

26 JUL 2017

The Licensing Department  
Kettering Borough Council  
Bowling Green Road  
Kettering  
NN15 7QX

July 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

REF: Wickstead Park Ltd – License variation (OBJECTION)

To whom it may concern,

We strongly object to the application issued by Wickstead Park Ltd for a license for a campsite shop to sell alcohol and also for a late night music license to be allowed up to 2am.

We note that the application itself is vague with regard to the detail of the actual proposals being made. Residents close to Wickstead Park are already subject to nuisance with the police being asked to attend in the evenings and at night due to late night activities at the park affecting residents on Paradise Lane, Paradise Avenue and Spinney Lane. There is already damage to areas made in the evenings that will only be exasperated if the council grants this license. This proposal will increase costs for policing and cleaning up. Traffic and damage is already an issue in Paradise Lane which the park has failed to address despite numerous requests (and this area is within the park boundary). In case of an emergency ambulances and fire engines would struggle to reach many properties on Paradise Lane due to illegal parking by non-residents – this can only be exasperated by these proposals. If, there ever was an incident which resulted in tragedy I know that many residents have already stated that they would sue both the Council and the Park for failing in their duty of care to the residents. The park already struggles to maintain security at night within their own grounds (without encouraging later events and further alcohol consumption on suite). There has been damage to park and resident property, in fact the animals at the park required extra protection as recently as a month ago due to the actions of visitors after the official closing time of the park – 8:30pm.

On what grounds is it necessary to have the sale of alcohol at the park camping ground – there are a plethora of places providing 24 hour provision within a mile of the park? Residents do not object to music up to the usually permitted hour but extending this we will be adversely affected. The proposal would allow music next to our houses in the open up to 2am in the morning – to my knowledge this is not permitted in any other similar situation anywhere in the county. There is absolutely no need for this and it will be disruptive and adversely affect the local residents

Wickstead Park, the council and the licensing department should remind themselves of the charter under which the park was formed and has its status – the park was bequeathed for the benefit of the people of Kettering. A camping shop is not for the benefit of Kettering residents and noise continuing past 11 pm is not in the interest of Kettering residents either, especially those who live close to the park. We shall be writing to the Trust themselves to express our anger at this proposal and if necessary ask the charity commission to consider if the Park is in breach.

Further, Wickstead Park when they made their original application for a camping ground over ten years ago (at a meeting of over 100 local residents, council members, local politicians and the press) gave firm assurances that the park would not undertake any attempt to expand the activities of the camping ground. I note that at that time most of the proposals that park made were rejected precisely on the grounds of nuisance to local residents and the foundation upon which the park was formed. The park is now deliberately breaking assurances made to local residents and the council - the features that prevented their application over ten years ago have, if anything, increased in importance.

Finally, I am concerned that the necessary notices were not placed in public view – the majority of local residents did not see the notice and were distressed once informed of the proposals. I urge the authority to check that the necessary public notice of an application was issued – this feels like a deliberate attempt to push a license variation through without letting residents be aware of an application being made! With respect I trust that the licensing authority will not allow this to happen especially as they are aware of the huge public protests 10 years ago against Wickstead Park's proposals then which were ultimately not allowed. I have every faith that the Licensing authority will ensure that the public have a chance to voice their concerns and that these genuine, reasonable and valid concerns will be listened to.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jose de Barros', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.