

16 February 2024

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FAO – Licensing /New Applications

Ref Application: WK/202307800

I want to make a 'representation' to the Wiltshire licensing authority within 28 days of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, regarding a new premises licence that is under consultation for Mr Hamish Quigley at/for Bishops Cannings Cricket Club.

Section 5 – NB. Appears an error on date 01/04/2023

I am objecting to the license application for the following reasons:

Having a license will encourage even more people to attend and stay longer at the cricket club as the alcohol will be for public sale. The cost of alcohol at club rates will further encourage this, and in greater volumes.

The application is not clear about what 'on the premises' means? It has submitted an outline of just the club pavilion and has referenced 'benches'. Those attending the cricket club, do not remain in the club house to drink, so is it not 'on and off' the premises? The majority of people attending will be sitting outside on chairs that they bring themselves and position all around the grounds.

Also, will a license mean that no other alcohol can be brought to the 'premises', to be consumed? Once again raising the grey area question of what the term 'on the premises' will cover, and what control the person who has the license has over the other alcohol brought onto the cricket grounds and consumed. If this is not the case it will create a greater risk of increased noise and public order, as adding to the availability of extra alcohol once any brought to the grounds has been consumed. How would that be controlled and policed? Many people promenade around the cricket pitch, and have been observed doing so drinking.

Music does get heard coming from the cricket ground/clubhouse. On more than one occasion, it has been loud, accompanied by shouts and loud voices, swearing, and singing, inside and outside the clubhouse and on the club grounds into the evening. It causes disturbances to a quiet area especially in the early/late evening. Noise travels far in this little area, and there is nothing between it and the properties around it to reduce or buffer its affect. It can be heard in the back garden and also inside the house. There is also a large amount of noise when people are leaving the grounds, especially when they have stayed into the evening. Moving the noise into the car parking area and beyond.

These occasions happen with no license, and as a license is being applied for from Monday to Sunday 12 noon to 10pm every day of the year, it leaves it open to escalation of these issues for the residents who actually live next to the club and are made to suffer it. Because there has been no license over previous years, during the season players have gone to the local pub after the matches. If a license is granted then this will then likely revert to the cricket grounds, especially with club rates for alcohol.

A larger volume of people, cricketers and supporters now visit the club, so nearly every day during the season there is activity, and the majority of the evenings now during the season, a lot more noise and shouting is heard.

The club has also now partnered with Potterne cricket club, and seen an increase in many visiting clubs, which has escalated the noise heard coming from the grounds and increases the likelihood of even more noise disturbances than we see now, and also with a license much later into the evening. The level of noise has continued to increase since the clubs joining with Potterne, inviting further clubs to play, and competing in further leagues.

There are a majority of older people that live next to the cricket grounds, and they tend to retire quite early.

We've been told before when we have fed back to the club about noise or verbal abuse, comments like: it's visiting club members or supporters, and we can't do anything about it.

If a license is permitted it will result in increased noise disturbances and subsequent likelihood of public disorder, and then it will be down to us as the residents to report it to environmental protection and the onus is on us to evidence and deal with it by completing a public protection noise nuisance diary each time. Residents have already suffered hurled abuse from players.

It is a very small community and a quiet area. [REDACTED] the occasions of noise disturbances have increased since the club has got bigger, and it is detrimental to the wellbeing of some of those people who live next to it.

As players/supporters do not live next to the grounds in Coate, they may leave when they have had enough of being there, as residents living next to its ground we are unable to leave when we are at home and there is a lot of noise and disturbance coming from the grounds, and we should not be expected to vacate our homes at those times in order to avoid it. We already accommodate a large amount of daily local noise disturbance through the club's normal day to day maintenance routines.

Days of the week – Monday to Sunday 12 noon to 10.00pm (10.30pm)

Seasonal variations: - Club will not also be open during the week but will host occasional day games mid-week during the school holidays for juniors and bank holidays

Why is a license being applied for for every day of the year and with a request for a very wide window of times – it is disproportionate to what they have sited will likely happen at the club. The cricket season does not last for 12 months.

They have indicated on the license application that alcohol will only be sold there during and after games, but they have not confirmed it is just during the cricket season. Also noted club opening hours' states 12 noon to **10.30pm** open to the public every day. So increasing the probability of noise continuing even later.

Obtaining a license for the days and times they have applied for, will allow the license holder to apply for variations which would mean the option to hire out the cricket club venue for parties, weddings etc., throughout the whole year. This is a small clubhouse. This would mean an even greater noise and public order/safety problem for those living next to the grounds.