

LICENSING ACT 2003

Supplemental Representation from John Fredericks

Please note the Council is required under the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 to provide the applicant with copies of the relevant representations made.

Application to which the Representation refers:

Application Reference 16/01174/LQN
Name of Premises: Recreation Ground
 Recreation Road
 Burghfield Common
 READING
 RG7 3EN

Under the Licensing Act 2003, for a representation to be relevant it must be one that is about the likely effect of the application on the promotion of the four licensing objectives.

Please give details of your representation(s) and include information as to why the application would be unlikely to promote any of the following objective(s):

5. Supplementary Submission

- 5.1. Further to my emailed representation regarding this Application, I have since spoken in some detail with the Council regarding the Application.
- 5.2. I was initially disappointed to be informed by them that the Premises Licence application, which so many local residents have spent significant time commenting on, has no legal connection with the event scheduled for 23-24th September this year. Instead, this initial event will be staged under a Temporary Event Notice (TEN). Given the Council have scheduled the hearing for the Premises Licence application to coincide with the first day of the Burghfest event, it is unsurprising that the event organiser has had to revert to the far simpler TEN approach, in order to proceed with the fund-raising event.
- 5.3. I have also now spoken with the Applicant, and am satisfied that he shares my concerns over any potential disorder and public nuisance arising from the event, but under the terms of a TEN, is powerless to control or regulate any activity outside his licensed area (the modest tented arena, containing stage, PA and bar). He plans to place this away from the south end of the Recreation Ground, with the indoor PA system and its noise able to be controlled more closely as a consequence of its relatively compact nature.
- 5.4. My concerns surrounding denial of access to local residents will therefore, for this initial event, be irrelevant. Under the terms of the TEN, the Recreation Ground will remain a public space for the entire duration of the event, with just the tent and related area being controlled. The ability of local residents to continue going about their usual activities largely unimpeded is welcome, but this will have to be weighed up against the potential for undesirable behaviour from people over whom the event organiser has no control. These people (should they actually materialise) may or may not be attendees of Burghfest, so to make damning assumptions would be unfair on the Applicant. He has assured me he wishes the more controlled Premises Licence scenario could be used, but his hands are tied.
- 5.5. Given the fact that the Council are aware of this initial event, and its implicit connection with the pending Premises Licence, it would seem far more sensible for them to postpone the hearing until after this event has taken place, and a de-briefing meeting can be convened at which all stakeholders are able to present their thoughts and observations, that can then serve to inform the decision making process for the main Premises Licence. This could easily be done such that specific caveats to the licence are included, to protect local residents, and also ensure the Applicant is able to tailor any planned future events to reflect lessons learned from Burghfest, which could then be considered as something of a test event for the concept.
- 5.6. I remain positive as to the overall aims of the event, and to the commitment of the organising committee of Burghfest to producing an enjoyable small scale day out for families, and lovers of good beer and popular music, but wished to clarify to the benefit of other respondents that next weekend's event is not connected with the Premises Licence application they have all commented on, and should not be regarded as representative of such.