29th	5th	am		310			160	240	
			pm					180	400	
	6th	12th	am					103	390	
			pm				180	320	410	
Jul	13th	19th	am						350	
			pm		295			500	310	
	20th	26th	am					80		
			pm					165	500	
Aug	27th	2nd	am					410	159	
			pm		350		320	120	370	

***Use of the Marquee***

6. My clients have confirmed that the Marquee will not be used for congregational purposes on Sundays.

### ***Structure of the Marquee***

7. I understand that no brochures or further details are available from the supplier. I cannot therefore provide any meaningful comment on Health and Safety aspects. You will accept, I am sure, that health and safety requirements are covered in other legislation. Therefore this information is not, I submit, relevant to the determination of this planning application.

### ***Noise monitoring***

8. The Council and your noise consultant will have available the comprehensive and detailed noise assessment presented in evidence for the Inquiry in 2009 by Mark Sawyer of AIRO. The following observations are contained in section 3 of the Supplementary noise evidence:

*"3.5 Throughout the various manned surveys which have been undertaken, no sounds which can be directly attributed to the wedding marquee have been heard at Position 1, Position 2 or Position A in the Flower Garden."*

*"3.8 From the table and graph, which compare noise levels in the Flower Garden, it can be seen there is no overall increase in noise levels as the result of weddings in the marquee. This reinforces my previous observations that marquee weddings are not audible at this location. ..."*

9. Apart from the monitoring of the noise in the marquee during the last weekend of July, which was conducted jointly by Mr Gray and Mr Sawyer, there has been no further work on this aspect.

10. The question of noise levels during Janmashtami is raised in your letter. Although this is a matter which can and probably will be discussed in the appropriate forum, I do not consider that this is relevant to the determination of this application.

***Sound amplification equipment***

11. The same equipment will be used in 2010 (and 2011) as in 2009, and installed in the same manner. Specifically this consisted of:

- a mixer desk with microphone and CD inputs
- power amplifier (make not specified)
- noise limiter (Behringer Autocom Composer PRO-XL MDX 2600). This can be set to control peak noise levels as described in the Noise Management Plan
- 10 loudspeakers fixed to the metal framework of the pitched roof of the marquee. These would be in 2 rows of 5 and orientated downwards towards the guests.

***Car parking***

12. The Council will of course have copies of the 1996 plan showing designated parking areas but, for your assistance, a copy is included below.

\* \* \* \* \*

Peter Trevelyan (ABT Consultancy) 12 February 2010.





# HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Civic Offices, Elstree  
Borehamwood  
Herts WD6 1WA  
Tel: 020 8207 2277  
DX45602 Borehamwood  
www.hertsmere.gov.uk

## Planning and Building Control

Mr P Trevelyan  
ABT Planning & Highways Consultancy  
3 Abbey Mill End  
St. Albans  
AL3 4HN

Your Ref: TP/09/1913  
Our Ref: Karen Garman  
Contact: Karen Garman  
Extension: 4335  
Email: karen.garman@hertsmere.gov.uk  
Fax: ~~020 8207 7444~~  
Date: 22 February 2010

Dear Mr Trevelyan

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS

**Application Number: TP/09/1913**

**Site Location: Bhaktivedanta Manor, Dharam Marg, Hilfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford, WD25 8EZ**

**Site Description: Erection of temporary marquee for 11 weeks in 2010 and 11 weeks in 2011.**

Thank you for your letter received 15 February 2010 in response to my letter of 26 January 2010.

As you are aware, the Council, using powers under section 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988, are able to request further information in relation to planning applications that they find necessary to make an full and accurate assessment of the application submitted. Therefore it is essential that the Council has a much information as possible on the proposals and the possible impact that it may cause to make a fair judgement during the assessment.

Firstly, with regard to the number of weddings and guests, thank you for the information received in relation to the number of guests that attended last years weddings. Ideally, however, to make an assessment on any possible intensification that may result from the weddings, any data on weddings from earlier years e.g. from 2003 onwards, would be beneficial. I note from the information you have provided, that 41 weddings took place in 2009, you now state that 57 bookings have been taken for 2010 to date. As this is a significant increase on last year it is likely that the Council will impose a condition limiting the weddings in some way. I will provide further information on this when it is available. However, the requested past data will also allow for a greater assessment of this.

In relation to the use of marquee, thank you for clarifying that the marquee will not be used for congregational purposes on Sundays, this information has been noted. With regard to the structure of the marquee, the request for further information/ brochure details came primarily from the Conservation and Design Officer in order to make an assessment of the temporary nature of the marquee and any possible impact that it may have on the Conservation Area and setting of the Listed Building. Therefore any information that you may have on the structure, in addition to that provided in the planning statement would prove beneficial when assessing the application.

Moving on to the requests in relation to the noise monitoring, having spoken to Paul Gray regarding this matter, he has confirmed that he does have the noise assessment

submitted as part of the ISKCON proof of evidence for last years Inquiry. However, the recorded data of further surveys that have been undertaken at Manor, including those carried out during Janmashtami are required, again to make a full assessment on any possible intensification that the development may cause that would be over and above that which already has permission.

Finally, with regard to the car parking for the site, thank you for the plan attached with your letter, however, this plan does not show the areas of overflow parking within the festival field. I am aware that a plan was submitted as part of the original planning application for the site and I will endeavour to find this plan. However, if you do have copy of this plan, I would be grateful if you could let me have a copy.

I thank you in advance for providing the above information and reiterate, that without this information the Council would not be able to make an full and accurate assessment of the development and any possible impact that it may have.

Yours sincerely



**Karen Garman**  
**Senior Planning Officer**

Your ref: TP/09/1913

My ref: J276/PJT/myd

23 March 2010

Planning Department  
Hertsmere Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Elstree Way  
Borehamwood  
Herts WD6 1WA  
fao: Karen Garman

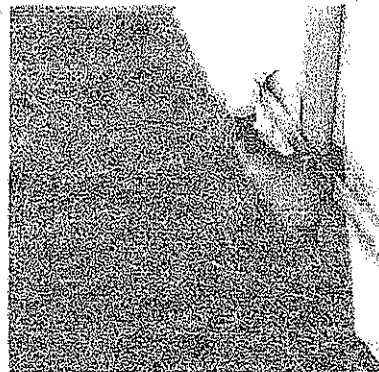
Dear Madam

### **BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR – Temporary Marquee**

I refer to our telephone conversation on 3<sup>rd</sup> March about your letter of 22 February and apologise for the delay in forwarding the promised material.

The table with the number of wedding guests for each of the years from 2003 to 2008 is in the evidence presented at the Inquiry – a further copy of this table is enclosed.

Regarding the structure of the Marquee, you indicated that the concern of the Conservation and Design Officer was whether or not a permanent base would be constructed before the marquee was erected. I can confirm that it will simply be placed on the existing turf. The photograph of the Marquee in situ last year shows the frame resting on the ground and secured by pegs, as fully described in the application documents.



The relevance of noise data collected during the Janmashtami festival weekend was again debated and I can confirm that our position remains unchanged. In respect of overflow parking, the only plan of which I am aware was dated July 1996 and was included in my response of 12 February. You mentioned seeing a further plan from 1996. The only plan I have come across is one dated 18 September 1996. This shows the maximum extent of parking on the adjoining fields during that year's Janmashtami festival (see copy). This post-dated the original application and I cannot see that this is relevant to the determination of this application.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

Peter Trevelyan



## *Trevelyan Appendix 2*

<b>Correspondence relating to the Enforcement Notice</b>	<b>(8 pages)</b>
ABT letter 22 July 2010 and response to S330 notice	1
ABT letter 10 Sept 2010	4
ABT email 19 Oct 2010	6
HBC email 20 Oct 2010	7
Proposed changes to Enforcement Notice (ABT)	8

Your ref: EN/08/0271

My ref: J276/PJT/myd

**ABT**

22 July 2010

Planning Department  
Hertsmere Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Elstree Way  
Borehamwood  
Herts WD6 1WA

fao: Mike Mash (Enforcement)

CONSULTANCY

Dear Sir

### **BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR – S330 Notice**

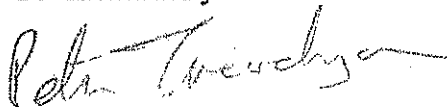
Please find enclosed a formal response to the S330 Notice dated 2 July 2010.

Your colleagues will no doubt inform you that a planning appeal has been submitted for application ref: TP/09/1913 – the temporary wedding marquee. In the circumstances, we cannot see that it would be expedient to issue an Enforcement Notice as the single issue (a matter of policy) will be addressed through the appeal process. You will also be mindful of the fact that it has taken the Council more than half a year to determine the application and that it does not identify any issue affecting public amenity (let alone an issue which might have an 'unacceptable' effect – PPG18 refers).

If, despite the foregoing, the Council is determined to proceed with enforcement action in parallel with the appeal, ISKCON is anticipating at most a Planning Contravention Notice so that it can make appropriate representations.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours faithfully



Peter Trevelyan

encl.

Response to Section 330(1) Notice served on:

Mr Das  
ISKCON  
Bhaktivedanta Manor  
Dharam Marg  
Hilfield Lane  
Aldenham  
Watford  
WD25 8EZ

dated: 02 July 2010

**Section A**

I. The addressee of the Notice is assumed to be Syamasundara das (*das* is simply an honorific title equivalent to Mr) and he is the Wedding Manager for ISKCON.

II. The full name and address of the occupier and freeholder of the premises is:

International Society for Krishna Consciousness Ltd (ISKCON)  
Bhaktivedanta Manor  
Dharam Marg  
Hilfield Lane  
Aldenham  
Watford  
WD25 8EZ

There is no mortgage on the premises.

No other person or organisation has an interest in the premises.

cont....

## Section B

I. The authorised use of the premises (the land edged red on the plan accompanying the notice) is in part as a residential and non-residential theological college and religious community, together with use for public worship (including the observance of religious festival days) and in part for agriculture.

II. The uses described above commenced long pre-date the formal grant of planning permission (application ref: 94/0014/TP).

III. The name and address of the organisation carrying on that use is:

International Society for Krishna Consciousness Ltd (ISKCON)  
Bhaktivedanta Manor  
Dharam Marg  
Hilfield Lane  
Aldenham  
Watford  
WD25 8EZ

IV. The 'unauthorised marquee' to which reference is made in the letter of 02 July 2010 is a temporary wedding marquee and in 2010 was first erected on or about 6 June. A temporary marquee used for wedding purposes has been erected on the site in previous years, at least since 2002. Weddings are an integral part of the authorised use and have been celebrated on the site for more than 30 years.

I, Peter Trevelyan, acting as planning agent for ISKCON, hereby declare that the answers to the above questions comprise a true and correct statement of all the information required by the said notice, so far as the same is within my knowledge.

Signed:



Date: 21 July 2010

\*\*\*\*\*

Your ref: EN/08/0271

My ref: J276/Marquee09

Date: 10 September 2010

Planning and Building Control  
Hertsmere Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Elstree Way  
Borehamwood  
Herts WD61WA

fao: N Whitaker (Enforcement Team)

Dear Sir

**ENFORCEMENT NOTICE dated 18 August 2010**

**Bhaktivedanta Manor, Watford WD25 8EZ**

Acting on instructions from my client, an appeal has been submitted against the above Notice on grounds (a), (b), (c) and (f). The purpose of this letter, a copy of which goes to the Planning Inspectorate, is to invite the Authority to reconsider its position in respect of the Notice.

Before the Notice was issued, you gave advance warning (both to me and my client) that enforcement action against the wedding marquee was being contemplated. Indeed, in relation to marquees, the only breach of planning control that could conceivably have appeared to the Council was that relating to the wedding marquee. The Committee authorisation to serve an enforcement notice either expressly or by necessary implication related specifically to the wedding marquee. Your subsequent letter refers to the current appeals into the wedding marquee proposals and suggests that, if the Notice is appealed, it should be co-joined with these existing appeals. Furthermore, the fee payable for the deemed application is identical to that paid for Marquee application 1913, directly indicating that the Enforcement Notice relates to a marquee for wedding purposes. Against that background, both my client and I are concerned that the Enforcement Notice, as served, appears to cover other matters in addition to the wedding marquee. We question, therefore, whether the Notice exceeds the authority granted by Committee. I would also remind you that not only do my clients benefit from the 28 day allowance under the GPDO, but also that specific permission for further temporary structures (including marquees) was granted under application reference TP/94/0014.

Thus, the Notice in paragraph 3 is not limited in terms to the wedding marquee. It refers only to 'marquee' in the generality and therefore embraces any marquee erected within the red line area (the whole of the Manor grounds) whether or not used for weddings. No attempt is made to specify the marquee to which the Notice refers.



Paragraph 5 of the Notice, also refers to 'any marquee' in sub-paragraph (a) and/or 'No marquee' in sub-paragraphs (b) and (c). There is consequently a direct conflict between the provisions of this paragraph and the extant planning permission (and GPDO rights).

Paragraph 5 sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) also refer to 'moveable structures', again in the generality. Not only is that wording imprecise, it is also unreasonable.

The consequences, if the Council is determined to proceed with the Notice as presently drafted, are as follows:

- (a) The appeal will have to address the generality of marquees and moveable structures on this large and varied site.
- (b) That will greatly extend the scope (and potential duration) of any inquiry.
- (c) In those circumstances, we do not consider it appropriate that any appeal against the Enforcement Notice should be heard at the same Inquiry as the appeals into the wedding marquee, and we will invite the Inspectorate to arrange a separate Inquiry.
- (d) My clients will seek a costs order against the Council arising from additional time spent on hearing the appeal against the Enforcement Notice as a result of the ambiguity and unreasonableness of the wording.

In the alternative, the Council may consider it advisable to withdraw the Notice and, if it must, re-issue it using a more precisely-worded phrase (e.g. 'marquee used for wedding purposes') and omitting vague and imprecise references to 'moveable structures'. Were that to happen, then I envisage (without committing my clients in any way) that the grounds of appeal would be limited to grounds (a) and (c), which of course reflects the position of the present appeals into the refusal to grant planning permission or a CLD. Moreover, it may then be realistic to consider co-joining the Notice appeal with the existing appeals.

As always, I am available to discuss this matter, should you wish to do so.

Yours sincerely



Peter Trevelyan

encl: Appeal Form (ref: 2136252) and EN Grounds of Appeal

cc: PINS

Subj: Bhaktivedanta Manor Appeals  
Date: 19/10/2010 11:13:22 GMT Daylight Time  
From: NW  
To: PT  
CC:

Dear Mr Trevelyan

Thank you for copying the Council into your email to the Planning Inspectorate dated 18th October.

You state in your email that you have not yet received a reply to your letter to the Council of 10th September. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your letter. That said, your letter raises concerns about the drafting of the Enforcement Notice, and I trust that the Council's pre-inquiry statement makes the Council's position clear in this regard.

In short, the Council does not accept that the Enforcement Notice is ambiguous. The Notice relates to the wedding marquee that your client erected over the summer of 2010. Your client can be in no doubt about this: indeed your letter of 10th September contends that the wedding marquee was the only breach of planning control in respect of which the Council could have taken enforcement action.

As set out in the Council's pre-inquiry statement, the Council would be content for a plan to be added to the Enforcement Notice showing the exact position of the wedding marquee, although the Council does not consider this to be necessary at this stage. Certainly, there is no conceivable basis on which your client could reasonably prepare evidence to deal with any other marquee on the site.

Finally, I should add that the Council sees no reason why the conjoining of the enforcement notice appeal should add more than a day to the proceedings, given that the matters in dispute very largely replicate those already in issue under the s.78 and s.196 appeals.

In light of this response to your letter I should be grateful if you could now confirm that the Council's planning agent can visit the site on 20th October 2010.

Kind regards

---

Neill Whittaker  
Enforcement Team Leader  
Planning Unit

Hertsmere Borough Council  
Direct line: 020 8207 7451  
Fax: 020 8207 7444  
Email:

Subj: RE: Bhaktivedanta Manor Appeals  
Date: 20/10/2010 11:52:43 GMT Daylight Time  
From: NW  
To: PT

Dear Mr Trevelyan

Thank you for your response, I shall forward it to our planning consultant and perhaps it would be best if they contact you directly with regards to points (1) & (2), the statement of common ground and the proposed future site visit.

Kind regards

---

Neill Whittaker  
Enforcement Team Leader  
Planning Unit

Hertsmere Borough Council  
Direct line: 020 8207 7451  
Fax: 020 8207 7444  
Email:

**From:** PTrevelyan@aol.com [mailto:PTrevelyan@aol.com]  
**Sent:** 20 October 2010 10:37  
**To:** Neill Whittaker  
**Subject:** Re: Bhaktivedanta Manor Appeals

Dear Mr Whittaker

As noted in my brief email yesterday, the Council's combined pre-Inquiry Statement for the two appeals 2133063 and 2133093 was dated 17 September. It does not and could not have addressed the Enforcement Notice appeal as the start date for the Enforcement Appeal was 23 September and pre-Inquiry Statements are not due until 4 November. The comments below are made without knowledge of the content and purport of the Council's pre-Inquiry Statement in respect of appeal 2136252.

You contend that the Enforcement Notice is not ambiguous. However, it also appears that you are content for a revised plan to be substituted. That seems to be a tacit confirmation that there is ambiguity and imprecision inherent in the Notice as it stands.

May I suggest that a sensible way forward would be for us to reach agreement on revisions to (1) the wording of the Notice, so that it specifically applies to a wedding marquee, and (2) the accompanying plan, so that the site of the wedding marquee is adequately identified. These revisions can be jointly put to the Inspectorate together with a request that these are substituted in the appeal. If you can suggest a time in the next few days, I would be happy to meet you in your offices to take this matter forward.

From the correspondence, I assume that the Council's planning consultant has also been instructed in respect of appeal 2136252. If that is the case, I suggest it would not be appropriate for site visits to take place until the position on the Notice has been resolved. Thereafter, I am sure my client would be willing to make arrangements for a site visit. I do not see why a delay of a week or two need be a serious inconvenience.

Regarding a Statement of Common Ground, I can confirm that we are willing to take this forward. However, as it will presumably cover all three appeals, obviously it must wait until agreement to any revisions to the Notice has been achieved and pre-Inquiry Statements circulated.

Peter Trevelyan

In a message dated 19/10/2010 11:13:22 GMT Daylight Time, Neill.Whittaker@hertsmere.gov.uk

16 January 2011 AOL: PTrevelyan



proposed changes to paragraph 3 and 5 of the Enforcement Notice:

3. THE MATTERS WHICH APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE THE BREACH OF PLANNING CONTROL

Without planning permission, the unauthorised development comprising:

The erection of a marquee for the purpose of conducting weddings on the land shown edged ~~red~~ hatched blue on the attached plan S25C, in excess of the 28 days in total in any calendar year allowed under Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B of the General Permitted Development Order 1995.

5. WHAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DO

- (a) [unnecessary – the marquee was removed in August 2010]
- (b) No Marquee (or any associated miscellaneous items including but not limited to floorings & fixings) ~~or any moveable structures~~ for use for the purpose of conducting weddings shall be erected or placed on the land edged red shown on the attached plan S25C for more than 28 days in total in any calendar year as permitted under Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B of the General Permitted Development Order 1995.
- (c) [unnecessary – simply repeats item (b)]

Peter Trevelyan (9 Nov 2010)

NB to be read together with plan S25C attached.