

APPENDIX E

Representations

Objections to Bygrave Plantation Variation – 29 Received Application 18669 LC/2701

Dear Sirs,

I wish to object to the above noted licence variation for the following reasons.

Public safety

Bygrave Road leading to Ashwell Road in Lower Bygrave is a very narrow road with limited passing places. The sheer volume of vehicles attending events on the Farr land during 2024, and the unfamiliarity that the persons attending have with the road, made any attempt to cycle up or down the hill extremely dangerous. It is worth noting that the proposed new road layouts to accommodate the new houses in this area are specifically designed to encourage more people to walk or cycle. An increase in events on the Farr land is in direct conflict with this objective.

During the Cereals event in 2024 there was some attempt at traffic management by placing 'No Waiting' cones along Ashwell Road. This proved to be completely ineffective as the locals parked their cars on the road anyway. The result of this when facing a bumper-to-bumper stream of cars coming up the hill, made it impossible to get past when attempting to travel towards Baldock.

Those attempting to take children to school or to catch a train ended up being late.

These situations lead to a great deal of frustration and an increase in the volume of the traffic will inevitably lead to Road Traffic Collisions.

Public Nuisance

The junction at the bottom of Bygrave Road where it joins the A507 is busy almost throughout the day with the normal flow of traffic entering and leaving Baldock. Increasing the volume of traffic to accommodate events of 25,000 people would require significant changes to traffic management. Events of this magnitude require their own dedicated access facilities designed to minimise the public nuisance to local users.

As a resident of Wedon Way, the option to turn right towards Ashwell and Upper Bygrave is all but removed during the opening and closing of large Farr events. The flow of traffic continues for several hours. The alternative to turn left to travel towards Baldock is prevented by cars parked on the side of Ashwell Road and the continual flow of traffic towards Ashwell.

Yours faithfully,

Colin Masterson

32 Wedon Way, Bygrave, Baldock, SG7 5DX

We would like it recorded that we object to the increased Licence Application as above.

We live in Ashwell and in the past have been affected by the residual noise from the events held in Bygrave woods in the summer evenings and consider this proposed increased use will only add to the unacceptable situation.

Traffic in Ashwell has increased over the years and the High Street continues to be a bottleneck. The additional amount of vehicles requiring access to the music festival site from the A505/A507 will make the situation worse – the extended application MUST be rejected.

We support relatives in their objections, who live in Bygrave and have been affected by noise, traffic, vulnerability etc. etc. in previous years and despite phone calls to the organisers/police on a telephone number supplied, to report a 'situation' no action has been taken.

The current Licence Application must be rejected and the original one seriously reviewed.

Jill and Chris Powell

10 Green Lane, Ashwell Baldock SG7 5LW

Dear North Herts

Ashwell Parish Council has informed me of the current application to change the licence which has been made made by Bygrave Woods. I have complained in the past about the public nuisance caused by the excessive noise until 04:00 in the morning. This venue is totally unsuited for the activities taking place.

I live at a house called Next Odsey, Station Road, Ashwell (SG7 5RW). The lie of the land protects Ashwell Village from most of the noise (lucky for them) because Ash Hill is in the way. The sound is directed instead towards Odsey.

I hope you will use this opportunity to revoke the licence all together.

Best wishes

Ian (Thomas)

Next Odsey, Station Road, Ashwell SG7 5RW

I would like to object to this extension on the grounds of nuisance and safety.

The amount of traffic is already high on what is in places a single track road with no footpath. There are a number of people who regularly walk along this road and cycle, particularly children going to and from school.

When people attend these events there are a number of them that also walk along the roads as there is no all weather footpaths to either Baldock and Ashwell and the events always attract a large number of vehicle movements along these narrow roads.

Also I understand that the current license rules are not being adhered to and I believe that the number of events is too high for such a rural area.

Paul Sinclair

314 Wedon Way, Bygrave, SG7 5DX

CONCERNS REGARDING FESTIVALS AT BYGRAVE WOODS AND RESULTING OBJECTION TO THE LICENCE EXTENSION.

We are writing to express our concerns about the festivals held in Bygrave woods and to raise our OBJECTION to the licence extension requested.

As local residents, Steve and Grietje Brenner, 76 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, we have observed a number of serious issues during past events that have affected our quality of life and the safety of our community.

We would like to bring these issues to your attention as they highlight that the current situation is totally unacceptable. Therefore a further extension to the licence would lead to a major deterioration of life in our community.

NOISE POLLUTION: the level of noise generated by the festivals, particularly late into the night and early hours of the morning (currently until 6 AM on Friday and Saturday) is excessive and extremely disruptive to local residents! To reduce it to 4AM still means that we won't get much sleep! According to licensing regulations the noise after 11 pm should be such that we can sleep with windows open for ventilation. This is definitely not the case and many sleepless nights have been had. Also the noise levels are such that during the day that we can not enjoy our gardens or meet with friends and family at home as we won't be able to hold a conversation with them due to the NOISE!

TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY: the increase in traffic for these events is massive. During the cereals event earlier this year there was a constant traffic jam on the road from Baldock, through lower and upper Bygrave and onto the event. The small country roads around Bygrave can not cope with this volume of traffic. The congestion leads to unsafe driving conditions and a greater

risk of accidents. Also it is quite common to see people who are going to or leaving the festival walk along the road in the dark. There is no footpath and they are at risk of being hit by traffic.

RECENT LACK OF SUFFICIENT NOTIFICATION: the two most recent festivals, Brockwood and Amafest were booked at very short notice because the local authorities for the proposed locations refused permission following concerns raised about their impact on the local communities. Bygrave residents had two weeks notice instead of the three months stated in the licensing regulations. This resulted in local people having to consider cancelling their plans due to noise concerns or making plans to be away from the village.

THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE: the festivals often attract individuals engaged in illegal or anti social behaviour. We have seen evidence of drugs being sold to both festival attendees and local young people. Needles and canisters for helium were found in the gutters in upper Bygrave. Also people try to get to the festival via illegal routes crossing the fields in the dark with torches which is frightening for residents who live immediately next to the site. There have been occurrences where people have wandered into gardens at night. We have witnessed evidence of people defecating on the tracks around the festival site.

Given the nature of all the problems mentioned we consider it totally unacceptable to extend the license further to include four massive events of up to 24,999 people. We would urge the North Herts District Council licensing authority to refuse the licence extension and to impose stricter conditions on events such as proper noise restrictions, traffic management plans, enhanced security and clearer and timely communication with local residents so they fall within the legal framework for such events.

IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THE FESTIVALS TAKE PLACE ON A SITE WHICH IS ONLY A VERY SHORT DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE!

From Steve & Grietje Brenner - Bygrave Residents

76 Ashwell Road, Bygrave SG7 5EA

Please find attached a note setting out our objection to the application (no 18699) to vary Premises Licence (no 2701) for Bygrave Plantation and our support for the recent application made by Bygrave Parish Council for this licence to be reviewed.

Kind regards

Julie and James Colegrave

74 Ashwell Road, Bygrave

Premises Licence 2701 for Bygrave Plantation

Introduction

We are writing to object to application no. 18669 to vary the Premises Licence no. 2701 for Bygrave Plantation

We set out supporting details below. Objection to application no. 18699 We understand that the Licence Holder has applied to increase the number and capacity of events which it is permitted to hold each year for in excess of 7,500 people, from one event for between 7,500 and 14,999 people to four events, each for between 7,500 and 24,999 people. Festivals and other events held at the premises are already significantly, and adversely, impacting on our lives. We believe that this would become even worse if the application to vary the licence were granted. Therefore, we wish to object to the proposed variation in the strongest terms.

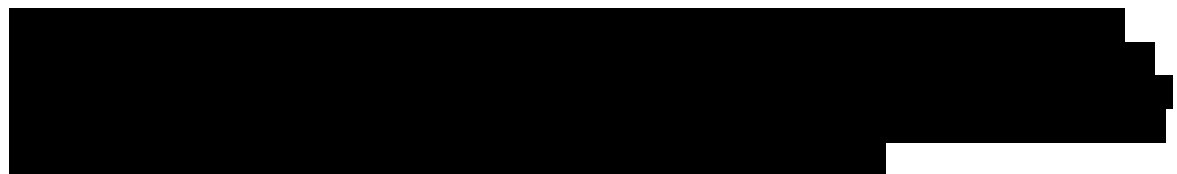
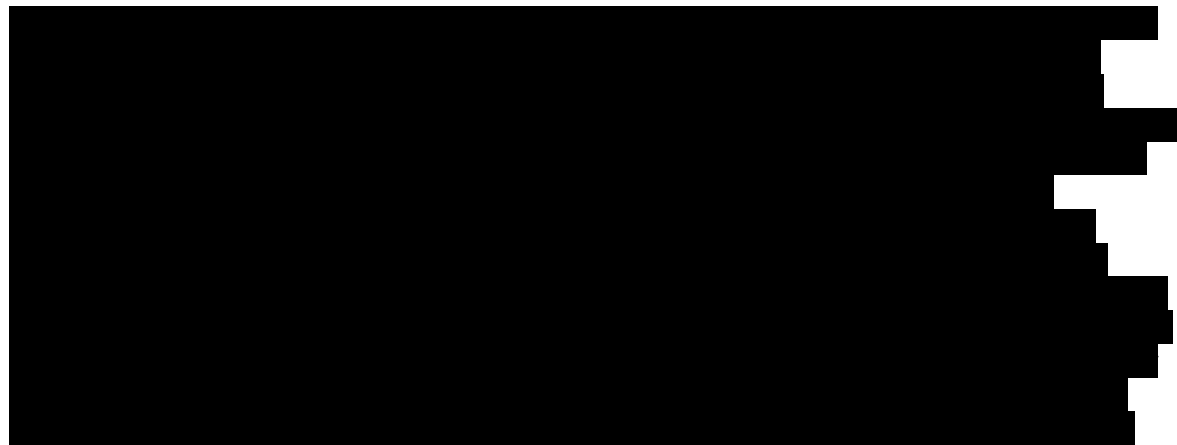
Most (if not all) of the issues that we have to endure would be expected to increase if there were more people in attendance at the events. We set out below details of some of these issues.

Traffic

The road between Baldock and Ashwell is used for festival traffic. This is a narrow country lane with a number of blind bends and many stretches of the road being wide enough for just one vehicle. There is also a weight limit of 7.5T except for loading. This road is entirely unsuitable for the volume of traffic already associated with events at the premises; never mind materially increasing the volume by increasing capacity.

For the Cereals UK 2024 event, we understand that the organisers were expecting between 6,000 and 8,000 attendees on each of the two event days. The traffic on these days was bumper to bumper at times on the road through Bygrave. The proposed variation would see potentially over four times the number of people attending the premises than for the Cereals event. Bygrave Road (and Ashwell Road) simply cannot cope with that level of traffic. There is only one road to and through Bygrave; it is not only inconvenient for villagers to get stuck in traffic but could have tragic consequences if there were an emergency.

The public bridleway running alongside Cat Ditch forms part of the traffic route for festivals and events; traffic which includes SUVs, caravans, coaches and HGVs. This is extremely dangerous and should not be permitted.



The majority of people attending the festivals and events come from outside the immediate area. With no easy access by public transport, many opt to drive. These are people who are unfamiliar with these roads and, possibly, inexperienced in driving on country roads in general. This is a safety issue; the vast majority of serious road traffic accidents occur on country roads.

Anti-social and criminal behaviour

We already experience anti-social and criminal behaviour in and around our village during the festivals. This includes drugs (dealing and using), public urination and defecation, fighting, trespassing and littering. It would be reasonable to assume that increased numbers of festival goers would lead to increased incidents of anti-social and criminal behaviour.

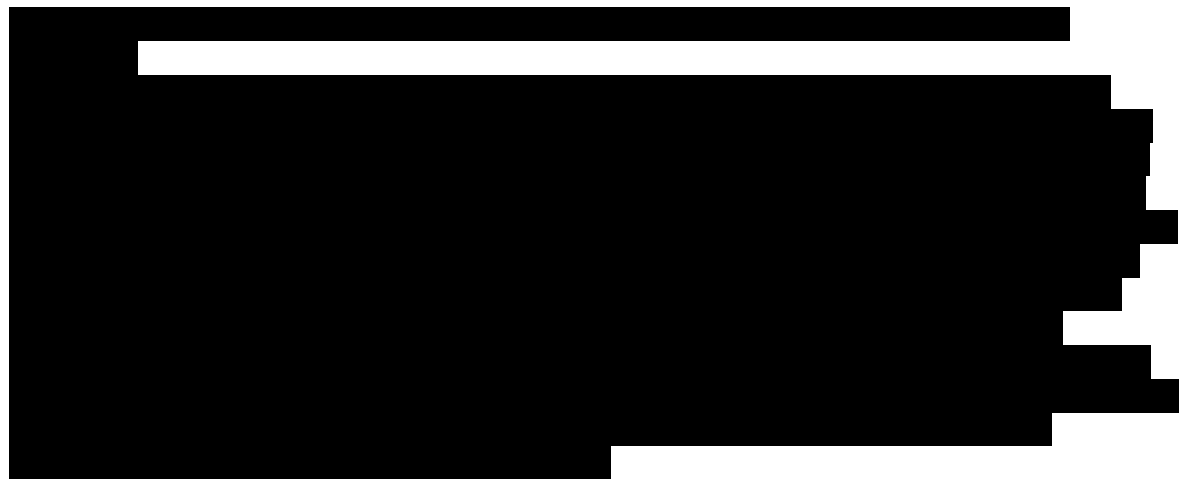
On this point, we would like to register our concerns over the security arrangements for the festivals which we consider to be wholly inadequate. The security of the people living in Bygrave village should be considered as well as that of the festival goers. For example, when, after a previous festival, the village was mobbed by thousands of festival goers, urinating in the village and trespassing in gardens, as they walked to Baldock station late at night along an unlit road, there was no security presence in the village, despite being requested by at least one frightened villager.

Noise

Noise is already a significant issue and constitutes a breach of the Licensing Objective of prevention of public nuisance.

When we complained about the music noise at this year's Brockwood Festival, we were told that they were addressing the issue and that it didn't need to be noisy, as there weren't many people attending. The inference here was that if more people were attending, the music noise levels would have been (even) higher.

As well as music noise, there is also noise from people at the festival (for example, the hosts and the tannoy system), noise from traffic (which continues throughout the night) and noise from festival goers as they move to and from the event site (including using undesignated routes, such as across the fields). Noise from each of these sources would be expected to be higher if there were more people in attendance.



We would expect that this significant change of use of the neighbouring field (which was previously used for growing arable crops) would be taken into account when considering this application for a licence variation [redacted]

Increase in numbers

Whilst the Licence Holder currently has permission to host one event each year for between 7,500 and 13,999 people, we do not believe they have hosted any events which have come close to the top end of the permitted capacity. Our understanding, from discussions with the Licence Holder, is that the largest event to date was Electric Woodlands 2021 with around 9,000 attendees. This was an event which caused innumerable issues for Bygrave villagers; issues which were raised with the Licence Holder.

Past events have typically had a capacity of a few thousand.

As we suffer unacceptable impacts from festivals for a few thousand people, we are extremely concerned at the thought of the problems we would endure if 25,000 people were to attend.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Next steps We would be happy to provide further information or clarification, as required. We would also be happy to attend a public hearing to consider these matters.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

James and Julie Colegrave
74 Ashwell Road, Bygrave 21 December 2024

We already suffer the consequences of these events as they cause a public nuisance, after the events many people walk both at the front and rear of our property heading towards Baldock, and we have had people enter our garden. During such times we feel very uneasy, unsafe and feel the need to be on guard to protect against potential crime and disorder, along with the noise and public nuisance this causes. The thought of more events catering for up to 25,000 people is unthinkable on the small village of Bygrave. I request that this licensing amendment request is seriously reconsidered and not extended in the manner set out here.

Clive Laing
57 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, Herts SG7 5DY

I wish to formally object to the proposed extension of the licence for events at Bygrave Plantation, which would increase the maximum number of attendees from 7,500 to 25,000 for four events each year. The request to increase the numbers significantly raises the likelihood of potential negative impact on the local community. My objections are based on the following grounds:

The current licence already leads to substantial disruption to the lives of local residents. An increase in capacity to 25,000 people will exacerbate this nuisance significantly.

The noise levels from events, including music and crowd activity, and unacceptable language from the comperes, are often intolerable, especially during late-night hours. This is detrimental to residents' quality of life, particularly for families with young children, the elderly, and those who work early shifts. Extending the licence would further erode the peaceful enjoyment of our homes.

The existing events have already caused considerable traffic congestion in the area, with insufficient infrastructure to handle the current capacity. An increase to 25,000 attendees would overwhelm narrow local roads, leading to gridlock and delays. Emergency services access may also be compromised during these periods of high congestion.

Residents of Bygrave have already reported a significant number of instances of antisocial behaviour, such as public drunkenness, drug use, public urination and defecation, littering, and vandalism. Increasing the number of attendees will likely escalate these problems, causing further distress and requiring additional resources from overstretched law enforcement and community services.

There has already been a lack of effective communication and liaison between the organisers and local residents regarding previous events. Complaints about noise nuisance and other issues have often gone unanswered or unaddressed, demonstrating a disregard for the concerns of the community. We would at the very least expect clear directives on noise mitigation measures, clear communication channels, and a dedicated liaison framework, but the absence of such processes in previous (smaller) events leaves us with little confidence in the organiser's capabilities.

Although I appreciate the potential benefits of festivals and similar events, these must be balanced against the rights and well-being of local residents. The proposed increase to 25,000 attendees is disproportionate and would result in significant negative impacts on the community, and accordingly I strongly urge the review bodies to reject this application.

Cllr Nigel Whittle
38 Wedon Way, Lower Bygrave, Baldock SG7 5DX

We strongly object to this proposal to vary the current licence. These events cause considerable disruption to the village and the proposed increase in the number of people that can attend to 25,000 for up to four events each year is totally unacceptable and will further exacerbate the current issues caused by these events for local residents.

There are already many challenges when events take place which have been repeatedly reported to the event hotline and NHDC. These include traffic congestion; excessive noise levels causing sleep disturbance (including having to keep windows closed during hot summer nights); inadequate security fencing (which enables attendees to gain access via other routes across farmland and residential areas); parking and drug use in residential areas; excessive litter and antisocial behaviour.

For example, we have previously reported extensive human fouling along the bridleway which runs alongside these premises; we have witnessed drug dealing directly outside our home; and been woken at nights by attendees in our garden trying to find their way to these events.

Given the existing grave concerns and bad experiences of local residents which have not been adequately addressed, it is unjustifiable to propose a more than threefold increase in capacity. In the past we have even left our home, despite the increased risks to security during these events, and found alternative accommodation for the duration of events. However more recently, there has even been insufficient notice of events to enable us to make such alternative arrangements! I do hope that you will take these issues into account when considering this application to vary the current licence.

Jon and Jan Bowyer
75 Ashwell Road Bygrave Baldock SG7 5EB

Problems under the existing licence can only increase proportionately with increased numbers and frequency. Recent events have caused traffic congestion, and hazards on the narrow roads. Also drug dealing, litter and urination in Wedon Way, Bygrave. It would be better to decrease, not increase frequencies.

David Eagle
23 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 5DT

I object to this variance in the licence for events held in Bygrave Woods, increasing the numbers of permitted attendees for the 4 stated events. This is of a number of accounts:

1. Prevention of Crime & Disorder & Public Nuisance.

Prior to living at my current address I lived at 62 Ashwell Road Bygrave during this time and over time on numerous occasions we had people who were either just about to enter the festival site or were leaving the site littering, urinating, and what looked very much like drug taking along Ashwell Road. Although this falls outside the festival site, there is no doubt as it only happens on festival days that the individuals were linked to the festival. NHDC has a duty of care to protect residents of North Herts. Increasing capacity will only increase the problems stated in a rural community.

2. Public Safety.

Although signage and plans are put in place to try and safely manage entrants and exiting of festival goers, this has never worked. We get many festival goers walking along single track country roads, often at night.

With an increased capacity this risk and the numbers of people will only increase. It's been shown that the EMP maybe in place but the reality is people ignore the plan and it is not enforced at the current capacity. It's unsafe to allow bigger crowds and more people wandering around country roads for days. Lets not take a death on NHDC's watch to ensure public safety is secured.

3. Noise Nuisance.

We currently experience noise from the music at these festivals. This last summer I complained twice and outside of a holding email received absolutely no response from NHDC. One complaint was based around the word Fuck being used in its many derivatives across Bygrave , Newnham, Baldock & Ashwell for an hour (9-10pm) . The extra noise from huge crowds of 30,000 people will only exacerbate the noise nuisance that Bygrave currently experiences.

I sincerely hope that common sense prevails and the requested changes are wholly rejected. There should be no increase in capacity whatsoever as current levels of attendance cannot and are not being handled or are they appropriate for a small rural village environment and road system around Bygrave or Newnham.

sincerely

mark goddard

The Moat House, Church Street, Bygrave SG7 5EF

Good afternoon, please see attached our objection to the variation of the licence.

Kind regards

Karen Clark

Parish Clerk

Bygrave Parish Council - objection to application to vary the festival licence

Bygrave Parish Council objects to the application (number 18669) by AE & WA Farr Ltd to vary their premises licence for Bygrave Plantation (Licence Number 2701).

We were made aware, by a member of the Parish, of a notice on the Licence Holder's land of their application to vary their Premises Licence. The notice stated that the proposed change was a (slight) reduction in the hours of operation permitted. However, we are now aware, having managed to locate the application on NHC's website, that the application is also to significantly increase the number and capacity of large events permitted. We would have expected this to have been stated on the notice and, therefore, question whether notice has been properly served.

Currently, the licence permits the holding of unlimited events for up to 7,500 people and one event each year for between 7,500 and 14,999 people. The Licence Holder has applied to be permitted to hold four events each year for between 7,500 and 24,999 people; plus unlimited events for up to 7,500 people. We object in the strongest terms to this proposed variation in the licence.

Events held under the current licence have, over the years, caused significant issues for villagers and, despite numerous attempts to resolve these issues with the Licence Holder, the problems continue. [REDACTED]

The severity and frequency of many of the problems that the events cause for villagers are directly related to the number of people attending an event. In general, the more people that attend an event; the greater the problems. Consequently, the significant adverse impacts on Bygrave villagers' lives that events held under the licence already cause would

be made even worse if the application to permit four events each year for between 7,500 and 24,999 were granted.

Set out below are brief details of the problems which we expect to become more severe with increased numbers of people events attending events.

- noise nuisance - music and other noise at the event site; traffic noise (vehicle noise, music and horns); and rowdy festival goers in the village, often late at night, will all be even greater than currently. These issues constitute a breach of the following Licensing Objectives: prevention of public nuisance and prevention of harm to children.
- Traffic issues - too many vehicles and, depending on the event, too large vehicles for a narrow country lane; and speeding vehicles. These issues constitute a breach of all four Licensing Objectives.
- criminal activity including drug use and supply. These issues constitute a breach of the following Licensing Objective: prevention of crime and disorder)
 - anti-social behaviour including littering; public urination and defecation; fights in the village, loitering in the village; and trespassing are all expected to increase. These issues constitute a breach of all four Licensing Objectives.

We are concerned that the increase in severity of problems caused by events at the site might be even more than might be implied by the increase in numbers. For example, the road through Bygrave was bumper to bumper at times during the Cereals UK event held this year. We understand that the expectation was for between 6,000 and 8,000 people to attend on each day of that particular event. The proposal now would see attendees numbers potentially over four times these numbers! The road simply cannot cope with that volume of traffic. This also creates a significant danger - the road through Bygrave (from Baldock to Ashwell), which is used for event traffic, is in poor condition and is largely single lane with a number of blind bends. It is widely known that the vast majority of serious road traffic accidents occur on country roads.

We would also like to make the observation that running a festival for a few thousand people, which is generally the capacity of festivals at this site, is very different to successfully running a festival for 25,000 people. Unfortunately, our view of the capability of the Licence Holder and their agents (based on experience of the festivals and events to date) to successfully run even small events is far from positive. We have seen no evidence of their willingness or ability to address the problems, never mind achieve the step up required to successfully and safely run very large events.

As well as applying to increase the number of very large events held each year and the maximum permitted number of attendees at these events, the Licence Holder has applied to slightly reduce the hours of operation. We have no objection to this aspect of their application. However, we wish to point out that the minimal reduction in hours of operation would have little positive impact on villagers' experience of the events. For clarity, it would

not offset the additional harm that would be caused by an increase in numbers attending the events which has also been applied for by the Licence Holder.

Bygrave Parish Council

<p>Councillors</p> <p>Philip Hills 60 Ashwell Road, Bygrave SG7 5EA</p> <p>James Northern Manor Farm, Bygrave Baldock SG7 5EE</p> <p>Claire Phipps (Mortlock) 66 Ashwell Road, Bygrave SG7 5EA</p> <p>Nigel Whittle 38 Wedon Way, Lower Bygrave, Baldock SG7 5DX</p> <p>Ray Ferry 76 Ashwell Road, Upper Bygrave Baldock SG7 5EA</p>	<p>Clerk to the Council</p> <p>Mrs K Clark 73 Brookfield Way Lower Cambourne Cambridgeshire CB23 5EB</p>
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Dear Sir / Madam,

My comments on the proposed License Extension for festivals in Bygrave Woods can be found in the attached pdf file.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr Andrew JT Wheen

25 Wedon Way, Bygrave Baldock SG7 5DX

Application No: 18669 to Vary Premises License 2701

Objection to the Proposed License Extension for Festivals in Bygrave Woods Based on recent experience, increasing the number and permitted size of festivals in Bygrave Woods would have serious implications in relation to each of the four Licensing Objectives. Some of my concerns are set out below:

1. The prevention of crime and disorder At a recent public meeting in Bygrave, many local residents complained about criminality and antisocial behaviour during festivals in Bygrave Woods. This behaviour is often linked to alcohol and/or illegal drugs. Some events attract significant numbers of people who do not have tickets. Even if these people fail to get into the festival site, they still cause problems in the area around the site with litter and defecation.
2. Public safety The roads linking the festival site to Baldock Station and the A1 (Bygrave Road and Ashwell Road) are barely wide enough for two cars to pass. If busses are laid on from the station, then they cause serious traffic problems because cars coming in the opposite direction are often unable to pass them. If busses are not laid on, then there will be large numbers of people walking on narrow roads with no pavements. This is particularly dangerous at night because there are no street lights. The access roads to Bygrave Woods are totally unsuitable for the volume of traffic generated by festivals. During the CEREALS event last summer, I encountered a stationary traffic jam that extended all the way from Baldock to the bus shelter in Lower Bygrave.
3. Prevention of public nuisance Experience over the last few years suggests that almost any event will create an intolerable level of noise in Upper Bygrave. Even events that are

not primarily music-based have constant PA announcements. This noise is much too loud to be blocked out by closing windows, so sleep is simply not possible for many local residents until the PA is turned off. The situation becomes even more unpleasant on warm summer evenings when windows have to be left open for ventilation. For these reasons, permitting live or recorded music to be played on Thursday nights until 1am, and on Friday and Saturday nights until 4am, would impose an unreasonable public nuisance on the long-suffering local residents – particularly those who have to work on Fridays or Saturdays.

4. Protection of children from harm Children and young people generally require more sleep than adults, and are just as likely as adults to be kept awake by loud noise. Furthermore, most young people have to go to school on Fridays during term time. If they are being kept awake until 4am on a regular basis, then their education will suffer. During previous festivals in Bygrave, I understand that drug paraphernalia has been found around the site, and that drug-dealing has even been seen on the street in Upper Bygrave. It appears that this is something that the festival organisers cannot or will not prevent. This is a very real concern to parents in the village.

I understand that the Brockwood and AMAFEST festivals were only held in Bygrave this year because the local authorities in the proposed locations (Winchester and Hounslow) refused permission following concerns raised about the impact on their local communities. Since Hounslow is 57 miles from Bygrave while Winchester is 100 miles from Bygrave, it is clear that Bygrave's current licensing is already sufficiently liberal to attract festivals from a very wide area. Further relaxing the licensing restrictions could attract festivals from even further afield. Given the serious problems that the residents of Bygrave have experienced under the existing licensing regime in relation to all four of the Licensing Objectives, further relaxation would be completely inappropriate.

Dr Andrew Wheen 29 th December 2024

25 Wedon Way, Bygrave Baldock SG7 5DX

We wish to object to the increase in the number of large festivals that can be held in the Bygrave Woods. We have not objected or complained about the traffic, noise or litter before because we can accept this once a year, but 4 times a year is not acceptable.

When we sit in our garden we can clearly hear the noise from the festival and the announcements and people shouting and this continues later into the evening when we are in bed and the windows are closed.

Access to the site is via country lanes which are not suited to large volumes of traffic, in the past the road outside our house has been used as a drop off and pick up point which causes chaos. We have also had to clear up rubbish and small gas cylinders from our property which is not pleasant.

We were also shocked to find out that there could be unlimited events for up to 7,500 people. Please could this be reviewed as it could potentially make life unbearable as the site is across the field from our house.

We hope that you consider our comments and reject the application.

Nickolas and Susan Welch

73 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, SG7 5EB

As a resident of Bygrave I am writing to express your concerns regarding the above Application.

I understand that the current licence allows unlimited events for up to 7,500 people plus one annual event for between 7,500- 15,000 persons.

However this application is looking to increase the maximum attendance to 25,000 for as many as four such events each year along with unlimited events for up to 7,500 people.

This number of events does not seem consistent to licensing rules.

I cannot see how our local infrastructure can accommodate this and the increased traffic volumes this will bring.

Already the mile stretch of Ashwell Road which becomes Bygrave Road as it leads into Baldock is already in an atrocious state any repairs never seem to last that long. Having to navigate the continuous potholes makes driving and passing continuously hazardous in the narrow roadway, heavy vehicles and farm traffic just add to this.

One agricultural event under the current licence this Summer found traffic backed all the way from Baldock (Great North Road junction) to Bygrave as this show exited and this is not at the capacity now being considered.

Although living in the 'lower' part of Bygrave residents in the 'top' part of the village have to contend with noise into the small hours, have experienced drug dealing and other elements of anti-social behaviour outside their properties with event organisers doing little to address when reported to them.

The concerns that I have raised under the terms of the current licence can only increase should the proposed application go ahead.

So therefore I do hope you can take my views into consideration.

Kind Regards,

Ron Austin,

7 Ashwell Road, Bygrave SG7 5DT

Ruth Briercliffe

69 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, SG7 5DZ

Application 18669 to vary Premises Licence 2701

Dear Sir or Madam

We are writing to object to further extension of the licence to hold festivals in Bygrave Woods, **as well to object to the situation as is, in the hope that the present licence is revoked.**

At present there is no opportunity for crime prevention, public safety, nuisance prevention or the protection of children from harm.

We suggest that there is no need at all for the festival traffic to come through Bygrave, as there are ample routes on and off Fars farm without ever using Ashwell Road. The Fars farm has recently made up its farm roads making access easy from all sides.

The present route out through both upper and lower Bygrave, is narrow with sharp bends and where it goes through the residential areas on Ashwell Road, lots of pedestrian's with children, pushchairs, disabled neighbours, find the huge amount of extra traffic a severe danger, also dogwalkers, horse riders and cyclists, are unable to safely use the ancient right of way past the site either side and during the festival, due to heavy traffic delivering huge amounts of festival gear.

When the festival is setup and running it is impossible to ride a horse safely past it. I have ridden my ponies round Bygrave all my life and would like to continue for the rest of it. We feel uncomfortable walking, riding or cycling the public rights of way due to patrolling security guards looking for gate crashers.

We find it alarming that the extensive drug taking and consumption of alcohol by young people presents a danger to life, as it would take the emergency services too long, to get to the festival site to prevent death in case of overdose fire or accident. With regard to drug dealing, due to the multiple routes off the farm, the police have been unable to attend to it. Making crime prevention impossible. The overall effect to residents is of malevolence due to greed and avarice.

We would also like to point out that, as we who live on Ashwell Road had no idea how this licence became as extensive as is now, due to the public viewing of the last application being on farm land,

not in a public position in our village, Upper and lower Bygrave, where the vast majority of residents affected live. We missed seeing it, displayed, as well as the opportunity to say no more or bigger festivals. We would have been happy with small festivals as they were to start with, no more than a few thousand, family events, they got much too big for public safety years ago.

All the festivals cause a public nuisance in that the noise is unbearably insistent for hours, for days, several stages at the same time make listening horrendous, a constant pain in the head, we are unable to sleep on hot nights with the windows open. Children are woken up by the music and the traffic and drunken yelling. The people attending don't live in the country so they chuck their rubbish out of the car windows as they leave for us Bygrave residents to pickup.

We object to the present previous extension to the license, please review it, with a view to revoke it, as well as very strongly objecting to any further extension.

Yours Sincerely

Ruth Briercliffe (and family)

69 Ashwell Road Bygrave
SG7 5DZ

LICENCING AUTHORITY North Herts Council

Sirs

Application (number 18669) by AE & WA Farr Ltd to vary their premises licence for Bygrave Plantation (Licence Number 2701).

I wish to object to the varying of the above licence by AE & WA Farr Ltd.

Firstly it is outrageous that a notice of this import to the village of Bygrave is displayed in the middle of a field AND over Christmas/New Year period giving short notice to make comment

I understand that the current licence gives the applicant permission for any number of events of up to 7500 attendees. To request four events each year for between 7,500 and 25,000 attendees plus associated stalls and entertainment etc and any number of events up to 7,500 attendees is not acceptable and unreasonable when neighbours are inconvenienced and disturbed.

I understand that the criteria are

- The prevention of crime and disorder.
- public safety.
- the prevention of public nuisance.
- the protection of children from harm.

Previous festivals have contravened all the above and the increase of size and number will only exacerbate the issues.

1 Crime and disorder

We are aware that there is drug taking at events as we have seen the silver canisters strewn locally both on public footpaths and Ashwell Road. This is not acceptable for local people with youngsters or pets

2 Public Safety.

The festivals consistently use the Ashwell Road to take traffic away from site. We keep saying that our road is not suitable for a sudden wave of vehicles and

_____ particularly by people who are unaware of the vagaries of this road and cause chaos to local people going about their business.

During The Cereals Festival Ashwell Road residents endured 6 days 8am to 8pm of articulated lorries going past both directions in addition to the attendees in their cars, vans, trucks.

Why was HCC highways not consulted?

The outlet onto Ashwell Road is via a bridalway/footpath which should not be used for vehicles. The outlet onto Ashwell Road is on a blind bend. There has been a Marshall on this bend to control traffic but it is obvious he has had no formal training.

3 Prevention of Public Nuisance

Although the finish times have been reduced from 6am to 4am this will have little impact on Bygrave. Although we are told sound checks take place this is done by a member of the festival team, which is ineffective so in summer with windows open and wind in Bygrave direction and undulating ground sleep is compromised. Sound checks need to be by an independent company arranged by NHC.

The last festival someone was allowed the microphone and proceeded to use foul language totally unacceptable anyway and particularly as we have young families in the Village

Limited notice is given that festivals are to take place

Festivals allowed where other Councils have not given permission

4 Protection of children from harm

There is little in terms of protection of young people when they leave events. Whatever their medical state there is no help or guidance from Marshalls. They have no idea which way to turn on Ashwell Road which is a dangerous road with no footpaths or street lighting and right angle bends until they reach Baldock. We have helped guide them as has our neighbours. Surely the festivals have a duty of care even after people have left site

I fully support the stance taken by Bygrave Parish Council in their submission.

Philip Hills/Jacquiline Sorrell
60 Ashwell Road Bygrave Hertfordshire SG4 9NP

Having lived in Bygrave for more than 40 years, this application is incompatible with rural life on the grounds that the following matters will be an ongoing issue for the villagers (especially those on the Ashwell Road):

Increase in crime and disorder

Impact on public safety, especially due to traffic

Noise, litter, anti-social behaviour, drug dealing/taking, security problems etc

Impact on the local children, especially relating to the school run.

Professor Michael Kirby
30 Wedon Way, Bygrave SG7 5DX

I would like to register my objection to the proposed extension of the license application number 18669 regarding events held in Bygrave Woods. The increase in attendees to 25,000 from 7,500 will inevitably increase the number of antisocial incidents that have been reported at previous events - high noise levels, litter, defecation, swearing - all to the detriment of local residents, whose previous complaints at the time of these festivals, using the phone numbers supplied beforehand, seem to have been largely disregarded. I am also very concerned about the increase in traffic down the narrow Baldock/Ashwell Road, our only means of access to Baldock and Ashwell. For much of the road there is no footpath, so any cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders, who all use the road, would be at considerable risk with the substantial levels of traffic on festival days. Even more worrying is the possible restriction of access for Emergency services. It is unacceptable that the

enjoyment of the people at these events should be impacting the local community so negatively, especially exposing children to harm, and this would be considerably exacerbated with the substantial increase in numbers of attendees.

Liz Meissner
38 Wedon Way, Bygrave, Baldock SG7 5DX

This site is in any case an inappropriate site for any major event of the nature proposed by the applicants. When there is currently a large event under their existing licence, the noise traffic and anti social behaviour is considerable. To triple the existing numbers to attend would lead to absolute mayhem in the very small village of Bygrave and the surrounding villages. Traffic is already horrendous and any further numbers would be uncontrollable. By nature the sound would also be vastly louder to add to the huge disturbance the larger events cause. Finally it seems much too premature to increase or change numbers in the existing licence when the whole licence is up for review imminently

Andrew Young
43 Ashwell Road, Bygrave Herts SG7 5DT

Music can be heard even in lower Bygrave causing loss of sleep. Bygrave Road is a narrow country lane with no footpath or streetlights. It is dangerous for anyone walking on the road in the dark. It is also not suitable for the amount of traffic that will be generated by this number of attendees. It is already difficult without this extra anticipated number of attendees.

Penny Young
43 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, Baldock SG7 5DT

Please can we have more consideration given to the traffic issues caused by large events on this site. I use the road daily due to children being at Ashwell School and KTS. Junction of North Road with Bygrave Road is not capable of supporting large lorries - on 14th June 2024 I turned into the junction from North Road to be met by two large lorries coming down from the site - the junction has a slight bend and several cars parked on one side meaning you cannot get through. I note that the next day improvements had been made by coning off etc. But why was this not thought through beforehand?

Road is not suitable for large volumes of traffic.

On 12th June at 3pm I was trying to get to my sons pick up from Ashwell School and was caught behind queuing traffic as traffic was leaving the site from the access at cat ditch. As there isn't enough space for cars to pass along side each other so the road traffic had to stop to allow cars through. Luckily the attendees from the cereals event had land rover type cars and were able to mount the verges in order to get past. There were some 10 land rovers that needed to crawl past like this (I have photos if needed). I don't know what would have happened if the cereal attendees had ordinary cars. I was late to collect my son from school.

Entrances to the site.

Why was the bend at cat ditch used for vehicle access into the site. This is a blind bend to turn left from site and as you approach from Ashwell. I note that during event it was managed with traffic lights. BUT during set up and set down it wasn't. On a return trip from Ashwell I was very nearly hit when a site work man left the site in his mini to park up in the dip opposite. Luckily I was aware that site work man were setting up (as I'd been past on my way to school) so I had approached slowly. There were no signs or warnings for anyone else. It could very easily resulted in an accident. On a return from Baldock on 11th June I was met by a queue of traffic that stretched from the junction of North Road all the way up to Lower Bygrave. The road is not ideal for passing being narrow in places and the road sides full of pot holes. It took considerable time to get home.

I don't object to having festivals but I do object to increasing the number of attendees as the local roads clearly can't manage. The residents of Bygrave had to use the road as our only means of access to any amenities including schools and work. Not enough has been done in the past to manage traffic from the smaller events. Please can the organisers be made to keep the local roads safe for those of us that live here.

Maria Hilling
28 Wedon Way, Bygrave Baldock, SG7 5DX

I would like to object to this licence variation. During the last few years the music events and other events have impacted the very small residential area which is adjacent to the land where these take place. The festivals emit very loud noise which impacts sleeping and to increase the hours of the licence would just make this even more unbearable for residents. Everyone needs to sleep and to maybe have 3 or 4 weekends in the summer, when you would expect to enjoy your garden, to be holed up with the windows of your house shut to keep out the noise is unacceptable. This variation could mean that there could be events at any time of the year, all year round. The roads surrounding the area are narrow, sometimes only one car can drive past and this creates bottlenecks. Getting out of the village going towards Baldock is bad enough any day of the week but this makes it many times worse. Last year one of the events meant that Baldock Railway Station car park was closed due to safety reasons as so many people were coming in to attend a music event. This meant that I had to park away from the station. Having been to London that day by train I arrived back at midnight. As a single woman at that time of night, it is not acceptable that I can't park my car near to the trains and had to walk much further away to get back to my car. It is not acceptable that the car park station was shut for this purpose and locals have to find other, less safe, alternatives. Bygrave is a very small village, with only approximately 200 villagers. Music festivals and other events bring in many more times that number into a place which is not built to hold events of this kind. When they happen there are cones down the very narrow roads, lots more traffic, which the roads cannot accommodate, and the noise and litter is terrible. This variance of application is asking for events to have up to 25,000 people attending. Seriously, this very rural area cannot accommodate such numbers or the noise, traffic and litter this would bring.

Alison Adams
313 Wedon Way, Bygrave, Herts SG7 5DX

Dear North Hertfordshire District Council

I am writing to oppose the change in licence for festivals held at Bygrave Woods. I am a mother of a young toddler and am frequently worried about the increase in vehicles and antisocial behaviour outside our house during these periods. We have had occurrences with people walking around the village in the early hours of the morning shouting, and have previously heard arguments and a physical fight outside our property-I was too scared to address this due to looking after my son (who had been woken multiple times from the noise) but this was resolved by one of the people arguing getting into their car and driving away.

My partner spent time cleaning up drug paraphernalia from underneath the hedges, along with litter that was distributed by festival goers along the public footpaths that run behind the houses. I am mainly worried about my son coming to harm with the increase in anti social behaviour.

I feel as though the stated increase incapacity would exacerbate many of these issues

Kindest regards

Anna Jones and Luke Briercliffe-Dron
69 Ashwell Road, Bygrave SG7 5DZ

Objection to application 18669 to vary licence 2701 "Bygrave Plantation"
Cllr Tom Tyson, Arbury Ward

There are three areas of concern:

1. The current licence allows an unlimited number of events with a capacity of up to 7499 and one up to 14,999 per year. The variation seeks to allow an additional four events with a capacity of up to 24,999.
2. The variation seeks to increase the licensed area by an unspecified amount.
3. The cumulative impact of the existing licence and the proposed variations.

1. Increased capacity

It is not stated whether the four new events are to be single-day or multi-day events: a serious omission as the responsible authorities and residents need to know what the licence would actually cover.

The local road network consists of two rural lanes to/from the site – via the villages of Bygrave and Newnham. Neither road is suitable for the additional weight of traffic this variation would generate. There is next to no public transport in this area.

The Bygrave route would involve traffic sharing the Bygrave 013 Bridleway to access the event site. No event traffic should be allowed to use a bridleway (also a public footpath and cycle track). Egress would be via a right turn into Claybush Road on a blind bend.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There is no safe or reasonable way of transporting 25,000 festival-goers in and out of Bygrave all at once.

On the Newnham side, the road is also unsafe for the weight of traffic the variation would introduce. It is narrow through the village with blind bends. There is no footway on the north-western side of Ashwell Road, making it dangerous to emerge on foot from the houses to cross the road, even without the additional event traffic.

One of the suggestions to mitigate the traffic problem caused by large-scale events is the use of shuttle buses to and from the site. Environmentally, this would be a good idea. North Herts Council's Statement of Licensing Policy G10.4, part of its response to the declaration of a climate emergency, says:

"With many large-scale events taking place in remote locations, transport to and from the site by car can produce significant carbon emissions from exhaust fumes. The Council will expect an applicant/licence holder to encourage environmentally friendly transport for example, discounted parking for ultra-low emission vehicles, and/or reduce vehicle numbers by encouraging car sharing or use of the railway network with shuttle buses." However, using buses is not feasible in this rural location with its narrow lanes. With 500 coaches x 50 passengers required to transport all 25,000 attendees to and from the site there would be mayhem on the rural road network as well as at the local train stations, none of which have the capacity for these kinds of vehicle movements.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The use of the site under the present conditions already generates huge amounts of vehicle traffic; increasing the capacity to 24,999 for up to four more events [REDACTED] as well as magnifying the safety risk and public nuisance.

2. Increased area

There is confusion about the application to extend the licensed area. There is a plan (attached here as Appendix 1), which the applicants tell me shows the area after the variation. There is no scale to the plan to give a true idea of the size of the area proposed.

[REDACTED] The attached plan indicates three points marked "Entrance". One of these is clearly on Bridleway Bygrave 013, which the applicants say will not be used as an

access to the site. The plan is cut off so the full extent of the route along the bridleway to Claybush Road cannot be seen, but the intention does seem to be to use the bridleway for event traffic.

the fact that a public right of way goes right across the proposed event site, so the variation

3. Cumulative impact

The addition of up to four events with a capacity of 24,999 on top of the already unrestricted number of events for up to 7499 attendees is unwarranted.

It would compound the already heavy burden placed infrastructure by the current licence. It would increase the harm to small businesses and diminish the quality of life of residents in the vicinity of the site. The variation should be refused on the grounds of the cumulative impact the additional events would have on local residents and businesses.

Cllr Tom Tyson

61 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, SG7 5DZ

Dear Sir,

I would like to voice my concerns over the application by the Farris to change the licence covering the use of Bygrave Woods for multiple / unlimited festivals.

As a resident of Bygrave for 40 plus years, we have experienced increased traffic on the road between Baldock and Bygrave. I am concerned that the increased traffic would present a hazard for both pedestrians and motor traffic if a festival for 25,000 people were to take place. The lane is very narrow and there is no footpath or street lighting. There are also high verges and ditches which make it difficult to get off of the road quickly. If one were under the influence of alcohol or drugs, this would make it even more difficult. A young man was killed in recent years when he stumbled into the road between Baldock and the Stotfold service station, even though there was a pavement.

At present, even with smaller numbers attending the festivals, we have experienced taxis driving to and from in the early hours of the morning (all night in fact) and people walking and wandering throughout the village and even into my garden. If a car approaches you in the lane between Baldock and Bygrave from the opposite direction at night, it is very difficult to see and there would be a high risk of a pedestrian being injured or worse.

The large numbers of people would require a lot of supervision/policing to prevent a very serious accident occurring. Attendees would still be walking to and from the festival even if busses and taxis are arranged. It has been my experience that many more people usually turn up for large organised events than the actual number of tickets sold.

I hope that when dealing with this application, you will consider the safety aspects as well as the very serious and obvious nuisance and environmental concerns.

Thank you.

Pat Pett

6 Ashwell Road, Bygrave SG7 5EB

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed variations to the licence conditions for 2701 on Farr Land. These changes, if approved, would likely exacerbate the existing issues faced by the local community and compromise public safety, noise management, and overall quality of life.

Key Concerns:

Frequency and Scale of Events

Increasing the flexibility for large-scale events risks overwhelming local infrastructure and services. The limit of four events per year with capacities exceeding 7,500 attendees provides some balance between economic benefits and community impact. Allowing changes to this frequency could result in additional strain on emergency services, traffic management, and local amenities.

Event Notification Timelines

The proposal to allow for shorter notification periods undermines the ability of local authorities and residents to adequately prepare for events. A six-month notification period for large-scale events is crucial for effective coordination between stakeholders. Reducing this timeline or allowing "late notice" events introduces unnecessary risk and increases the likelihood of operational and logistical failures.

Noise and Disturbance

The current restrictions help mitigate the noise impact of large-scale events on residents. Variations to licensable activity timings would prolong disruptive periods and disturb the peace, particularly in late hours when residents expect quiet. Extended hours exacerbate sleep deprivation and create long-term health and well-being issues.

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Reducing the time to finalise and agree upon the Event Management Plan (EMP) compromises safety. A robust, finalised EMP ensures thorough risk assessment and preparedness for medical emergencies, crowd control, and other contingencies. The 28-day deadline is already a tight window; any reduction or leniency in this timeframe could jeopardise public safety.

Community Impact

The festival site has a history of causing disruption, including traffic congestion, littering, noise complaints, and public disorder. Approving this variation would not address these existing issues but instead potentially amplify them. Residents deserve to see improvements in these areas, not increased disturbances.

Conclusion

I strongly urge the licensing committee to reject this variation request. Maintaining the existing conditions is essential to balance the needs of the event organisers with the rights of the local community to live in a safe, peaceful, and well-managed environment.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Katie Kelly
77 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, Herts SG7 5EB

I am writing as a resident of Bygrave to formally object to the licence variation request submitted. While the village appreciates the entrepreneurial spirit of local businesses, this request raises several concerns that adversely affect our community, infrastructure, and environment.

1. Impact on Local Infrastructure

Bygrave and the surrounding areas lack the infrastructure to support events of this scale. Current events already cause significant congestion on narrow country roads, making them impassable for residents and emergency vehicles. An increase in attendees will exacerbate this issue, posing safety risks and disrupting daily life. Additionally, the local waste management systems are insufficient for handling the volume of litter and refuse generated by these events. Previous events have resulted in litter along village roads and in private gardens, creating an environmental hazard and burdening residents with clean up efforts.

2. Noise Pollution

The noise levels from events at Bygrave Woods already exceed acceptable limits, particularly during late-night hours. This disrupts the quality of life for residents, many of whom include families with young children and elderly individuals. Expanding the scale and frequency of these events will intensify this issue, causing further disturbance.

3. Environmental Concerns

Bygrave Woods and its surrounding fields are home to diverse wildlife and form part of a fragile ecosystem. Hosting larger-scale events with more attendees increases the risk of environmental degradation, including damage to local flora and fauna.

4. Impact on Community Character

Bygrave is a small, peaceful village with a strong sense of community. Large-scale events undermine the character of the area, attracting substantial transient populations and disrupting the tranquillity that defines village life. The proposal to increase the frequency and size of these events will further erode this unique aspect of Bygrave. While we acknowledge the economic benefits that such events may bring, the proposed increase in event size and frequency comes at too high a cost to the residents, environment, and infrastructure of Bygrave.

We respectfully request that the council reject the licence variation request and consider the long-term impact on our community when making its decision. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am happy to provide further evidence or participate in any discussions to ensure our concerns are addressed.

David Kelly
77 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, Baldock, Herts SG7 5EB

We the undersigned, as residents of Bygrave village, wish to oppose the requested amendment of the licence for additional events at Bygrave Wood. The current events at this location already impose unacceptable levels of noise, disruption and safety risks to the community of Bygrave, which would be greatly exacerbated by the proposed extension.

The current events held on this site already generate considerable noise for local residents, going on into and through the nights, taking away our enjoyment and peace in our homes. The volume of traffic passing through our village, on extremely narrow residential roads, both vehicular and pedestrian, is both highly disruptive and threatening to safe access to our homes, as well as posing safety risks to our cars parked on the road and driveways. Litter from the several thousands of people passing our homes, and hanging around in the surrounding fields, includes drugs, canisters and excrement. There has been open drug dealing and consumption in the street, with no police presence or control from the event organisers.

The proposed licence extensions would only exacerbate these issues, many of which represent serious risks of crime and public safety beyond the public nuisance and loss of amenity to our community and homes. The licence extension is according unacceptable and in breach of the current conditions, and we urge that it be refused.

Signed,

Michael and Jayne Boxall
59 Ashwell Road, Bygrave. SG7 5DY