

ANNEX D1

Supporter No 1

To whom it may concern

With reference to the above application, please see my response in support.

I am a resident in Ystradgynlais and a mother of 2 boys, 1 of whom has previously played rugby, and who attends events there.

Also in 2014 when Powys council put out a consultation to close ALL the specialist units in the schools, the club heavily supported us in fighting this decision.

This included but not limited to, allowing us to attend games and get petitions signed, including an on air/streamed game where our banner was in prime position. Having members of the club do a fundraising London to Cardiff challenge for the local units to have extra equipment. Allowing us free entry to put on events.

Below is my comment on a local post (not by the club) looking for views/support.

100% especially when they give a lot back to the community. Regular charity quiz nights, free grassroots rugby. The more money the club make the longer free sports and events can go on.

I wouldn't have thought they are going to have events every single day, but if it averaged 3-4 nights a week, then that's staff being regularly employed, money going back into the community.

Bringing people to the area, who may then walk into the town to spend money.

A lot of these out side events also offer stalls to local businesses/traders. An excellent opportunity especially for those self employed.

The rugby club also offers a lot of sponsorship deals, again promoting local businesses at all ages when home and away.

A fantastic social media presence, and good links to professional/international places. Again bringing people to the area.

If we don't support what's in our community, then we can't complain that there's nothing to do, what's there to do for kids/teens.

We don't have to attend all the events, but show them it's appreciated, share and like etc.

As for noise/litter/parking issues, the club do their best to alleviate these. Promoting where to park/not to park.

They are all approachable and will work with the community.

Supporter No2

I have today received a letter from a Councillor urging us to oppose the Ystrad RFC licence. I am a resident of Ynyscedwyn Road and I am totally behind the rugby club's application. The club does wonders for the community and especially grass roots rugby and families.

Supporter No 3

We are a group of residents based in and around the rugby club in Ystradgynlais and want to provide a response in support of the rugby club's recent licensing application:

1. We feel we are representing the silent majority in and around the area and not the minority in the locality who are strongly opposed to this application looking after their self interests rather than the good of the community.
2. The rugby club has in recent years developed as a first class community facility and been at the centre of community development in Ystradgynlais for years. It has developed what we see as local residents as a level of professionalism and quality in the way that they conduct themselves not normally seen in the voluntary sector.
3. Their events are very well run and managed professionally, and provide excellent entertainment and well-being for the whole community. They also undoubtedly have an economic spin off in the local economy as they attract people from far and wide that otherwise wouldn't come to Ystradgynlais
4. The fact that they have only applied for licensing of 5 outdoor events has not been made clear in the application online, as many local people have inaccurately and inadvertently been led to believe that this application will allow the club to put on an indefinite number of events throughout the summer whenever they wish to. If this was the case, I'm sure most people would object (including ourselves) but this, as you know is completely inaccurate, and therefore understandable why people would be in opposition.
5. Following on from 4, the opposition to this licensing application has been skewed and this unfortunately has been exacerbated by the distribution of a scare mongering campaign whereby a local community councillor has unethically undertaken door-to-door leaflet dropping of false information to residents. We therefore believe that any responses you get opposing the application (as they would have been generated on a foundation of inaccurate information), should possibly be discarded in the best interest of fairness and balance in arriving at any decision regarding this licensing application.
6. The club as far as we are concerned living in Ynyscedwyn Road and beyond have been excellent in the advanced communication pre, post and during any events that they have recently put on. Their traffic management and the security measures have been as good as anything and the expected social problems that some neighbours had pre-warned us about had failed to materialise.
7. Ironically, some of our residents have said that the intrusion caused by people knocking our doors, flooding our social media feeds to generate opposition to the club and the leaflet dropping of inaccurate and bias information has been more intrusive to our personal lives than any event that the club has put on!
8. The fact that the club will work with the council's event team in planning events is testimony to how professional this club and its approach to community development is. This partnership and collaboration with the local authority should be applauded and encouraged and used as an example of best practice for other event organisers throughout the county of Powys.
9. This club clearly does things properly and have always placed the interests of the local community and local residents at the very heart of what it does. The fact that a tiny minority living adjacent to the facility are aggressively opposed to any activity that goes on, is self interest at best, and classic 'NIMBY-ism' at worse. Either way, their opposition is definitely not in the best interest of the wider community of Ystradgynlais.
10. The type of community events that the club want to put on compliment the existing programme of cultural events in Ystradgynlais. Currently in the town, the community is

restricted to experiencing a limited programme of indoor events at the excellent Welfare Hall which offers a completely different portfolio to the outdoor events to be staged at the Recreation Ground. So we feel that what the club is offering enhances the overall cultural offer from Ystradgynlais and together in unison with the Welfare Hall's programme, creates a far more attractive, complete and diverse events offer for the town for its residents and visitors to enjoy!

11. The club, given their proven record of professionalism and it's community centred approach, should be encouraged to be sustainable by diversifying the events offer to cater for much wider interests in the community rather than just rugby. The most successful sport venues up and down the country have to do this to survive given the trends in sport club membership and how patterns in sport have changed since lockdown. Not only does it sustain the club as a venue and sport provider, but allowing just 5 well managed and professionally planned and executed outdoor events throughout the Summer in Ystradgynlais, will have a huge bearing on the well-being of the community and local economy.

I hope this helps you make a more balanced decision and presents a fairer assessment of local residents needs and views across a much wider cross-section of the local community. We would never normally feel the need to respond to a licensing application but the way that the opposition to the application has been handled has incensed a lot of local people, and we feel that the actions undertaken have been disproportionate, unjust, uncalled for and even unethical. Perhaps if everyone knew (including the community councillor himself!) that it is only a maximum of 5 outdoor events that they will be allowed to stage, and the false information was not distributed via a scare-mongering campaign, a lot of the opposition would have been correctly informed. This would have resulted in people not being swayed or press-ganged to oppose something that is so needed in our local community.

Thank you so much for your time. If you do require a list of our names and addresses who support this, we would be more than happy to provide this officially as a petition in support of the outdoor community events in our town, but ask that we remain anonymous at this stage for fear of any backlash or pitch-forking from an aggressive opposing group. We do after all want to live in a happy community without hassle and social tensions, but given the way in which this has been handled by a minority of people, we just wanted to make sure that the council are aware of the views of the silent majority. Just to be clear, we have not and will not resort to any dirty-tricks campaigning to influence people's thoughts on this through social media and other propaganda such as the practice of door-to-door leaflet dropping. We also think that maybe if the opposing minority hadn't resorted to those intrusive tactics with mis-information, we could have all sat down to discuss this properly and fairly discussed the facts at hand.

Thank you once again for at least considering our views, and we will accept and respect any decision that the council's licencing committee arrives at.

On behalf of Ystradgynlais Recreation Ground Local Community Group.

Supporter No4

I would to offer my full. support

I live by the club and can see how the club is the heartbeat of the community. Some much charity work and community work goes on. I offer my FULL support to this application. Its a family club, thats fully inclusive.

Unfortunately it seems via social media that a local town councillor is on a one man crusade against the club. Alot of untruths and even fake email addresses and profile have been developed by this individual.

This is unfair on the great work and effort club makes with local residents like myself.

Thanks

Supporter No5

To whom this may concern,

I am writing in support of the licence application submitted by Ystradgynlais RFC LTD, in regards to the licencing hours from Monday to Sunday and the right to host events during these times.

I support they're application for the reasons outlined below:

The club is an integral part of the community of Ystradgynlais providing essential activities that support the wellbeing of local children and adults.

The club is always eager to support events held by local schools, voluntary and community groups where possible.

The club is run by unpaid representatives who give up their free time to ensure a programme of events is rolled out around the year, providing reasonably priced, accessible entertainment to our area.

Events are always well attended and well supported by the community from young to old, welcoming neighbouring clubs and societies.

Ystradgynlais is known to be one of the main areas in Powys affected by poverty therefore events that bring the community together are important in promoting community spirit.

There is little, if any reports of incidences such as police or ambulance attendance needed at these events.

The neighbours are consulted and actions taken to promote their privacy and respect by the club during events, such as trying to prevent problem parking, notices about noise pollution late at night, waste bins provided etc, to minimise inconvenience to the neighbours.

I would add that I do not live in the direct housing adjacent to the club, therefore I am not able to report effects they may experience that others wouldn't expect it think of.

I would also urge those who may have concerns to approach yourselves in this capacity.