

APPENDIX G8

Owais Siddiqui
60 Mistle Thrush Drive
Northstowe, Cambridge
CB24 1BS

16 July 2023

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

Subject: Objection to Premises/Alcohol License Application by Northstowe Running Festival Events Limited for Northstowe Western Park of Kingfisher Close, Northstowe, CB24 1BZ

Dear Licensing Team @ SCDC,

My Name is Owais and I am a resident of Northstowe adjacent to Western Park where I live with my wife and little kids. I am writing to **formally object** to the premises license application submitted by Northstowe Running Festival Events Limited for the purpose of holding events and selling alcohol **every Saturday and Sunday** on the field adjacent to my property.

We are very concerned that we were not consulted by the organisation making the application, did not receive any correspondence through the post, leaving us uninformed and unable to voice our concerns in a timely manner. This was accidently picked up by a fellow resident who noticed a paper stuck to a tree in a bit of incognito mode.

We think granting this license would have **significant negative consequences** for the local community and its residents. I request you to consider the following points when making your decision:

The Impact of Noise and Alcohol on Children's Health

Western Park is located near many residential areas, including my home. If alcohol sales are allowed until 10 pm every weekend, it is likely that noise levels will increase, especially in the evenings. This could disrupt the sleep of young children and other residents, who may have difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep. Additionally, there is a risk of anti-social behaviour, such as shouting, fighting, or vandalism. This type of behaviour could be especially concerning for families with young children. Finally, allowing alcohol sales until 10 pm could lead to parking problems in the area. The park is already a popular destination, and if more people are coming to the park to drink alcohol, it is likely that there will be more cars parked in the area. This could make it difficult for residents to find parking near their homes, and it could also lead to traffic congestion.

No information on Vendor Locations

The license application does not provide details about the locations of alcohol vendors within the large field. This lack of clarity raises concerns about how close vendors could be to residential areas. If there are no clear guidelines, there is a risk that vendors could set up near homes, which could lead to increased noise levels and disturbance for residents.

Prolonging Drinking Hours Could Increase Risks to Public Safety

The proposed license would allow patrons to consume alcohol until 10 pm. This could lead to people gathering and drinking on the field well beyond the stipulated closing time, which could **increase the risks to public safety**. When people drink for longer periods of time, they are more likely to become intoxicated and engage in unruly behaviour, such as shouting, fighting, or vandalism. They are also more likely to get into conflicts with each other, which can lead to arguments, fights, and even violence. Intoxicated individuals may also be more likely to commit crimes, such as theft or assault. They may also be more likely to be victims of crime themselves.

Excessive Frequency of Alcohol Sales

Allowing alcohol sales every weekend throughout the year would be excessive, especially considering the proximity of residential areas. The repeated occurrence of alcohol-related activities near homes could have a negative impact on the quality of life for residents and could contribute to a **decline in safety and well-being in the community**.

Setting a Precedent for Alcohol Sales in Public Spaces

If the council approves this license, it could set a precedent for other vendors to seek similar licenses for the field and other locations nearby. This could lead to **more alcohol-related activities** in the area, which would **change the character of the field** from a space for sports and recreation to a place where people go to drink. This could make the area **less peaceful** and family-friendly, which would go **against the original vision** for the area.

Conflict with the Original Purpose of the Field


The field was originally designed for sports and recreation. Selling alcohol there would go **against the original purpose of the field**. There are already many opportunities for sports and recreation in the area, such as the Northstowe Marathon. Selling alcohol would be unnecessary and would undermine the focus on health, fitness, and community engagement that the marathon and other sporting events promote.

Litter

The license application does not specify how vendors will be responsible for clearing the litter they generate. This lack of clarity raises concerns about the potential for **increased littering and environmental degradation** in the area. This could have a negative impact on the quality of life for residents and could make the area less appealing.

I urge you to reconsider the decision to grant a premises and alcohol license to Northstowe Running Festival. This decision should **prioritise the well-being of the local community**, especially those who would be directly affected by the proposed alcohol sales and late-night events. It is essential to preserve the harmony, safety, and family-oriented nature of the neighbourhood.

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


Yours Sincerely,
Owais Siddiqui & Family