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VILLAGE WINS BAN ON POP FESTIVALS

PLANS to hold two pop festivals at Bishopsbourne, near Canterbury, have flopped after opposition from the villagers.

Yesterday Great Western Festivals Ltd., whose directors include Lord Harlech and Stanley Baker, the actor, signed a legal undertaking drawn up by solicitors acting for the Nailbourne Protection Society not to hold any festival within 20 miles of Bishopsbourne.

The company intended to hold festivals at the spring and late summer bank holidays and said they were expecting up to 150,000 people at each of them.

Permanent site

Land at Charlton Park, the 47-acre home of Lt-Col Michael Underwood, was to be a permanent site for a national pop festival.

Bishopsbourne, population 160, united with neighbouring Kingston, Bridge and Barham to form the Nailbourne Protection Society.

More than 6,000 people signed petitions to the Environment Department and £6,000 has been raised in two weeks to seek a High Court injunction against the festival.

A separate writ was planned by Bridge Blean rural council with the financial support of Kent County Council, who said the site was unsuitable.

Objections were also lodged by the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, the National Farmers' Union and many other loca organisations.