

Residents B Representation

RE: Objection against the Entertainment and Alcohol Licences for the Sports Ground Pavillion, Wattsville Recreational Ground at Islwyn Road South Lane, Wattsville, NP11 7QH.

I wish to put in writing my objection to the application for a New Premise Licences for the Sports Ground Pavillion, Wattsville Recreational Ground. This will include a Music Licence and a Sale of Alcohol Licence. I was also disappointed in the way this has been handled. If it wasn't for a local walking passed the front of the pavillion where they saw a notice on the door, no one would have even known an application had been applied for. None of the local residents had been approached or informed of any of their intentions. I have since learned that a meeting was held, but how would we have known this was going to happen. It appears that people are trying to control the information and make sure that the bare minimum is being done as to reduce any opposition. Public Safety and Parking At the moment, people feel safe walking down the lane at night whether it be walking the dog, coming from the car or even just walking down the lane towards their destination. At present, there are no street lights along the lane and no lights in the pavillion car park. So, with the inevitable addition of people coming out of the pavilion late at night, it could create an uncomfortable place that could impact local residents. All our cars are parked at the rear of our properties, and residents will be reluctant to go out late at night. No one should feel anxious about leaving the house in the evening, wondering whether they will now encounter rowdy or inebriated people if going for a walk or going to their car. We have already had near accidents over the years, for example people showing off when driving out of the carpark up the narrow lane to the main road. If there are more people, there will be more cars, and more risk. Cars on the main road do not want to wait for cars turning into the lane. As there is no public pathway in the lane itself, people, including young children, are forced to walk down it, putting themselves at risk. Furthermore, this will also increase the risk to residents' cars which are parked nearby, or in the pavillion car park. There is a proposal to extend the car park in the future. I believe that this should be a priority - currently the carpark cannot even accommodate home and away team players, let alone their respective supporters. If a licence is granted this will increase the number of people wanting to park in an already overcrowded area. The carpark that is in front of the pavillion has been used by residents for years as an overflow, as there is very little parking on the main road. This will almost certainly create a conflict if residents can't park when they come home from a long day at work. The parking of football players and team supporters is already an issue during match days and training sessions. There's often a complete disregard to safe parking and some take up more space than is required. Supporters also park in front of residents' driveways, and on more than one occasion neighbours have been blocked in, or are unable to access their garage. Use of the Pavillion, and the Prevention of Crime and Disorder Is the designated use of the pavillion only for registered members and private hire, or will this be open to the general public? What is the maximum number of people the facility can accommodate? I believe that the trustees are all members of Wattsville Football Club, and they are providing most of the money and labour into developing this project. Consequently, they will have a say in what the club is used for, and when. On the 7th May 2020, Wattsville FC tweeted "Exciting times!! We are in the process of acquiring our very own pitch side clubhouse". This implies that the facility is more for the use of the football club than for the community as a whole as previously advertised on the Facebook community group funding page. The licence application is from Monday to Saturday until 23:00 and on Sunday until 22:00. With drinking up time and talking in the carpark including long goodbyes, the increased level of noise and disturbance could potentially occur every night, impacting nearby residents. The applicants have stated that they have only applied for a daily licence due to costs, but this allows the pavillion to be to be used whenever they want to, if they want to. There is already an established club in Wattsville within walking distance from the pavillion. With the government encouraging us to support local businesses that may be

struggling in this current climate, would it not be better to promote a local business that already exists? The Wattsville Jubilee Club has already shut down in recent years due to lack of local trade, so it would be disappointing to lose the Wattsville National Club too. Facilities will need to be provided for smokers, as the pavillion will not have smoking on the premises. Due to the surrounding green space, there will be a high risk of forest fires. There have been local forest fires over recent years which have caused devastation to vegetation and the landscape. They have also caused anxiety for local residents. Public Nuisance We need reassurance that the noise or music will not be too loud. This will need to be moderated and reinforced. We have already had instances where there has been total disregard to nearby residents while the applicants were working on the the outside of the premises. On two consecutive weekends I have had to ask them to turn down the music. They eventually did but then turned it back up again after a while so I had to ask again. I felt that the request was met with a joke and a giggle, and looking at their body language they didn't think that they were doing anything wrong. However, the level was unacceptable as I could hear it in my kitchen with the back door shut. We should not have to deal with this through the summer when all the doors are open. Even when they played music inside with their patio doors open around the back in the pavillion you could still hear their music. We all appreciate our back gardens, and enjoy sitting out in the nice weather, but no one wants to listen to other peoples' music at that volume. The Natural World Nature is a beautiful thing and we should nurture it. The sightings of foxes, rabbits and hedgehogs have increased over the past couple of years. The reduction of green areas and the increased footfall and noise as mentioned previously will bring, with this application, reduced sightings. Hedgehogs, for example, are already at risk, and we should be doing everything we can to protect them from further harm. The recent erection of fence at the rear of the pavillion has already reduced access of green space to the public. I understand that dogs should not play on the pitch due to maintain health and safety, but this fence has clearly reduced our access. If you include the proposed car park, access will be reduced further. Recycling and General Waste Collection Another issue is that although our recycling is collected at the front of our properties, our general waste is collected at the back of our properties where the pavillion is based. I am concerned as to how the users and licence applicants of the pavillion will participate in the county's recycling scheme. This is because there are currently no provisions for collection at the back of the property due to the size of the collection vans. When it comes to general waste, provisions will also need to be made for it to be collected on our designated day, rather than left at the refuse point to be collected. On previous occasions, it has been noticed that general waste has been left outside the pavillion for extended periods of time. This is not only unsightly, but also a hazard for residents, walkers, children, and wildlife. This could also impact parking facilities. COVID-19 Finally, with the coronavirus still restricting how we live our lives, is this an appropriate time to consider a new licence for the pavillion? Training sessions for players of all ages occur most days at the pavillion, and there is also suggestion that not all players and spectators are from the Caerphilly County Borough area. If the application is successful, the gathering of large groups is concerning as there are more lockdown restrictions currently in place in surrounding areas too. I am concerned that outdoor gatherings will get out of hand, and this should not be encouraged during this current climate. It is clear that the current restrictions will be in place until a vaccination is found, so we need to be mindful of managing the risk now and in the near future, before it is too late.