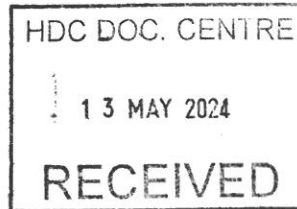


Huntingdonshire District Council Licensing
Section
Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street
Huntingdon
Cambs
PE29 3TN



Re: Objection to Local Premises Licence for Priory Park

Dear Sirs,

I would like to raise a strong objection to the notice made by Mr Benjamin Michael Pitt for the regular playing of music and other performances in Priory park in St. Neots.

I do so with the following points:

- a) As our property overlooks the park we will be forced to endure the music and noise from these events whether we like it or not. As summer approaches and we have the windows open, the noise will be amplified. The fact that you, the Council have endorsed this, means you are therefore approving of our lives being blighted by noise and do not care.
- b) The fact these events are proposed to happen every Saturday, Sunday and any Bank Holidays that come along. To last all day and to go on into the night-just what are we, the residents supposed to do.
- c) There is no mention of just what he is proposing to set up. Is it a portacabin? Or tents or a semi-permanent platform? If you approve this for him, there will be a precedence of such events and all and sundry will apply.
- d) Toilet facilities: I know there are some at the car park end, but will these be adequate and if not, will he be putting in Portaloos? Where do they go?
- e) Food and drink facilities: Will there be more cabins and food trucks on the site? This will lead to the grass being turned into mud, and damage done. It is not a quick fix.
- f) Litter: There is an atrocious amount of litter and mess about this town already and we are doing our bit by picking up discarded litter when we see it. Who will be picking up the inevitable mess?
- g) Parking: This is a huge concern. Every weekend during the football season, or whatever event is on in the park, Huntingdon Road becomes grid locked with stationary cars.. Because you have painted Double Yellows down Priory Hill to stop railway users parking there for the day, you have also stopped the football cars from parking there at weekends. Or anybody else who may want to use the park. So, the problem is pushed to Huntingdon Road. A road that is narrower than Priory Hill. I have notified Cambs County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and St. Neots Town Councils of this over a period of years now because we have the scenario of Priory

Park attendees parking all along Huntingdon Road, from the Roundabouts solid until it goes past the Park entrance and there just is no room for anyone to move. No passing points, nothing. I have seen buses stuck, ambulances and HGV's stationary. Tempers get frayed so you then get horns sounding and irate people shouting etc. There have been numerous occasions where cars are damaged and wing mirrors broken as the drivers try and get moving. You have 3 lanes of traffic trying to move along Huntingdon Road yet no one is able to move.

- h) I took my formal complaint to stage 2 with HDC in 2021, with Neil Sloper. It also went to Sharon Piper at CCC in Nov 2021 and my original letter went to Helen Lack in Oct 2021, who is the Parks and Open Spaces Manager!! Here I escalated it to Stage 2 with Loiuise Sboui. I also had letters to Steve Cox and Tracy Elwood. If you are interested, I hope they are still on file. If not, I have all the correspondence here at home.

So, what do people do? They drive on the paths and pavements. As you can see, I have enclosed several photos of cars driving on the pavement and the 3 lanes of traffic. I even have several of idiots doing 3 point turns in all this mess and there was even one driver who thought it perfectly acceptable to drive from our driveway, to the roundabout at the bottom of Priory Hill on the pavement. Roughly 200yds or so. I have the photo! Surely you can see the extent of the grid lock?

There is no thought or care if there are women with buggies, the elderly or infirm, these people drive on the pavements. I have even been hit by a wing mirror by someone driving on the path in front of our house. I was there with my walking stick, yet it made not a jot of difference. People were so fed up with the stand still, they did what they could to get out of it!! I have enclosed photos of the road when it is stationary. This is what happens when there is something on in the park. It happens every week during the football season and whenever there is an event on. Now, either the Council does not know this happens, or worse, you do but turn a blind eye? I have been telling various Councils for years now that this happens, right under your nose, yet nothing happens to rectify the mess. Surely you do not think this is acceptable? Because, it continues to happen, and will do if this event is granted.

We will have both Saturdays and Sundays and any Bank Holidays, for the better part of 9 plus hours each day with this mess.

The fact is, this never used to happen. It is only since you have painted those double yellows that this happens every week during the football season, and when there is an event on in the park.

THIS IS JUST NOT ACCEPTABLE OR SAFE.

As mentioned in a letter from Helen Lack who works for yourselves, she stated to me on November 2021 " For all events which are held on HDC owned land, we require an application form to be completed with details of how the events are going to be managed.....and stated that arrangements would be made for parking at Longsands School and Priory Junior School..... Can you therefore confirm that Mr Pitt has made that application and the Police have been informed. Because parking on the highway is the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council and the Police. However, I have never seen parking at these schools when there are events on because people do not want to walk to events and I suspect arrangements were never made to get them to park at these schools in the first place.

It is actually an offence to drive on the pavements. But, because of what has happened along Priory Hill, you have pushed the problem to Huntingdon Road. The police have seemed to have turned a blind eye to all this, because no one in their right mind would think this is acceptable, yet they will not, when we have an accident or a Ambulance or Fire engine cannot move because they are stuck in 3 lanes of traffic along Huntingdon Road!!

Just how is this acceptable when a main road is allowed to get snarled up?? A event such as this should not be allowed at this site. Every weekend, for two whole days at least, week in week out for months? There are too many wrongs here. This will significantly affect and blight our lives and all those who live along Huntingdon Road.

We also have the scenario of not being able to get in and out of our drive safely when the road is grid locked. After all my letters to the relevant councils, I was told that my only option when this all flares up, is to call the Police, so maybe that might have to happen.

So, just where are all these people going to park their cars? God forbid they park in the park and turn the grass into mud. Again, the damage takes months to repair.

- i) Damage to the park: I see it time and time again. Every weekend during the football season. People park along Huntingdon Road and rather than use the correct and proper Park entrances, they go down the ditch alongside the road where they have parked their car, and use any vegetation as a means to pull themselves up and push their way through the vegetation. The result is some branches and shrubs snapped in two, saplings are broken, others get up rooted, others are trampled on and damage is done week in week out. Nature cannot repair itself quick enough and what was once a beautiful jewel in St Neots crown is very fast looking unloved and a trampled mess. This needs to be stopped to allow saplings etc to grow.
- j) Damage to the grass if it is wet. If these events are to happen every weekend for an undisclosed duration, the grass will become a quagmire, be churred up.
- k) How it is okay for a few to damage what is there for all the people of St. Neots? I do not want this event, nor think the Park is the correct place for such an event. To have noise pollution every weekend for an undisclosed duration, approved by our council is wrong. As the Council, you have to work and care for everyone. Surely you cannot think noise pollution is acceptable??

As a last message. I am registered Disabled and more often than not go to bed early as I simply need to rest, lay down and lay quietly. Obviously during the summer we have the windows open. I think it outrageously rude, offensive and unfair that you are expecting me and others like me, to put up with the noise and disturbance from these whole weekend events, for an unspecified duration, just because someone wants to play a bit of music or have some dancers or performers on a stage. Priory Park is not the place for that. I do not expect my Council to encourage noise pollution and make a nuisance of itself.

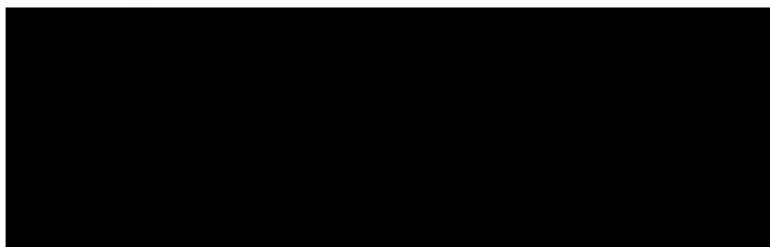
So, I do not think this Licence should be granted. There are just too many wrongs, unknowns and great damage done for just a few.

What is even more worrying is that I neither saw this in the local paper: an article talking about it and asking for thoughts. Nor was there any fliers or Council letters asking for thoughts. It was all hush hush and done on the quiet. A few bits of paper pinned to a tree, when I do not go to the park is not good enough. It appears Mr Pitt wanted to keep it all quiet.

Thankfully, the residents around the Park are horrified at this idea and are rallying about. This should not be allowed to happen for all of us.

I have defended this park for 25years now. It is a beauty: a real gem in the towns' arsenal. Please do not allow this. The park is ok for a once weekly football game lasting a few hours, (although as stated, the parking is totally unacceptable) but there are better places in the town if all weekender gigs and performances are wanted. The Riverside Park has ample parking, and is a more central site. It has more than enough hard standing, not to mention shops and food outlets nearer. Why can it not go there? Or what about The Common. Plenty of parking there and nearer to the town with all its shops and amenities too?

You, as the Council have ruined our High Street and the Market Square. Please, I beg you, do not ruin the glorious park. St. Neots does not have much more to give.











P.T.O.



This Asda van, nor the red car in front
were parked. They were driving along the
pavement.