



Mr Lee Morgan
The Licensing Section
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Penallta House
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Hengoed
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CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
LICENSING DEPARTMENT

06 MAR 2024

DATE RECEIVED

■ St Tudor's View
Blackwood
NP12 1AQ
5th March 2024

Dear Mr Morgan,

I am writing to object to the application being made by Blackwood Town Cricket Club "to increase the area where alcohol can be consumed on the premises to the extents of the boundary of the club grounds" and "to extend licensable area to include outside area for alcohol on sales". I assume that the latter means an outdoor bar.

I raise this objection under the prevention of public nuisance and disorder objectives.

As the club is applying to extend the licensable area in this way, this means that people would be allowed to consume alcohol right up to the boundaries of the cricket field which abuts several properties on St Tudor's View. Doubtless, if successful in their application, the club would provide decking and seating for customers to drink including at the boundaries, which means that alcohol-induced behaviour would be even more audible and visible to the club's neighbours than it has been before. Even if seating were not provided, people would be permitted to stand at the boundaries drinking, plus an outdoor bar would cause noise and fuel disorder close to properties which neighbour the cricket field.

As someone who has lived in St Tudor's View for many years, I have experienced a number of occasions where I have been trying to enjoy the peace and quiet of my back garden, only to have it disturbed by foul language emanating from the club grounds as people wander round the field during club social events. If one rings the club to report it, there is seldom anyone available to deal with it. Now, a [REDACTED] do not wish to encounter an increased level of this. My neighbour at the top of the street has suffered even worse misconduct, with people urinating behind the club scoreboard clearly visible from his home and throwing cans and bottles into his garden. There would be greater risk of these kinds of antisocial disorder if the club were permitted to

R.T.O.

extend their licensable area to the extents of the boundary of the club grounds and to run an outside bar area. As the vast majority of the cricket club committee members do not live near the grounds, one wonders if they fully understand the nuisance behaviour St Tudor's View residents have had to endure and the risk of worse with this application. Would they put up with it at their homes?

As neighbours, we have tried to engage with the club before. This was with regard to fencing and security issues. Although the disintegrating fencing was eventually replaced when we insisted with the support of our councillors (although a hole has since appeared in that replacement fencing), one of the standard responses of the club during discussions on security has been that they do not have sufficient people to police attendees at, or users of, the club all the time. If this is the case now by their own admission, then they will definitely not have the people to police an extended licensable area. Even a plea at the time for them to at least install CCTV was dismissed by the club.

One of the disappointing aspects of trying to engage with the club is that of poor communication. When we, as neighbours, tried to engage with them as outlined above, they indicated that they would be more communicative with us going forward. Sadly, this has not proved to be lasting or consistent. This has included their application under discussion in this letter, where they have failed to reach out to us as their neighbours to let us know their intentions. The only reason I am made aware of such intentions now is that my aforementioned neighbour at the top of St Tudor's View spotted the notice displayed by the council on a lamppost.

In addition, regarding the "small stage area" that the club is applying to add into the building plan of the upstairs main concert room, I would voice the concern about the volume of noise this will facilitate in music or other events going forward.

A related concern I would wish to raise is that, as the club by their application are seemingly looking to increase footfall, then, as their small carpark has already resulted in overspill of parking into our street during events, this will only worsen.

The club simply does not possess the available people to monitor and police matters, as it has previously said, or the support/security infrastructure to make their application a viable one. It would risk and doubtless cause further public nuisance, antisocial disorder and stress for their neighbours.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Jacqueline Maguire