

Mike & Rayna Smith

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Tel 01536 483193

26 JUL 2017

Lisa Vaughan
Senior Admin Officer, Environmental Health
Kettering Borough Council
Bowling Green Road
Kettering
Northamptonshire
NN15 7QX

24 July 2017

Dear Ms Vaughan

I am writing to place an objection to the recent application by Wicksteed Park to vary its Premises Licence.

The grounds for my objection are as follows:-

We already suffer from noise from events in the Park, a fact that we accept as a price for living next to a leisure facility like this. The Park is a valuable asset that should be enjoyed by both local people and visitors to Kettering. It is not however a night club and there has to be limits on what is acceptable for residents living around the perimeter of the Park. There has been a number of instances over recent years where noise from events in the pavilion have been above acceptable well past midnight, despite the conditions of their current licence stating that there should be nothing audible in the gardens of any surrounding residential properties after 11.00pm. We have reported this to both the Park's management and Environmental Health in the past and have on occasions had to resort to going over to the pavilion and closing the windows and doors ourselves to try to minimise the noise.

This application to extend the licencing hours will undoubtedly make things much worse. On the basis that they are unable to comply with the current licence restrictions for indoor events, the problems we have now will continue and will extend well into the small hours of the morning. To make matters worse, the application states that events can be either indoor or outdoor which means they will also be able to hold open air events which can continue until 2.00am. If they are unable to prevent noise from indoor events being heard in the surrounding properties, the situation will be much worse for outdoor events, where there will be nothing to prevent the noise from affecting the surrounding areas. I therefore fail to see how they can effectively control noise from outdoor events.

To further compound the problem, if the sale of alcohol and playing music does not finish until 2.00am, it is obvious that we will then have to contend with the noise of engines being started and the noise associated with people leaving the venue which will probably go on until at least 3.00am.

Security within the Park does leave a lot to be desired at times and with no street lighting in Spinney Lane or Paradise Lane and we certainly do not want a situation where people leaving one of these events in an intoxicated state use our street and gardens as a short cut home or much worse.

In addition to the above, the Park is also planning to build and open a shop on the camp site which will sell bottled alcohol between 7.00 am 11.00am and again between 4.00pm and 8.00pm. I find this quite ironic. They lock the gates to the Park as early as 4.30pm, thus restricting access for people living around the Park. The reason they give for this is to prevent "antisocial behaviour and vandalism", yet

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they are now planning to sell alcohol as a take away (which is likely to promote antisocial behaviour) until 8pm, long after the Park gates have been locked. How can that make sense?

Whilst we all appreciate that the Park need to generate money to survive, they must also take into account the needs of the residents living on the edge of the Park. This move effectively means we will have a night club very close to our homes with the potential for it to sound like it is in our gardens. This is a residential area and having to put up with noise like this until the small hours potentially every day of the week is totally unacceptable. Not only is this going to have a serious adverse effect on the quality of our environment, it will not take long for word to spread that living next to the park is noisy. Once that happens, it could affect the value of our homes and make them very difficult to sell.

On the basis of all of the above, I think it is clear that this application is unacceptable and not only should it be rejected, there is a need for policing to ensure that the current licence conditions are adhered to.

I would be happy to attend any hearing in person and put forward my case.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the above in more detail, please feel free to call me on 07771 640292.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Mike Smith