

Move to curb Hare Krishna

A CURB on Hare Krishna religious festivals at Baktivedanta Manor, Letchmore Heath, is being sought by Hertsmere Council.

The council has served an enforcement notice on the International Society for Krishna Consciousness saying it is in breach of development control when it hosts thousands at its religious festivals.

The council says a maximum of only 1,000 in any one day can visit the religious festivals without prior approval and the society must comply with any conditions the council makes.

Chaos

Hertsmere has taken this action following complaints from Letchmore Heath and Aldenham families about traffic chaos last year when the area was invaded by several thousand devotees.

The society has been given until the beginning of next month to come to some agreement with the council or appeal against the enforcement notice.

A Hertsmere spokesman said: "Following the large numbers of people who have attended the festivals in past years, we are trying to apply some control. We think that a maximum of 1,000 in any one day is manageable."

Councillor Harry Rawlings, chairman of Aldenham Parish Council,

said: "We think a restriction on the number of people coming to the festivals is a jolly good idea."

"We were prime movers in trying to get something done because last year Letchmore Heath came to a complete standstill. A limit on the number of people will go a long way to solve the problem."

"Presumably, they have sufficient car parking to accommodate 1,000 people. We shall have to see how it works out."