

Representation 1

7/08/17

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To the licensing Dept.

Re. Variation of license as Saints

I feel now is the time make an objection to the latest proposals.

Late night noise has always been an on going issue and after many complaints over the years they still carry on regardless.

Most of my neighbors won't complain because they think its a waste of time, but I feel its time to voice our disapproval because of the later hours involved.

Some time after this new stadium was built the noisy events started because the bars are directly facing our homes (about 100m).

five metres away, over the wall
The saints staff go home at
normal times leaving these events
to take their course and normally
apologising if a complaint is made
but doing very little about it.

I sometimes wonder how these people
would feel if the noise was outside
their homes.

As the saints strive to make even
more money they seem to forget
we have to live here to, or perhaps
they don't care what happens over the
wall.

I do feel granting them ever
more licence would result in
misery for the locals.

Yours sincerely
B. Brown

Representation 2

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to lodge my strong objection of the plans by Northampton Rugby Football Club Ltd, to amend the variation of their Premises Licence. As local residents, who live directly opposite the venue I can say that we already suffer from enough disruption and annoyance when any music event is held. If I can refer to the Northampton Saints last game of the season on the 26th May 2017, they held what was advertised as an 'end of season party', but which turned out to be a 'rave' party which continued on very late past midnight, indeed until 2am. This 'party' included a lot of very loud bass music, and loud revellers. And I would say, this party was probably not attended by many Northampton Saints rugby fans. On top of these occasions, we usually have the emptying of bottles into recycling containers after any usual 'Saints' evening entertainment (which usually occurs after 1am!!).

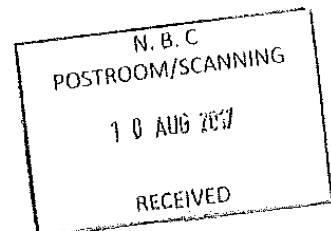
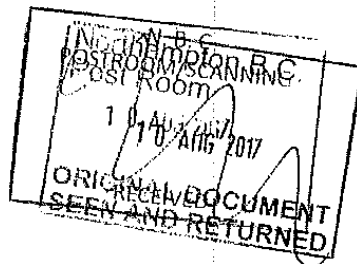
After moving into the area I was aware of the rugby fixtures and occasional functions, such as Christmas parties, however I feel that a licence until 11pm is sufficient in this highly populated residential area of Northampton.

But, what they are proposing is that they can have entertainment on any night of the week that they choose. But, I think the main point here is that Northampton Saints are a Rugby Football club and NOT a nightclub or music venue.

Hence, my strong objection to the application that Northampton Rugby Football Club Ltd have applied for.

Regards

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Sent: 25 August 2017 11:41

To: Licensing <licensing@northampton.gov.uk>

Cc: Louise Faulkner <lfaulkner@northampton.gov.uk>

Subject: Fw: Saints Rugby Club Licence Application - FAO Louise Faulkner Ref: PL0663

FAO: Louise Faulkner

I am responding to your letter dated 16th August 2017, reference PL0663.

The further concerns I have about the licence application are as follows:

Noise levels

Public disorder

Litter & Pollution

I am concerned that there are no mandatory restrictions surrounding the limitation to the number of indoor events. In reality the sound from outdoor events (such as the outside 80's concert in 2015) is fairly minimal, as is the noise from the rugby matches that take place. The issue with noise levels are where previous indoor music and entertainment events have the doors open so the sound carries more and there is noise from the attendees staying outside for periods of time while the event is taking place. Additionally there is noise from when attendees leave, the noise from individual tends to be louder and more raucous, and where attendees do not leave on foot you will have the noise from cars being started up after 2am in the morning. I have serious concerns about the excessive licensing hours which will attract anti-social behaviour and noise caused by alcohol consumption and do not wish that on the local residents of St James. On another note, my previous letter refers to the "end of season" rave party held in May and had I know then the Saints were planning this application I would have complained about the excessive noise and disruption at the time.

I am also concerned that local takeaways will be open later to accommodate the late opening hours, this may produce yet more litter in the area. Also the area is prone to high levels of pollution and opening for more events will see pollution levels rise in the area.

St James is a residential area and should be kept that way. I understand that the Saints do not wish to have to apply for a licence each time they wish to hold an event or a wedding reception but would argue that a blanket licence covering every single day and until 2am in the morning is unreasonable. If the Saints restricted the licence application for alcohol, food and entertainment (indoor events) to midnight for limited days such as Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 10pm on a Sunday I believe this to be more acceptable compromise to the local residents. I do not believe this would detract from the Saints offering to hold events and functions and bookings would still be made as most venues tend to close at midnight, which I believe is a reasonable time in a residential location. Additionally if a restriction was placed on the number of indoor events held each year this would equally reassure local residents. I would also support a restriction on the times when clearing up of the venue takes place, for example the emptying of bottles into the outside bins, this is an ongoing issue and causes load crashing noises.

Northampton Chronicle has reported that the Saints aim is not to hold additional events on days when rugby is played, the rugby season is quite short with many away games held and I have concerns that events (inc rugby) will be held every single weekend and the local residents of St James would be subject to continuous sleepless nights, inebriated people on the streets, anti-social behaviour and additional litter.

I also have a concern about the increase of street parking at these events, presently the local council do not properly monitor the illegal parking on match days where cars are in 2 hour parking bays far longer.

I am also at a loss why there has been no local engagement by the Saints, the adjoining residential properties in Melbourne were not even informed directly by letter, and indeed it took a few days before any notices were actually placed in Melbourne Road. I for one saw the notice in the Saints car park adjacent to the training pitches.

I note that a dispersal plan has already been agreed with the police, why has there not been a local consultation with residents and businesses in the area ? This is an application which will have a serious impact on local residents and the quality of their living conditions if it is granted by the council.

Finally, apart from the reasons and my objections above, living next to a permanent entertainment venue will ultimately impact on the ability to sell property in the area and attract a reduction in the value of property. I moved into this street understanding that the Saints Rugby Club was very much a club that supported the sport of rugby and the rugby fans, without the aim of becoming a 24/7 entertainment club/nightclub/concert venue.

I hope this follow up letter is treated as a valid representation and I would welcome the opportunity to attend a hearing on the Saints application.

[REDACTED]

Representation 3

Sent: 27 August 2017 12:20

To: Licensing <licensing@northampton.gov.uk>;

Subject: Objection to application number 052666 Northampton Rugby Club

To whom it may concern

Re: Licensing Act 2003 – Objection to application number 052666 Northampton Rugby Club

We wish to object to the variation on the grounds of:

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Prevention Crime and Disorder

We are residents of [REDACTED] Road since 1991 and have experienced an ever growing problem with late night noise and law and order problems which has become exasperated since the new stadium facing Melbourne Road was built, more so now than the previous nightclub produced. This is now and will cause a substantial and unreasonable interference to our comfort and convenience. The new building that faces Melbourne Road was not acoustically designed to keep music or noise in effectively, there is no Acoustic barrier, Mass loaded Vinyl application or substantial barrier in place. There are fire doors required for the emergency exit in the event of an evacuation that face Melbourne Road. To my knowledge the original application when built, stated that the fire doors will be kept closed at all times and only the main entrance used for access and egress. An argument backed up by the use of the air conditioning in the building for reason to keep them closed at night.

However, this has not been the case. More recently, these emergency exit doors have been used as the main entrance for “tribute nights”. Where they have been “dressed up” (Neon lights) to be the main entrance so queues have formed and doormen on the door.



The view from the main bedroom showing the glass emergency exits that are constantly open or open frequently for access and egress late at night. Any talking, shouting or internal noise from music is literally outside the bedroom window. Events are also carried out in this car park area in the daytime and at night whilst the clearing of trade show material goes on long into the early hours.

Unfortunately with the advent of the smoking ban the doors became common access and egress for the public to smoke externally. Every time the doors open the noise level substantially increases that it actually drowns out the TV. It has made the front upper bedrooms unusable by the majority who live in Melbourne Road due to the noise level that enters the bedroom areas, far in excess of 50db.

The 8 houses that face the venue were built in 1956 and have solid walls with no cavity, hanging tile bay windows that have only a 100mm brick construction, the ceilings to the bay windows only having a plasterboard construction below the tile roof at the eaves and no access to further insulate from noise without substantial costs.

The area between the two properties traps noise and gives an echo effect and therefore amplifies any noise produced at night

Through due diligence I would urge that further noise tests are carried out on the design and effect of noise produced late at night from the venue and measured from within the properties itself before a decision is given on any application.

The ground outside the venue is of a block construction and I find it unacceptable that bottling out and the movement of trolleys for food etc is undertaken at up to 2am currently and the rumble across the blocks is enough to wake you after the event has been closed for over an hour and that is without the bottles being emptied into the bins creating a very loud crash. The taking down of marquees and emptying of the venue both internal and external from vendors has been known to go on until 4 am even on a Sunday night/Monday morning.

Environmental Health Noise Conditions agreed and added at Variation Application 20/05/17

2 and 3

Due to the environmental conditions of the frontage between Melbourne Road and the Rugby club, I urge that due diligence is taken and thorough noise test are carried out before the agreement of the application and that monitoring of noise levels for all events are not determined from the mixer desk but in fact externally at the boundary for **all late night events both internally and externally.**

10. a and b

Time restrictions for bottling out and associated activities are very confusing as it states for concerts?

This should be adjusted for all internal and external events including club fixtures as this is a constant annoyance! Bottling out can be carried out the following morning instead of late at night.

Fire doors / Emergency exits should also be kept closed and not used for general access, given the amount of unsuitable glazed area from these areas I would urge a more suitable sound insulating / blocking doors be fitted.

Security in and around the premises, although CCTV will be installed, the emergency exits should be alarmed when the premises are occupied so that staff are immediately notified of unauthorised opening and therefore closed immediately.

Gathering of crowds outside the venue (smoking) during a late night event should only be enabled away from the frontage due to the echo / amplified effect on the facing properties, we are fed up of people shouting, screaming, swearing and generally loud outside the bedroom window late at night.

A dedicated contact should be available at night for complaints regarding public nuisance and public disorder.

Prevention Crime and Disorder

Promoted events attract larger than usual crowds who may not be local to the area, this in turn leads to noise and people using the street as a short cut and to urinate in our gardens.

Currently when the premises licence is being utilised to provide live music, recorded music or both as the main licensable activity **outdoors**, security/stewards are in place. Security/Stewards should be in place for **both outdoor and indoor** events.

There is no police presence in the area and so anti social behaviour is rife

Please give thorough diligence on the effect and outcomes of the application being presented, it is not suitable and does not go far enough to alleviate existing problems caused to neighbours yet alone further, later events that may take place on a more regular basis.

Representation 4

Sent: 27 August 2017 23:59

To: Licensing <licensing@northampton.gov.uk>

Subject: Application 052666 which is a Variation Application for Premises Licence

Dear NBC Licensing Officer,

Re: Franklins Gardens
Weedon Road, St James, Northampton, NN5 5BQ
Application 052666 which is a Variation Application for Premises Licence

I am a resident of St James and live very close to the Weedon Road. Due to the high traffic on the Weedon Road this residential area has very few hours of peace and quiet. Extending the licence past 11pm will increase the noise and traffic, disturb the peace and would be a public nuisance.

This area has an increase of crime and anti social behaviour and I fear that alcohol being served til 2am will only add to the problems in St James.

Representation 5

-----Original Message-----

Sent: 26 August 2017 08:08

To: Licensing <licensing@northampton.gov.uk>

Subject: License application 052666

I am writing to query the licensing application. I am uncertain as to whether the classification of indoor events will include the large permanent marquee at the back of the stadium? This structure is very close to our house (approx 30ft) and is incredibly noisy when used for celebrations. At present, when this is used the noise stops at a reasonable time but if this were extended I would be very concerned about noise and behaviour control. In the past this has not always been well monitored

Representation 6

Sent: 27 August 2017 12:20

To: Licensing <licensing@northampton.gov.uk>

Subject: Saints Rugby application

To whom it may concern

We live in Melbourne Road and are writing to oppose against the Saints application for extending their license.

Wanting to extend their licence until 2.00 am means disruption beyond this time, not only the noise from people leaving, there is also consideration of the clean up afterwards, particularly the emptying of rubbish and especially glass into the main bins. The staff are not too quite with doing this.

We do not feel any consideration has been taken into account on the effect of the noise it will have on local residents.

We already have to pay for parking permit, the traffic congestion is a nightmare, people use our road as a shortcut (we have even been subject to verbal confrontation by a Saints rugby supporter suggesting we should not go out when they play at home!).

Please take the view of the residents into consideration first rather than the financial gain for the Saints.