

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 11:27 AM

To: generalenquiries@somerset.gov.uk

Subject: Bucklegrove Holiday Park - Application for a Premises Licence by Wookey Hole Limited

Dear Sirs

My husband and I are the owner/occupiers of land and premises known as Westholme, Wells Road, Cheddar BS27 3UZ which is close to the application site. Should it be granted we will be directly affected by the activities for which a licence is being sought. For the reasons set out below, we consider that there are strong grounds on which the application should be refused.

1. Health

~~Infrastructure which serves the site is inadequate to support the existing activities of this business which currently caters for 500 visitors. There have been recent incidents of raw sewage escapes affecting two local houses which are connected to utilities linked to the site, and downhill from it, with consequential and obvious harm to the health of the occupants. Until this problem has been addressed there is a significant risk of a recurrence which will be greatly exacerbated by the proposed increase in visitor numbers to 1500, the intensification of the proposed use of the site and the duration of that use.~~

2. Road safety

~~Access to and egress from the site will continue to be exclusively from Wells Road which has a speed limit of 60 miles per hour (with the nearby villages of Westbury Sub Mendip and Rodney Stoke having a 30 mph limit). Sight lines are not good. We regularly experience problems entering and leaving our own premises to and from Wells Road due to the speed of the traffic (which is used by large vehicles including aggregates lorries etc) on a carriageway which is very narrow in both directions. Not only will the proposed numbers of visitors directly and considerably increase local traffic volumes, this will occur at a spot which is already unsafe. The proposal to supply alcohol virtually all year round coupled with the likelihood of large numbers of visitors using their own vehicles to travel to and from the site for recreational purposes (there is little there currently to encourage them to remain there) means that there is a very high probability that at least some visitors will drive whilst over the legal alcohol limit and imperil the safety of other road users. This is not something the council should enable or condone.~~

3. Nuisance

The licence application seeks permission to carry on a range of noisy activities which is very broad in scope over a period of 20 hours, 7 days a week coupled with the supply of alcohol - and all for 1500 people. It is inevitable that this will impact the local neighbourhood in terms of noise and anti social behaviour. It is our view that in any proceedings regarding an incidence of nuisance, regard would be had, in determining whether it is actionable, to the fact that this business is operating in an area designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The activities covered by the licence application do nothing to maintain or enhance the character of the AONB, indeed, unrestricted, they are detrimental to it.

4. General

The application should be judged, according to the relevant criteria, on the basis of the site as it currently exists with the facilities it currently has. On that basis it cannot be said that the activities proposed can be conducted safely for 1500 visitors or without harm to the local community for the reasons given above. ~~Whilst it may be the case that the applicant will, in due course, submit a planning application to change or extend the site and its facilities, it has chosen to make this application before doing so. On that basis it would at least be premature to grant it.~~

Yours faithfully

Kerry Glanville & Michael Thomas
