Agenda Item 6

Licencing Sub Committee: 16 May 2025

Cambridge Rugby Club Hearing

Additional paperwork supplied by Councillor Clough, Ward Councillor for Newnham.

- 1. Supplementary Statement
- 2. Scan of hand written adjustments to the draft licence pages 19-34 of the circulated document pack.



Hugh and Jane Clough 13 Fulbrooke Road Cambridge, CB3 9EE

Emails:	

Democratic Services Team -Cambridge City Council

By email to democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk

14 May 2025

Dear Democratic Services

<u>Premises Certificate application PRECAM 000975 Cambridge Rugby Football Club – Supplementary Statement – for Licensing Sub-committee hearing 16 May 2025 10am</u>

Please can you accept this supplementary statement to our letter of representation and objection dated 25th April and add it to the papers for the hearing on 16 May.

Revised Section 182 Guidance (Feb 2025)

This was referred to in the Decision Notice for the previous 27th January hearing.

Under **Licence conditions – general principles 1.16**, bullet points 5,8 and 9 it states that they:

- must be tailored to the **individual type**, **location and characteristics** of the premises and events concerned
- be **proportionate**, justified and capable of being met
- cannot seek to manage the behaviour of customers once they are beyond the direct management of the licence holder and their staff, but may impact on the behaviour of customers in the immediate vicinity of the premises or as they enter or leave; and should be written in a prescriptive format

The current licence application does not meet these guiding principles:

- it is clear from the details in the very large number representations received from the community
 that the noise impact from the events in 2023 and 2024 is far wider that the immediately
 adjacent roads and has caused extensive distress and upset to the community.
 The area is flat and the sound travels for long distances and even passes over roof tops to
 impact the residence beyond.
 - This is an area of relatively dense housing and in summer people are unable to enjoy the peace in the gardens or indeed escape the noise entirely even by retreating indoors.
- the proposed licensing hours of operation are unreasonably extensive **9:00-23:00** (10:00 to 22:00)
- the lack of restriction for Rugby Use events is not logical and is disproportionate. It allows a
 complete loop hole for anything which has a Rugby branding.
 The normal activities on the field mid-week which involve training and matches do not require a
 - The normal activities on the field mid-week which involve training and matches do not require a license. It is understood and accepted that on scheduled match days that the club's inside bar will be open and spectators may be enjoying a drink while watching the match from the stand. (If there is a concern that is not adequately covered by the Club Premises licence then that should be addressed clearly in a separate application). But other occasions apart from match days should be clearly included with the main restrictions for events and noise control.

Looking at the question of **immediate vicinity**, the size of the events which occurred in 2023 and 2024 and the reported disturbances and traffic chaos, shows that the area extends well beyond the

boundary of the Rugby Club to Grantchester, Fulbrooke, Selwyn, Kings and Barton Road. Setting detailed conditions for the management of ingress, dispersal and poor behaviour in these areas by a substantial team of trained marshalls is entirely reasonable and should be expected by the residents.

Public Nuisance

The Revised Guidance goes on to consider Public Nuisance at paragraph 2.21 onwards:

At 2.21 it states "The 2003 Act enables licensing authority .. through representations to consider what constitutes public nuisance and what is appropriate to prevent it in terms of conditions... "

Clearly what has happened already even at the **65 decibel limits** from the representations received constitutes public nuisance – but there is no reference to noise limits in the licence application. These must be inserted. And in order to remove the risk of public nuisance going forward, limits lower than **65** decibels should be considered ... say **60** decibels at the boundary of the properties on the south side of Fulbrooke and Selwyn Roads.

The Code of Conduct on Environmental Control of Noise at Concerts which was referred to F1 Acoustic's Day management plan and is widely accepted by local authorities and operators – sets a Limit of not more than **three** concert days per year at **65** decibels. The current application seeks to have **seven** days per annum which is clearly far beyond this guidance.

Commercial interests of the applicant .. and the rights of residents

A comment on this was included in the Decision Notice for the 27th January hearing (page 5 paragraph 7 penultimate paragraph). It is not clear whether the Rugby Club will try to introduce any information about their financial position to support this application but if they do - having reviewed their accounts filed with Mutuals Register, I would request the opportunity to submit an appropriate written commentary on what these accounts appear to show.

TENS applications – lack of consultation

In my representation I raised the issue of the failure of the club to consult effectively with the community and taking a disingenuous approach to the information is supplies to residents. Only yesterday we had a meeting with the club about a planning application it is considering re-submitting for Padel Courts. The issue of the current licensing application was and discussed briefly. But there was no mention that the club had submitted **four** Temporary Event Notice (TEN) applications for events mid June and mid July. These were only discovered last night on re-inspecting the licensing register for this statement. This could easily have been mentioned to the residents last night and as this information emerges will hardly encourage the community to believe what it is being told the full truth in communications from the club.

POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE

1. Rejection, consultation and re-submission

In view of the wholly excessive nature of this application and the substantial number of objections, it seems that the sub-committee has ample scope within its powers to reject this application completely and or ask the club to withdraw, consult properly with the community on the fine detail and re-submit.

2. Replace Premises Licences with equivalent Licences

Alternatively if the club feel that it wants to take over the arrangements for the existing Premises Licences held by Live Tour Promotions and London Road Events Services, then the scope of the licence should be cut down to match what has already been agreed for these three large event days in 2024 and ideally be set to expire on completion of the events this year. In order for a more considered licence to be agreed with the community for 2026 onwards.

3. Modified version of current application

I have hand adjusted the existing licence application to try to make the hours and event numbers more reasonable to residents. In view of the short timescale involved I have not been able to send this proposal around to gauge a response so Options a and b remain the best approach.

Key points are:

- Licence is restricted to Friday and Saturday events in order to protect the working weekday evenings and also Sunday for residents. 09:00 is replaced by 14:00
- the split between Rugby and Non-Rugby use is removed Page 30 1,2 & 3.
- Small events are limited to ten days per year
- Medium and Large events are limited to 3 days per year in total
- Ward councillors, Street & Road & RA presentatives will also be invited to SAG meetings. Page 31 (point 10).
- Page 33 Point 42 ... add 42b Marshalling arrangements along Grantchester Road will be agreed with Councillors, Road and RA representatives. Fulbrooke, Selwyn and Kings Road to be closed.
- Page 34 add point 51 (a) Noise limit for Medium and Large scale events will not exceed 65 decibels as Code of Conduct. 51 (b) Noise limit for Small events will be not more than 10 decibels above background noise level.
- Page 34 add point 54b Road and Street reps will be invited to the Sound test.

Attached reference documents

There were three documents attached to my representation which the sub-committee might wish to have to hand for the hearing.

- 1. Original Public reports pack (for 27 January hearing)
- 2. Record of Decision for 27 January hearing
- 3. Code of Practice on Environmental Control of Noise at Concerts.

I have also attached a scan of my hand written adjustments to the draft licence pages 19-34 of the circulated document pack.

Yours sincerely

Hugh and Elizabeth Jane Clough



Will the performance of a play take place indoors or outdoors or both O indoors O Outdoors O Both		SUNDAY	SATURDAY	FRIDAY		THURSDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	MONDAY	Standard Days And Timings	Will you be providing plays?	PROVISION OF PLAYS	If 5,000 or more people are expected to attend the premises at any one time, state the number expected to attend
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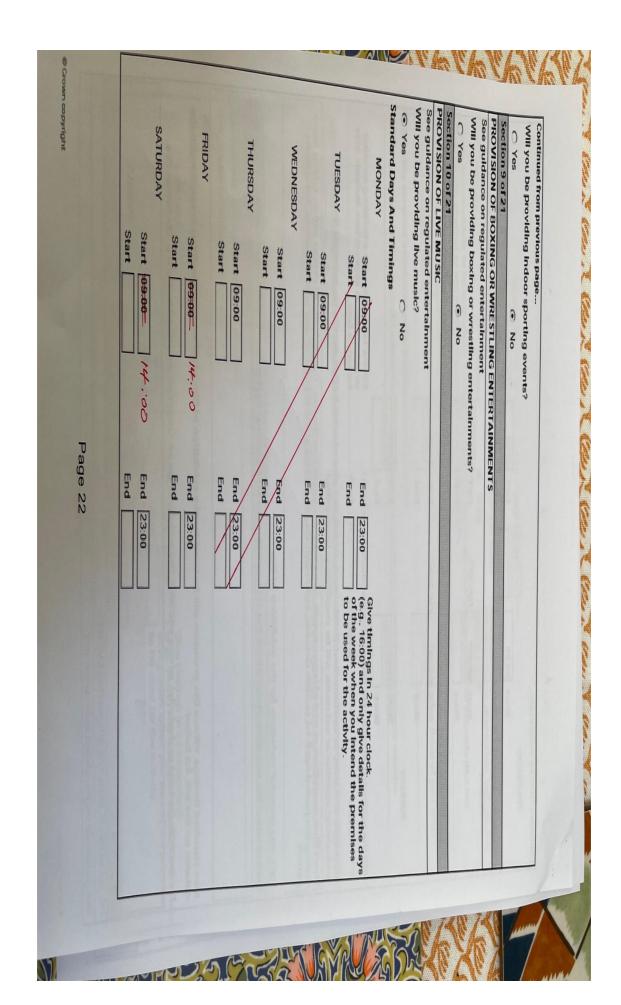
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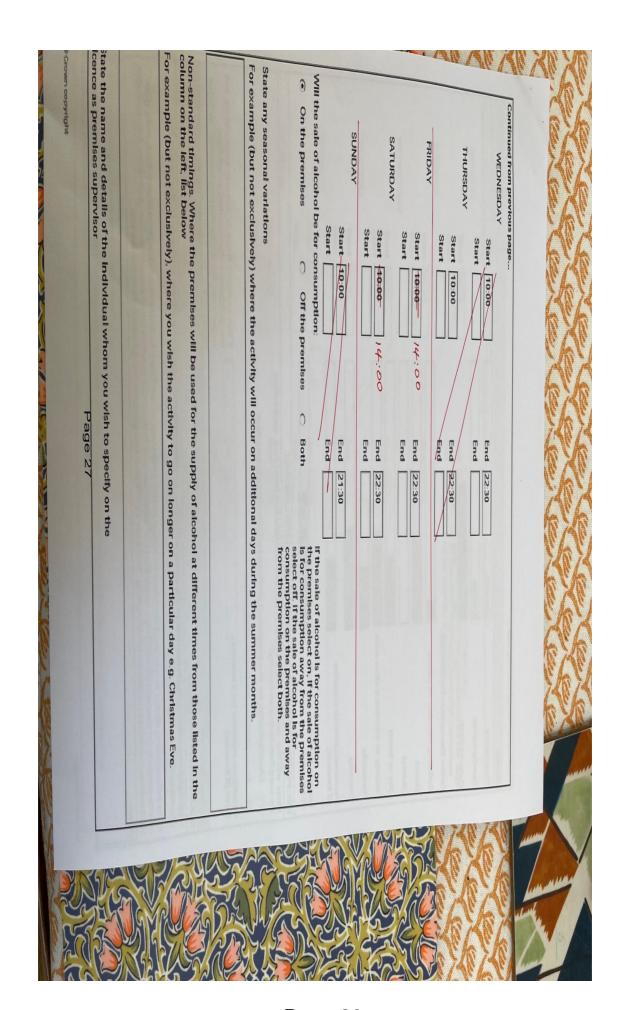


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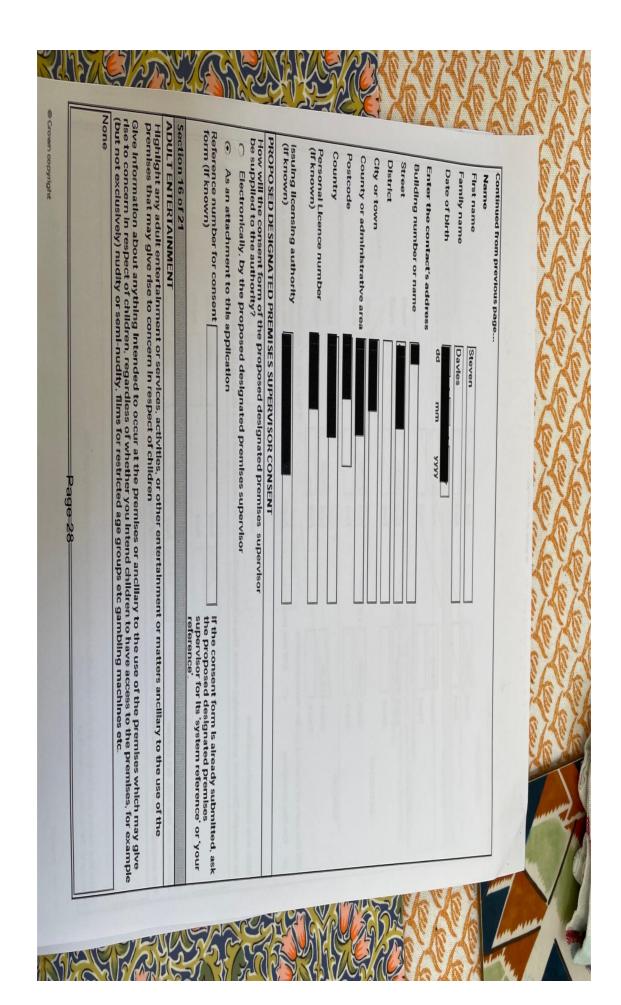


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