

Licensing Team



EB

Dr David Hide  
Chichester  
PO19 1NS

June 25<sup>th</sup> 2019

Dear Madam or Sir

New Premises Licence 19/00992/LAPRE Proseco in the Park 27/06/20

This response is made to two applications for alcohol promotions in Priory Park this September although consideration is only possible for one at this late stage. Similar responses would have been made to them both although this one causes most concern in view of its extendable length and variable siting outside local control.

This letter is intended for your department but others should be concerned such as the licencing authority and park management while Councillor Martyn Bell is certainly involved as Priory Park is in his ward. Hence, four copies of this letter are supplied and it would be much appreciated if they could be distributed as required.

Both applications were made after the occupation of the SW quadrant of the park by the ice rink which proved so damaging. So popular a park gets heavy regular use from normal footfall, games and cycles. It is not irrigated. Frequent extra events add localised wear to grass that is already sparse so that bare areas appear. Patching helps but needs fencing that precludes use. Such has long been the case but the assault of the ice rink was a near mortal blow for the SW Quadrant as this photograph shows. Recovery is now lush from rain but superficial, lacking supportive root growth. With a quarter of the park on "light duties", the rest should never be used for sales promotion. Local need is far too great whilst the use of land at the whim of the applicant beyond Chichester control should never even be considered.

The interests of the Licencing Team also relate to this application as regards the Prevention of Crime and Disorder along with Public Safety and risk of Nuisance. There is a particular need to avoid repetition of the disturbances that caused such apprehension last year in a residential area with many elderly residents living alone. It was not the first time that alcohol related violence had taken place in the area.

A subtle aspect of that risk is the danger of creating an atmosphere of possible disruption that could pervade the most delightful spot in the City where families can take very young children in safety. Of course the toddlers' hours and those of disinhibited drinkers do not coincide but they could overlap while the atmosphere of a tipping area could be created so that parents hesitated to take young children there and, thus, loose the use of so perfectly protected a child play area, free of traffic.

There are other parks in the City where drink promotions could be held but only Priory Park offers such child safety. The ice rink proved, even on New Year' Eve, that early closing was possible there so that it may have been that no alcohol was required at all. Consideration of that unexpected state of events for future occasions should certainly follow.

Yours truly



David Hide

The Chief Executive Officer  
Chichester District Council.

15 January 2019

