

From: David Knowles-Ley
Sent: 26 Jun 2019 15:12:18 +0100
To: Emma Burle
Subject: FW: 19/00992/LAPRE – Prosecco in the Park – Objection
Importance: High

From: Edward Milward-Oliver [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 June 2019 12:30
To: Laurence Foord
Cc: David Knowles-Ley
Subject: 19/00992/LAPRE – Prosecco in the Park – Objection
Importance: High

Application Reference: 19/00992/LAPRE

Licence Category: New Premises Licence

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Object

I note that Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires a Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in the district.

I also note that Chichester District Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2016-2021 recognises that licensed premises have a significant potential to adversely impact denser residential areas, and affirms that the Licensing Authority wishes to maintain and protect the amenity of residents from the potential consequence of the operation of licensed premises.

'Prosecco in the Park' is a large-scale commercial event driven by the sale of alcohol, creating a heightened risk that at least three of the four objectives of the Licensing Act 2003 – namely the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, and the prevention of public nuisance – will be undermined when patrons exit Priory Park and enter the narrow residential streets surrounding the Park, especially during the evenings of Friday 27 September and Saturday 28 September 2019.

Violent disorder among some departing patrons of the much-smaller Oktoberfest in Priory Park in October 2018 – street fighting that required the attendance of three police units – has given rise to justifiable concerns among residents about 'Prosecco in the Park'. During that Oktoberfest affray, householders in St Martin's Square were fearful of stepping into the street and there were elderly residents in tears, frightened by the yelling and screaming and uncontrolled aggression outside. This was a profoundly unpleasant, undeserved, and frightening experience.

The link between alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour (ASB) is well documented. When additional factors such as large numbers of people within a confined residential area are added to the mix, the potential for crime and disorder increases very significantly. The death on 18 June 2019 of a man felled during a bar fight in Butlin's Bognor Regis, reminds us (if it were needed) of the sometimes fatal consequences.

Neither the applicant Arena Sports Live Limited, nor Chichester District Council, has submitted a plan showing how they intend to monitor and police the residential streets neighbouring Priory Park during and immediately after 'Prosecco in the Park' on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 September in order to safeguard the interests and security of local residents.

I am also concerned about the negative reviews of previous events cited in the objection by the Caversham and District Residents Association to the application by Arena Sports Live Limited (Licensing Application 113402) for a Prosecco in the Park event in Christchurch Meadows, George Street, Reading – a site many times the size of Priory Park.

Two further matters heighten public concern about alcohol-sales-driven events in Priory Park: the recent acknowledgement by Chichester Police of an increase in anti-social behaviour within the city, and strong anecdotal evidence of growing drug abuse within the city. These are very serious contextual issues, and must be taken into account when any such licence application for an event in Priory Park is under consideration.

Edward Milward-Oliver

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