

APPENDIX G2

Neil Terry
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CB24 1BS
10th July 2023

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

Subject: Objection to Alcohol License Application

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the alcohol license application submitted by Northstowe Running Festival Events Limited for the purpose of selling alcohol every Saturday and Sunday on the field adjacent to my property. I must express my deep concern that none of the likely impacted residents, including myself, have been made aware of this license application. We have not received any correspondence through the post or other means, leaving us uninformed and unable to voice our concerns in a timely manner.

Furthermore, upon learning about this application, I strongly believe that granting this license would have significant negative consequences for the local community and its residents. I urge you to consider the following points when making your decision:

Noise Disturbance and Impact on Children's Wellbeing:

The field in question is in close proximity to many houses, less than 10 metres from many family homes. Allowing alcohol sales until 10 pm every weekend would likely result in an increase in noise levels and disturbance during the evenings when families, like mine, are trying to relax and children are trying to sleep. This disruption to children's sleep will have a detrimental effect on the well-being of the local community, particularly on the sleep patterns and general comfort of young children. Much research has found that children getting insufficient sleep have more mental health and behavioral challenges than those who got sufficient sleep. These problems include impulsivity, stress, depression, anxiety, aggressive behavior, and thinking problems. There is a risk with granting a license that covers every weekend of the year, that my children, as well as those living in other houses close to the field, will have their sleep impacted for 2 days every week.

Children's Health

Northstowe in its own words (Northstowe.com) was set up with the intention... 'where health and wellbeing are promoted'. Western Park was intended for sports and recreation. No child will want to go and play on the field at the weekend when there is an event on. The alcohol licence starts from 10am, so by 2pm I would not want my children playing football next to a group of people that have been drinking for 4+ hours as I do not believe that would be safe for my child, and would likely be very intimidating for them.

Parking

There is very limited parking in Northstowe. Previously when there have been events on, residents have been blocked in. In September 2022, my partner was 8 months pregnant and needed to visit the hospital and found that we had been blocked in our drive by people parking where they shouldn't. This has happened every time there has been an event in Western Park.

Extended Drinking Hours and Public Safety:

The proposed license would permit patrons to consume alcohol until 10 pm, implying that people will continue to gather and consume their last orders on the field well beyond the stipulated closing time. This prolongation of drinking hours poses a risk to public safety, as it increases the potential for unruly behavior, noise pollution, and potential conflicts among patrons. Furthermore, the increased presence of individuals under the influence of alcohol late into the evening raises concerns about the security and welfare of residents living nearby.

Lack of Clarity Regarding Vendor Locations:

The license application does not specify where the vendors will be located within the expansive field. This lack of clarity raises concerns about the potential proximity of alcohol vendors to residential areas. Without clear guidelines in place, there is a risk that vendors may set up close to residential properties, further exacerbating noise levels and disturbance for residents.

Excessive Frequency of Alcohol Sales:

Granting a license for alcohol sales every weekend throughout the year is excessive, particularly considering the proximity of residential areas and the potential negative impact on local residents. The cumulative effect of alcohol-related activities occurring regularly and consistently in close proximity to residential areas could be detrimental to the overall quality of life for residents and may contribute to a decline in the sense of safety and well-being within the community.

Precedent for Future Licensing Applications:

By approving this license, the council would inadvertently set a precedent for other vendors to seek similar licenses for the field and potentially other locations nearby. This could lead to an influx of alcohol-related activities, which would significantly deviate from the intended purpose of the field as a space for sports and recreational activities. Such a precedent could erode the community's ability to maintain a peaceful and family-friendly environment, contrary to the original vision for the area.

Incompatibility with the Intended Use of the Field:

The field in question was initially designated for sports pitches and recreational activities. Granting an alcohol license for this space contradicts the original purpose and intended use of the field. The area already provides ample opportunities for sports and recreation, such as the annual Northstowe Marathon. Adding alcohol sales is unnecessary and undermines the focus on health, fitness, and community engagement that the marathon and other sporting events promote.

Litter Responsibility:

The license application does not address the responsibility of vendors in clearing the litter generated by their operations. Without appropriate measures in place, there is a significant risk of increased littering and potential environmental degradation in and around the field, further impacting the quality of life for residents and diminishing the overall appeal of the area.

Considering the aforementioned points, I kindly request that you carefully reconsider the granting of the alcohol license to Northstowe Running Festival Events Limited. I strongly believe that this decision should prioritize the well-being and interests of the local community, especially those directly affected by the proposed alcohol sales. It is essential to preserve the harmony, safety, and family-oriented nature of the neighborhood.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will give my objection due consideration in your decision-making process.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Terry