



Steve Badger and Ella Staneke
Little Acorns
School Lane
Burghfield Common
Berkshire
RG7 3JZ

24th August 2016

Environmental Health (Licensing)
West Berks District Council
Market Street
Newbury
RG14 5LD

Re License application 16/01174/LON

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to voice our objection to the granting of an alcohol license for Burghfield Recreation Ground.

Whilst the generation of funds for the air ambulance is indeed a worthy cause, we believe that there are other sites or other activities that could be undertaken without the impact and risks that the proposed "Burgfest" would have on the residents of Burghfield Common.

I was also deeper concerned to find the misdirection contained within the letter distributed by Mr. Townsend that leads the residents to believe that a premises license will provide more protection through greater control for residents than a temporary events license. In contrast on his own facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Burghfest>) he states that the real reasons they are applying for a premises license is so that more than 499 people can attend and that they plan to repeat this event 3 times per year.

"All very exciting! Instead of a temporary event notice that limits us to 499 people, we are seeking a premises license for the whole recreation ground.

We have asked for three events per year so if this goes well we can do two more events at the top of the hill for you all! Wish us luck!!! Fingers crossed that not too many people object"

The recreation ground is surrounded 360 degrees by residential housing. People here enjoy the peace and quiet afforded them by the small quiet streets and closes with many of our gardens backing onto the Rec. In our own Parish Council plan and design statement our village is deemed as "quiet and rural" and that this should be maintained and protected.

More specifically our concerns fall into 4 areas :

1/ Protection of children from harm :

The Parish actively encourages the use of this area by young children. There is a toddler's playground attracting lots of very young children and Mum's, in addition, the new MUGA attracts many young teenagers. Mixing this environment with a large number of un-vetted adults and a lot of alcohol is a very high risk to the kids in terms of possible interference, influence and that they may get access to the alcohol.

2/ Prevention of crime and disorder :

The Recreation ground already suffers from a string of anti-social, criminal damage and threatening behavior issues fuelled by youngsters consuming alcohol illegally there. The Parish Council has not taken any proactive action against these activities, in fact the security camera's that are in place do not work and reported incidents are not followed up.

We do not believe that the infrastructure is there to prevent the existing crime and disturbance. Therefore Adding a further 500-1000 people mixing with alcohol, will increase the risk of crime against the surrounding area and properties.

The recreation ground is also a very open area with access points all around it and fences that are easily climbable, we do not see how this area can be protected and controlled for this event.

Public urination is already a problem along the path to Blands Close and around the pavilion from gangs of teenagers drinking and smoking drugs. With no access to proper toilet facilities and the general aversion to temporary low quality toilets, this, will also be a problem with large numbers of people consuming lots of fluids. We don't want people using our gardens and fences as a toilet. More concerning it does not seem the toilets are covered in a way that would be required for an event like this.

Insert (<https://www.facebook.com/Burghfest>)

We are on! Date for your diary is Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th September.

We have some work to do, as we can't access the pavilion for the toilets, so need to rent portable-loos etc so if anyone can get these at bargain prices let us know!

3/ Public Safety

With many people driving to the event and attendances between 500 and 1000 and no proper parking areas of suitable volume provided, we think that there is a high risk that cars will be parked blocking drives, blocking our narrow residential roads and making access for the bus routes and more importantly access for emergency services difficult. We already have these problems with football matches where only 50 people are in

attendance. Specifically we see problems for residents on Recreation Road, School Lane, Blands Close, Oak Drive, Firs End and Goodwood Close.

Liability will also be a problem for this event, we have seen no provision of insurance covering any damage to our infrastructure, fences, properties either public or private. We would also expect to see public liability covering things such as injury, fire etc for the event itself, without this we are left completely unprotected

4/ Prevention of public nuisance

Littering is already an issue around the Rec, with so many people and bottles, tins and plastic glasses this will be a big problem, especially for those of us that have gardens next to the rec and next to the bus stops on Recreation Road and School Lane.

Noise of live music, many people and disturbances late into the night over the whole weekend as revelers disperse will disrupt our quiet and rural area. We all work hard in the week and to have our weekends disrupted by these events will be unacceptable. There are also a lot of elderly and frail residents living close by on their own that could well be frightened by this event.

In summary we do not believe that the "Burgfest" event can be run on the Recreation Ground as there are just too many security, access, disturbance and safety of children issues. While we feel that supporting charity is a good thing, the risks of running it at this site are overwhelming. Especially as the organisers are misguiding the local population with flyers setting expectations different to that which they intend to execute upon given this license

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Steve Badger and Ella Staneke