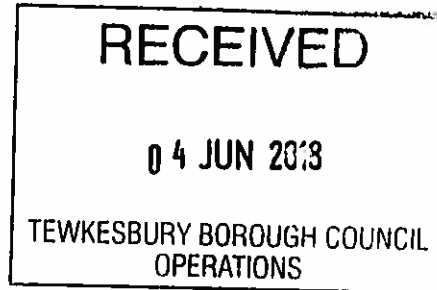




Stroud  
Gloucestershire

Tewkesbury Borough Council  
Licensing Department  
Gloucester Road  
Tewkesbury  
Gloucestershire  
GL20 5TT



31 May 2018

To the Licensing Committee,

#### WITCOMBE CIDER FESTIVAL SUPPORT FOR NEW LICENSE APPLICATION

This letter is a formal letter in support of Mr Joseph Pointon's request for a new festival application for the Witcombe Cider Festival at a new location following promising growth over the last few years. I am aware that Joseph is seeking to grow the festival further following an extremely successful 2017 festival that reached full capacity. I would be happy to attend the hearing and answer any questions the Committee may have that I can answer from a customer experience point of view.

I am a Major in the British Army, having served eleven years in the Royal Gurkha Rifles. I am an infantry officer and have worked in a variety of appointments during my service ranging from challenging command roles on operational tours, to instructing at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and latterly as a NATO staff officer in the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in Imjin Barracks, Gloucester. I am currently studying for a MA in Defence and Security Studies with Kings' College London and routinely work across the NATO arena liaising with military and political interlocutors.

I have known Mr Joseph Pointon for 9 years and regard him as a close friend. I have found him to be reliable, trustworthy and a man of his word throughout this friendship and professional relationship, something I hold in high regard in modern society. Joseph is a highly motivated individual and I have been extremely impressed with the way in which he has single-handedly developed an idea into a highly successful event through determination and an impressive work ethic. Such is his standing in the local community that all of his extensive friendship group and family assist with the festival.

I have attended all of the Witcombe Cider Festivals when I have not been deployed on operations with HM Forces and have watched the event grow from humble beginnings into a successful and professional festival. I estimate that of the few thousand attendees, each of them contribute to the local economy in some way bringing in thousands of pounds to the local rural economy, this should not be underestimated. My father runs a nearby business and is clear that the festival is entirely positive to the local community.

Joseph has ensured throughout the annual growth of the festival that he has employed experienced specialist help to ensure the events are safely operated, and has been forward leaning in supporting numerous charitable organisations during the festival. Joseph continues to support local businesses through his choice of local produce and is a good example of a young, local entrepreneur.

The security provision of the festival has been highly professional and has adapted as the festival has developed and grown over the past few years, the security is overt and reassuringly professional. The staff, as a mixture of friends and family are always helpful and cooperative and there is a safe and fun feel to the atmosphere. The festival is family friendly and I attended last year with my heavily pregnant wife. This

year I will attend with my young son and numerous friends with their young children from a NATO multi-national environment. The marketing, audience and direction of development of the festival is anti-drugs. The event attracts a broad cross section of society from young families who wish to enjoy the music to more sedate members of the community with a thirst for good, traditional cider.

I welcome any further correspondence from Tewkesbury Borough Council on this matter at any point in the future.

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient servant,

**RECEIVED**

**04 JUN 2018**

**TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OPERATIONS**

(This letter is a signed copy of an email sent on 28/05/18)

Licensing Department  
Tewkesbury Borough Council

28<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to express my concern about the licensing application for the Witcombe Cider Festival, to be located along the Brockworth-Churchdown road, near the M5.

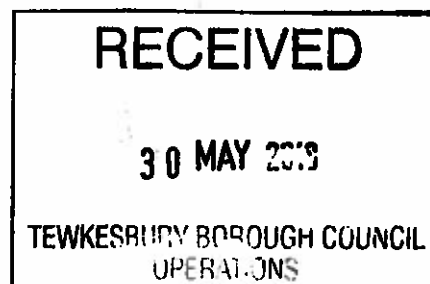
I have no objection to the event itself, but I am concerned about the festival goer's safety as they leave the event.

Obviously there will be much drinking at the festival. Many people leaving the festival will walk to Churchdown or Brockworth. In either direction, there is no lighting and no pavement/cycle path. This is a fast road and dangerous enough in daytime for walkers and cyclists. At night it will be much worse, and the expectation should be that many of those leaving the festival will not be walking in neat straight lines next to the verge!

I feel that the licence should only be granted if some action is taken to ensure the safety of those leaving the site, in to Brockworth or Churchdown. If this is to be a permanent relocation, serious consideration should be given to a pavement or cycle path along this road, which needs one anyway.

I am emailing this letter to you at [licensing@tewkesbury.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@tewkesbury.gov.uk), but also putting a paper copy in the post to ensure that I have done things correctly.

Yours sincerely,





**John Griffiths**

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 04 June 2018 12:47  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** witcombe cider festival

**Importance:** High

Hello,

A few months ago I received confirmation from Tewkesbury Borough Council that the Witcombe Cider Festival would not be going ahead during August 2018 and the planning licence had been declined.

Today I have heard through colleagues that tickets are on sale and that the festival will be going ahead!

As a local resident living close to the venue it has a great impact on the bank holiday weekend therefore I would be very grateful to gain updated information on this status.

Kind regards

John Griffiths, Brockworth, Glos.

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**John Griffiths**

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 04 June 2018 11:33  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** FW: 18/00412/LIQPRM

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 31 May 2018 12:55  
**To:** 'colin.holt@teWKesbury.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** 18/00412/LIQPRM

Good afternoon

● Lucclecote Parish Council is concerned about the access to and from this site, the additional traffic and potential parking issues on the surrounding roads.

Kind regards

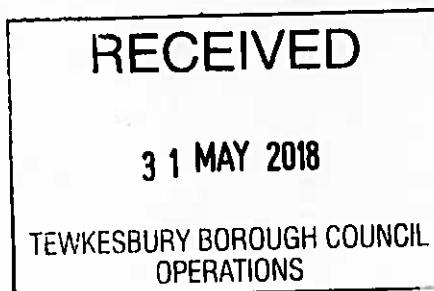
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Licensing Department  
Tewkesbury Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Gloucester Road  
Tewkesbury, GL20 5TT.



Gloucester  
29<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Application number 18/00412/LIQPRM – Witcombe Cider Festival**

I am writing to object to the application request by Joseph Pointon for a premises licence at Pressmead Farm, Brockworth Road, Churchdown to hold Witcombe Cider Festival for 3 days per year for 10 years

Previous events in Witcombe have led to a poor reputation for monitoring visitor numbers and loud, alcohol fuelled abusive behaviour until the early hours of the morning, causing complaints from local residents.

The location of this application is not Witcombe. It is in a rural area close to several dwellings which is soon to increase dramatically following the decision under the Joint Core Strategy to give planning permission to build houses on the green belt along the A417 in Brockworth. (It is worth noting that as this application is for 10 years it will affect new residents but they will have had no opportunity to comment.)

Residents in Court Road can hear the hum of the M5 motorway so will definitely be able to hear loud music which may be played until 3.00am according to the licence application. With the potential for alcohol to be sold from 9.00am until 2:00am the possibility of loud crowd noise and alcohol fuelled abusive behaviour gives rise to huge concerns.

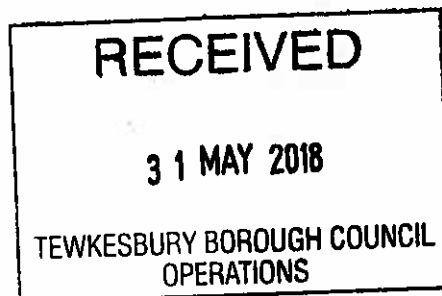
There is only one entry to Pressmead Farm which is Brockworth Lane. This is a country road which links Hucclecote and Churchdown to Brockworth and is well used by local traffic and emergency vehicles. Vehicles regularly travel above the speed limit and pedestrian traffic, particularly at night, is potentially dangerous. Add the fact that some pedestrians may have been drinking alcohol which may affect their judgement, could lead to devastating effects.

For the reasons stated above, I request that Tewkesbury Borough Council rejects this planning application.

Yours faithfully



Clerk to the Council, Brockworth Parish Council



Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

To – Licensing Department, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Council Offices,  
Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury, GL20 5TT.

Ref – Application number 18/00412/LIQPRM – Witcombe Cider Festival

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the application by Joseph Pointon for a premises licence at Pressmead Farm, Brockworth Road, Churchdown I would like to object to this request.

It seems that previous events in Witcombe have had a very poor reputation for monitoring visitor numbers and local residents have complained of loud, alcohol fuelled abusive behaviour until the early hours of the morning.

This new location is on a very busy country road, routinely used by emergency service vehicles. There are not any streetlights and pedestrian traffic would be in danger as well as disruptive for nearby residents.

I did attend the recent Parish Council meeting in Brockworth and found there were many objections raised even though a vote was made without concerns being addressed or seeing a risk assessment.

There is no tradition to this event, it is purely a loud money making project for the organisers, whose revenue will depend on selling tickets and vast quantities of alcohol. This will cause major distress to everyone who lives in the surrounding vicinity.

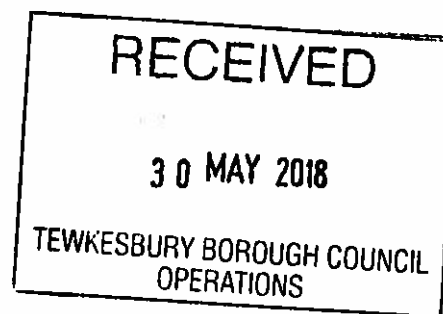
This is not a one day, one off event - my understanding is that this application is for up to 10,000 people per day, for three days, until 3.00 am in the morning for 10 years...! How can this be acceptable to tax paying residents.?

I would like you to accept this letter as a strong objection and request that you refuse the application.

Yours faithfully,

Clerk to the Council, Brockworth Parish Council

Licensing Committee  
Tewkesbury Borough Council  
Public Services Centre,  
Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury,  
Gloucestershire. GL20 5TT.



Witcombe Cider Festival Application for Licence.  
Ref. No: 18/00412/LIQPRM

Dear Sir,

Further to your letter dated 17 May 2018, in response to my objection letter to the above application.

Your letter states that "Your representation will be considered by a licensing Sub-Committee when determining the application. Notice of the hearing will be sent to you no later than 10 working days before the day on which the hearing is due to commence in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 regulations". I am therefore somewhat concerned by events that have happened in the past couple of days. At the time of writing I can no longer locate the application by Mr Pointon on the Tewkesbury Borough Licensing web site. Has it been removed? Why is it no longer available for public viewing?

The Brockworth Parish Council held an "extraordinary Full Council meeting" on the 23rd May 2018, whereby my letter of objection along with other matters was discussed. Since then on 25<sup>th</sup> May at 19:17 on *facebook* and on the same day at 19:26 on *twitter* the Witcombe Cider festival announced that "Witcombe returns". It would therefore appear to myself and the general public, that the application for a license is a forgone conclusion and that a license will be granted regardless of any objections and without the required notice. Has the license already been granted?

Since my initial letter of objection, a couple of other points have arisen, and I would be grateful if these could be added as an addendum to my original letter and taken into consideration by the licensing committee.

I have looked back through my paper copy of the license application and can find no "risk assessment". I find this unusual, surely there should be a risk assessment. I am unsure as to whether it is a legal part of the application. If there is a risk assessment document, please could I have a copy and could it be made available to the public as I am not the only person who would like to view this.

There are many comments appearing on social media about the camping arrangements. As far as I could see there was nothing in the license application in respect of camping. Is it a requirement that camping facilities connected with the license should have formed part of the application? Is camping



going to be available to the public for the festival? Where exactly is the camping site to be located?  
What facilities and security arrangements are being allocated to the camping area?

I look forward to hearing from you,

CC Tewkesbury Borough Council . (Hard Copy in post)

**John Griffiths**

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 25 May 2018 11:17  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Brockworth Parish Council - Comment on application 18/00412/LIQPRM

Due to not being able to comment on the portal as it is down I have been advised to email the comments for application 18/00412/LIQPRM

25 May 2018  
Brockworth Parish Council  
Comment – No Objection

Please can you confirm receipt of this email.

This email and any attachments to it may be confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Brockworth Parish Council. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you must neither take any action based upon its contents, nor copy or show it to anyone. Please contact the sender if you believe you have received this email in error.

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<http://www.claranet.co.uk>

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\*\*\*\*\* This e-mail is

**John Griffiths**

---

**From:**

**Sent:**

11 May 2018 07:49

**To:**

**Subject:**

WITCOMBE Cider Festival application for Licence. Ref. ...

0412/LIQPRM

**Attachments:**

Licensing Committee my letter doc 2.docx

To whom it may concern,

Attached a a copy of a further letter sent to Tewkesbury Borough Council re the above application.

---

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Licensing Committee  
Tewkesbury Borough Council  
Public Services Centre,  
Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury,  
Gloucestershire. GL20 5TT.

Witcombe Cider Festival Application for Licence.  
Ref. No: 18/00412/LIQPRM

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going to be available to the public for the festival? Where exactly is the camping site to be located? What facilities and security arrangements are being allocated to the camping area?

I look forward to hearing from you,

Regards

**John Griffiths**

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 28 May 2018 14:54  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Witcombe Cider Festival.

\*\*\*Please note that I am also sending a signed letter as a copy of this\*\*\*

28<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to express my concern about the licensing application for the Witcombe Cider Festival, to be located along the Brockworth-Churchdown road, near the M5.

I have no objection to the event itself, but I am concerned about the festival goer's safety as they leave the event.

Obviously there will be much drinking at the festival. Many people leaving the festival will walk to Churchdown or Brockworth. In either direction, there is no lighting and no pavement/cycle path. This is a fast road and dangerous enough in daytime for walkers and cyclists. At night it will be much worse, and the expectation should be that many of those leaving the festival will not be walking in neat straight lines next to the verge!

I feel that the licence should only be granted if some action is taken to ensure the safety of those leaving the site, in to Brockworth or Churchdown. If this is to be a permanent relocation, serious consideration should be given to a pavement or cycle path along this road, which needs one anyway.

I am emailing this letter to you at [licensing@tewkesbury.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@tewkesbury.gov.uk), but also putting a paper copy in the post to ensure that I have done things correctly.

Yours sincerely,

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**John Griffiths**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 30 May 2018 18:11  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Whitcombe Cider Festival

Reference Application number: **18/00412/LIQPRM**

To whom it may concern.

I was unable to attend the relevant Extraordinary Full Council meeting at the Brockworth Community Centre last week, but having been made aware of the details of application **18/00412/LIQPRM** I wish to make known my strong objection to its terms, as they appear on the public notice.

1. The sale by retail of alcohol from 0900 -0100 daily, over the course of three days and nights will inevitably encourage excessive drinking and rowdy behaviour on the site, spilling out into nearby Brockworth as people leave.
2. The very nature of live music in the open air is to create very loud noise, which with the proximity of the proposed site, will be at the least, annoying and at worst, highly disruptive to the residents of the nearby housing, continuing into most antisocial hours.  
 (Note: The site is very close the Brockworth Parish Church, which this year and almost every year holds weddings on the August Bank Holiday Saturday, as well as its regular Sunday morning service. Also, it is very close to the Tythe Barn where there are wedding receptions, all of which involve their own live music up till 11.30pm.)
3. While we understand that parking will be provided for many cars, it is inevitable that many local people would be arriving and leaving on foot, necessitating their walking through the residential roads of Brockworth, which even if only a minority are involved, is likely to result in antisocial or irresponsible behaviour and litter.  
 (Note: There is no pavement leading to the proposed site, so that all pedestrians will be forced to walk in the road.)
4. Where the above points all relate to the proximity of the event to the residential area of Brockworth and the nuisance caused to the residents and road users, I have a serious objection based on my concern that all such festivals are plagued by a relatively prolific use of drugs, no matter how carefully policed they are. Sometimes with catastrophic consequences as in last weekend in Portsmouth.

I am, in general very pleased that enjoyable family events should be arranged in the holiday period and am very proud that Brockworth is world famous for the crazy Cheese Rolling which residents have tolerated every year, but to grant the sale of alcohol and production of loud music over 16 hours (effective day and night) for three days seems to me to be irresponsible, and to do so for 10 years with no apparent regard to the effects of even one year seems even more so.

I trust, Sir or Madam that you will consider this matter very seriously.

Yours faithfully,

Sent

**John Griffiths**

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** 31 May 2018 11:40  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Licensing - Witcombe Cider Festival  
**Attachments:** CP - Email Privacy Notice.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Dear Licensing Officers**

**Please see below the comments of Churchdown Parish Council concerning the below application**

**41.1 Premises Licence**

Cider Festival Site Part Parcel 8100 Brockworth Road Churchdown Gloucester Gloucestershire  
Ref. No: 18/00412/LIQPRM:

Closing date for consultee comments: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

The Chairman reminded Members that concerns raised must be relevant to licensing law and how the proposed event will impact on Residents of Churchdown .

A lengthy discussion ensued. Members object to the above application on the following grounds :

- a. **The impact of traffic congestion on Residents of Churchdown.**  
If the licence is issued, can traffic control measures be introduced to mitigate the considerable flow of traffic both to, and from the event over a bank holiday weekend. What measures can be introduced to regulate access and egress to the site ?
- b. **The impact of noise pollution on Residents of Churchdown.**  
Members note that live music will cease at 23.00 hours, but recorded music will be played between, and potentially before and after live music , particularly as the 'Dance Event' is scheduled to finish at 01.00 am.  
If the licence is granted, can appropriate conditions be imposed to regulate and mitigate the impact of the noise emanating from this event for Residents of both Churchdown and Brockworth ?  
Members note that food is to be served until 02.00 am. If the licence is granted, can the time be revised to 00.00 midnight ?
- c. **The impact of irreversible damage to Green Belt land.**  
Members expressed real concern about the undoubted and irreversible damage to the agricultural land on which the proposed event is scheduled to take place.
- d. **The term of the proposed licence**  
Members expressed concern that the licence applied for is for a three-year term.  
If the licence is granted, can this be for the duration of the proposed event only? This will facilitate a system of appropriate scrutiny and informed decision making should future applications be made.
- e. **Anti-social behavior**  
Members share the concerns of the local police regarding this issue ...

Kind Regards



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Licensing Committee  
Tewkesbury Borough Council,  
Public Services Centre,  
Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury,  
Gloucestershire. GL20 5TT.

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL OPERATIONS	
Officer .....	
Scanned .....	
Rec'd	15 MAY 2018
Ack'd .....	
Ans'd .....	
File .....	

Witcombe Cider Festival Application for Licence.  
Ref. No: 18/00412/LIQPRM

To Whom it may concern

I would like to object to the application for a licence for Mr Joseph Pointon for the Cider festival to be held on Brockworth Lane over the August Bank holiday 2018.

I live at the above address and will be severely affected by the proposed festival. The site is not far from my house am I will be subject to the noise and music over the whole of the bank holiday. I should be able to enjoy the bank holiday in peace and quite as my house is in the countryside. Myself and my wife bought this house about 40 years ago to be able to enjoy the peacefulness. I do not consider that I should now be subject to this festival. It will no doubt decrease the value of my property as I have been made aware that the intention is to hold this festival annually.

I am also concerned about the traffic. There is a footpath over the road from my property which leads onto Brockworth Lane. I am concerned that the festival goers will use this to try and find a convenient drop off and pick up place. Churchdown Lane is a very busy road, there have been many accidents along it since I move in. The road has no paths, no street lightning and no where to safely drop off and pick up festival goers. The layby next to my house

is the entrance to the reservoir on the top of the hill and access is required at all time by Severn Trent in case of emergency.

I am also concerned that the site along Brockworth Lane is not suitable. Again it has no paths or street lighting, whilst there are proposed safeguards against this I do not believe that it would be sufficient to keep everyone safe.

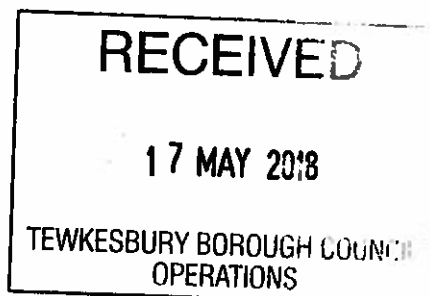
I hope when considering the license application, you will take my concerns into consideration.

Yours faithfully

**Please acknowledge receipt of this communication.**

Severn Trent Council

Licensing Committee  
Tewkesbury Borough Council  
Public Services Centre,  
Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury,  
Gloucestershire. GL20 5TT.



Witcombe Cider Festival Application for Licence.  
Ref. No: 18/00412/LIQPRM

To Whom it may concern

I am writing to object to the above application. My objection is in three parts

1. Concern for my father
2. Suitability of the proposed site
3. Previous years event

Part 1.

My father

is not far from the proposed site at

He has already put in his own objection. My father is elderly, being aged 70. He has lived at his current address for the past 40 years. He (and my mother) moved there to get away from the noise and stress of living on an estate. My father has many health issues not least being high blood pressure, stress and epilepsy, which is currently controlled by medication. I am very concerned that the stress of this application and the proposed festival is seriously affecting his blood pressure and causing undue stress. I am also concerned that any noise, loud music, flashing lights, hordes of lively loud people and general stress of having the actual festival on his door step might well cause him to start have epileptic fits again. The entertainment and the bar is due to finish at 1.00am, the site cleared by 2.00am this would mean that disturbance will continue well beyond that time, causing continued disruption through the night and further distress to my father.

Part 2.

I have viewed the proposed site maps and have also visited the site in person. I do not consider that the site is suitable for a festival for the following reasons:-

The site is along a country lane, which has no lighting or pavements. I note that Mr Pointon has offered to erect lighting .... "Flooding will be used to illuminate the section of Brockworth Road alongside the site." .... This would equate to approximately 150 meters (this length of road I will refer to again). I reiterate, there is no lighting along the length of Brockworth Lane. There are no footpaths until you reach the residential area of Brockworth.

There are proposed two entrances for the site, one pedestrian and the other for vehicles. These entrances are approximately 150 meters apart (see above). There does not appear to be any other means of exiting the festival site apart from these two points. I ask the question...what happens if

there is a major incident at one of the entrance/exit points? Surely both points will be compromised. What other means of exiting the site do the festival goers have, maybe in panic, apart from over the Brockworth bypass or onto the M5?

The site is surrounded by two major roads the Brockworth Bypass and the M5. What considerations have been taken to ensure that motorists on either of these roads are not distracted by (a) loud music (b) flashing lights and (c) fun fair rides etc.?

The site appears to be very close to two electricity pylons, what considerations have been taken regarding their close proximity?

It is noted that Mr Ponton is arranging a number of buses to take attendees to and from the site. My Cook, easy licensing, appears think that these buses are to attend a number of different drop of sites, I quote :Quedgeley, Lower Tuffley, Podsmead, City Cnetre, Hucclecote, Borckworth, Cheltenham, Montpellier, Warden Hill, Shurdington, Brockworth, Churchdown, innsworth and Longlevens". With only 8 buses employed (point 9 The Prevention of crime and disorder) I would suggest that there would be an exceedingly long wait between available buses. This would leave a substantial amount of people waiting for buses along Brockworth Lane at the end of the night. I believe this is a serious health and safety consideration.

Part 3.

Mr Pointon is the previous license holder for the Witcome Cider Festival that was previously held on Painswick Road, Brockworth. It is my view that, although Mr Ponton has applied to a license for 9,999 people at the event he is not expecting to be granted that amount. I believe he has set this high number so that he can make a compromise with the council in order that they grant him a license for only 50% of his proposed attendance. He would therefore will still have been granted a licence for more people than the previous year.

Mr Pointon intends to have 1 security guard to every 75 attendees. This would equate to approximately 133 security guards. It was well documented by social media last year, and through talking with friends that attended the festival and with people in the vicinity of the festival, that underage drinking was prevalent along with unacceptable social behaviour including but not limited to, urinating in public along the roadside and in drive ways, and drug use. It was clear from social medial last year that the security guards were not equipped to deal with the issues. I do wonder whether there was the recommended amount of security guards to attendees on site during last years festival. What further actions does Mr Pointon intend to take to stop a repeat of last years unacceptable behaviour.

I am aware from the festivals website and face book page that tickets will be available from May 2018, notwithstanding that the consultation period does not end until 1 June 2018. It would appear that Mr Ponton is trying to obtain a license by pressure on the council due to the fact that he has already arranged the line-up, events catering etc . I do not think that the council licensing committee should be held to ransom in this manner.

I would like to suggest that due to and the unsuitability of the site and last years antisocial behaviour that the application for the license is rejected.

Please acknowledge this communication

Your faithfully

RECEIVED

17 MAY 2018

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OPERATIONS