

Licensing Section
Cheshire East Council
Municipal Buildings
Earle Street
Crewe
CW1 2BJ

Proposal for turning Wilmslow Rugby Club from our local sports facility into a Commercial Events Venue. Application for a "Premises Licence" to hold a "Party on the Pitch" 3 July 2021.

My wife and I live at [REDACTED] and are writing in connection with the new proposals for events at our local rugby club, [REDACTED]

As residents for nearly [REDACTED] years, we have always supported the club in its endeavours to raise money to allow it to continue to provide a first class rugby facility for Wilmslow and the neighbouring area. However, we are very concerned indeed at the plans being put forward now which will allow large music events including the serving of alcohol on the pitches. This is a residential area and there simply is no place for events of the type and size on this close knit estate with its mix of young families, more mature households and retired folk like us.

Just to set the scene, some thirty or so years ago, the club let the function room out for a private party which got totally out of hand and resulted in a pitched battle up and down Kings Road with two factions taking on the police after midnight. It was terrifying with a lot of minor damage throughout the area. The club itself was not responsible for the bad behaviour and we did not blame them in any way. Young people full of drink were responsible then and some will most certainly act in the same way now if they get the chance. Vandalism was rife, particularly when the crowd found newly delivered bricks for my neighbours extension.

We have no problem with functions in the Main Hall and out on the terrace with limited numbers and the music off at midnight provided that order is kept when partygoers leave and there are a limited number of events each year. When the Caravan Club gather here for their events they don't cause us any problems at all so it can be done if numbers are limited and properly organised.

Please remember that this is a residential neighbourhood with hundreds of family properties close enough to hear music coming from inside the function room but as for outside events with hundreds of people partying until the small hours, that is just not acceptable. Events such as these should be held far away from any residential area.

Young children, of which there are many on Pownall Park these days, and some of our older residents will not be able to sleep and are likely to be very upset with the interruption of their lives.

Parking will be a nightmare with drives blocked for at least half a mile in every direction and the narrower roads all but impassable. You only have to look at the problems on Half Marathon day with inconsiderate parking but we happily accept that because of the nature of the event and the superb organisation that goes with it.

This side of Wilmslow will be choked with selfishly parked cars preventing residents coming and going without hindrance and of course, making access to emergency vehicles very difficult.

No doubt due to partygoers drinking alcohol it will require a substantial number of taxis to take home the revellers. Taxis will be parking late evening with their diesel engines chucking out muck throughout the area - noise and dangerous particle pollution for how long after each event finishes? This is simply not acceptable in a residential area.

The prospect of hundreds of people leaving in the small hours, with some staggering around in the middle of the road, mindless vandalism to cars and properties and others using our gardens as toilets - oh yes, this happens now when too much alcohol has been consumed.

Larger events will attract people from all over the area that this estate just cannot cope with, many just wanting a good time, too many looking for trouble at the expense of others and of course the ever present 'dealers' with all that entails.

The logistics traffic will be horrendous with trucks arriving early morning or the night before and leaving as soon as they have dismantled and loaded up after the show. In other words, three days of heavy traffic up and down a cul de sac with an ear splitting concert somewhere in the middle. It should also be pointed out that the road surface of Kings Road is now degrading and cracking in a number of places and heavy traffic will simply make the road worse with more pot holes appearing. The cost of repair will not fall to the organisers of any events but will be an expense to Cheshire East Council.

To give residents any chance of emerging unscathed from such an onslaught will require a large police presence. Don't they have enough to do keeping the peace with their limited resources without adding troublesome drunks to their workload? Who will be paying for the policing of events?

We are still in a COVID 19 pandemic which has impacted the lives of everyone in the UK and we are just being released from another lock down. The impact of the pandemic has affected the residents of [REDACTED] like everybody else in the UK. This has resulted in our neighbours suffering from loneliness and isolation, stress due to employment changes, lack of sleep due to fear of the virus and many more mental challenges in the last 14 months. Surely, we need to continue to be careful in our social interaction and the Prime Minister has said as such this week. Therefore, granting a Premises License is irresponsible in view of the diversity of ages in the local area when not everyone is vaccinated. This goes against any Public Health consideration and common sense. Any large gathering with alcohol in the locality is quite unacceptable to the whole of Pownall Park and is in our view against the current COVID guidelines. In view of the increase in the "Indian variant" across the country the granting of a "Premises Licence" is totally unacceptable and is negligent without a care for the local community.

We are happy to continue to support smaller events based in the function room and on the terrace with music off by midnight and an orderly dispersal. But this community is not prepared to support any large events day or night particularly out on the pitches. Pitches are for playing rugby and nothing else.

Something else that worries us is the sight of a large poster on Alderley Road (opposite Sainsbury) advertising the first of these events. Does this mean that the organisers have got their way already or are they just jumping the gun in the hope that the local opposition to their plans will be dismissed. We are appalled with the arrogance of the applicants in that they have assumed that their proposals will be waved through without having any objections.

We urge you to look long and hard at what our objections are and await your reply

