



26 July 2023

RE: Grafham Water Centre application for a premises license July 2023 (number unknown, please see attached photo of notice displayed at watersports shed). Previous notice ID in 2022 was: 11197063

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to re-register our objection to the application for a premises license by Anglian Water Services Ltd for Grafham Water Visitor Centre, Marlow Car Park, PE28 0BH.

The basis for this opposition is that granting a license for these premises will not promote the licensing objectives, particularly:

- 1) Prevention of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
- 2) Public safety
- 3) Prevention of public nuisance
- 4) Protection of children from harm

The Grafham Water, Marlow car park is already a busy site where successful visitor attractions are located including a Café, new mini golf course, playground, cycle shop, Rumble Live Action Gaming, wild swimming sessions and watersports hire. In addition, Anglian Water already hold multiple events at this location including Triathlons, Duathlons, Swim-Run, Outdoor plays, running events, Segway, Easter Egg hunts. The majority of these events are held during the daytime and within the normal opening hours of the car park, which is roughly from about an hour after dawn until an hour before dusk and no later than 8pm. Where these events end within the normal car park opening hours, respite is given to not only local residents in the neighbouring properties on Buckden Road and nearby villages of Grafham and Perry, but also the local wildlife at what is a site of special scientific interest.

The success of these attractions has noticeably increased visitor numbers. On days that major events are also held, cars can be queuing in excess of half a mile to enter the car park and despite parking for 500 cars, cars are also left parked on the verges along the road exacerbating queues and compromising road safety in a 60mph speed zone. This often causes a public nuisance to local residents trying to access homes in Grafham village and the nine residential properties along Buckden Road.

As long-term local residents we have had prior experience of late-night events held at the location including a wedding, occasional late-night parties held at the Aqua Park in 2022 and a series of marquees and food stalls recently put up for corporate events. The associated loud music from the wedding, the noisy generator at the corporate events (sited on the service road bordering residential

properties) and the Aqua Park parties were also commented on by friends residing in Grafham and Perry – the noise travelling over the water. Last summer teenagers from Aqua Park parties were witnessed walking down the middle of Buckden Road late at night, making excessive noise before racing off in their cars which had been parked on the verges. Such experiences are evidence that any events licensed should never be allowed to continue beyond the current car park closing time, in order to allow time for visitors to leave in a quiet and orderly fashion to prevent anti-social behaviour or causing a public nuisance to residents and wildlife. Such a closing time will also help to maintain public safety as visitors will be leaving during daylight hours and the roads will be free of cars parked on the verges before nightfall, thereby posing less danger to other road users.

The selling of alcohol in or close to a family café sited next door to a children's playground and family activities also potentially increases the risk of harm to children and I would question whether selling of alcohol at the venue is appropriate.

In general, we are supportive of family and sporting events at Grafham, but object to the idea that other events (with the availability of alcohol from Friday-Sunday) will become a regular occurrence and run all day and into the night, all year round, without any consideration to the public nuisance it causes to local residents or wildlife. Considering that the majority of events are held in the summer, the current quota for temporary licenses should not be increased by the granting of a full license.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.