

**1 -**

The events have been very noisy with heavy traffic on our small road, vehicle driving to the events far too fast ignoring speed limits and very dangerous!!! Loud music and shouting. Several days in a row should not be allowed. Weekday should not be allowed to go beyond 8pm. We have to get up for work and there are small children here who can't sleep due to the noise and traffic. This is a residential area and these events should be outside residential areas if run so often and so late. Rugby clubs for rugby only.

**2- Hugh Parker – Elm Cottage, Tideford, Saltash, Cornwall, PL12 5HN**

I am shortly to purchase number 47 Fulbrooke Road. The ground upon which I object is the likelihood of significant noise nuisance in what is otherwise a quiet residential area. Noise from present activities travels very widely and the increase in the number and frequency of event would cause a significant increase in disturbance.

**3 - Karen Sherlock – 45 Selwyn Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EA**

Prevention of public nuisance: 1. the site is in a quiet residential area; this application has no limit on the number of days per annum that events upto 999 persons capacity could be held. As the application is for seven days a week, hours effectively all day, the impact on residents could be excessive. 2. noise - the application is for outdoor and indoor live and recorded music, seven days a week, hours effectively all day. Even with sound levels and monitoring noise would be very intrusive - the open green spaces allow the noise to travel and make sleeping particularly for young children in the summer when windows are open very difficult. 3. the application states that existing licences will be surrendered if this application is granted. There are existing premises licences granted to private companies for the premises for large events I believe 2 x weekend and 1x single day will they continue? 4. traffic and volume of additional people in the area - people leaving the venue either on foot, by taxi or driving will often exit through residential areas, noise and disturbance to local residents is likely.

**4 -**

I dread the level of noise from these events, especially the underlying beat of the music which infiltrates every room of the house and is impossible to get away from. As a resident of over 50 years I despair of finding a way of coping while these events are taking place. I submit this under objective 3-the prevention of Public Nuisance. DO NOT publish on the Cambridge City Council website.

**5 - Jane Langley – 77 Selwyn Road, Newnham, Cambridge, CB3 9EA**

Reasons for objection: Newnham is a quiet residential area wholly unsuited to public events. Previously, we have experienced severe nuisance from very loud noise, unregulated crowds, drunkenness and fouling of local gardens. The streets cannot sustain a large volume of traffic. These events pose a serious risk.

**6 - Lynn Hieatt – 16 Grantchester Road, CB3 9ED**

I am a local resident and generally support the sporting and social events held at the Cambridge Rugby Club.

However, I OBJECT to this particular application on Public Nuisance grounds.

It represents an unreasonable escalation in the proposed number and type of events. As I understand it, if granted it effectively will allow a wide range of entertainment and events (plays, films, live music, recorded music, dance) along with the sale of alcohol on Monday-Saturday 09:00-23:00 (Sunday 10:00 – 22:00), anywhere on the whole of the Rugby Club field.

For Rugby and Rugby-related activities, the application seems to have absolutely no limit on the number or size of the events. And for non-Rugby-related events, there appears to be no limit to events with fewer than 1,000 attendees; for larger events apparently 7 of these would be allowed each year.

All of these provisions seem to me to be excessive and a strain on the local residents' good temper and the peace and calm of the neighbourhood. Already the events that are held there are generally tolerated but this escalation would cause further problems such as noise from the events themselves and the nuisance of crowds of cars and walkers, plus the seemingly inevitable litter along our road that occurs.

Surely some compromise would be possible to allow the Club to hold revenue-enhancing events without going to the excessive extent that this application seeks to do.

**7 - Lorraine Cunningham – 27 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EE**

I hereby object to the proposed licence application 288981 on the grounds that it will cause public nuisance to local residents in terms of noise and traffic congestion. I am particularly concerned that the licence application includes the option to hold non-sporting events at any time - and as often as desired - including music events and balls, which are highly disruptive to local residents in terms of noise and traffic. I would draw the Licence Officer's attention to points 4 and 5 of the Licence application. '4 – The number of days usage per annum by category: Rugby Use – No limit Small Event – No limit' No limit on small events means that

there could potentially be hundreds of events throughout the year of up to 1000 people, which would clearly have a negative impact on local residents. As a sporting venue, CRUFC is a great amenity for the community and sporting events should be welcomed. Frequent small non-sporting events - especially those with loud music and the sale of alcohol - are not appropriate for this quiet residential area. Residents in Fulbrooke Road and neighbouring streets choose to live here because it is a quiet, semi-rural area. Music events cause a great disturbance to our quality of life, particularly in the summer when trying to enjoy the garden or the quiet of indoors. Windows often need to be open for ventilation in the summer, but even with windows closed, the vibration from low frequency beats inherent in pop and dance music can still be heard and is often disturbing and unsettling, especially when played for an extended period of time. In recognition of this, the Licensing panel in January requested that additional measurements of low frequency sounds were added to the noise control measurements. Of further concern to local residents is the proposed increase in medium (up to 2500 people) and large (up to 5000 people) music events from the 3 currently licensed to 7 per year. '4 – The number of days usage per annum by category: Medium Event – 4 days per annum Large Event – 3 days per annum In January 2025, a licensing application for a 2-day medium event in July (initially 2,500 people with the option to increase to 5000 from 2026) was reduced to one day by the licensing panel in recognition of the negative effect it would have on local residents. Many objections were heard at the licence hearing from a number of concerned residents and the panel took these into account when reaching a decision to grant just one day for 2025 only. A line from the report reads: "Granting the application, as amended, would provide a balance between the commercial interests of the Applicant, the rugby club and the rights of residents." The panel was also mindful of the widely accepted Pop Code (Code of Practice for Outdoor music events) which sets guidelines of between 1 and 3 Music events in any one year for semi-urban/rural locations because of the negative cumulative effect of such events on local residents. Granting a licence for further such events not only goes against the guidelines in the CoP but would also be detrimental to the quality of life of local residents. 5 – There will be no more than 3 consecutive days use for Medium & Large Events. These periods will be at a maximum of 1 per calendar month, with a minimum of 2 clear weeks in between. Three consecutive days of loud, relentless music in June, potentially followed by another three days in July - especially pop and dance music, with its heavy bass beat - will be distressing and unpleasant for local residents during the summer months, at a time when people should be able to relax in their homes and gardens. Some context is useful here: (i) CRUFC fields is a designated sporting venue: the land was initially leased, then bought from Kings College to provide a venue for Rugby practices, matches and events. Over recent years, the club has raised funds in a number of ways beyond rugby events, including business conferences, other sporting events such as volleyball tournaments and even a Motor bike stunt event. It also continues to be a base for film crews. (ii) CRUFC is located on green belt at the edge of Newnham, adjacent to residential housing one side and flat, open fields that stretch to Grantchester on the other sides. The only access to and from the grounds is via Grantchester Road, running from Barton Road, a main road in and out of the city (to the A603 and the M11) and Grantchester, a small village, popular with locals and tourists. Grantchester Road is narrow, with parked cars reducing the traffic to single file at the Barton Road end becoming a winding country lane as it passes the Rugby

ground on the way to Grantchester. In recognition of the problems inherent in terms of traffic in and out of the CRUFC grounds, the panel in January explicitly requested a 'Temporary Traffic Restriction Order for access roads into the premises' and 'a 1-way traffic control system for the event.' (iii) There is an existing licence for 2 days to allow Live Tour Promotions (LTP) to host music festivals for 5000 people per day (Ibiza Experience and the Sausage and Cider Festival) at CRUFC grounds in June. These two days have caused very real distress for some local residents, as heard by the Licensing panel in January. (iv) Tickets for a third LTP day (Nashville) have been sold online for several months, despite no application for a Licence being applied for. (v) At least two representatives of the large music festivals run by LTP also have an interest in the medium music festival in July and, in fact, spoke on behalf of the applicant (London Road) for the proposed event at the Licence hearing in January. With this context in mind, it appears that CRUFC is seeking to secure a licence to not only replicate the current licenses for 2 days of large music events in June and one medium music event in July, but to expand them by adding one further large and three further medium festivals. Approving this licence would in effect circumvent the need for either LTP or London Road to apply for a licence for the extra days for their events, namely: - a third day for the LTP 'Nashville' event in June which has been selling tickets for months without applying for a licence - a second day for the July Cambridge Festival event (London Road was only granted a license for one day in 2025) in clear contravention of the decision of the Licence hearing panel in January who were mindful of the impact on local residents and of the CoP recommendation for no more than 3 such events per year. Approval of this licence would also negate the requirement for further applications for a licence for the Cambridge Festival beyond 2025, again, a requirement explicit in the decision made by the Licensing panel in January. In conclusion, I ask you to consider the very real negative impact on residents in this semi-rural, quiet neighbourhood of four more medium to large Music festivals and unlimited smaller events. We have no objection to the Club using its grounds to raise funds, providing it does so without causing unnecessary discomfort and disturbance to local residents; we recognise that the club has to fund its sporting activities, but we ask that they restrict these events to those which are in keeping with the intended use of the grounds and mindful of the impact on neighbours. Consideration of the impact on local residents – such as that given by the panel in January - would be very much appreciated.

**8 - Ratna Beresford – 41 Selwyn Road, Cambridge CB3 9EA**

[REDACTED]

I would like to object on the grounds of public nuisance and protection of children from harm. We found the events held last August extremely noisy. I think they were at MNL of 65dB. It was not possible to concentrate on anything or spend time in the garden or for my children to settle in the evening. The equivalent events have been moved to the 13th and 14th of June this year and my daughter has a GCSE physics paper on the Monday after that and other exams after that. So, I am desperately trying to think how to protect her from these events while she needs to be revising. I haven't been able to come up with a good solution yet. For the 5th of July event, my son will be in the middle of exams. As it seems like the rugby club is proposing to hold more than 3 events per year, it seems from the Code of

Practice on Environmental Noise Control at <https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/documents/s67880/Code%20of%20Pratice%20Noise%20Control%20at%20Concerts.pdf> that the MNL should not exceed the background noise level by more than 15 dB(A) over a 15 minute period for any of the events. In my garden, the background noise is 30dB as measured by the Decibel Meter app. I am not sure whether more than 3 events at 45dB is better than 3 events at MNL 65dB. I think both are very bad. I would like the rugby club to provide evidence of what 15dB over the background noise level would sound like before this application is considered. Also, there are events organised by Cambridge university students in the playing fields to consider. The Code of Practice above states "In locations where individuals may be affected by more than one venue, the impact of all the events should be considered." I would like the rugby club to consider this. In any case, as the rugby club have asked for unlimited small events where music can be played, it seems this is off the charts of the Code of practice as the chart in there only goes up to 12 events.. I feel this application is extremely audacious. The rugby club may have been emboldened by the application that was partially granted at the beginning of this year and I hope that the council will see this application for what it is. I understand that the rugby club might be facing financial pressures and would wish to diversify their activities. I sympathise as my family are also facing financial pressures but the difference is that we are trying to work through those without causing public nuisance. I am not aware of any attempt to advise us as residents of the intention to submit this licensing application. Our community contact was not approached by Tim Hague, Rugby Club Chairman. This appears to be completely contrary to Tim Hague's previously stated intention of engaging with residents. It is just a matter of luck that I was made aware of this on the 15th. The deadline for submitting representation is the 25th of April. I feel many residents won't be aware of this application. On my road, there many elderly, renting and young families, who even if made aware haven't got the time or knowledge of how to make a representation. There are also a few unoccupied properties. We are a small and quiet community very unprepared in dealing with what the rugby club is doing to us.

**9 - Mary Kempski 15 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge CB3 9EE**

I strongly object to a licence being granted to Cambridge Rugby Club for small events with no limit, medium events for 4 days per annum and large events for 3 days per annum. This Licence application is an enormous escalation of events taking place in a totally unsuitable location. 1. Disorder has been evident at previous events. With 5000 people leaving the event along narrow unsuitable roads this is sadly inevitable. The disorderly behaviour, noise and threatening numbers is very intimidating for residents, who cannot access their properties during this time. Crime has been an issue in the past with cars having their wing mirrors damaged. There is no police presence only stewards who have no powers. 2. Public Safety is a worrying problem where two way traffic on small roads is restricted so that emergency vehicles would not be able to reach an accident quickly enough. With cars being allowed to park in the Rugby Club this is an additional hazard to public safety. 3. With so many events possibly taking place in the year residents would be constantly impacted on weekends, with some of them

lasting all day and into the night. This means quiet summer days in the garden are totally out of the question. The noise not only comes from the events but also from cars parking, thousands of people arriving and leaving throughout the day. The Rugby Club is an unsuitable venue for these events in a residential area where there are many old people living who definitely feel threatened by the crowds and the bad behaviour. The loud noise of the music, even if kept to noise level boundaries, is invasive in the house and garden and normal life cannot continue when these events are happening. 4. There are many children who live near the Rugby Club. It is often exam time for older children and younger ones are kept awake by the loud noise of music.

**10 - Andrew Whitaker – Brook Lodge, 113 Grantchester meadows, Cambridge CB3 9JN**

[REDACTED]

I object to the granting of this licence application. I live at the junction of South Green Road and Grantchester Meadows and living where I do, I have found the volume of noise from previous live and recorded music events held by the rugby club to be excessive and therefore object on the grounds of the events representing a Public Nuisance. The sound of the events comes directly across the fields, and if the noise of the rugby club's events is excessive for me, it must be impossible for residents of Fulbrooke Road, Grantchester Road and Selwyn Road. I am supportive of the rugby club holding occasional music events to support their finances, but the scope of this application is excessive and unacceptable. It proposes no limit to the number of small non-rugby events/year (up to 999 people) which may be held each year, with no limit to the decibel volume of the music run from 9am to 11pm, 6 days/week and 10am to 10pm on Sundays, and with alcohol available for consumption from 10am to 10.30pm 6 days/week and from 10am 9.30pm on Sundays. Likewise, the frequency of 4 medium sized non-rugby events/year for 1,000-2,499 people and 3 large sized non-rugby events/year for 2,500-4,999 people is excessive and unacceptable. The scope of this application, if approved, makes it possible for the rugby club to hold events throughout the spring/summer/autumn months and prevent residents from the quiet enjoyment of their gardens throughout this period. I think that the granting of a licence should be restricted to 2 or 3 medium/large 1-day events, or one medium/large 2-day event, with no small non-rugby music events. The applicant is a rugby club, not a music promoter, and is located in the Green Belt adjacent to residential areas, where the volume and duration of live or recorded music for 14 hours is a Public Nuisance. While residents will tolerate 2-3 days of such events/year, more than this is neither reasonable nor acceptable.

**11 - Piers Brendon – 4B Millington Road, Cambridge CB3 9HP**

[REDACTED]

My wife Vyvyan and I object strongly to the Rugby Club's application on grounds of the prevention of a public nuisance. Our house in Millington Road is some distance away from the Rugby Club but when it puts on events at which amplified music is played the noise indoors is intolerable. The insistent repetitive drumbeats hammer at one's mind, making thought difficult and rest impossible. We are all for



rugby and we obviously don't object to people enjoying themselves provided they do not interfere with the enjoyment of others. Unfortunately the Rugby Club's musical events do just that, making life unbearable for the residents of an otherwise peaceful neighbourhood.

**12 - Richard Mountford – 35 Selwyn Road Cambridge CB3 9EA**

[REDACTED]

Having witnessed the Council discussions for the Rugby Club's previous application to expand its portfolio of music events, I am surprised that a further application has been put forward by the club which could result in up to 7 events per year with at least 2,499 attendees. I think a reasonable compromise was previously agreed when allowing the club to run no more than 3 music events of any significant size per year. Two things were made clear to the Council. Firstly, that the venue does not lend itself to such events, due to the narrowness of the single access road and the inability for crowds to disperse quickly and safely, by a reasonable end-time. Secondly, noise levels are a serious public nuisance to residents. The fields provide no protection from the high volumes and at recent events the noise has been difficult to cope with. As the events tend to be in the summer when windows are open, there is no escaping the disruption and the levels reaching the residential areas are equivalent to being at the event itself. Whether the event is small, medium or large, if there is amplified music involved, it is highly likely that the public nuisance from the noise will be unacceptable. I believe that the previously agreed compromise of a maximum of 3 music events per year is a fair and reasonable solution.

**13 -**

[REDACTED]

I am emailing to object to the application by Cambridge Rugby Football Club Limited (CRUFC) dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 25 for a Premises Licence to hold licensed events at their grounds at Grantchester Road.

As a resident of Fulbrooke Road, which is adjacent to the Cambridge Rugby Football Club, my strong objection is made on the following grounds:

- Creation of unacceptable public nuisance
- Unacceptable risk to public safety
- Amplifying the risk of crime and disorder to an unacceptable level

When (even the existing) large-scale events have been on in the last couple of years, we have experienced:

- i) Being unable to sit in our garden thanks to excessive noise levels, therefore trapped in our houses
- ii) Our children unable to sleep in the house due to excessive noise levels, even with windows closed
- iii) Antisocial behaviour from event attendees

- iv) Difficulty driving in and out of Fulbrooke Road due to traffic congestion

This is a clear and significant **public nuisance, and also a public safety issue**.

As an overall observation, the Cambridge Rugby Football Club is not a suitable venue for the types of events being contemplated by this application due to the Club being situated adjacent to a dense residential area, with narrow and unsuitable transport links.

We have not received any consultation documents from the Club in relation to this application.

**14 - Michael Rycroft – 35 Millington Road, Cambridge CB3 9HW**

[REDACTED]

I wish to comment on the Application in terms of non-Rugby Use.

1. My view is that the location of the Rugby Club on Grantchester Road and the facilities there are not suitable for anything other than a Small event (< 999 people), in order to maintain public safety, i.e. to maintain local road traffic - and parking - at a reasonable level.
2. In my opinion, the location is unsuitable for Outdoors Cinema, Historical Re-enactments, or Major Festivals.
3. For all events at which loudspeakers are used to play recorded or live "music", their maximum power should be constrained to a reasonable - legal, 65 dB - level, in order to prevent public nuisance and harm to children. Local residents like to enjoy time in their gardens during the summer days and evenings, without being overwhelmed by excessive noise, or a strong bass beat, which may go on for hours.

I therefore object to the extension of the licence.

**15 - Julia Allen- Manheim – 31 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge CB3 9EE**

[REDACTED]

My back garden backs on to CRUFC's ground and I am alarmed about the club's application to more than double medium (2500) to large (5000) events involving music and the sale of alcohol from 3 to 7 per year. I understand that there is an additional request for unlimited events involving up to 1000 people with no information about what form these events might take, nor how often they might actually be held, but were a licence to be granted, CRUFC could hold events for up to 1000 people with impunity as often as it wished.

These events impact on residents in various ways. The noise of amplified music is, perhaps, the worst inconvenience, because the thump, thump of the bass notes penetrates closed doors and windows and can actually be felt in the body triggering headaches or migraines, in addition to being extremely intrusive.



Excessive alcohol consumption fuels antisocial behaviour; we have had participants vomiting and urinating in our gardens. Last year's *Sausages & Cider* event created serious crowd and traffic congestion when the ground was emptying: there was some dangerous driving and even instances of residents not being able to return to their homes. This is not an area suitable for accommodating large crowds; in case of an emergency ambulances, fire engines or police vehicles would not be able to get to the scene.

I wish the Rugby Club well and understand their need to generate income but I very much hope they can do this in a way that does not have a negative impact on their near neighbours

16 - [REDACTED]

In principal, I support the Rugby Club's ambitions to find ways to supplement their income, and was appreciative of the free tickets offered to locals for last year's Ibiza event. It made an otherwise very noisy weekend a bit more pleasant. That said, I would like to object to the current licensing application on the following grounds: 3, prevention of public nuisance: The volume / noisiness of previous events has been at times unbearable. Sound travels unrestricted across the open fields into our homes and gardens. And volume is not connected to event size. I appreciate the commitment to control volume of large events, but the club is also applying for an unlimited number of small events, which can be outside, with amplified music. And these events have no obligation to keep within a specific volume. At previous events there was chaos on the streets at closing time. Cars were ignoring the stewards. Taxis were backup up for ages. Our roads were entirely blocked off. This application proposes even larger numbers, and suggest on-site parking which will make this far worse 1. prevention of crime and disorder Most of the previous larger events I am aware of at the club caused spillover issues with large, rowdy crowds filling the otherwise quiet side streets in Newnham, with reports of public urination, nuisance vandalism, and an increased risk of petty bike theft as people try to get home. This is a much bigger problem than can be addressed by adding extra urinals in the venue. It's just too small a suburb to cope with such large scale events, so close to so many family homes

17 - [REDACTED]

I object to the licence application. Grounds for objection: · the prevention of crime and disorder. · public safety. · the prevention of public nuisance. · the protection of children (and elderly) from harm. Only small rugby events should take place. Accommodating film crews are also suitable. Any other events are unsuitable especially with music and alcohol. This is a quiet residential area, housing many vulnerable elderly and children, who need a safe environment as well as eminent academics, writers and artists who require quiet for their work, in the house and garden, working in peace and quiet and going to bed early. The streets are narrow, even an event of 999 people would block the streets. If such events are allowed to occur they will inevitably result in death, from the stress of noise of loud music ,

drunken crowds and inability for emergency services to access homes in time. I personally am an artist, working from home, I go to bed at 9pm, and if I'm stressed and my sleep is disrupted I become very ill. This house has been my permanent home since 1974, my family choosing it because it is a quiet area. Not only would the planned events greatly distress the local residents but will impact the work of academics, writers and artists, whose home is here. I am shocked and deeply distressed that this licence application should even be considered. This is no Soho, or some entertaining district but is a world famous academic area. I trust that the committee will make a sensible decision, not approve the application and keep residents safe, preserve the academic excellence, and not succumb to the financial greed such selfish persons who are behind this application.

18 - [REDACTED]

Although there has not been any official consultation of those who live in the northern part of Grantchester, along The Broadway, I write to object to the proposed licence on grounds 2 and 3 (public safety and prevention of public nuisance). My wife and I live a couple of fields away from the Rugby ground and the disturbing sound of a low-frequency, heavy beat readily travels to our terraced cottage on The Broadway, and so we support our neighbours of Newnham in their objections on the ground of public nuisance. Of particular concern to us is the obstruction of the country lane that links us to the centre of Cambridge. It is the route of our sole bus service, the no. 18. When large events at the Rugby Club happen, patrons park for several hundred yards along the narrow verge of Grantchester Rd beyond the City limits. Since the verge is narrow, the parked cars constrain the metalled carriage way. It may be possible for two cars, moving cautiously, to pass one another, but it is not possible for a bus and a car to pass in opposite directions. When an event is taking place and there is continuous traffic into and out of the Rugby field, then traffic in opposite directions readily builds up behind and in front of a bus and the jam cannot be untangled without a great deal of shouting, anger and delay. At such times, it would not be possible for an emergency vehicle to access the Rugby field. In sum, the Rugby field is not suitable for large events of the kind envisaged. The access road is narrow. It opens in one direction on to suburban streets and in the other on to a narrow country lane. Above all, I emphasise that emergency vehicles, either attending an incident at the Rugby Club, or attempting to travel between Cambridge and Grantchester, could easily be trapped for 30 minutes.

19 - [REDACTED]

The application for further licensing for events at the rugby club will seriously adversely impact the community creating a public nuisance. The events they already hold are a public nuisance causing serious noise pollution, huge amounts of traffic and air pollution and crowds of people travelling through Newnham. An application for further events will increase this public nuisance.

**20 -**

too much noise litter and cars everywhere some people getting in cars when drunk to possibly drive very dangerous, litter left in our front garden beer cans etc, no respect for residents.

**21 - Sarah Payne – 65 Selwyn Road, Cambridge CB3 9EA**

Limits on number of events and decibel levels need to be imposed. Past events have been very loud. Local residents need to have an opportunity to consult on any changes to licensing conditions.

**22 - Lewis Petersen – 29 Granchester Road, Newnham, CB3 9ED**

As a resident of Grantchester Road I object to the licence application by the Cambridge Rugby Club for potential events seven days a week extending over the hours 9.00am-23.00pm except Sunday when the hours are 10.00am-22.00pm, with the sale of alcohol each day 10.00am-22.30pm Monday-Saturday and 10.00am-21.30pm Sunday. I object to this application on the grounds of prevention of crime and disorder and prevention of public nuisance. I rely on the following evidential basis for my objection: 1. Noise nuisance from amplified music at high volume: amplified music impacts the entire neighbourhood but particularly the residents of Fulbrooke Road and the western end of Grantchester Road throughout the whole time of such event on the basis of past experience. Giving the Rugby Club the ability to mount such events on each day of the week is unreasonable and will severely impact the amenity of those living in the neighbourhood, particularly Fulbrooke Road and Grantchester Road. There is no mention of permissible noise levels for any event. 2. Traffic congestion and disruption result from the sheer volume of private vehicles and taxis trying to access the venue via Grantchester Road, a residential road and the only access to the site. 3. Anti-social behaviour and lack of respect shown to residents and private property (which I accept cannot be attributed to the organisers): it was reported that a resident was assaulted during an event at this venue in 2023 and that some attendees at the 2024 event were relieving themselves in local gardens. I myself observed this happening at the entrance to a neighbour's garden across the road from my home. I note further that there is no limit on the number or size of rugby events and for non-rugby events there is no limit on the number of events provided attendees are less than 1000. For these reasons I object to this application for a licence.

**23 - Ross Harrison – 21 Millington Road, Cambridge CB3 9HW**

I wish to add support to the concern that this granting this license should be resisted on grounds of public nuisance. In doing so, I am not objecting to the



Rugby Club holding special events to raise funds. The objection, rather, is to the frequency and scale of the events included in the present application. The reason I write in addition to objections from nearer residents (whose views should be particularly respected) is that even from our house in Millington Road, which is further away, the noise of the event last summer was disruptive and disturbing. As an annual event in a good cause, this might be accepted. But to do it much more frequently at the scale suggested would take it too far to tolerate. If it was disruptive from this distance last summer, it must have been seriously unpleasant for the inhabitants in the nearer roads. I would therefore wish, on the basis of last summer's experience, to object particularly on their behalf.

**24 -**

I wish to object to this application on grounds of Public Safety and Prevention of Public Nuisance. The key point in terms of Public Safety is that no matter what arrangements the organizers put in place - I do not at all doubt their good faith in this matter - the geography of the approach to the ground makes it impossible ensure public safety when this large number of people are involved. The very narrow funnel of this stretch of Grantchester Road cannot, whatever traffic management system is put in place, cope with this influx of people and vehicles. I had a rather scary experience (and I am a former rugby player, not easily intimidated physically) attempting to get into Fulbrooke Road during one of the previous events, with crowds and vehicles backed up down Selwyn Road and Grantchester Road, and it will only be a matter of time before there is a serious accident. When that happens, the emergency services may well not be able to access the incident. In terms of Public Nuisance, it is difficult for anyone who does not live next to the ground to appreciate the invasive character of these events, especially in terms of noise. Even with the noise restrictions that are proposed in the conditions attached to this application, we shall find our living-rooms shaking with the bass beat and that the volume of noise will be quite unignorable. Up to three such events a year is the normal maximum: as residents we accept that number for the good of the Rugby Club. But this application goes well beyond that in terms of major events, and also proposes an unlimited number of so-called lesser events, the character of which is unspecified but could potentially be very disruptive. That is quite unacceptable, so I strongly urge that the licensing sub-committee reject this application in this form.

**25 - Roger Paulin - 45 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge CB3 9EE**

As a resident of Fulbrooke Road I endeavour to preserve good relations with the Cambridge Rugby Club and to support the good work it does. I am also aware of the financial difficulties with which it at present confronted.

I do not however believe this gives the Cambridge Rugby Club the right to inflict gross disturbance on the residents of Fulbrooke Road through events on club grounds. In both 2003 and 2004 I was subjected to functions on the club grounds that involved very intrusive noise, large crowds (in excess of a thousand) and

antisocial behaviour in adjacent areas. I was forced to retreat indoors for the duration of the events and even then was unable to block out the sound. I would even consider vacating our house for the duration of such events in the future. I was shocked to hear of the extent of unacceptable behaviour as crowds dispersed into neighbouring streets.

The Rugby Cub has now applied for permission to hold such huge events on three days this summer. It has in addition (but without informing local residents) in effect increased that number to seven. It proposes as well to hold unlimited 'small events' that may well generate disturbance throughout the whole year.

I believe that such events, as well as being in a residential area, are incompatible with regulations on noise, antisocial behaviour and public nuisance. For these reasons I urge you to reject these applications.

**26 - Simon Pattison – 79 Selwyn Road, Cambridge CB3 9EA**

[REDACTED]

My main concerns are about Public safety of the participants of the event. - CRUFC is locked in between the fields and narrow residential streets with high density parking and multiple use (vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians). These streets are not wide enough and are not suitable to accommodate crowds of several thousand people (or even several hundreds) some of them drunk, all leaving the venue at the end of an event either on foot or by car. - If there was any kind of panic in the midst of this crowd there will be multiple casualties. - If a critical incident did occur, access for emergency vehicles in any emergency involving multiple casualties will be severely hindered. I know this because taxis could not reach people leaving the event last year as the roads were completely blocked by people. The event was for 2449 people, classed as 'Medium' by CRUFC. Taxis had to wait in Barton Road for a good 20-30 minutes before getting access to Selwyn and Grantchester Roads. 20-30 minutes is too long for somebody having a cardiac arrest. They will die before an ambulance can reach them. - The more such events are hosted, the higher the probability of any adverse events occurring and therefore the overall risk of severe consequences goes up. - As the people have left CRUFC by then, the responsibility for casualties will be shared by the City Council. The probability of such occurrence is between Remote and Probable and the hazard is Severe. - Any emergency plans CRUFC can draw will not change the limitations of its geographical position - The infrastructure around CRUFC is just not fit or safe for such events. No amount of major incident plans promised to be submitted by CRUFC will mitigate this. Whilst the rugby field can certainly host up to 4999 people and probably more, the venue has essentially one access point through Grantchester road. The crowd of several thousand people is going to exist CRUFC at the end of any event onto Grantchester road and all of them are going to walk down Grantchester road towards the city centre. They are unlikely to turn right to hike towards Grantchester village along the narrow unlit road with no pedestrian provision. Last year I watched as the crowds dispersed at the end of Sausage and Cider festival. There was a sea of people walking down Grantchester Road. It took them a good 1.5 hours to disperse after the event finished at 11pm. For most of the stretch of Grantchester Road the crowd is locked between two rows of houses with cars parked either side of the road narrowing it down further. Given a certain amount of illegal parking on that particular night

there were a lot more cars than usual. I'm fairly certain that if there was incident that triggers a panic it would have been a stampede and given how drunk most people were, there probably would have been injuries. Several exit points from the venue would mitigate this risk substantially but alternative exists don't exist and cannot be created because on two sides the CRUFC is blocked by the fields and on the 3rd side, by a residential street. Even if CRUFC opened up an alternative exit from CRUFC people will still all move along Grantchester Road towards Barton Road because this is the only direction towards city centre, buses and taxis.

**27 - Tim Marchant – 27 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EE**

[REDACTED]

I would like to register my objection to licence application 288981 because of the public nuisance, noise and traffic congestion it will inflict on local residents. There are two main areas of concern.

The first is that the application includes the option to hold an unlimited number of events throughout the year of up to 1000 people, which would clearly have a tremendous negative impact on local residents.

CRUFC is a great sporting amenity for the community and sporting events should be and are welcomed. Frequent small non-sporting events - especially those with loud music and the sale of alcohol - are not appropriate for this quiet residential area.

Fulbrooke Road and the surrounding neighbourhood is a quiet, semi-rural area. Music events already cause enormous disturbance to our quality of life in terms of disruption, anti-social behaviour, and noise and light pollution. If this type of activity was allowed week-in-week-out, it would destroy the quiet residential nature of the area.

The second concern is the proposal to increase currently licensed medium events (up to 2500 people) from one to four days per year and large events (up to 5000 people) from two to three per year.

Granting a licence for further such events not only goes against the guidelines in the nationally agreed Code of Practice (1-3 events per year) but would further damage the quality of life of local residents, especially during the summer months when people should be able to relax in their homes and gardens.

Last year in June there was a two-day music festival (Friday and Saturday) for 5000 people. These two days caused very real distress for some local residents; apparently a third consecutive day (Sunday) is to be added this year; although no licence application has been submitted, the event is being advertised and tickets sold.

Over recent years, CRUFC has held a plethora of non-sporting events, which already have a significant negative impact on local residents. Every week there are



business conferences and several times a year, film crews are based on the grounds.

We have no objection to the Club using its grounds to raise funds, providing it does so without causing unnecessary discomfort and disturbance to local residents; and we would ask that CRUFC restrict these events to those which are in keeping with the intended sporting use of the grounds and the quiet, residential neighbourhood.

In conclusion, loud music events are wholly inappropriate for such a quiet, green-belt location and the surrounding access and infrastructure is insufficient to cope.

**28 - Boleslaw Kempinski -15 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EE**

I am writing to submit a representation in objection to the application by Cambridge Rugby Football Club Limited (CRUFC) dated 29th March 25 for a Premises Licence to hold licensed events at their grounds at Grantchester Road. The licence application reference is PRECAM 000975. The grounds for my objection are that the licence would breach at least three of the statutory licence objectives: The prevention of public nuisance. Public safety The prevention of crime and disorder I am a resident of Fulbrooke Road and our house, and hence garden, directly backs on to the Rugby Club and I have therefore directly experienced the impact from the two weekend events run in previous years at the Rugby Club in 2023 (7th and 8th July) and 2024 (2nd and 3rd Aug). Following several complaints about the high level of noise endured in 2023, we understand that for 2024 the noise was monitored and limited to 65 decibels at our garden boundaries. It is not possible to be in the garden when music at this level is being played. Even in the house the music can be heard clearly. This means that for two whole days we were unable to use our garden space and felt trapped in the house. The licensing Team needs to understand that there are several elderly and vulnerable residents for whom the garden brings comfort and solace. Several of these residents are not familiar with modern technology in order to communicate their concerns and to convey the enormous anxiety caused to them as a consequence of these events. Additionally, there are working families with babies and young children who only have the weekends to relax and enjoy their gardens. They, myself and all my neighbours have a right to peace and tranquility. This is a clear and significant public nuisance and so in breach of that licensing objective. We are aware from conversations with neighbours that there was substantial traffic chaos on Grantchester Road including taxis dropping of passengers, doing three-point turns on the road to avoid getting locked into one-way system. Likewise, in the evening, there were problems when the events were ending with taxis trying to collect groups of drunken people and drive away from the organised one-way system. Although stewards were attempting to control and coordinate traffic flow, they had no legal power to enforce and implement the one way system. This is a direct public safety issue and breach of that licensing objective. We are also aware of reports of people urinating in alleyways and back gardens on the way home along Selwyn Road including vandalism to cars and bins. This in breach of the licensing objective requiring the prevention of crime and disorder. This licensing application is deeply worrying and marks a significant escalation in the number of

events that will cause immense suffering and distress to families ,and especially to the vulnerable and elderly residents and should not be granted for the reasons stated above.

29 - [REDACTED]

I am writing to object to a licensing application that has been made on behalf of Cambridge Rugby Club with the reference above for a premises license.

I live in [REDACTED] and my house backs directly onto the Rugby club. Generally, I support the Rugby Club, however, I don't think its executive is acting in a reasonable manner regarding its plans for development. Its chairman, Tim Hague says plans will be developed in consultation with residents on Fulbrooke Rd, instead, there have been a number of different applications being submitted at the last moment without any consultation.

Events at the Rugby Club have a direct impact on Fulbrooke Rd's quality of life and particularly the houses, like mine, that back directly onto the grounds.

I am concerned about the scale and scope of the events that the club would like to run throughout the year. In particular, large events with many thousands of people. The problems that arise from this type are:

- The chaos around parking and traffic flow
- Urination, basically along the perimeter of my back garden. And litter that does not get picked up around the perimeter of the grounds.
- Large crowds of drunk people spilling out in an anti-social and sometimes intimidating manner
- The noise. There is no sound barrier to the music and the bass is particularly disturbing to sleep and any sort of relaxation.
- My cats have to be locked up as I would worry for their safety and all windows have to be shut – which is unpleasant in summer heat.
- Intrusive tannoys continuing beyond the end of the event.

I understand that the Rugby club has to make money, however request this is done in a way that works with the concerns of its local community and not in spite of it.

**30 - Traute Paulin – 45 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge CB3 9EE**

[REDACTED]

As a resident of Fulbrooke Road I endeavour to maintain good relations with the Cambridge Rugby Club and to support the good work it does. I am also aware of the financial difficulties in which it at present finds itself.

I do not however believe that this gives the Cambridge Rugby Club the right to inflict gross disturbance on the residents of Fulbrooke Road through events on club grounds. In both 2023 and 2024 I and my family were subjected to functions on the club grounds that involved very intrusive noise, large crowds (in excess of a thousand) and antisocial behaviour in adjacent areas. We were forced to retreat indoors in summer weather for the duration of the events, and even then were unable to block out the sound. We would even consider vacating our house for the duration of such events in future.

We were shocked to hear of the extent of unacceptable behaviour, as crowds dispersed into neighbouring streets.

The Rugby Club has now applied for permission to hold such huge events on three weekends this summer. It has in addition (but without informing local residents) in effect increased that number to seven. It proposes as well to hold unlimited "small" events that may well generate disturbance at weekends throughout the whole year.

I believe that such events, as well as being in a residential area, are incompatible with regulations on noise, antisocial behaviour, and public nuisance.

For these reasons I urge you to reject these applications.

**31 - Jennifer Warburton – 37 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge**

[REDACTED]

I am writing to submit a representation in objection to the application by the Cambridge Rugby Football Club ( CRUFC) dated 29th March 2025 for a premises licence to hold licensed events at their grounds in Grantchester Road. The reference is PRECAM 000975.

The grounds for my objection are that the licence would breach 3 of the statutory licence objectives, namely:

the prevention of crime and disorder  
public safety  
the prevention of public nuisance

I am a resident of Fulbrooke Road and my house and garden face the rugby club grounds. I have experienced the consequences of two previous weekend events (7/8th July 2023 and 2/3rd August 2024) and I am quite fearful that the distress and disruption caused by proposed events ( should this licence be granted) will be similarly experienced.

On these previous occasions it was quite impossible to have a conversation in the garden or even to have a conversation of normal volume within the house itself. I was powerless to do anything about it and retreated to a very small utility room in the house in order to complete a piece of work. This room has no windows and two insulating doors but the noise still penetrated. The windows in the back of the house vibrated with the noise. I felt trapped inside the house.

Noise at this level has a damaging effect and this was certainly the case on these two occasions. It was extremely distressing and I was reduced to tears at one point, not knowing how to stop it.

At the start of a previous event (7/8th July 2023) I was actually trapped in Selwyn Road by crowds surging along the street (dropped by coaches on the Barton road) trying to reach the rugby club grounds. A taxi driver couldn't turn and was also trapped so had no choice but to drive very slowly and carefully through these crowds but he did have to drive the wrong way down a one-way street. I was pushing my bike as it was impossible to cycle. He suggested that I might be safer walking by the side of his taxi. He kindly waited until he saw that I was safely away from the crowds. It was a frightening journey. I felt threatened and unsafe as many of the crowd had obviously been drinking and some were drinking from cans and glass bottles, even on arrival at the event.

Regrettably, the rugby club appears to have submitted this new application without any consultation with residents, despite a recent reassuring letter sent by the chairman, Tim Hague.

We are all aware that the club needs to generate income by holding fund-raising events. We are supportive of this and are keen to have good relations with our neighbours. We have previously been encouraged and impressed by Tim Hague's response during friendly and informative meetings.

Thank you for reading this email. As residents, we all hope that the licensing committee will consider our genuine concerns and that you will think carefully about which licence it is appropriate to grant to premises that are located so close to a quiet residential area.

**32 - Nick Warburton – Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge**

[REDACTED]

I am writing to object to the application made on 29<sup>th</sup> March 25 by the Cambridge Rugby Union Football Club. The reference for this is ...

PRECAM 000975

I object on the grounds of prevention of crime and disorder and prevention of public nuisance. The noise caused by previous events at the Rugby Club has been invasive and distressing. I am a resident of Fulbrooke Road and my home is also my place of work. I frequently have to work in the evening and at weekends and resent the fact that this should be made impossible by these events.

**33 - Jean Glasberg – Cllr for Newnham**

[REDACTED]



I am writing to object to the application for these very large scale music events at the Rugby Club on the following grounds:

(b) public safety

There is only one exit directly on to Grantchester Road and no way that such large numbers of pedestrians would be able to safely access and exit the site. Vehicle parking on and off the site has led to considerable disruption in the surrounding narrow streets, especially at the start and end of events, and has meant that residents are unable to park nearby.

(c) the prevention of public nuisance

Very loud, rhythmic music with a pulsating beat played for hours over several days at summer weekend is harmful to residents' health and well-being and prevents their right to the peaceful enjoyment of their homes and gardens. There are no barriers to the noise travelling, and it is heard at a very disruptive level over a wide area - I live in Newnham Croft, and it sounded as if it was in the next street.

Apart from the traffic and noise issues residents living nearby have also given examples of anti-social behaviour including attendees urinating in gardens, throwing cans, bottles and other litter in the streets and gardens and drunken shouting from large groups as they leave. Noise and disruption extends well before and after the hours specified in the application, as the site set up and sound-testing starts early and people are arriving well before 9 am. They are also dispersing long after the 11 pm end of the event.

(d) the protection of children from harm

The hearing of young children is particularly sensitive, and it is not good for them to be exposed to this level of noise for so many hours and days on end. I have had complaints from residents that their children are unable to sleep or study for important exams.

While many local residents wish to support the Rugby Club in their efforts to raise funds, and are willing to put up with disturbance from other activities at the Club, this type of event is simply not suitable for a site with such limited access immediately adjacent to a densely built-up residential area.

I hope that members of the committee will consider the risks to those attending and the very detrimental impact these events would have on thousands of residents not just in the in the neighbouring streets but the whole area.

**34 - Margaret Smith – 2 Grantchester Road, Cambridge CB3 9ED**

**I STRONGLY OBJECT** to the application made by Gobrand's UK Holdings Ltd for a premises licence at CAMBRIDGE RUGBY UNION CLUB, Grantchester Road, Newnham, CAMBRIDGE, Cambridgeshire, CB3 9ED to supply alcohol and run events including Live Music, Recorded Music, Plays, Film and Dance performances.

My objections are based on the following:

**Noise, Disruption, Security and Increased Pollution**

I live very close to the Rugby Club together with other elderly people, families and children; and share the same postcode as the rugby club.

I do not welcome the increased footfall and potential noise from people walking past my home particularly late at night after alcohol consumption. In essence creating opportunity for a public nuisance.

Nor the increased lines of traffic at night trying to access Barton road from Grantchester Road with long queues pumping out their fumes and engine noise. (This is seen regularly in the morning rush). I would be interested to know how it is anticipated that large events (capacity 4999 people) and Medium events (capacity 2499 persons) can be safely accommodated on these small single way roads without causing disturbance? How might this impact public safety in a quiet residential area?

The increased foot and vehicle traffic, noise disturbance and pollution is a hazard and creates an imbalance in the environment and does not assist the physical or mental well being and security of individuals within our community.

Please give this matter serious consideration and I very much hope you will decide NOT to grant the licence.

35 –

I am concerned about the potential for Public Nuisance arising from Cambridge Rugby Club hosting open air music events, late in the evening and at weekends, particularly with respect to noise pollution. Cambridge Rugby Club is approximately 0.5 miles due west of Millington Road where I live and therefore noise from the proposed events will be carried to my house, detracting from my enjoyment of my property, particularly in the summer months when I prefer to leave bedroom windows open at night, wish to be able to relax quietly in my garden and to host family and friends without being disturbed by amplified music. I note the licensing application does not contain any specific limits on noise level, but merely describes a process for determining them in which I have no voice. I strongly object to having to potentially suffer three day events. The limit should be to only single day events. I object strongly to events being allowed to continue until 2300 at night. 2100 is a more reasonable curfew for events adjacent to a residential area. I would strongly prefer medium and large music events not to occur on Sundays. Sunday is a traditional day of rest and one on which to enjoy peace and quiet and to be able to entertain guests in my home without the intrusion of amplified music. I also have concerns for Public Safety on Barton Road as large numbers of people attempt to arrive or depart from the Rugby Club before



and after events and the potential for Public Nuisance in my neighbourhood arising from excessive alcohol consumption and possible substance abuse. I do not believe the Rugby Club is a suitable venue for medium and large music events given its proximity to otherwise peaceful residential areas. I am disappointed that the Rugby Club has chosen not to consult its neighbours in this matter, it suggest they do not have much concern for what the impact of their plans will be.

**36 –** [REDACTED]

This application represents a significant increase in the number of days permitted for entertainment at this venue - already disturbing to the community - and has been made without consultation with local residents or City Councillor. I object to the application on grounds of public nuisance, of potential disorder and implications for public safety, including that of children

**37 – John Drew, 10 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EE**

This letter is by way of objection to the application by the Cambridge Rugby Football Club Limited of 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for a Premises Licence to hold licensed events at their grounds at Grantchester Road. The licence application reference is PRECAM 000975.

As residents of Fulbrooke Road, we live in a area of small, quiet streets and lanes that nonetheless accommodates non-residents, mostly on bike and foot, coming to share the leisure amenities of college sports grounds, a tennis club, a model railway, and a scattering of allotments. Hitherto this social pattern has included our good neighbours at the Rugby Club.

This application, however, made without the usual consultation with neighbours and coming on top of our experience of weekend events during the past couple of years, has set alarm bells ringing. That the Rugby Club might wish to have occasional non-sporting events in support of the club is understandable. What is worrying to residents is the prospect that Grantchester Road, sited not so much on a road as a small lane, might morph into an Events Venue that includes a winter of rugby fixtures.

Unless an application adequately limits the number of people and cars streaming down our streets on any one occasion, limits the number of such occasions and limits the noise caused by the music and other sound systems, we believe it should be amended if not rejected.

In our view, this particular application fails to make adequate provision for public safety and the prevention of public nuisance. A sports club has a Duty of Care to its neighbours.

As neighbours, we too care for the club and wish to see it flourish as a Rugby Club so long as any expansion is done in an orderly fashion in keeping with the ambience of the whole area. In the case of this particular application, we would urge you not to grant this license unless and until there is substantial amendment to its terms and conditions.

additional information submitted 25/04/25

We wish to object to the licence application from the Cambridge Rugby Football Club PRECAM 000975 as it is unlikely to comply with or promote the following licensing objectives:

- The prevention of crime and disorder – our neighbours have reported visitors to previous events at the Rugby Club urinating in their gardens and down alleyways when leaving plus other vandalism to cars and bins. There have also been reports of drug dealing along Selwyn Road at convenient corners and people “pre-loading” with spirits on their way into the event hence the knock-on effects and resulting low level crime and disorder along the roads leading away from the club. This scale of events with such potentially huge numbers is likely to cause more crime and disorder in our neighbourhood.
- Public safety –during ingress and egress, Grantchester Road has been blocked with cars and taxis arriving, drivers trying to do three point turns to turn round to avoid the blocked traffic. This is a clear risk to public safety.
- The prevention of public nuisance – music at 65db and more (as we have had before in2023 and 2024 from large music events at the Rugby Club for long periods over two successive days at a weekend) hitting the back gardens of residents on Fulbrooke Road is a clear and tangible public nuisance. People cannot sit out in their back gardens and have to retreat indoors. It disturbs families with young children and causes distress to elderly residents and those who are susceptible to noise triggered health concerns such as migraines.

**38 – Carol Patton, 43 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EE**



Licensing application number: 288981 This is an objection to Licensing Application number 288981 submitted by Cambridge Rugby Football Club Limited (CRUFC) dated 29th March 2025 for a Premises Licence to hold licensed events at their grounds at Grantchester Road. With regard to the recent number of applications, both licensing and planning, submitted to Cambridge City Council by Cambridge Rugby Union Club, it would seem that the Club is attempting to expand the intended use of the grounds beyond the simple meaning of “Rugby Club”. Unfortunately for the Club, the location and site are fundamentally unsuitable for holding music/drinking/dancing/other events which seek to draw in crowds of up to 5000 people. Firstly, mindful that the licensing applicant must prevent the occurrence of public nuisance, and based on our experience of similar events held on this exact site over the past 26 years, it seems to have been extremely difficult for organisers not to cause a noise nuisance to those living nearby, despite the

terms of their licences. Our house in Fulbrooke Road backs on to the grounds and we are therefore very familiar with all the events occurring in the premises. This is a quiet residential semi-rural environment surrounded by farmland and college playing fields. Background noise is usually low. However, the landscape is completely flat around here, there are few trees or hedges, and any sound travels very clearly from eg events on Grantchester Meadows, Haggis Farm, or the May Balls in the city centre. Events which take place on the Rugby Club land and held either on an open stage or under canvas sound like they are in our back garden. The distance from, say, the far end of their main playing field to our house makes no difference to the volume experienced inside or out of the house. There is nothing to stop the noise travelling. In addition, the noise from events such as those held last year was so loud and repetitive that it was uncomfortable to be in the garden for any length of time. Bass sounds and low frequency sounds reverberate very strongly, often I can feel them vibrating inside the house as well as hear them. Sound checks start early in the day and the music then plays continuously at volume throughout. It is impossible to concentrate or to work (I am self-employed and often have to work at weekends). I feel particularly sorry for anyone trying to sleep, our elderly neighbours, the unwell, and families trying to put their young children to bed. There is no escape. Whilst the licence application refers to noise limits and the applicant's intentions (paras 51 – 59) those paragraphs do not reflect our lived experience. Monitoring on the day depends entirely on being able to make contact with the 'nominated person', and relying on them to take appropriate action. Whilst volumes may be turned down for a few minutes, they usually return to former levels when the track changes. Responsibility for noise levels is not taken seriously by those running the events, and consequently this means that I am monitoring their event for them, unpaid. The Council's own webpage headed "What is noise" states "everyone's perception of noise, or unwanted sound, is different. It's not just a question of sound levels in decibels, but of what is acceptable to the average person – and what one person considers acceptable may not seem unreasonable to somebody else." Given the context of the local environment and on the balance of probabilities, it is more likely than not that a reasonable person would find that the levels of music played continuously at events held on Rugby Club premises are unacceptable. Further, as the Council no longer operates a noise monitoring service, there is no means of independent verification on the day. Residents cannot seek help and advice from anyone else. The Council's own webpage states: "Follow these steps if there is a noise issue you wish to resolve. 1. Try to resolve the problem informally 2. Consider using the neighbourhood resolution panel scheme 3. Check what noises you can and can't report to us 4. Report the noise using our online form 5. As a last resort you could take legal action through the courts" The Council will respond to a form submitted online within three working days. In other words, there is no effective means of enforcement if agreed sound levels are exceeded and cause a public nuisance. It is quite likely that the applicant is already aware that there will be no sanctions administered for any breach of a licence granted other than the unlikely possibility of a review of the licence occurring. Taking all the above into consideration we urge you to refuse the application in order to prevent any public nuisance occurring. Secondly, there is a serious risk to public safety with regard to the management of the motorised and pedestrian traffic attracted by these events. There is only one, single width, access/egress point into the site, directly onto a narrow country road. It is dangerous and irresponsible to attract so much traffic to



the location. Stewards/marshals employed by the licensees have no legal powers to enforce suggestions that drivers of cars should leave in the direction of Grantchester, implement a 'one way system on Grantchester Road' (para 61) or enforce any 'No Parking' signs they might put up in the surrounding streets. They cannot direct pedestrians as if they are sheep. They have no teeth whatsoever. Taxi drivers caused considerable chaos (ie road blocks) in the area in 2024 by dropping off and collecting people, and doing U turns back up to the Barton Road. Stewards have absolutely no powers to control that sort of situation. It would not have arisen in a properly managed event held in a suitable location. Furthermore, also in 2024 and due to the poor access to the site, it took almost an hour for customers to leave, particularly those who were walking as they were under no pressure whatsoever, and they contributed significantly to public nuisance occurring beyond the permitted licensing hours and beyond after midnight. There is no easy way for significant numbers of people to disperse from the area safely and quickly and without causing significant public nuisance to surrounding properties. The Rugby Club has submitted this application without any consultation with local residents. Such behaviour does not help to build good relations. Based on years of previous events held on their premises there is no confidence or trust that they or their licensees are capable of running events competently. This application is asking for permission to run events for three consecutive days on at least 7 occasions, potentially every fortnight ie every other weekend. This application is totally disproportionate and unreasonable in its scope. I respectfully ask the Licensing Sub Committee to take into account all relevant considerations and my representations, and to refuse the application.

**39 – Christopher & Carolyn Ash, 23 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EE**

[REDACTED]

We write to object to licence application PRECAM000975, submitted by Cambridge Rugby Football Club Limited (CRUFC) on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for a Premises Licence to hold licensed events at their grounds at Grantchester Road.

In our view this licence would produce a public nuisance through the sustained noise levels.

We live at 23 Fulbrooke Road and our home and garden back onto the Rugby Club grounds. In both 2023 (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> July) and 2024 (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> August) we were adversely impacted by the high and intrusive noise levels, both on the Friday evening and on much of the Saturday.

This level of music not only makes the garden a miserable place, but also throbs right through the house. We tried retreating to the front of the house. But, even there, the noise reflects strongly from the houses the other side of the street. My wife was struggling with migraines and this noise level was very distressing to her. And it was not possible to rest or to sleep during the concerts.

We are very supportive of the Rugby Club and want it to thrive. We recognise they need to have adequate income. But I'm afraid we don't think that this location – so very close to residential streets – is appropriate for these large and loud music events.

The thought of the number of these events increasing significantly fills us with alarm. We hope you will not grant this licence and that other ways can be found for the club to gain sufficient income to thrive.

40 – [REDACTED]

I object most strongly to the application in all categories. The greatly increased number of events and, crowd sizes together with full day alcohol licenses will make the likelihood of transgressions in all categories all the more probable. Fulbrook, Grantchester and Selwyn Roads constitute a residential area completely unsuitable for these sizes of events which are more usually situated a long way outside of towns and villages.

The application therefore warrants refusal.

1. The prevention of crime and disorder:

Prevention on site but not on Fulbrook, Grantchester and Selwyn Roads. Previous events include loud and drunken behaviour along these roads, urination and vomiting in front gardens and alleyways plus damage to cars with rubbish and bottles/broken glass left for residents to clear up.

2. Public safety:

Public safety is likely to be threatened because of anti-social behaviour as in item 1. above.

Access for emergency vehicles and those of residents on Fulbrook, Grantchester and Selwyn Roads is very probable as previously but more so because of the arrival and departures of the large numbers of attendees. Taxi drivers and other drivers also as previously will ignore the one-way drop off and collect system on the club grounds with drop off early and three point turns in the middle of Grantchester Road. There is no traffic management plan for these roads.

3. The prevention of public nuisance:

Prevention of public nuisance is highly unlikely; see items 1. and 2.

The levels of music and disruption with increased numbers of events and attendees are likely to increase the disturbance to residents. The type of music to be played will be highly disruptive to children and the elderly. Unreasonably, neighbours, especially the elderly, will be forced to re-locate – if they can.

4. The protection of children from harm:

It is very difficult to comprehend how seriously these events will impact young children who are likely to be prevented from settling for sleep around 19.00-20.00. It is impractical and unreasonable to disturb children by moving them to another bedroom – if one is available.

41 – [REDACTED]

I object to the application on public nuisance grounds. The events staged there are extremely loud and the sound carries to the surrounding area including Selwyn Road. The rest of the time this is a very quiet residential area. Also, when the crowds of people leave on foot they are noisy and drunk causing a disturbance walking along Selwyn Road in the middle of the night. On one occasion one of these people defecated at the side of my house. I do not want my name and address published on the council website.

**42 – Henrietta Ryan, 4 Grantchester Road, Cambridge, CB3 9ED**

I am purchasing no. 47 Fulbrooke Road, CB3 9EE, and will be adjacent to the Rugby Club. The proposal significantly increase noise and nuisance (especially the large amount of litter that is always left after matches).

**43 –**

I strongly object to this application on the grounds of prevention of Public Nuisance, Crime & Disorder and Public Safety. The public nuisance that will inevitably be caused by an unlimited number of events with up to 1,000 people any night of the week throughout the year to our quiet semi-rural neighbourhood would be significant. People attending the events will inevitably use our quiet road for parking and as a thoroughfare if this application is allowed, and this will cause significant disturbance. The application seeks permission for events to take place throughout the day and late into the evening (9am to 11pm), with no limit on the number of events for up to 1,000 people in any given year. By way of comparison, when the Cambridge & District Model Engineering Society - neighbours of the Rugby Club - hold their Public Open afternoons from 1.30pm-5pm ten times a year, for far fewer than 1,000 people, Selwyn Road becomes a constant stream of people and parking becomes very difficult. This is the same when the Rugby Club holds its sporting events. Fortunately these events occur during day time hours, are typically for far fewer than 1,000 people and attendees are generally well-behaved families. The impact on the tranquility and safety of our road if we were to be subjected to a steady stream of people exiting events late at night and being rowdy would be very harmful. When the Rugby Club has hosted late night events in the past, and particularly those involving music, hundreds of very loud, often drunk, attendees have made their way into town down our road over many hours, often using the corner of Selwyn Road and King's Road (observable from our house) as a convenient place to stop and urinate (Crime and Disorder). Drug selling has occurred on our road and is at risk of increase, depending on the events being hosted, and the Public Safety measures taken by the organisers. The houses of Selwyn Road are small & narrow, many with no or very small front gardens, and the disturbance and public nuisance caused by people talking loudly and singing on our road late at night, particularly in summer when windows are often left open, is considerable. If this license is granted the detrimental effect on all that live on Selwyn Road will be significant, and that is without even discussing the direct harm that would be caused by noise from amplified or live music,



potentially non-stop throughout the day and late into the evening. The applicant has made no reference to permissible noise levels and there has been a complete lack of consultation with the community, so it is not possible to have any sense of what they are actually planning. I urge the committee to reject this application.

**44 – Wesley Dignan, 4 Selwyn Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EB**

[REDACTED]

I absolutely object to this application. I have supported the Rugby Club in the past with an application to extend on the side of the main stand for the better of the club. However. Having endured the noise all day and night long at the last event. People were still passing my house near midnight drunk as lords. I also got caught up in the traffic outside of the Rugby Club in my vehicle trying to get home. The traffic was at a standstill from Barton Road towards the Rugby Club/Grantchester both ways. The marshalling was nothing short of an absolute shambles. The following day the surrounding area was strewn with bottles, plastic bottles and other rubbish. This is a residential area and should remain so. The application submitted by the Rugby Club is, I believe an insult to the local community who have supported them in the past and would give them the right to inflict the local residents whenever they felt like doing so. Please reject this application out of hand. (a resident less than one minutes walk from the Club)

**45 – Simon Redhead, 2 Selwyn Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EB**

[REDACTED]

This isn't an application for an entertainment licence; it amounts to a change of use from sports field to an entertainment venue on an unprecedented scale exceeding even town-centre facilities such as The Light. The security management plan includes bag searches, body-cams, facial recognition etc, so the applicant is clearly expecting trouble. We do not want this in our neighbourhood. Existing problems with events, which will all be increased, are: - loud rowdy people with concert-deafness waking residents in residential area at unsociable hours, congregating on street corners, swearing, shouting, even urinating; - amplified music noise carries and is already a nuisance as far away as Kings Road; - excessive road traffic at an existing pinch-point (Grantchester Road/Fulbrooke Road) already a nuisance. New problems created: - The traffic infrastructure will not cope. - An emergency evacuation for 2500-5000 people would not be possible. - Ejecting intoxicated persons from the premises is given as a condition for the sale of alcohol (clause 41). How are residents expected to cope with such intoxicated ejected persons? - The introduction of more intoxicated persons (whether ejected, or simply leaving just before midnight), into a small residential area can only lead to great public nuisance, disorder and even crime. - The detail for every condition relating to noise is missing (deferred) and thus outside the licence approval process. This lack of scrutiny makes the application undemocratic and is open to abuse.

**46 – Anna Busch, 35 Grantchester Road, Cambridge, CB3 9ED**

[REDACTED]

I wish to object to this License Application The Cambridge Rugby and Football Club in its location - should be just that - a Rugby Club with possibly occasion festive events. I should not be allowed to become a large scale entertainment venue for potential events held on any day, any time during the year. To quote from the application: "Amplified recorded music to include open air concerts, bandstand style concerts, smaller concerts and performances, concerts staged inside marquees, military music, performances of church music etc . Non Rugby use including but not limited to Charity Events, Outdoor Cinemas, Historical Re-enactments, Music Events, Food & Drink Events, Art Festivals, University and similar Balls. Non-Rugby: Small Event – No limit - Capacity up to 999 persons – Small Event 4 days per annum - Capacity 1000-2499 persons – Medium Event 3 days per annum - Capacity 2500-4999 persons – Large Event Licensing hours – seven days a week from 10.00am to 23.00pm." I have grave concerns on public safety grounds, The Cambridge Rugby Football Club's site is an unsuitable location for such an entertainment events venue. It is not safe as potentially thousands of people have to access the site only via two narrow residential roads: Grantchester Road, (from CRFC's site towards Cambridge) where two cars can't pass each other without one pulling into a vacant space. (Revellers are unlikely to head into the opposite direction into the unlit country lane towards Grantchester.) Selwyn Road, a single lane, narrow one way street shared with cyclist permitted to ride in the opposite direction. The junction of these two roads is very busily used by cyclist and pedestrians – both for children and adults to go to their homes, but also extensively by other Cambridge residents to reach the Cocks and Hens Tennis Club located behind the Rugby Club. Past events at the Cambridge Rugby Football Club have shown quite clearly how unsuitable the site is. Loud music and loutish behaviour by the intoxicated attendees frightened local residents and the sheer number of late night, often drunken, revellers streaming past was very intimidating. Front gardens were used as latrines and door steps were vomited on - creating a health hazard for adults and children. The granting of such an extensive licence for an event venue surely denies local residents the right to peacefully and safely enjoy the amenity of their home and garden. The noise / music at previous events not only prevented residents from being in their gardens, it penetrated though double glazed windows. These events are not held in a 'Wembley type stadium' but outdoors or in a marquee. Surely residents also have a right to a peaceful life in a residential area like Newnham I fear that if this licence was to be granted life in this part of Newnham would become pretty intolerable on a very regular basis. I would like to ask the licensing committee to refuse this licence.

**47 – Ali Chandkee, 39 Grantchester Road, Cambridge, CB3 9ED**

[REDACTED]

As a resident with 50 yards distance to the exit to the Cambridge Rugby and Football club, I have grave concerns about the safety aspect of sheer amount of people that might enter and exit the site if permission is granted to hold that many event in an unsuitable location. My own quality of life would be severely compromised and I felt extremely threatened and unsafe by the sheer number revellers exiting the venue, including people throwing drinks glasses at my car



windscreen, when the car was parked in front of my house on the private drive. Likewise, people urinating onto garden fences and gates, I consider a health hazard. Vomiting, defecating and general antisocial behaviour should be something we should not have to tolerate. This residential area with no alternative access is highly unsuitable to increase the number of functions and events at the Rugby Club. We already have a number of very noisy function at the Rugby Club each year which the locals accept with great reservations. To increase the frequency would be totally unacceptable and not appropriate for the site and its location. This is a quiet residential area with residents of a mixed ages. Many young families and also older people reside here. Such events have a real disruptive effect on their lives and the worry and concern affects their mental health. I strongly object.

48 – [REDACTED]

I'm objecting on the grounds of Public nuisance from loud noise. According to UK environmental Agency, people's homes are classed as noise sensitive locations (NSL). Noise limits set at NSLs in the UK are typically 55 dB(A) during the day and 45 dB(A) at night averaged over a period of generally either 15 minutes or 30 minutes. Typical sound levels at music festivals in outdoor settings can reach 80-100dB. Prolonged exposure to sound levels above 85 dB can cause permanent hearing loss. The risk increases with the volume level and the duration of exposure. People's homes in the streets immediately adjacent to the CRFC such as Fulbrooke road and Grantchester road and the top end of Selwyn road will experience prolonged exposure to noise levels in exceeds of 50dB during the events described in CRFC application. The geographical location of CRFC and the fact it's an open field means they have no means of controlling the noise levels. Sounds will travel freely in all directions. Compounded with that, the length of the events, as described in the CRFC licence application, in excess of 12 hours, will have sever effect on residents even if the noise levels are lower than 50 dB. Being in a noisy environment for an extended period can lead to increased stress levels and fatigue, both of which can have adverse effects on people's overall well-being. I work full time and only have evenings and weekends to rest and recover from a busy week. If I have to be constantly subjected to loud music every weekend and possibly most evenings in spring and summer then I will have no quality of life in my own home. CRFC held a number of live events last year, some of them can be classed as 'small' and some as 'medium' and 'large' such as Sausage and Cider festival. So there is a reliable body of evidence to draw upon. Each of these events went on for at least 5-6 hours, some lasted all day from 11 am till 11 pm and some went well into the night such as smaller student events during May Ball week. During each of these events the effects of noise on the people living near CRFC were severe. It was impossible to sit in the garden without being subjected to very loud music and even when inside the house with windows closed the noise was still excessive. It is particularly difficult to cope with low base notes which deliver a constant thumping noise. After several hours it starts to drive you mad. I developed severe headache and felt that the noise will never stop and I'm unable to escape it anywhere in my own home. We eventually left the house on the evening of that event and did not return home until after midnight. We wanted to

get back at 11 pm when the music stopped but were prevented from getting back home until well past midnight because our street was completely blocked by crowds of people leaving the event. What CRFC is proposing now is a multitude of such events held not just at the weekends but during the week too. Proposed CRFC events will go on until 11 pm and as we will be unable to sleep, we will have to alter our lives to suit it. Not being able to go to sleep until late at night on a regular basis in summer months will have detrimental effects on our health and quality of life in our own homes.

**49 – Nicholas Whitehead, 32 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EE**

[REDACTED]

I note the licensing application to increase the number of events at the Rugby Club to which I wish to object, as I believe that it is likely to create a risk to public safety and a public nuisance. It is clear that CRUFC are looking for additional income streams to fund their sporting ambitions, however this should be achieved through leveraging their supporters, not sacrificing the safety and amenity of local residents. The only reason that this site is being discussed is because of CRUFC's ownership of it; it is not suitable for large events for any other reason and the licensing application should be refused. In particular: Noise nuisance: I experienced the noise generated by one of the events last year and, while not directly impacted, it was exceptionally disturbing for many local residents; this would indicate that permitted noise levels were set too high. This level of nuisance should not be repeated and should certainly not be increased. In particular, it cannot be acceptable that young people living nearby with important exams coming up (GCSEs, A levels etc.) should be disturbed; many families with children live in houses close to the Rugby Club. To this end, if licencing is granted, then conditions should be imposed to protect them, such as: 1/ the permitted noise level must be reduced to a level compatible with sleep at 9pm; and/or 2/ no events can take place during any period of state or university examinations, or for 1 -2 months before them. It is completely unacceptable that large, noisy social gatherings are allowed to jeopardise young people's futures and education/career ambitions by disturbing exam preparation and/or crucial sleep. Crowd control Last year the crowds of people coming out onto Grantchester Road and down Selwyn Road late at night were excessive and made those roads extremely intimidating for pedestrians and effectively impassable for vehicles. The snapshot of the crowds I experienced were not particularly unruly, although many were clearly drunk, however I saw no security or crowd control presence to take control if there were a problem. I would have been very concerned for the safeguarding of unaccompanied young people in the street with them. I note the proposed safeguarding condition 28. If the license is granted, then this needs to be extended off-site, or else the police must have a permanent presence in neighbouring streets. I note (condition 46) that security is proposed outside the site; once again this would need to be coordinated with the police as it is not acceptable that local residents and visitors are subject to private security forces when performing their normal daily/nightly activities. Traffic Grantchester Road is already recognised to be dangerous with frequent complaints to the Council. In several places at the Barton Road end it is only one vehicle wide meaning that drivers have to be attentive and reasonable, which is not always the case. Recently, even on normal



match days, cars exiting left from the Rugby Club have, by force of numbers, and ignoring the right of way, blocked the cars heading towards Grantchester and created gridlock. During last year's event the uncontrolled chaos created by pedestrians streaming to and from the site created a public nuisance on the roads and meant that residents' and others' vehicular movements were seriously compromised. Given the underlying problems with the road and the inappropriate location of the site, nothing that the organisers do can make this safe. I note a suggestion in condition 61 on road management that this issue will be addressed, however, as mentioned above, it cannot be. If the licence is granted, no event traffic should be allowed to turn left out of the Rugby Club as it simply exacerbates the problems caused by the pedestrians exiting in that direction. Clearly a right exit from the club would mean that there was less conflict with the pedestrians, however the road to Grantchester is poor and twisty and becomes again one vehicle wide in Grantchester where cars are parked outside the Blue Ball. The benefit of this route is that there is no conflict with the mass of pedestrians, it is not that it is safe.

50 – [REDACTED]

I strongly object to this application for three reasons:-

The road is too narrow to allow for events there is total disregard for congestion and road safety when you get the best part of 1000cars trying to drop people off, pick people up, get the event, get away from the event. It was difficult to get to and from my house on Fulbrooke road, cars were becoming frustrated at not moving and therefore once taxis had dropped people off they were doing u-turns in the middle of the road. In an already very narrow and congested road (Grantchester Road) this lead to a near fatal accident as a reversing taxi nearly hit 2 children trying to get away with their parents from an already chaotic scene.

There is insufficient event staff at the end of the event again its not only traffic congestion its guest of the event leaving inebriated urinating in all of the gardens along the way, starting fights, shouting singing until the early hours of the morning total antisocial behaviour. I believe there were insufficient bathroom facilities which exacerbated the situation

The sound of the music comes and goes in waves into ones house making my mother who is suffering from the onset of dementia even more confused, my mother moved to Fulbrooke road to enable her to live in a safe and calm environment which I fear will be totally ruined by the events that have been applied for.

Thank you for listening to my objections.

51 – [REDACTED]

I am writing to formally object to the licence application number 288981 submitted by the Cambridge Rugby Football Club for the hosting of music and large-scale events on the Rugby Club field.

We live on Grantchester road, near the rugby club, and we find the licence application in its current form is excessively broad, lacks detail, and **fails to provide adequate safeguards** to protect the local community. It falls short of meeting all four Licensing Objectives and opens the door to further unacceptable levels of disruption, risk, and harm.

The scope of the application is highly concerning. If granted, it would allow a wide range of entertainment activities—including plays, films, live and recorded music, and dance performances—along with the sale of alcohol across the entire Rugby Club field from:

- Monday to Saturday: 09:00 – 23:00
- Sunday: 10:00 – 22:00

This broad application raises significant issues under the Licensing Objectives defined by the Licensing Act 2003. Specifically, I wish to object on the grounds that the following four conditions are **not being adequately addressed**:

#### **The Prevention of Crime and Disorder – Antisocial Behaviour**

A particularly serious concern is the potential for **antisocial and criminal behaviour**, based on **past experience**. Last year's event held on **August 3rd, 2024**, at the Rugby Club, was a deeply distressing and disruptive event for the local community.

Despite being a one-day event, it resulted in:

- Excessive noise and loud music lasting for hours, well into the evening.

Thousands of intoxicated attendees flooding the neighbourhood.

Groups of individuals urinating in residents' front gardens and alleys in full public view.

Verbal abuse and aggression toward locals who attempted to engage or simply pass through the area.

Driveways being blocked, making it difficult or impossible for residents to enter or exit their properties.

Obstructed roads, which posed a serious risk for emergency services being unable to access homes if needed.

This level of disruption and danger was intolerable and demonstrated a complete lack of crowd control, oversight, or accountability. The absence of meaningful mitigation or follow-up following that event gives us no confidence that future events will be any better managed, especially if this licence were to be granted without restriction.

### **Public Safety**

The application includes no clear plan for **ensuring the safety of event attendees or local residents**. For events that may host hundreds or even thousands of people, there is no mention of:

- Crowd management strategies
- Medical support or first-aid facilities
- Traffic control or parking arrangements
- Emergency access routes

Without detailed and enforceable provisions for public safety, the risk of injury, accidents, or emergency incidents cannot be responsibly managed.

### **The Prevention of Public Nuisance**

There is **no reference** in the application to **permissible noise levels, sound monitoring, or noise mitigation measures**, whether for Rugby-related or non-Rugby events, and regardless of the size of the event. The potential for repeated disturbance to the peace and quiet of the neighbourhood is high, especially if music and alcohol are allowed up to 11 PM six days a week.

Moreover, the application makes **no meaningful distinction** between the type or size of events, nor does it indicate how frequent large gatherings will be. While non-Rugby events are limited to seven per year for crowds over 1,000 people, there is **no limit** for events with smaller crowds or any Rugby-branded activity, which could be used as a loophole to bypass restrictions.

### **The Protection of Children from Harm**

The broad permissions being sought for alcohol sales, combined with a lack of oversight and control over crowd behaviour, pose a significant **risk to the welfare of children**. The previous event demonstrated that children in the neighbourhood were exposed to **drunkenness, public urination, swearing, and intimidating behaviour**, all of which are incompatible with the Licensing Objective of protecting children from harm. There is no indication in the application of how children will be safeguarded, either during or after events held on the field.

### **Additional Concerns: Lack of Consultation**

It is also extremely disappointing that this application appears to have been developed and submitted **without any meaningful consultation** with local residents. As the people most directly affected by noise, disruption, and safety concerns, the community's voice should be heard and respected. The current approach gives the impression that local concerns have been disregarded entirely. On behalf of local residents, I urge the Licensing Authority to **refuse this application** unless significant restrictions and enforceable conditions are added—particularly in relation to crowd size, frequency of events, noise control, alcohol management, and community engagement.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

**52 – Noelle Lhommedieu, 37 Grantchester Road, Cambridge, CB3 9ED**

I live at 37 Grantchester Rd near the rugby club. I wished to object to extension of permission for events at the rugby club in our residential neighbourhood.

Last summer there was a weekend of parties which blocked Grantchester Rd. This was public disorder and a danger to public safety and nuisance. There were children in the road in the Sunday. I could not move my car to go to friends as planned. No car could come down the road to collect me. The road to Grantchester had cars parked all along it. Two cars couldn't get through. No emergency vehicle could have got through. Grantchester rd was full of people for most of two days. I saw people peeing in my garden and others did too.

There was a lot of noisemaking it impossible to sit in the garden. Once a year is one thing but unlimited events in a residential neighbourhood will ruin a quiet neighbourhood and affect our house prices. There is no limit stated on noise levels or size of gatherings.

I cannot fill in the form because I'm in Addenbrookes but I hope you will consider the points I have raised in this email

**53 – Joyce Cade & Martin Good, 29 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge**

We are objecting to the application from the Rugby Football Club Limited (CRUFC) dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for a Premises Licence to hold licensed events at their grounds at Grantchester Road (ref. PRECAM 000975)



The grounds for our objection are that the licence would breach these statutory licence objectives covering public safety and the prevention of public nuisance.

We are longstanding residents of Fulbrooke Road. Our house and garden (no. 29) directly face the Rugby Club. We have experienced the negative impact from the two weekend events at the Rugby Club in July 2023 and August 2024. In both years we were subjected to over six hours on the Friday and nine hours on the Saturday of high-level music volumes.

We were deprived of our right to enjoy our home. It is impossible to be in the garden with this level of music. In the house the music can clearly be heard and the bass reverberates and booms so there is no escape. On both occasions we had to leave our house for several hours. We felt completely at a loss as to know what to do.

Traffic to and from the events was truly chaotic. Grantchester Street, Selwyn Road and Fulbrooke Road are narrow streets. The unacceptable number of cars and taxis was compounded by inaccurate sat nav directions. Local residents who cycle and walk and those with children are at significant risk.

The CRUFC's grounds are not suitable for public entertainment / leisure events on this scale. They are located on the edge of an important residential zone of the City of Cambridge. Fulbrooke Road and adjacent roads (Grantchester, Selwyn and King's) are impacted badly by the sound at 65 decibels. The location is flat so there are no barriers to prevent the sound travelling into our gardens and houses.

We understand that the Licensing sub-committee granted a third day event for 2025 but for a single year only making a total of three day events for this year in line with maximum in the Code of Conduct for Control of Noise at Concerts but this application seems to go beyond the Code of Conduct and seeks seven days a year. Three days per year is unacceptable and seven days per year is way beyond unacceptable.

The Rugby Club submitted the application without any consultation with residents or neighbours. Also gives no details of the proposed noise volumes for these events. It is also not clear what is being proposed under the "Rugby" events heading. This all appears to be contrary to the intentions set out in the letter to residents from the club's Chairman, Tim Hague, which was circulated to residents recently.

While we understand the need of the Rugby Club to balance its books. The staging of large scale music events throughout the summer next to a closely packed residential community with all the knock-on impact on traffic and low level crime and disorder is not acceptable.

We hope the licensing committee will listen to our concerns as residents and not grant this licence or only grant it with substantial amendment and constraints.

**54 – Hugh & Elizabeth Jane Clough, 13 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EE**

I have tried to set out the history and background to the current application below and also (as previously advised) to cover as many of the points I will wish to make at the hearing.

We live on the south side of Fulbrooke Road, next to the Rugby field. So I am writing to object to this licence application both as residents and also as a City Councillor for Newnham Ward having received a significant number of emails from residents who are also concerned and objecting to this application.

**All licence applications must comply with 4 licensing objectives including:**

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

I believe that the application **will not comply with aspects of the first three** of the licensing objectives.

Firstly it is necessary to make clear that there are already **four licences** in operation at the Rugby Club:

1. Club Premises Licence Wk/201412247 - licence holder Cambridge Rugby Union Club
2. Club Premises Licence CLUBCAM 000026 – licence holder Cambridge Rugby Union Club
3. Premises Licence PRECAM 000926 – licence holder – Live Tour Promotions Ltd
4. Premises Licence PRECAM 000972 – licence holder – London Road Event Hire Services

The first two licences are Club licences which means that the licensable activities are for members of the Rugby Club or their bone fide guests. Live music and recorded music is permitted indoors between 19:00 and 23:00 (23:30 Friday, 24:00 Sat, 22:00 Sunday). I believe these two licences are not of current concern to neighbours. Essentially because the noise impact is limited being generated indoors.

However licences 3 & 4 are real concern because they allow large scale outdoor music events which cause noise driven distress and public nuisance to both close neighbours on Fulbrooke and Selwyn Roads and also the wider neighbourhood of Newnham and also the Broadway in Grantchester.

Licence 4 which was granted following the Licensing hearing on 27<sup>th</sup> January is only for one year and has not happened yet. Residents concerns expressed in

representations about that application and the 27<sup>th</sup> January hearing were based on the impacts from the Live Tour Promotions events in 2023 and 2024.

While it is understood that if the current licence application is granted, licences 3 & 4 will be surrendered. The current replacement licence is far more wide ranging permitting up to seven large scale music events in the year

### **Reasonable linkage to previous events**

Residents concerns about the large scale music events that would be permitted under this new licence are extensive. It is entirely reasonable for them to link their experiences in 2023 and 2024 to this new licence application by the site owners, the Rugby Club especially if the club will be using the same operators (ex Live Tour Promotions) to operate events for them.

### **Scale of objections**

There was a significant volume of objections to Licence 4 which were submitted in early January. There were 23 objections as well mine. These show at pages 39-56 of reports pack for the 27<sup>th</sup> January subcommittee hearing.

The history of the Live Tour Promotion events including our household's experience of the events is as follows:

### **Licence 3 - Live Tour Promotions Ltd – Ibiza Orchestra plus Sausage & Cider – history**

They have run their combined Ibiza Orchestra and Sausage & Cider weekend event twice: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024.

**July 2023** There was a leaflet drop before the first occasion but only during day on 7<sup>th</sup> July. This was clearly late and should have been done a month before. Residents had no idea that any licence had been applied for because no information had been circulated out to them at the time. And a small A4 blue notice on the Rugby Club gate would not have noticed. In 2023 the level of music on the first night was quite loud in our garden but acceptable (to us) inside the house. However **the following night 8<sup>th</sup> – the level was totally unacceptable**. Even inside our house through the double glazed doors, it was very loud and disturbing. I called the contact number provided on the letter but heard nothing back. I also made complaint to Environment health and was given the reference number 381065 and wrote with my concerns to the Rugby on 9<sup>th</sup> July. We were promised copies of the noise records by Ashley (Ash) Ramian but they never arrived.

There was also chaos and acute traffic congestion on Grantchester Road around 11pm 7<sup>th</sup> July when I took my mother home from a visit to see relatives who were staying with us for that week.

**August 2024** (this was after I had been elected to the Council in May 2024) so when we received the letter notifying that there was to be another event weekend, I followed up the email trail with Environmental Health as a "councillor concern"

and also re-emailed the Rugby Club. Environmental health were in contact with Ash to discuss residents concerns.

My email to the Rugby Club resulted in a zoom call on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July during which it was agreed that we would attend the sound test on the Friday afternoon. Ash had told us that the sound had to be limited to **65 decibels** which is the permitted limit.

The sound test took place at a number of place but more relevantly for us at two places along the fence boundary next our house (no.13) and near to no.27 where Lori Cunningham lives who was the other principal street contact with the Rugby Club.

We had previously downloaded the "Decibel Meter" app onto our phones. The sound engineer from F1 Acoustic came to those locations and watching the display on his professional grade unit against the readings on our mobile apps showed very similar results.

During the first evening, Ibiza Orchestra, we monitored the noise volume in our gardens and when the level started to go above 65db after 10pm, a recording was started. I managed to download a segment of data for 17 minutes in CSV format which I was able to pivot table into a layout which showed how the Average peak volume exceeded the 65db maximum in 8 of 17 minutes. This was emailed to Ash the following day but there was no response and also the promised copy of the sound recording was not supplied after the event. Though the acoustic consultant's report submitted as final papers for the 27<sup>th</sup> January hearing is that information.

We continued to monitor the sound on the following evening with the decibel app and they kept to within (just below) the 65db limit during the event so far as we were able to determine.

#### **Consultant's readings versus "Decibel Meter" app**

Comparing the readings in the consultant's report shows 64.2 decibel compared with the pivot table 64.47 decibels for the 15mins recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. This suggests that this mobile phone apps is well able to be used as tool for monitoring the noise and as an evidence base going forward. Though equally I'm sure residents will, if this problem continues, be prepared to fund the acquisition of professional equipment in order to gather their own evidence base of the noise nuisance from the club.

#### **No relief / summer windows open**

The problem with music at 65 decibels at the house boundary is that it is totally dominating of our garden spaces. This is happening in the summer so windows need to be open for cooling so there is little relief other than to move to the rooms in the house on the far side of the house. But even then the music can gain access by travelling over and being bounced back from the houses on the north side of the road.



### **Type of music / Length**

Also it depends whether you actually enjoy listening the type of music being played. Being subjected to music one doesn't enjoy for two days at 65 decibel volume is simply unacceptable.

### **Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts**

We had discovered on the web and also the Environmental Health team sent us the Code of Practice for noise control at concert events produced by the Noise Council which is attached. Table 1 on Page 6 makes it clear that noise should not exceed 65 decibel and that there should only be 1 to 3 concerts at this level of noise during the year.

### **Other noise impacts during this last year 2024**

- Earlier in the summer, the Rugby Club rented out the middle of the field to a student organisation. Marquees were erected and there was some music and evening disturbances. But the main problem was dispersal. Some students clearly remained on site making noise into the early hours. I do not know under which licence this was run. The Rugby Club have advised us that this type of event will not be repeated going forward
- The Club has erected some permanent marquee spaces on the north side of the main built club house. At the end of the summer possibly on match days, there has been a small combo playing and a number of people "jigging" about. This music travel across the space to the gardens and disrupts the peace of a late summer weekend afternoon in the garden.
- The Club also hires out its hard standing to film production companies. There have been problems with noise and fumes from the generators reported by some residents.

### **Misuse of our back lane**

During the dispersal phase on the last LTP weekend in 2024, we found people using our back access lane as a toilet.

## **THE NEW APPLICATION**

### **Cumulative impact / outside Code of Practice**

It is clear that the number of large scale events proposed in this new application - **seven** will exceed the 1-3 events stated in the Code of Practice. Moreover there are other lower key outdoor music event happening at the club which need to be considered as part of the cumulative impact on residents. In terms of the film crew generators, we have not yet attempted to measure or diarise this impact – but it is there and needs to be included in the process.

### **F1: Acoustics – Cambridge Day Festival 2025 – Noise Management Plan**

As part of the papers submitted immediately prior to the 27<sup>th</sup> January hearing, the proposed sound management plan prepared by the sound consultants

F1:Acoustics retained by the applicant included at page 4 Para 2.2 details of the

Code of Practice. Thereby confirming its importance and applicability in this type of location and for this type of music event.

**Decision notice – endorsed code-of-practice**

At page 5 (para 2 on that page) of the Record of Decision for the 27<sup>th</sup> January, the Code of Practice was also referenced and endorsed by the subcommittee – specifically the limit of only 3 annual events and the 65 decibel limit.

**Excessive hours and days**

The scope of the licence in terms of days and hours is completely unreasonable would give the Rugby Club the opportunity to effectively generate noise at any hour of the day apart from night time.

**No information or controls over volume of events**

There is no information about the intended volume of small scale events or Rugby events. Having a Rugby branding with music would allow the club to escape any controls. This is unreasonable.

**Openness of site**

It is important that the openness of the site is clearly understood. There are no sound barriers between the location of the stage at the southern end of the Rugby Club field and housing. It is not merely Fulbrooke Road and Selwyn Road who are impacted. The sound travels directly to affect Millington Road, South Green Road and the Broadway in Grantchester. And indeed people in Newnham report feeling as if the music was being generated in Millington Road it was so loud.

**Lack of consultation - disingenuous approach**

Sadly the club's management is not operating in consultative manner with the community. There was meeting on 11 March with a representative from Fulbrooke Road and South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum to discuss recent planning applications submitted by the club. At this meeting there was no reference whatsoever to this licence application. Though clearly this must have been in the process of discussion with the Environmental Health team prior to submission around 27/28<sup>th</sup> March.

Without being alerted by the email circularisation to Councillors from Licensing, there is no prospect that the community would have had any knowledge of this licence application. Without any objections the application would have been automatically approved.

Yesterday (24<sup>th</sup> April) at 3.45pm barely 24hrs hours before the deadline for objections, the Chairman of the Rugby emailed our contact on the road with a residents update letter which contained reference to the licence application. This is not right and proper and does ask the question about how the club would use the licence if it was granted. The residents are quite right if they were to feel aggrieved by this type of after-the-fact consultation.

**Monitoring device on lamppost – Background noise?**

A month or so back, a noise monitoring device appeared strapped to a lamppost on Fulbrooke Road. This was at a high level so likely to pick up any other road noise. On ringing the contact number the company admitted that they were working for the Rugby Club. After being contacted the company promptly volunteered to remove the unit – so they may have realised that they had incorrectly attached their unit to a public utility's equipment.

There had been no request or information from the club about this surreptitious attempt at recording.

However it should be noted that there is very little background noise in the gardens of Fulbrooke Road. Recently using the decibel app, I did a quick test and noted that a range of **40-43** decibels was being indicated.

### **Neighbouring roads – notified**

Fortunately we have been able to provide briefing a email about this licence application on our Fulbrooke Road email group and this has been forwarded to Grantchester Road and some residents on Selwyn Road for whom we have email addresses.

### **Copies of residents' emails with concerns**

I have yet again received a substantial number of emails expressing concern and also been copied into objections to this latest application. People have mostly set out their concerns with the previous events and are deeply worried that the new licence will increase their discomfort.

### **Issues raised before (for the hearing on 27<sup>th</sup> January) and current complaints include:**

1. Blocked traffic and disruption along Selwyn Road and Grantchester Road.
2. Taxi drivers and other drivers refusing to go into the one-way drop off and collect system on the club grounds. Dropping off early and doing three point turns in the middle of Grantchester Road
3. Loud, drunken behaviour along Selwyn and Grantchester Road, urinating in front gardens and alleyways.
4. Damage to cars on Selwyn Road and bottles/broken glass left for residents to clear up.
5. Unacceptable levels of music and disruption.
6. Concerns about the type of music which may be played at the DJ set 80s 90s – which may be heavy beat electronic dance/rave music.
7. Impact on young children with parents not being able to settle down their children down for sleep at the normal 7-8pm slot. It is not practical to move children to other bedrooms – or indeed why should they have to?
8. Impact on elderly neighbours who are not able to rearrange their schedules and go away on a music event weekend.
9. Reported instances of drug dealing on a corner on Selwyn Road, pre-loading with spirits on the way into the site

In terms of the licencing objectives ... complaints 1 to 8 above apply as follows (i.e contrary to or failing to promote the licensing objective)

- the prevention of crime and disorder: 3, 4,9
- public safety: 1,2,3,4
- the prevention of public nuisance: 3,5,6,7,8

### **Support for the Rugby Club**

We, as a household, understand the need for the Rugby Club to run events which help them balance their books. We were prepared to accept a single two day music event as for 2023 and 2024. But the planned expansion to seven events is unacceptable. The ad hoc music making in the late summer afternoon is also unreasonable given the handful of people involved. It is fine for the club events within the clubhouse ... but everything done on the field has to be balanced against the impact on residents.

We are keen to support the Club and appreciate the neighbourly help they have given to us in past – such as allowing us to access our back garden during extension works and rent car parking space for our daughter's wedding.

### **Support for residents – Environmental health team**

Having exchanged last year detailed emails with the Environmental Health team, it has become clear to me that a number of enhancements to the existing system should be made to help support residents facing this type of situation. These could be addressed on the City Council's website and after discussion and agreement – and also added into the **standard conditions** for this type of event.

- invite **ward councillors and RA / street representatives** to attend the Safety Advisor Group (**SAG**) **meetings** at which the event organisers/Rugby Club present their plans ... and also have sets of the plans circulated beforehand
- provide a copy of the **Code of Practice** on the website along with a notice that council subscribes to this industry standard document. [This already happens on the websites of a number of other councils – which is how we found it originally.]
- require event organisers to employ a professional **sound monitoring** consultant and provide copies of their post event **reports** to Ward councillors and RA / street representatives. And also require them to invite RA / Street reps to attend the pre-event sound tests.
- confirm the **65 decibel or lower limits** and specify no more than three events at this level of noise per year in the licence conditions
- provide details of the recommended decibel monitoring **phone app** that residents can use for monitoring an event. (We understand that the council has already tested and use such an app for Statutory Nuisance where residents have to gather evidence out-of-hours when the Environmental Health team cannot attend due to staffing constraints.)

### **Conclusion**

We personally are opposed to the granting of this licence to the Rugby Club due cumulative impact and on the prevention of public nuisance grounds.



There is considerable objection to this application among residents as summarised above and I expect that many of these will already have been provided as formal objections and will appear in the officer's report.

55 – [REDACTED]

First and foremost we would like to reiterate our wish to support and to continue to support and entertain a good relationship with our neighbours, the Cambridge Rugby Football Club.

As residents of a house that directly backs onto the Cambridge Rugby Football Club, we have direct experience of all rugby use and non-rugby use events. As such, we are directly impacted by any activity and in particular any event that produces high noise levels, such as, for example, the Ibiza Orchestra Experience and the Cider & Sausage Festival held on 2 consecutive days in the Summer for the past two years. Last year, the high noise levels and their duration during the Ibiza Orchestra Experience and the Cider & Sausage Festival prevented us from spending the time we wished to spend in our garden and in our house too.

The Cambridge Rugby Club are proposing to run on an annual basis, an unlimited number of small events (up to 1000 persons) as well as 4 days of medium events (up to 2499 persons) and 3 days of large events (up to 4999 persons) that may be of a noise causing nature. These events may take place between 9.00 and 23.00 except on Sundays being between 10.00 and 22.00 over a 7 day week. These events may take place over a 7 months' period (1st April to 30th October), which is the time when residents can make full use of their property that includes their garden. Potentially, we could be faced during that period with an average of one event per month of a noise causing nature, of a medium to large size and this is excluding small events which are unlimited. This is not acceptable.

Fulbrooke Road is a cul-de-sac with the road access to/from Grantchester Road only. From no. 38 Grantchester Road to no. 50 Grantchester Road/the entrance of Cambridge Rugby Football Club, the road is narrow and operates as a single lane traffic. This is of great concern as the increase in traffic on Grantchester Road from vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians during events reduces the access to Fulbrooke Road by its residents as well as emergency services. With regard specifically to the Ibiza Orchestra and Sausage & Cider Festival last year, reports were made of road blocks by taxi drivers dropping off and collecting people and doing U turns to head back to Barton Road. We are concerned that the single pavement that runs parallel to no. 38 Grantchester Road to no. 50 Grantchester Road/the entrance of Cambridge Rugby Football Club might not have been suitable for the high pedestrian footfall. The use of this part of Grantchester Road to enter the Cambridge Rugby Football Club is questionable certainly when planning to run large and medium size events as there is a risk to public safety. Re-directing the traffic down the narrow country road that leads to Grantchester would also seem to be a questionable option.

The number of days of non-rugby usage will not only inevitably create increased traffic from vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians but also increase the risks of disorderly behaviour. Disorderly behaviour due to drunkenness has been reported with incidents of people urinating in the back lane that leads to our back garden during last year's Ibiza Orchestra and Cider & Sausage & Festivals. This is most distressing and extremely offensive.

The overall proposed frequency, duration and the potential risk to the public and risk of disorderly behaviour as well as the noise inducing nature of certain non-rugby events is unacceptable. The Cambridge Rugby Football Club, which is located in close proximity to a tightly packed residential community, is not a suitable venue. We therefore oppose their application dated 29th March 2025 for a Premises Licence (application reference PRECAM 00975) to hold licensed events at their ground sat Grantchester Road.

We do understand and appreciate the need for the Cambridge Rugby Football Club to find additional sources of revenue to support their ongoing existence/development and hope that solutions acceptable to both the Cambridge Rugby Football Club and the local residential community can be found