

licensing@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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

26th May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Application for Premises Licence (The Application) for Wilmslow Rugby Club (WRC),
Memorial Ground, Kings Road, Wilmslow SK9 5PZ**

I write to formally object to the above application.

Increasing the size of the licensed area through this application and increasing the scope of the regulated entertainments across the proposed larger application site will be a significant change away from the current licence which the rugby club benefits from.

There is no need to approve this application when the 3 events being sought can be dealt with by individual applications, particularly when the application unnecessarily exposes the local residents to the negative impacts on health and safety, noise, crime and disorder, public safety and the protection of children from harm.

There are successful large events held at the rugby club which are well supported locally, including the half marathon, national rugby tournaments to name two which I have been involved with. All local residents support these events. They are well managed, they do not cause harm, there is no public nuisance, children are not put in danger.

Should this application be approved, the current licence would be revoked by the rugby club. This means that there is no going back, that the rugby club will forever be changed from a place where patrons, members and guests are welcome, and instead it will become a late-night pub tucked away for anyone to use and with inadequate measures to control what occurs on site. Should this application fail, the rugby club can maintain its current licence, still operate as it does and apply for three large events separately, not putting the community at the risks stated throughout this letter.

Despite local resident concerns, the rugby club have sought to pursue this application, disregarding the better option of seeking alternative individual applications for events when they require them.

The proposal significantly and detrimentally extends the physical extent of where drinking, loud music, lighting, gathering and general nuisance and disturbance will occur.

As proposed across the entire application, anyone will be able to drink, listen to loud music and affect the current setting on site until 11pm each Monday, to midnight each Tuesday, 11pm each Wednesday, midnight each Thursday, 1am each Friday and Saturday and to 10.30pm each Sunday.

The venue therefore would be able to sell alcohol to be consumed on and off site. The sale of this alcohol is up to the time periods stated above and prior to the additional 30 minutes dispersal strategy. There is no mitigation to prevent the crime and disorder that would follow, the risk to public safety of local residents and their property, the risk of general public nuisance occurring and the impact that this would have on the young children who live locally and enjoy the quiet streets in a safe environment. Getting people to leave in an orderly, quiet fashion with unlimited drinks in hand each night of the week is unachievable without nuisance and public safety being caused/affected.

It will have a detrimental impact on the mental health and anxiety of families and young children who will worry about the outcome and potential uses stated within this application if approved due to the nuisance, disturbance and crime which will follow. The rugby club is already frequented by youths with alcohol who have caused criminal damage, disturbance and nuisance to the rugby club and local residents on more than one occasion and to which the police have been called. There is no mitigation now to deal with this, let alone if the licence rules are extended. It has been local residents who have had to notify the police.

The CCTV is inadequate for the current licensed premises, as the youths just go beyond the clubhouse where there are no CCTV cameras. How is the full extent of the application site going to be monitored by CCTV in accordance with Operating Schedule A Clause 1? If they are, how are the entire application site grounds and their boundaries going to be policed each day and night of every week to deal with any nuisance or disturbance?

This application poses a real and serious risk that late night drinking and disturbances on the application site and in the local streets will cause a significant nuisance to all locals in the vicinity, children being woken up or not able to sleep particularly on school nights, anxiety that loud music, drunken behaviour is occurring or is going to occur each week in the currently quiet roads, and all of this across an excessive number of late nights and early hours of the morning all week, every week.

When the larger events are on (and the applicant has stated that these will be limited to three per year) cars will be parked blocking driveways, sight lines blocked for pedestrians crossing the road, there is a very real and significant danger that with the number of young children who live in proximity that something horrible will happen. Is it better not to risk this scenario? The speed at which some members of the Fitism gym drive down Kings Road is excessive and parking by members all along Kings Road from the entrance to the rugby club all the way up the road past Woodlands Road and on to Woodlands Road itself fills the roads with parked cars. The end of Kings Road is a cul de sac and is therefore at capacity most days. It is not designed to accommodate the number of cars and general traffic which will be generated by this application.

The increased traffic will cause difficulty for residents safely pulling out of their driveways, parking, crossing the road safely etc. There is no mitigation for the current issues that occur. The prospect of more cars and traffic each day amplifies the risk that there will be an accident due to lack of visibility splays being kept clear, excessive numbers of cars, speeding to get to events etc.

The harm to children is evident. Vast numbers of young children and young families who live near the application site, ride their bikes on the local quiet roads, significant numbers of pedestrians and cyclists use Kings Road to enter and leave the Carrs, the entrance being adjacent to the rugby club.

Further, as part of the application, both an Operating Schedule and Dispersal Strategy have been attached. The Operating schedule and Dispersal Strategy are woefully inadequate to deal with such an application and therefore this application along with the reasons stated above relating to crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm must be rejected.

I further object to this application on the additional points below:

- 1) The Operating Schedule offers no mitigation to the increased traffic which will arise should the application be approved. This will cause further damage to the roads.
- 2) The Operating Schedule offers no mitigation to the increase in car parking along all local estate roads surrounding the rugby club which is already unacceptable due to the number of cars which park along Kings Road due to the Fitism members. Before any application is considered, the impact on the local road network should be understood fully. This has not been undertaken.
- 3) The Operating Schedule does not state where the films will be shown across the whole of the site, which direction the films will be projected for light disturbance and with that, the direction of the accompanying noise. There is therefore insufficient detail on the mitigation that would be undertaken in regard to avoiding it being a nuisance to local residents.
- 4) In Operating Schedule Clause 5, regular perimeter checks will be undertaken, and the noise reduced. There is no clarity on what the applicant or CEC consider acceptable and there is therefore no conditionality on this which makes this application flawed and of high risk to being a nuisance from the start. The perimeter fencing of the site is totally inadequate to safely contain the attendees of the club should the application be approved.
- 5) In line with Operating Schedule Clause 6, there should be no noise nuisance to occupants of nearby premises and in line with Operating Schedule Clause 7, no noise shall emanate from the premises which gives rise to a nuisance. The sound levels from the existing facility with the existing licence are acceptable. The approval of the application and subsequent showing of films, live music, pre-recorded music, drinking and large gatherings of people will, anywhere on the application site, instantly cause a nuisance. The excessive licensing hours each and every day across the whole site is just not consistent with the Operating Schedule's conditions of use.
- 6) Showing films on any area included within the application boundary to 01:00am is excessive and relating back to points 3, 4 and 5 above, this will be a nuisance to local residents from the off.
- 7) There is no mention of any mitigation outside of the 3 events sought, how this would be managed, controlled, reported and most importantly dealt with on site at the time of the issue. Should incidents occur at the rugby club on any day until the early hours which are a nuisance or more serious, there is no way to address this and therefore the application is flawed.

It cannot be that the nuisances or public safety or children's harm should be allowed to continue on any day or evening without an appropriate operating schedule being in place which has instant measures that can be taken to avoid any repeat or continuous harm or nuisance being caused.

For all of the reasons above I object fully to this application.

Yours Sincerely

