

From: Emma Burle on behalf of Licensing
Sent: 21 Jun 2019 14:07:50 +0100
To: Emma Burle
Subject: FW: Application 19/00992/LAPRE

From: Philip Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 June 2019 11:49
To: Licensing
Subject: Application 19/00992/LAPRE

From Friends of Priory Park, submitted by its Chairman, Philip E. D. Robinson: 27, New Park Road, Chichester, PO19 7YF [REDACTED]

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Note it is not possible to send this response through the “Comments Tab”, the webpage reports “Your comments could not be submitted due to an error in the system” and has done so for some time!

Re: 19/00992/LAPRE New Premises Licence OBJECTION, Public Comment

Introduction

The applicant’s description of the steps that will be taken to promote the four licensing objectives are generic, as illustrated in parallel applications to other local authorities. In consequence the application does not give confidence that its sponsors will be able to meet the requirements of the objectives as these affect Chichester.

Though outside the remit of the Council’s Licensing Sub-Committee it is nevertheless relevant to note that Priory Park carries the scars of the December ice-rink and the proposed location of “*Prosecco in the Park*” carries the potential for further damage to Chichester “village green”.

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The applicant is probably unaware that the police were called to distressing disturbances in St. Martin's Square following the *Oktoberfest* in 2018 and that, as we understand it, prosecutions are pending.

"Prosecco in the Park" has a target attendance, spread over the time the event is open, of 4,999 people (999 on Friday, 2,000 on Saturday and on Sunday) and requests a licence for the sale of alcohol from 17:00 on Friday and from 10:00 on Saturday and Sunday, A consumption opportunity that could be abused and result in the intemperate behaviour of a few that impairs the enjoyment of the many and could see a repetition of the unsavoury events of 2018.

Public nuisance

The applicant states, *"Customers will be asked not to stand around loudly talking in the street outside the premises"*.

Egress from the Park is along Guildhall Street, Priory Road then either St. Peter's or St. Martin's or Priory Lane. Each is a densely packed residential area with a large proportion of elderly inhabitants. On Friday the film *A Star is Born* will be shown, ironically dealing with problems associated with alcohol, commencing at 19:00 and finishing about 21:30. If one assumes a 50 per cent attendance, 500 people, many of whom will have enjoyed alcohol, will be funnelled along narrow residential streets. They might be encouraged *'not to stand around loudly talking'* at the gates to Priory Park, but this injunction fades the further customers move from the exit point; potentially creating a public nuisance to residents. On Saturday night there could be 1,000 people, in heightened emotion having watched *Bohemian Rhapsody*, traversing the same residential streets with a song on their lips.

Car-parking at North Gate on 27th 28th September 2019 will be difficult as the Festival Theatre hosts press night for *Macbeth* on 27th and the final performance of *Hedda Tesman* on 28th; a day in which each production has a matinee performance. An additional 2,000 people, the per diem target used by the sponsors, will exacerbate traffic problems to the detriment of all.

The application infers a 'noise management plan' but this appears to be no more than *"speakers will be positioned so the least amount of noise will impact on nearby residents."* The acoustic environment of each of the applicant's proposed nine locations in the south will be different. The licensing objective of the prevention of public nuisance is not satisfied by a bland-assurances of *"the least amount of noise"* and incredulity is strained when one of the film's proposed is *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Might it also be considered a 'public nuisance' that the customary Juvenile Park Fun Run will not be able to take place on Sunday 29th September as the course will be blocked off by heras fencing?

Might it be considered a 'public nuisance' that the customary use and enjoyment of the Park is denied to the citizens of Chichester for five days?

Protection of children from harm

Sunset is about 19:00 on the last weekend of September. The event is marketed at families with children. The applicant gives assurances about not selling alcohol to those under-age and advising on the classification of the film. There is nothing about the protection of under-fives and under tens, or 11 – 15-year olds who could potentially be in the park, at night, with scarce supervision until the event closes. Though those under 16 are required, by Sussex Police to attend the event with a responsible adult, the implication is that this would be a parent or guardian, but equally, could be an 18 year-old. The applicant has indicated that they accept the conditions set by Sussex Police but has not supplied any further details. Has a risk assessment been undertaken for the implications of children attending the event, particularly young children, after sunset? What procedures would be in place should the responsible adult decide to leave the event whilst the under 16s, not unreasonably, decide to stay to 'watch the film'?

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