

Broadway Residents Association



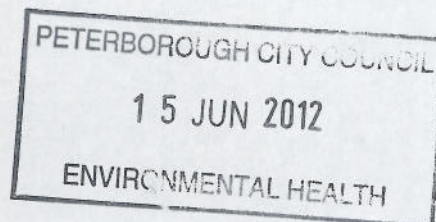
Broadway • Broadway
Gardens • Park Crescent

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14th June 2012

The Licensing Team
Peterborough City Council
Bayard Place
Broadway
Peterborough
PE1 1HZ



Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Application for premises licence variation

Reference: 064341

Premises Name: Central Park

Premises Address: Central Park, Park Crescent, Peterborough

On behalf of the Broadway Residents Association, which encompasses Broadway, Broadway Gardens and Park Crescent, I ask that you consider this objection to the proposed licence variation.

It is remarkable that the applicant is asking for major variations in the licence without a single word of justification. We would hope that the licensing committee reject this application solely on that basis. Surely the many affected individuals should be given the opportunity to consider the applicant's reasons for the proposed variation so that they may understand the thinking behind the application and be given a chance to comment. In the absence of any justification from the applicant we make the following comments.

1. We do not believe any sensible assessment has been made of whether Central Park is large enough for an event with 14999 people. Several of our members regularly attend events in the Park, including the festival, which undoubtedly attracts the largest crowds. Over the years we have estimated that attendances are consistently well below 5000 at any one time and even with these numbers the concert area is fairly crowded. We strongly support events in Central Park, including festival events, but also feel strongly that it is unsuitable for large events, which are more appropriately located on the embankment, where there is a much larger area than Central Park with purpose-designed parking areas close by and more distant from residential areas.

Much of Central Park is taken up with tennis courts, bowling, croquet and putting greens, children's play area, footpaths, gardens and trees/shrubs. This leaves maybe only a quarter of the Park suitable for events and a significant proportion of that is taken by the stage, and food and other entertainment stalls. There is just not space to accommodate 14999 people safely.

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2. A significant proportion of attendees at a large event will travel by car, creating major issues for parking and traffic management and disruption for local people. Are there plans to deal with parking and traffic management for large numbers of vehicles? Have the police and other relevant bodies been consulted?
3. Health and safety are significant concerns. Is a risk assessment available for an event with 14999 people? Has there been consultation with police, fire and other emergency services? Have issues of access for emergency vehicles and evacuation procedures been addressed? What are the plans for toilet facilities?
4. There are no indications of how often events with attendances of 14999 are expected. There is considerable noise and disruption for local residents during such events even with 2000-3000 people. The issue would be magnified with much larger crowds. Central Park is a great asset for all the people of Peterborough and it is well used, including for special events, but it should also be remembered that it is in the middle of a residential area with Conservation status.
5. While we can see that some of the current conditions are not applicable to Central Park, this application asks for removal of some conditions that appear to us as very relevant and they should remain. All should be referred to police and fire authorities before they are removed but we comment on the following specifically:

Condition 12: *The maximum occupancy of the licensed premises is restricted at any one time to 4,999.*

This condition should remain for the reasons given above.

Condition 17: *No conduct or behaviour which is obscene, indecent, offensive, disgusting or shocking or of demoralising character or which in any way offends against recognised standards or propriety or is injurious to the public shall take place on the Licensed Premises whilst an event is being held.*

This condition seems perfectly reasonable. Do the applicants support such behaviour?

Condition 29: *Notices detailing the action to be taken in the event of fire or other emergencies, including how the fire brigade should be summoned, shall be prominently displayed and protected from damage and deterioration.*

Should there not be some information on emergency procedures at large events?

Condition 30: *The fire brigade will be called at once on actuation of the fire alarm or to any outbreak of fire, however slight, and the details recorded in a Fire Log-book.*

Would the fire brigade not be called if there is a fire at a large event?

Condition 42: *Temporary electrical wiring and distribution systems shall not be provided without notification to the licensing authority at least ten days before.*

and **Condition 43:** *Any temporary electrical wiring and distribution systems shall comply with the recommendations of BS 7671 or where applicable BS 7909.*

There should be some safeguards relating to temporary wiring.

Condition 4: *The premises shall not be altered in such a way as to make it impossible to comply with an existing licence condition, without first seeking a variation of the premises licence.*

Removal of this would enable any alterations to be made without reference to the licensing committee, which would be inappropriate

Condition 47: *Where special effects or mechanical installation are used they shall be arranged and stored so as to minimise any risk to the safety of the audience, performers and staff.*

Why remove this obvious safety condition?

Condition 62: *The type and numbers required of all fire fighting equipment required at an event will be determined by the local fire authority and the event organiser is responsible for ensuring this condition is adhered to.*

Why is this not relevant? There will be multiple combustible structures at larger events.

Condition 65: *When an event is taking place stewards shall be provided as follows:-*

Events where the audience is seated:-

Number of Persons Present Number of Stewards Required

Up to and including 250 1

251 to 500 2

501 to 750 3

751 to 1000 4

and thereafter on the basis of 1 steward per 250 persons

Premises where the audience is not seated:-

Up to and including 100 1

101 to 200 2

201 to 300 3

301 to 400 4

and thereafter on the basis of 1 steward per 100 persons.

The requirement for stewards at large events is obvious. Why do the applicants feel it should not apply to them?

Condition 66: *The holder of the premises licence shall be responsible for ensuring that staff & stewards at an event are fit to undertake the duties allocated.*

This sounds a perfectly responsible condition.

Condition 67: *All staff/stewards at an event shall be given instructions with regard to the method and use of the fire extinguishers used on the premises, the positions of emergency switches and the methods of entrance and exit by both normal and emergency exits. Dates and times of instruction shall be recorded in the log book.*

Some aspect will not apply but the stewards should be aware of emergency evacuation procedures.

Condition 71: *No special effects equipment shall be used in the premises under the terms of the licence, unless prior written consent is given by the Licensing Authority. This includes the use of firearms, weapons, other firearms, strobe lights, equipment that uses a heat source to produce effects, i.e. real flame, smoking, smoke capsules, pyrotechnics, and generators; lasers and holographs.*

and **Condition 72:** *Applications for consent to use such special effects shall be made by the holder of the premises licence in writing to the Licensing Authority at least seven days before the first performance of the entertainment and shall give full details of its proposed use, together with the date and time of any rehearsal.*

Why are these not appropriate? Several of these effects have been used at events in Central Park.

Condition 74: *First Aid Staff*

A first aider is to be provided on the Licensed Premises during the opening hours of an event to the following scale:-

1 – 250 1

251 – 500 2

Above 500

Extra 1 for every 500 or part thereof.

It is difficult to believe that large events would be held without adequate first aid staff.

Condition 75: All mobile hot & cold food outlets (i.e. ice cream vans, 'burger' vans) must be certified with the Local Authority Food Safety team and consented to street trade (in public areas) by the Local Authority's Licensing Team.

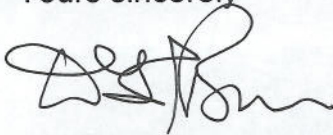
Are they really advocating use of unlicensed food outlets for catering to large groups? Sounds like a recipe for a major food poisoning outbreak.

Condition 101: A crime prevention policy agreed by the police and local authority will be in place.

This would appear to be a good policy for any event. What is the view of the police authority?

Thank you for taking our views into account in consideration of this application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Brown', written in a cursive style.

Derek Brown
Broadway Residents Association

Dear Sirs

As a resident of Park Crescent I wish to object to the application to amend the licence for Central Park but in particular to increase the capacity of the park to 14,999.

I cannot understand the rationale behind such an increase in numbers. The concerts that have taken place during previous Summer Festivals have not attracted anything close to the number proposed. The park is in a conservation area and due to its size and layout simply does not lend itself to hosting large scale events. In the recent Park Management Plan , which I accept may not be finalised at present, there was nevertheless a general " undercurrent " which suggested there may need to be more commercial activity to help fund the park's upkeep. I am therefore concerned as to the uses the park may be put to in the future with a capacity of nearly 15,000. As a resident I am content for there to be modestly sized events in the park on an occasional basis. However, large scale events where thousands of people attend would be an absolute nightmare for residents. The Embankment is a far more sensible and manageable space to hold open air events which are likely to attract the numbers proposed. It must be remembered that the park is bounded on all sides by residential properties and the noise and general inconvenience from having this number of people in the park at any one time frankly suggests you have little regard for the rights of residents for quiet enjoyment of their homes. There are elderly person's flats on the Huntly Grove side of the park and 2 residential homes in Park Crescent and I am sure they would not welcome the noise and other problems that might be encountered from large scale events.

There are also issues relating to such matters as :

- (i) parking
- (ii) security
- (iii) litter
- (iv) noise
- (v) traffic management

which the application does not address and which by increasing the park's capacity to almost 15,000 people would create huge difficulties.

Central Park is one of Peterborough's " crown jewels " and not a place for substantial commercial activity including concerts or other events where many thousands of people attend. The Council must do all it can to maintain the general character of the park , particularly remembering it is located in a conservation area. The Council must also have serious regard to the detrimental effect increasing the capacity of the park is likely to have on residents.

I would therefore ask that my objection be taken into account when the amendment to the license is considered.

Regards

Stephen Winterton
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