

APPENDIX C (personal information redacted).

Licensing Section  
South Cambs District Council  
South Cambs Hall  
Cambourne Business Park  
Cambourne  
CB23 6EA



21 August 2017

**BY HAND – 21.08.17**

Dear Sir or Madam

**Planning Application dated 25 July 2017: The supply of alcohol and regulated entertainment at the Cricket Pavilion and Outfield, Back Lane, Cambourne**

I refer to the above application for an alcohol licence to be implemented at the Cricket Pavilion on the Great Cambourne cricket pitch.

I wish to highlight the following concerns I have with this proposal:

(1) Noise

Excessive noise is my primary concern relating to the application.

We live in the second closest house to the Pavilion (the closest being 2 Lancaster Gate, our immediate neighbour).

It is a wonderful facility, but the noise late at night can, at times, be significant, and certainly enough to disturb sleep. This is without alcohol being served.

We have attended several community events there ourselves and have seen first-hand how attendees have a tendency to congregate outside of the Pavilion, especially when the weather is good. The doors stay open and the noise increases. This is of particular concern during the summer months, especially during hot nights when residents are likely to have their windows open during the night.

The location of the Pavilion's car park results in attendees gathering there and around the 'back' entrance to the Pavilion. I have seen this on several occasions.

The introduction of an alcohol licence will only serve to worsen matters by increasing the above occurrences and keeping the noise going until late at night. Attendees who have consumed alcohol are likely to become more vocal and much less aware of their behaviour.

The nature of events there is also likely to change, such as attracting gatherings for celebrations where alcohol is a key component (e.g. birthdays for adults, rather than birthdays for children). The frequency of residents being disturbed is only going to increase and this would not be acceptable. It is, after all, within a community setting and close to numerous residential properties.

The fact that the proposed licence is so extensive in hours/days of operation, including on nights preceding regular working days, risks really impacting on those residents living nearby, including homes with babies, small children or elderly occupants. It is a residential area and the sleep and home-life of those living nearby should be a priority. Cambourne has always had a high proportion of families with babies and young children, so it is likely that any nearby premises will have babies and young children both now and in the future.

## (2) Litter

The litter all along Eastgate and Lancaster Gate can be significant.

I routinely go out and pick litter up, typically at least 3 times per week. I cover the area down to Jeavons Wood Primary School, partway up Lancaster Gate and then down towards the sports hall.

I do it this regularly when time permits as it is otherwise a complete eye-sore.

The litter generally consists of drinks bottles, including glass beer bottles, energy drinks cans, and discarded cans of lager. There are then cigarette packets, crisp packets and other discarded food packages.

Since the Cricket Pavilion opened, I have gone on to and cleared lots of rubbish from around it, many of which appear to have come from attendees at the Cricket Pavilion itself. This can be spread further afield too, i.e. around the junction of Eastgate and Lancaster Gate.

My fear is that the level of litter (which I already regard as high) will increase further. I foresee attendees taking pint/wine glasses and the like and leaving them outside. They then risk being smashed and broken glass will cause a hazard to the high number of children that walk past the area and play on the cricket green, as well as dogs and other wildlife.

I see litter as being a large issue in such a lovely place as Cambourne. The main roads and areas can often be strewn with it. For example, the car park at Morrisons (particularly the hedge between the carpark and the building society, and also the area surrounding Home Bargains/Pound World/Just for Pets and the doctors) is particularly bad. The area around the Belfry can be very bad too.

I also often pick litter up from the children's play areas, which can get covered in it.

If you drive from Upper Cambourne out to the A428, for example, the whole route is littered with drinks bottles and the like, right up to the BMW junction and beyond. In my view, it does not reflect well on what is such a wonderful place to live.

I believe the developers should be tasked with keeping on top of it. It must impact on prospective buyers coming to view new homes as it is so evident in places.

I also believe Morrisons, Home Bargains, Pound World, Just for Pets and the Belfry should also be approached with cleaning the areas surrounding their premises regularly, and I do wonder whether there are covenants to address this that could be enforced?

As for the other areas, such as where the Pavilion is located, I very much appreciate that funding issues impact on resources. I also totally respect and am thankful for all that the Parish Council do with their limited resources. It is, however, very rare for me ever to see any official litter pickers in Cambourne.

My fear is that an alcohol licence will impact on the type of gatherings taking place at the Pavilion and that litter levels will increase even more, with no contingency in place to address this.

When litter is already an issue which cannot easily be addressed in particular areas, it does not seem sensible for a decision to be made at a lovely community facility (the Cricket Pavilion) which is likely to make the issue even worse. The only party that would appear to have responsibility for clearing the litter from around the Pavilion would be the Parish Council (and/or SCDC), so unless routine/regular patrols are introduced, I cannot see anything other than the situation worsening.

The difference between the Pavilion and say Morrisons, is that Morrisons could be tasked with clearing the litter from in/around their premises, whereas there is no private landlord at the Pavilion who could be tasked with the same.

### (3) Sports Pavilion (adjacent to the football/rugby pitches)

I do not know how well the bar area at the Sports Pavilion does, but it is within close proximity to the Cricket Pavilion and is properly set up with its own bar. Having an alcohol licence granted to the latter is likely to further impact on the viability of the former.

The key difference, however, is that the Sports Pavilion is away from people's homes. It is better located, and better equipped, to accommodate events with alcohol consumption. It was always designed with that in mind.

### (4) Level of use

The Cricket Pavilion is already a hive of activity. There are classes/groups there most days/week nights and often gatherings at the weekend. This, in my view, is very positive, as it adds to the character of Cambourne and helps community cohesion.

I think the general nature of gatherings taking place there are in keeping with what "village" life should be like, whereas the introduction of an alcohol licence could change this significantly (see above re birthday parties where alcohol is a major part of it, compared to birthday parties for children etc.).

I feel it is important that the right sort of gatherings are encouraged there, without straying into areas where the downsides far exceed any perceived benefits. This could easily have the opposite effect to community cohesion.

(5) Anti-social behaviour / vandalism

There is a risk that an alcohol licence could result in anti-social behaviour and vandalism increasing, including to the Pavilion itself. The cost here could then be significant in rectify damage etc. You only have to look at the wooden fences around the cricket pitch (which I believe the Parish Council or developers have arranged repair of on several occasions) and the footpath down to the country park to see close by examples of vandalism. Alcohol is not going to improve matters here.

It is a wonderful facility which needs to be looked after and respected by attendees. The risk of damage occurring will surely only increase with an alcohol licence being granted.

(6) Hours of use

Notwithstanding the above points, I can see the benefit for having an alcohol licence during certain events, such as a cricket lunch perhaps. However, if such a licence were to be granted, I strongly believe it should be restricted to daytime hours (to try and prevent any anti-social behaviour) and also to events where accountability can be affixed to a particular organiser (e.g. the cricket club).

Without this, I can see problems arising, which will not only impact on residents who live nearby, but also key resources such as the local police force.

Having accountability means that issues could be directly addressed by that organisation (e.g. the cricket club). Having events on an "ad hoc" basis, where it is a different person booking each time, means there is no real prospect of this or incentive for noise to be controlled etc.

I feel the above are all points that need to be properly considered before any decision can be made. I think it is too easy to see the granting of the licence as good thing for attendees, but without realising the true potential for problems that could arise not only for local residents, but also for the Parish Council and others who are responsible for the running of the Pavilion.

I thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_