

ANNEX D

Objector No 1

I wish to strongly object to the application for the below licence.

Application for new premises licence

Applicant:

Ystradgynlais Rugby Football Club Limited, Ystradgynlais Rugby Club, Ynyscedwyn Road, Ystradgynlais, Swansea, SA9 1BH

Premises:

Playing field Ystradgynlais Rugby Football Club, Ystradgynlais Rugby Football Club, Ynyscedwyn Road, Ystradgynlais, Swansea, SA9 1BH

Activities:

- **Sale of Alcohol for consumption on and off the premises** , 11:00 to 23:00 Monday to Sunday
- **Regulated entertainment in the form of Plays and Films** , 11:00 to 23:00 Monday to Sunday
- **Regulated entertainment in the form of Live and recorded music, Performance of Dance and anything Similar** , 11:00 to 23:30 Monday to Sunday

Closing date for representations: 09/07/2023

Last year I and other residents contacted yourselves in relation to the management of the current licence. As things stand we are still experiencing...

-Late night antisocial noise and drinking outside the club on the patio area.

-Music played loudly on the patio area.

- A failure of staff to disperse clients at the end of the evening.

-Verbal abuse directed towards residents when they politely ask patrons of the Club to move on, go inside or keep voices down.

-Doors to venue open when bands or DJ's are performing noise carrying at least 100metres and audible in homes with windows and doors shut.

-Clients leaving the venue with alcohol.

-All of this goes on well past 11.30pm at night.

-No signs outside the club requesting respect towards residents, they were there where have they gone?

You can imagine our alarm in relation to the change/extension of licence application.

It has been extremely short notice, I had been away, I only became aware of it on the 13th of June when we received their letter informing us of their intention. It does not provide a sufficient time frame to raise awareness and allow residents to gather all the relevant information and make representation to other authorities. The signage/advertising in relation to the license is small (A4), is placed in obscure areas and easily missed.

If as in their letter they only plan to hold “very limited number in fact probably only one event” “which would be the music festival” then the obvious question is why do they require such an extensive change in their licence, surely there are other licences that would accommodate a one off annual event!

I would like to know much more detail...

- When was the application submitted.
- Has an event management plan been submitted, if so where/can we see it.
- Has a Safety advisory Group meeting taken place yet if so where/can we see it's results.
- What other types of event will they host.
- What is the limit on site capacity.

How will they manage the increased traffic and parking. This will impact other users of the grounds alongside residents.

- The Welfare Grounds is a large open site what part of it would be used, will they cordon off areas. How will they manage the on site security. Will there be checks and searches for drugs or dangerous weapons being carried into the site, who will do it, how will it be managed. Is there sufficient police manpower in the community to deal with large events of this kind.
- How will the on-site sanitation, cleanliness, power and water be managed.
- Will access to the foot path and bike path be open, in the past when they have had events they have closed the access to others members of the community and residents who have rear access off the path.

Last years music festival was a fiasco in a long history of other poorly run events. Why would we have any confidence in the Club to organise and run a safe, considerate event. I urge you to decline this licence application.

Objector No2

As residents of Ynyscedwyn road we wish to object to the above mentioned License application.

As you are aware from previous correspondence for the last two years, under new management at YRFC residents have been subjected to noise and anti social behaviour most weekends.

In June last year residents were given a circular advising of a forthcoming Music Festival, the circular advised that the event would be well managed.

Previous e mails sent to your department identify that the event was completely mismanaged. The License granted by yourselves was completely inappropriate as it only allowed for half the number of attendees.

A Meeting was convened between residents, a representative of YRFC committee and Powys County



What came as a surprise was that residents were offered finance from YRFC to pay for a weekend away for the 2023 event!

The application implies that only one event will be held, if a Licence was granted undoubtedly there would be numerous events.

Ystradgynlais already have a venue for these events, the Miners Welfare Hall, events held at the hall are well managed and do not cause disruption to the local residents. Why therefore is there a need for a second venue especially when the second venue is only interested in the sale of alcohol.

We attach for your information a photograph showing the location of the Licence Notice, is it not a requirement to post Licence Application Notices on public thoroughfares not on the private land of the Licencee, we only saw the notice as we had to attend the premises for a covid jab!

Ynyscedwyn road is a residential area, YRFC is supposedly a Rugby Club, why should residents be subjected to all the noise and antisocial behaviour generated by the sale of excessive alcohol. Efforts should be concentrated on the game of Rugby not promoting the sale of alcohol, especially to excess as appears to be the case at this club.

Properties are being devalued, obviously not a concern to licencing, are we entitled to a rate rebate considering all we have to tolerate every weekend, or do you consider as the YRFC Club Chairman voiced recently we should not have bought the properties. Considering some properties were here 50 years before the club house was built this shows his lack of concern.

The ground floor of the stand has been converted into a gymnasium, not itself a problem, however attendees to the gym apparently have to play loud music from approx 8.30 am, at all the gyms that I attended there never was music, residents backing on to the gym have to tolerate the noise when out in their gardens.

No attempt is made by Club Management to limit noise generated from loud music, all doors are left open showing no respect for residents. There are no attempts to move on customers at the end of the night and they stand around in the club car park causing disruption.

We therefore request on behalf of residents that no further License Applications from YRFC be granted.

The current Licence was granted after strong objections by both the Police and residents, the impression that we get is that Licencing will grant whatever YRFC apply for, will you please therefore advise why the sale of alcohol is so important to Powys CC.





YRFC have submitted a Licence Application to hold outdoor events, the attached photographs show how badly YRFC manage these events.

Toilets directly opposite residents properties, individuals urinating through the fence onto the pavement, stage erected directly facing properties no traffic control etc etc.

We will therefore be opposing the application.

The License granted last year did not cover the attendee level hence the late application for a new licence.

Objector No 3

I am one of the long suffering residents of Ynyscedwyn Road, Ystradgynlais, living directly adjacent to the rugby club and playing field for which this open air alcohol licence is being applied for.

We have this week received a letter pushed through the front door from the committee of the rugby club merely saying they have applied for TWO outdoor licences for what they call "a limited number of events on the field."

If ever there was an open-ended attempt to get a licence to hold endless open air festivals, fun days, and whatever other days they can think of throughout the year, without any

control of licensing hours, noise levels, antisocial behaviour, and parking difficulties, then this is it.

I wish to lodge my strongest possible objections to any "carte blanche" licensing application to be considered by Powys Licensing Committee.

With all due respect to the county councillors and officials this application by the rugby club is, in my humble opinion, the thin edge of the wedge.

To put it bluntly we have been blatantly lied to on previous occasions, as we were before last year's music festival, and I see no reason to accept with any confidence what they say in regards to the current application. If it is intended to only hold a limited number of events, why make TWO applications for new licences every day of the week from 11am until 11 30pm, and to cover films and plays for example, when we already have a superb community and welfare hall half a mile away with full programmes of light entertainment ? This why alarm bells are already ringing loudly with us residents.

Once the licence has been granted we will be powerless to get any changes. Ideally, I would like to object to the application in its entirety , But what we can do, hopefully, is to get some stringent conditions to the terms of all outdoor events. I stress ALL outdoor events as I have no doubt whatsoever that if and when a licence is granted it will just open the doors to probably weekly events with no regulations on hours, noise, and unruly behaviour etc.

We have an ongoing problem as it is with weekend outdoor bands and discos on the patio, resulting in constant loud music, late night drinking, and antisocial behaviour, including being verbally abused by the so-called revellers. When we have complained we have received the standard reply...We have a licence to do it ! But now even the facility to complain has been taken from us. We have been blocked from the club's social media page.

We have been informed there is an application for a music festival on Saturday, August 12, on similar lines to last year's festival which was a total fiasco with no thought or consideration to us residents.

My main complaint then, which has been greatly enhanced even more now, was the unacceptable high level of noise from the main stage. Eleven hours of constant and absolute hell, which forced us to sit indoors all day with windows and doors shut, with no relief. It's not even just a loud noise, but a constant pulsating thump of the electronic bass which was so loud the house walls sometimes vibrated. It can honestly drive a person up the wall.

Beforehand, we received a letter telling us the stage would be situated on the other side of the field facing the Trawsffordd industrial units, and away from any residential houses.

On the day, it suddenly changed at extremely short notice to right outside our houses facing us with intolerable levels of noise. We were told the noise was quite loud at the top end of Penrhos about two miles away, so what chance did we residents have less than 50 metres away ?

We were told by one club member the location was changed by the engineers who erected the stage and sound equipment without consultation. Then we were informed it had been

changed to make it easier for people to get their drinks from the clubhouse, even though there were two fully staffed temporary bars on the field.

There were numerous additional "promises" made but not a single one was kept.

We need firm and committed promises on car parking, experienced security staff and stewarding (and not two men in hi-viz jackets sipping a pint by the front entrance). Under age drinking must be controlled and rowdy and drunken behaviour sorted. Location of mens and ladies toilets must be more discreet and not in full view of residents and every single car and bus that went past.

Plus, and this in our opinion is extremely important, bars shut down at 10pm and people dispersed away from the site by 11pm. It is not acceptable that drunken youths and girls are allowed to congregate and behave unruly and offensively, directly outside my house until the early hours.

This occurred as recently as last Saturday, at 11 45pm when my partner had finally endured enough and when she went out to ask them to move away she was met with a barrage of abuse and bad language. We have a video of this episode if anyone cares to see it !

To sum up, if this licence is granted, may we see a full Health and Safety approved risk assessment for the day, dealing with noise level control; the safety and well being of not only people attending the event but also residents; parking; what measures will be in place to prevent under age drinking; toilet and sanitation; level and professionalism of stewards; will there be a police presence to control unsociable behaviour ? what controls will be in place regarding the number attendees throughout the day ? and finally what measures will be taken at the end of the day regarding dispersal of rowdy and drunken revellers ?

That is why we residents urge you to grant one licence at a time for specified events and not an endless time limit for any kind of event, any time of year without control measures in place. For example, I have been told that to erect a main pavilion/stage and portable toilet facilities for one day would not really be cost effective, if another day can be added.

I apologise for the long winded email, but I hope I have expressed the genuine concerns we have on the rapidly diminishing quality of life we are experiencing on a weekly basis. It all stems from the open air bands and disco on the patio which starts at teatime and culminates in late night noise and disturbance. An unregulated series of open air events on this huge scale on the field throughout summer would be the final straw !

I am not claiming it's being engineered by the club, but there is currently a growing campaign on social media in support of the licence, with numerous people lauding the " vision " of the committee in attracting people to visit the town and bringing much needed live entertainment for the community etc etc. It's what Ystradgynlais has needed for a long time is the common theme. I know several of these contributors personally and they include current committee men, members, volunteers, as well as general public. But no-one, absolutely no-one, lives anywhere near the club. They can spend a couple of hours enjoying themselves drinking and listening to loud music, and then disappear to the calmness and

tranquility of their homes when it suits them. We have no choice and have to put up with it from lunchtime to the early hours.

I thank you again for your time and patience in considering my objections. I apologise again for being long winded but I really do hope I managed to convey the genuine anxiety and apprehension we have as residents.

It really is the last chance saloon for us, and all we ask for is a level playing field, if you pardon the pun !! Life could be so much easier and more pleasant if more consideration was given to the noise levels, positioning of the stage away from houses, a compromise on the licensing hours, and professional stewarding to control loud and unruly behaviour. This is not a cultural event.

I make no apology for finally repeating my objection. We have to endure excessively loud music and anti social behaviour almost every weekend of the year and to grant this open air licence allowing nothing more than a drinking and loud music festival until the early hours on a regular basis will amount to a public nuisance and a breach of my rightful entitlement to the enjoyment of my home.

Should you require any further information or observation please do not hesitate to get in touch. We do have photographic evidence of the proximity of the main stage to the houses last year, the totally inadequate toilet facilities in full view of residents and passing traffic, and the traffic cones and other debris recovered from our gardens the following morning, should you require photographic evidence to back our claims.

Diolch yn fawr !

Objector No4

We wish to register our objection for the application by Ystradgynlais Rugby Club for a new premises license.

There is a distinct possibility of an escalation of crime and disorder in the area owing to the increase of alcohol consumption until late at night. The anti social behaviour and extra traffic noise late at night is another inconvenience to people in this area. The possibility of public safety being compromised because of the extra traffic, and extra alcohol consumption which is highly likely. There will be the continual noise nuisance from live music. The Rugby ground has an open boundary which makes it impossible to ensure child safety. There are schools and cycle paths in the area, which may be another consideration.

This is a residential area and utmost consideration should be given when deciding this licensing issue, and justice given to the Council Tax paying residents of this area, many of whom are elderly and can do without more aggravation.

Objector No5

I wish to formally lodge my objection to the licensing application to be considered by the authority in relation for an outdoors music an events licence by Ystradgynlais Rugby Club.

I live in Ynyscedwyn Road, Ystradgynlais, directly opposite and within touching distance of the field in relation to this application, and in my opinion granting of this licence will make our lives even more intolerable than they already are.

I wish to be associated with the letter of objection you have already received regarding this matter and support fellow residents who have also objected. We are extremely concerned at how much the granting of this outdoor licence would blight our lives, even more than it already does.

Even though the rugby club maintain the licence is specifically applied for in relation to a music festival, we fear it will be used to cover general outdoor loud music every weekend. We already suffer from excessively loud music on the so-called "viewing" platform and large congregations of revellers drinking, shouting, singing, and generally causing a nuisance every weekend as it is. Then when the music and drinking stops it spills out on to the streets and childrens play area late into the night and early hours. In fact this happened as recently as last night way past midnight.

To put it bluntly we have been lied to on previous occasions regarding the intentions of the rugby club regarding outdoor festivals and discos, and once the licence has been granted we are powerless.

I repeat my strong objections to the application. Should the application be granted against our wishes, however, can we please ask for firm and committed promises by the rugby club to show some empathy towards us residents and to strictly adhere to the terms and conditions of any licence that is approved, hopefully for individual events not a blanket licence for all outdoor activities.

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Objector No7

I wanted to see the actual Application for licences at "Ystradgynlais Rugby Club".

I have read guidance about making an application and the information that is needed to be provided in an application. I want to see that information please? You can call me on xxxxxx if you wish to.

I would also like to know the nature of the license that is currently in operation at the premises referred to in the Application. I am not in a position to travel to Llandrindod Wells to see such information.

Even without full information I will make representations.

1) There is no such company as "Ystradgynlais Rugby Club Ltd" on the Companies House Register.

2) "Clwb Rygbi Ystradgynlais Ltd" is a private company limited by guarantee and not a community interest company.

3) The "*Playing field Ystradgynlais Rugby Football Club, Ystradgynlais Rugby Football Club, Ynyscedwyn Road, Ystradgynlais, Swansea, SA9 1BH*" referred to in the application is owned by "Ystradgynlais Community Welfare Grounds Association", a Community Interest Organisation registered with the Charities Commission.

4) It is unclear as to what the relationship is between "Clwb Rygbi Ystradgynlais Ltd" and the Ystradgynlais Community Welfare Grounds Association, and with the the playing of rugby on its playing fields under the auspices of the Welsh Rugby Union. This needs to be clarified.

5) There is a carpark on the "Recreation Ground" but there is no parking at the "Rugby Club", when its car park is being used for outdoor events such as a fair or market place. This leads to noise and congestion on Ynyscedwen Road with car parking on the road and sidewalks. This is dangerous and a nuisance as is noise from a fair or people leaving the premises.

6) "Rugby Clubs" have a reputation for misogyny which is offensive to many people at the best of times. "Rugby Clubs" also have a reputation for binge drinking. Alcohol inebriation can fuel such behaviour. Children and other vulnerable persons can be exposed to such influences. <https://fb.watch/lkd2pdxMWi/>

6) I have personally been informed of illicit drug activity at the "Ystradgynlais Rugby Club" premise. I have no personal experience of this but it would be better not allow lax alcohol consumption and partying at this site as this is likely to lead to social disorder.