

Licensing Team  
Cheshire East Council  
Delamere House, Delamere Street  
Crewe CW1 2LL

By email: [licensing@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

2 January 2024

Dear Sirs

**Re: Premises Licence Application, Fairview Vineyard, Goldford Lane, Bickerton SY14 8LL**

I wish to make the strongest possible objection to the grant of the above licence application, on the grounds of that it will present a threat to public safety, and to the safety of children in particular, and risks creating a serious public nuisance by introducing commercial activity and greatly increased volumes of traffic into an outstandingly beautiful rural location valued by me and very many others for its unspoilt tranquillity.

My specific objections are to:

**Increased numbers of commercial vehicles and private cars on a totally unsuitable road.** Goldford Lane is a narrow, twisting, single track road with few passing places, and I traverse it very regularly [REDACTED] Local residents know that extreme caution is required when driving along the Lane, but near collisions with delivery drivers and others who are unfamiliar with the route are a frequent occurrence. Granting a premises licence that will generate greatly increased volumes of traffic from outside the area, to collect wine orders or to attend vineyard tours and tastings, guarantees that many more drivers will be on the Lane who are not aware of the risks and will also, in many cases, be under time pressure to arrive for a pre-arranged appointment. This is quite literally an accident waiting to happen.

**Danger to children.** [REDACTED] and there are numerous other children living along the Lane, which is narrow and has no separate footway. Any increase in traffic from outside the area will greatly increase the significant dangers children already face when walking or cycling along the road. In addition, the Sandstone Scout Hut on Goldford Lane houses not only the local Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers groups, but also visiting and camping groups of children from many other areas. Orienteering exercises frequently involve children walking along Goldford Lane and increased traffic will put them at a heightened and unacceptable risk.

**Danger to walkers, cyclists and horse riders.** Bickerton Hill, adjoining Goldford Lane, is an extremely popular National Trust property and Site of Special Scientific Interest already attracting very large numbers of visitors by car, bike, on horseback and on foot. Walkers, cyclists and horse riders are frequently encountered on the Lane and need to be passed with care. Encouraging large additional numbers of drivers from outside the area to drive down

the Lane adds greatly to the risks these groups already face, and will endanger the peace and tranquillity that is central to the appeal of Bickerton Hill to its visitors.

**Encouragement of drink driving.** Fairview Vineyard is in a thoroughly remote location with zero access to public transport. Visitors to its proposed wine tastings will almost inevitably reach them by private car. In view of the dangerous nature of the only access road already outlined, and the risks to children and other road users, I believe that there should be no question of granting a licence that would encourage drivers onto the Lane with their reactions impaired by consuming any quantity of alcohol.

For all the above reasons, I believe that Cheshire East Council **MUST** refuse this licence application – and I write this as an entrepreneur who is ordinarily disposed to be sympathetic to small businesses seeking to grow. Fairview Vineyard, however, has been developed in a location which is simply completely unsuitable for commercial exploitation on the lines its owners propose by virtue of the inadequacy of its road access, the beauty of the surrounding countryside, and the high levels of road usage by children and other vulnerable groups that this beauty attracts.

Yours faithfully

