

The A616 – Licensing application

The application is for a site whose access is by unmade track across common land on which villagers have ancient rights to graze and to which there is public access. The site is already restricted not to commence trading until conditions imposed by the National Planning Inspectorate that would require action by the landowner, the Secretary of State and others are satisfied.



Reasons for my objection: -

a) Public safety.

- The proposed venue is across an unlit, unmade track over common land that joins the A616 at Rufford Lane End. This junction is already unsafe and the volume of traffic (Up to 300 attendees every day of the week until 2a.m.) will significantly increase the risk of injury or death;
- The unmade track passes close to the unfenced, deep water of Wellow Dam. This presents the risk of intoxicated individuals stumbling into the Dam in the night whilst navigating the unlit and unmade track;
- The licence applied for is for consumption both on and off the premise. Intoxicated people carrying alcohol off-site and wandering the unlit area increases the risk to public safety;
- Wellow Dam is occasionally used by anglers for night-time fishing matches. The number of cars the 300 potential attendees will require presents a risk of accident with pedestrian anglers at the Dam;
- Wellow toftolders have rights to graze animals on the common land across which any access to the site has to pass. The significant increase in people by car and on foot this licence proposes puts at risk the security of the grazing animals and should these escape to the highway a further risk to public safety. The cricket ground next to the track is already grazed and there are plans approved to graze more of the common land using heritage breeds.
- There is a track record at this site of poorly managed and poorly planned events whilst under the same ownership as now. For example, on two occasions a “Russian Event” has in two different years brought gridlock, noise and chaos to the area including blocking the main A616 and making access for emergency vehicles nigh on impossible. No improvement in the management took place between the first and second disasters. There is no confidence in the owners’ ability to prevent recurrence and adding a 7 day licence on and off premises from 7am until 2am would likely magnify the risk to public safety already demonstrated.

b) Public nuisance

- Greatly increased traffic along the unmade track to the site in question has through erosion by vehicles already led to deterioration of the surface and the loss of ancient grazing on the common land, to which villagers have ancient rights and

which the Council has a duty to uphold and protect,. The increased traffic has also led to clouds of dust enveloping properties near the track and coating gardens and property. The additional 300 people per night requested would make these problems an order of magnitude worse. An unbearable nuisance;

- The number of people foreseen to attend each night (300) represents an additional 50% of the entire population of Wellow. That number of intoxicated people leaving from early breakfast until the early hours of the next day seven days per week will create a substantial public nuisance in a small, quiet village with many elderly and vulnerable residents;
- The licence is to be for the consumption of alcohol both on and off the premises. The public nuisance of intoxicated people carrying drink off-site and wandering around the unlit track to find their way through the village would represent a public nuisance;
- Noise levels from people and traffic entering and leaving the site will cause a public nuisance to residents adjacent to the unmade track used to access the site;
- There is a track record at this site of poorly managed and poorly planned events whilst under the same ownership as now. For example, on two occasions a "Russian Event" has in two different years brought gridlock, noise and chaos to the area including blocking the main A616. No improvement in the management took place between the first and second disasters. There is no confidence in the owners' ability to prevent recurrence and adding a 7 day licence on and off premises from 7am until 2am would likely magnify the nuisance that is already caused.