

Moira Fraser

From: BT mail [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 August 2016 18:00
To: Licensing
Subject: License application: 16/01174/LQN

From: David Pearse, New House Recreation Rd, Burghfield Common RG7 3EN
[REDACTED]

Good afternoon

I object to the above license application for the following reasons:

The Recreation Ground is not suitable to accommodate crowds in excess of 499-1000 people. It is right in the centre of the village, bordered on its 4 sides by private houses whose gardens or front drives are immediately adjacent to it. There is no parking facility and residents have no possibility of avoiding noise or disturbance caused by crowds of visitors and this supposedly for a whole 12 hrs on the Saturday of the Burghfest. In Mortimer or Silchester for instance, the recreation grounds are larger, have more parking and are not close to houses.

My main objection concerns safeguarding children. Our Rec is family orientated with dog walkers, a children play area, a multi sport area and is inappropriate for a venue devoted to selling alcohol to large crowds with people ending up drunk and disorderly. This is a totally unacceptable situation for young children or teenagers. The Burghfest is supposed to kick off at 3.00pm on a Friday just as youngsters come out of the Willink school and relax with friends on the Rec. Parents also take young children to the play area at that time. They should not be surrounded by alcohol drinkers or worse be tempted to purchase alcohol themselves. As a retired Director of Studies and Sixth form Tutor, the safeguarding of young people is paramount and I would expect the Council to agree.

In addition, has a risk assessment study been prepared in connection with running the event? Why have the residents not seen it and been asked for feedback? How is the event going to be policed to avoid undesirable visitors? Who will clean up after the event? Who will be responsible in case of damage caused to neighbouring properties? The list goes on...

If the licensing Officer takes the trouble to visit the site, it will become blatantly obvious that it is unsuitable for purpose. I notice furthermore that the organisers have been very economical with the truth in their letter to residents. They never mentioned the huge numbers expected and simply want a venue where they can sell as much alcohol as possible and don't care at all about the impact on the local residents.

Thank you for taking the above points into consideration David Pearse

Sent from my iPad