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Principal Licensing Officer
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19 June 2019

c/c Cllr Martyn Bell, CDC

**Licensing Application 19/00992/LAPRE
Priory Park, Chichester : Prosecco in the Park**

Dear Mr Foord

As a member of the Friends of Priory Park and a regular visitor to the park, I write to object to the above application on the following grounds:

- 1) The event would put most of the park out of use for five consecutive days. Priory Park was given to the Citizens of Chichester in 1918 with free access to all, it having previously been a members-only venue. The Citizens of Chichester would thus be denied their right of that free access by the event, meaning that it would create a **public nuisance**.
- 2) There would be six alcohol outlets permitted to sell to up to 5000 people (the 'excess of 5000' box on the application form has not been ticked). Experience with a previous event (the *Oktoberfest* in 2018) demonstrated that Priory Park is not a suitable venue for large scale alcohol-fuelled events with large numbers of drunken people exiting the park into a residential area late at night causing damage and exhibiting anti-social behaviour. This is contrary to the licensing objectives of **preventing crime and disorder** and **preventing public nuisance**.
- 3) It is being marketed as an event for a predominantly female and family audience, with juvenile films and other activities during the day. Priory Park is already a favourite destination for children and families as children can run and play in a safe and dog-free environment. Under the proposed event, alcohol would be served from 1000hrs whilst those juvenile events are in progress so encouraging parents to drink in a public place whilst in charge of children which contravenes the licensing objective of **protection of children from harm**.
- 4) The delivery, setting up and dismantling of the arena, fencing, film screen and outlets will involve many heavy vehicle movements which, as we saw with the ice rink, will cause damage to the grass. This will put a large area of the park out of use for several months after the event whilst the grass recovers, which, in the case of the ice rink, it has still not done six months on. This damage would create another **public nuisance**.

- 5) The various outlets will be playing recorded music until 2300 and, despite the applicant's best intentions over noise control, this will cause disturbance as the park is in the middle of a residential area. Furthermore the necessary electricity is to be obtained from generators rather than the mains which will add to the noise, all creating more **public nuisance**.

- 6) It is noticed that the applicant wishes the licence to run for five years giving him the power to stage *Prosecco in the Park* over any five days between May and September. Cricket is played in Priory Park every weekend during the summer months (and has been since 1851) and this sought-for flexibility of date would compromise play as the cricket pitch forms part of the site. Although the wicket itself would be fenced off the outfield would not, so the vehicle damage referred to in (4) above would prevent further play until the grass has recovered. This would create another **public nuisance**. If the District Council are minded to grant this licence it should be for one year only and on the dates quoted for the 2019 event which are, at least, at the end of the cricket season .

In the light of the above I feel that Priory Park is a wholly unsuitable venue for an event of this scale and nature, and that Chichester District Council should refuse the licence and advise the applicant to seek a more appropriate location.

Yours Sincerely

