

From: Kevin Courcoux <*****>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:41 AM
To: Hopkins, Kathryn <HOPKIK1@caerphilly.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Blackwood Town Cricket Club - Variation

Hi Kathryn,

Following receiving and reviewing BTCC response to residents, their revised plan and the relevant authorities representations we'd like our below comments to be included in the application report.

We are not supportive of BTCC's revised area plan or the recommendations from Environmental and subsequent agreement from Licensing to use the car park as the licensable area. This as a significant proportion of the issues we've experienced as outlined in our letter have stemmed from alcohol consumption in and around the carpark and scoreboard areas which are directly abutting our property boundary. We previously provided an example list of problems we've encountered and we wanted to highlight that the list wasn't exhaustive and we only wish we'd kept better records in light of this application to further evidence these issues, with many of our interactions/attempts to resolve these problems with BTCC being face to face with the President Bill Coppage & Chairman Eric Reardon. To provide an indication of the action we have taken ourselves to try and minimise these problems please see the attached photos - which show privacy screens, gate & fence and car park bollards we have installed at BTCC to try and improve our families safety and reduce the direct negative impact from alcohol consumption and resulting antisocial behavior has had and continues to have on us as their neighbours. We also attach a further video for audio purposes which provides an insight into the level of noise we experience from BTCC car park area during the week when alcohol is being consumed, which on this occasion continued well past 10pm and as you'll see the video was recorded from within our property. We also question the rationale behind promoting the use of an active car park for alcohol consumption - this does not appear to be sensible.

Responding to Andrew's comments regarding residents - we have previously on several occasions met the clubs committee at meetings arranged & supported by Kevin Etheridge, this to discuss concerns and ensure positive relationship between us and BTCC. These meetings have now stopped - mainly due to BTCC's approach at these sessions - with their Chairman Eric Reardon taking and communicating the clubs position that they 'were there first' and 'they never wanted our houses built'. These comments were witnessed by several residents and Kevin Etheridge at a spring meeting in 2021, so it's ironic Andrew is asking residents to come to the club to discuss concerns as it has historically been a difficult environment to have objective conversation with them regarding real concerns.

There is also a clear lack of understanding on BTCC part regarding existing license parameters and if successful what their updated application/license will allow them to do. It's evident that the club by their own admission and our lived experience as direct neighbours of 4 years have over a prolonged period breached their existing license - which as documented has and continues to cause issues against the licensing objectives. There is also a significant responsibility placed on the clubs committee throughout the authorities objections to monitor and police their license along with the type of issues we've described - given the history and lack of compliance with their current parameters it only raises increased concerns that issues will increase, the enjoyment of our home further diminish along with higher probability of harm to our children.

To try and put in context the direct negative impact we have suffered from BTCC we have considered legal action against the club and also the selling of our family home, this because

the type & frequency of problems we've experienced continues to worsen, which is unacceptable and more so given with have two young children at our address.

Therefore, we are asking the relevant authorities to strongly consider our points in relation to this application, BTCC have breached their existing license to the detriment of us and other residents without any penalty suffered of their part, approval of their application will likely result in further issues which will be at odds with the licensing objectives set out by CCBC.

Regards

Kev Courcoux







