

Appendix 7

Other Persons Representations

January 12 2020



Dear Colleagues

York Festival

I am writing on behalf of residents of the Galtres Grove conservation area, 43 properties situated directly opposite the Sports Club, and others, to express our concerns and disappointment both at the proposal itself and the way in which the process has been handled to date. None of us, as far as we can tell, were consulted in advance by the Council or by the Sports Club with regard to this event and only heard about through this letter delivered to our doors and an advert in the local press and adverts on local buses all of which suggest it is a more or less done deal. In relation to this, we would like to point out that some of the advertising omits to say that the proposed festival is subject to a licence being agreed; those that do indicate this do so in faint grey lettering (probably 4pt format) at the bottom of large posters which makes this caveat almost unreadable other than with a magnifying glass, and certainly not from the back of a moving bus. This is deceitful and manipulative as it generates the impression that the festival has been agreed and doubtless the volume of ticket sales will be used as implicit pressure on the Committee to agree the licence when they hear from the organisers.

A second technical point before we outline our substantive objections: the blue notices were only posted yesterday (February 11th) at 11am at the Club: this means that the consultation period of 28 days should extend at least until February 8th and not, as the notice suggests, February 6th.

The York Sports Club is a relatively small venue for the volume of traffic expected (we are told it will be in the region of 12,000 to 20,000 visitors per day, equating to around 8-15,000 vehicles). We have been informed that visitors will not be parking anywhere on the Club site and therefore parking will have to take place elsewhere. Following the debacle of the OktoberFest in 2018, when traffic management for what was a much smaller event deteriorated into near chaos during the late evening and early morning, we had an exchange of correspondence with the Secretary of the Sports Club which we took to be an acceptance of the need to consult us and pay attention to local residents' views. We have been informed that the organisers not only agreed to deliver leaflets to each household in the immediate area – which they apparently have done, although again these leaflets make absolutely no mention of the need for a licence to be agreed and indeed suggest again that the festival is a done deal – but that they had gone doorknocking in the area to consult local residents. This is not true: none of the residents in our street have been approached by the organisers.

Following the 2019 OktoberFest, the council agreed to extending the double yellow lines to the south of the entrance to the club as a small measure to mitigate parking and traffic management problems, although this has yet to be done. Our earlier concerns about traffic management and on street parking arose from the fact that the streets in our conservation area date back to 1926 and all three streets in the immediate area, Galtres Grove, Flavian Grove and Malton Way are cul-de-sacs, in the case of the two shorter streets almost too narrow for two ordinary cars to pass each other (and I don't mean Chelsea Tractors). We are also concerned of course to protect and enhance the architecturally historic environment, the conservation area, in which we live.

To be clear, this is not simply a NIMBY type of protest. In our view, the site specified for this event is quite unsuitable for this size and type of event being, in scale, way beyond the disruptive events

which have been held in the past two or three years. Had we been consulted before the promoter was permitted to put tickets for this event on sale, we would have immediately raised a number of issues and questions including the following:

- how will the club and council engage and consult with the community to understand the significant impact of recent previous events?
- what alternate sites were considered for the proposed event? How is it determined that this location was even remotely appropriate?
- has the Council undertaken proper assessments of these impacts – on transport (across the wider city area given the knock-on effects of traffic disruption on the A19), Planning, emergency services, ecology & environment?

In general, as we argue, it is our view that the site is not appropriate for the event with a number of significant concerns about the impact on the local area and the wider city, so we must ask what undertakings were given by the Council to the promoter that gave them confidence to publicise the event and put it on sale without a license in place? We have submitted a Freedom of Information request but the response to this gives no indication that these issues have been raised or resolved.

Although the event is scheduled to take place over three days, we are aware that there will be a significantly longer impact, with a great number of additional vehicles entering and exiting the site to build up and dismantle the infrastructure over a period of weeks. Our thoughts turn immediately to sensitive local facilities such as Limetrees NHS child and family clinic, immediately adjacent the site, whose work is likely to be impacted by construction traffic and noise prior to the event and after. The traffic congestion will make passage of emergency vehicles (of which many use the A19 on a daily basis to reach parts of north York and many North Yorkshire venues) even more difficult than usual.

Traffic management is a key area where we have already had to protest the inadequacy of previous arrangements. The Council's agreement to extend double yellow lines next to the entrance to the club will be totally inadequate as a measure for this kind of event. The entrance to the site is on the A19, a major road with bus routes and, at times, very heavy traffic, being a main route from the north into the city: it is however quite inadequate already to deal with existing traffic, witness traffic backing up and stationary from Clifton Green and polluting the local air environment, sometimes almost as far as the ring road a mile away between 8 and 9 in the morning and 4 and 6 in the evening. I personally doubt that the organisers are even aware of this facet of local traffic flows.

During previous events such as Oktoberfest, traffic management has been inadequate. Even for much smaller events, such as the screening of a football or rugby match at the club, traffic has spilled into our streets, sometimes blocking local access, seriously damaging the grass verges (which we are trying to maintain, including with planting, to protect the quality of the local environment), and creating noise and nuisance at different times of the day, including late at night with drunks creating traffic hazards and taxis queueing for customers. Parking on site has been completely inadequate for these small events and therefore it seems quite impossible that it would be able to cope with this kind of 'major new event'. The club has said that there will be on-site parking, which may be a response to past difficulties, but it seems unlikely that this can be strictly observed. Just before Christmas, a 'small' conference event (regarding day care) was held on site and parking from that not only filled the club's parking facilities but resulted in a line of cars along the A19 which, along with broadband works intermittently sited opposite the club, created something of a hazard for traffic and pedestrians. There is basically only one way in and out of the proposed venue and the additional traffic pressure – either dropping off visitors or searching for parking spaces - will be unsustainable throughout the occupancy and not just on event days

We have also already had to complain to the Council and the Club regarding noise from previous much smaller events such as the Oktoberfest and major sporting events. With the agreement of the Club, some adjustments were made recently to the timing of these events to reduce noise levels. If, however, this is to be a major event, as claimed, this appears from the plans we have seen to involve a distribution of facilities including the main stage on the edge of the main cricket ground and in this case considerably nearer to residential areas such as ours and Ouselea properties (whose residents we understand are also protesting this proposal), than has previously been the case. Noise from an event of this kind, which is presumably likely to continue late into the evening, will thus be a serious issue. Not only will the noise from stage be audible but the additional traffic noise, and likely disturbance from arriving and departing patrons must also be considered.

Other concerns include the following:

- Insufficient public transport serving the site and no ability to significantly bolster services if cars are to be banned from the site
- Impact on the park and ride services from traffic disruption, affecting the whole of this side of the city
- Parking stress: as noted there is inadequate parking on site and little reasonable parking available nearby
- Public footpaths: the site is used by very many residents to the east of the A19 to walk dogs onto the raised footpath (flood prevention site): is this facility to be blocked for the duration of the event and during construction and dismantling? The unheralded use of fireworks has also distressed dog owners.
- Sensitive ecology: the adjacent lngs is a scientifically protected site and there are likely to be cows grazing on it at this time. How will they be protected from the impacts of noise and thousands of casual visitors?
- There is a significant flood risk attached to this site at all times of the year: has this been factored into planning?

We look forward to a speedy and positive response to our concerns and the opportunity to underline them in person at the relevant committee meeting.

To sum this up, we are certainly not opposed to music festivals of this kind, but this site is patently and completely inappropriate for such an event and we believe that any ameliorative action cannot obscure this fact. We sincerely hope that the local authority has not made any undertakings to the promoter to the contrary, and will robustly challenge their proposal on the grounds of public safety, public nuisance and the other licensing objectives. We look forward to hearing how the organisers will address these other concerns of prevention of crime and disorder, and protection of local children, given that the UK definition of a child is anyone under the age of 18 and an event such as this offers a good opportunity for forms of exploitation such as county lines to be pursued.

Yours sincerely

To Licensing Office and subcommittee.



Dear Colleagues

This is a supplementary codicil to my formal letter to you dated 12 January, in the light of the public meeting which took place on 27 January at York Sports Club and should be read in conjunction with it. That meeting answered none of the questions put by myself and other residents and indeed was a perfect example of obfuscation and confusion on the part of the presenter from Cuffe and Taylor, who clearly had done no homework before the meeting in relation to some absolutely key issues of public safety and public nuisance; I have also now had the chance to examine the licensing application and felt better briefed than was that unfortunate man.

Before I move to some substantive issues, can I reiterate first that the blue notices only were posted on the morning of 11 January and therefore that the consultation period should be extended to 8th February and not the 6th. Secondly, that much of the publicity has failed to indicate that the festival was subject to licence and those posters where it does indicate this, do so in lettering of around 4pt in very pale grey lettering and were thus unreadable. The representative from C and T declined to answer this point: is it in fact illegal to be trading on false terms such as this? This is actually quite manipulative because they will no doubt appear before the committee and argue that as they have sold x thousand tickets, the committee could not possibly disappoint all these punters (and experience their disappointment in political terms.).

I don't want to repeat myself ad nauseam but it seems to me that there are at least three key points on public safety and public nuisance which need to be addressed.

1. Entrance and egress. We are told there will be up to 20,000 people attending, none of them coming by car to the site. Although arrival will be spaced over several hours, departure will take place at 2230 and the company say that the site will be cleared in 30 minutes. This means 20,000 people walking along 2 person-wide pavements without spilling onto the road. This is simply not possible and presents very serious dangers given that the A19 will not be closed. Where will the taxi pickup point be; and what is happening to public transport? I understand the 2A shuts service before 11 pm. Although the site will not be open to cars, the access road round the site to the tennis courts and beyond will be used by large vehicles throughout the event: this is where countless residents walk dogs etc and there are severe hazards in not segregating traffic and pedestrians.
2. Noise: the stage is planned to face directly across the cricket pitch to houses on the far side of the A189. Sounds at a level of 65-75 decibels which is probably what is planned will be deafening in that area and beyond. Why have the promoters chosen to face houses rather than empty spaces behind and to the northwest?
3. Parking: it is astonishing that no plan was advanced for this. If there are to be no cars admitted, where will they go? The promoters claim there will be no more than 700 cars which is a nonsense. If public transport is not readily available at frequent intervals throughout the whole period, there are likely to be at least several thousand cars. They will have the following options: 1. Park on the A19 creating a huge hazard to traffic much of which ignores the current speed limits, especially as the 30mph signs are obscured in the summer by trees; 2. The access road to Cricket Alliance and to the Clifton Park clinic both of which are already full most days with NFUMutual and other staff; 3. At the Rawcliffe park and ride which is probably much too small and too far away to accommodate this volume of

traffic; 4. On local streets, destroying their character by parking on verges, filling narrow streets and preventing access for residents.

I am very relaxed about music festivals and have attended many up to and including last year: and I am an active user of the club's facilities but the fact is, this is a completely inappropriate site for such a large event. I suggest they go away and find a compliant farmer with a couple of fields to spare: there are many within York's boundaries which would address all these issues at a stroke. If Glastonbury can do it, why not York?

Finally, if the promoters are testing the market, why are they not applying for a year's market and then review the success or otherwise of the event; if successful they can apply for further years. As it stands they are trying to slip a three year licence in without any testing of the adequacy of their so-called plan. The references they make to Lytham, incidentally, are completely inappropriate: there is really no comparison to make.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. A. ...', written over a horizontal line.

(2)

York

29th January 2020

Licensing Section
City of York Council
Hazel Court
York
YO10 3DS

Dear Members of The Licensing Committee,

PROPOSED YORK FESTIVAL AT YORK SPORTS CLUB, JUNE 2020

I have a number of serious concerns about the above. Clifton Park is the wrong site for such an enormous event and one wonders why the race course which is able to host such events or some another venue is not being used. I attended the meeting at the Sports Club on 27th January in the hope of reassurance but came away even more concerned. Cuffe and Taylor seemed to have done little if any research into this being an appropriate venue. Their representative was unable to answer any question about public safety, public nuisance etc and was very "woolly" about any of their plans. He kept saying/answering with the words "We must get it right." I repeat he seemed to have no understanding of the insurmountable difficulties, problems and dangers of this particular site and was desperate to find a venue. The word "Inaugural" added to the increasing anxiety and concerns.

1. PUBLIC SAFETY

a) People Attending The Event.

1. The pavements on either side of the A19 from the York end to the ring road are narrow and in places uneven. Those in the area of the Club are particularly narrow. The verges add a little extra width in places but the verges are special and need to be protected as do the hedges, bushes and trees along the A19-an attractive road as people come into York.

2. Barriers of any sort between the pavement and the road would be very dangerous,- crush, panic, overspill into the road etc. Presumably the A19, a major arterial road, could not be closed for the event!!

3. There are only two entrances into the ground. One for cars to enter the premises, the other for the exit of cars. The way from the car park into the main part of the grounds is through a gateway between the Club House and the Squash Courts. The entrance on the other side between the Club House and the boundary fence is even narrower and leads directly onto the cricket pitch. How can the safety of thousands and thousands of people trying to enter the grounds be guaranteed? Once they get through the gates, the cricket pitch, the proposed site of the staging etc is immediately on the left. Dangers again,-crushes and queues to the road. Inspection of that whole area would reveal that it would be impossible to ensure the safety of the public.

b) Residents.

Such an enormous number of people so close to the properties of a significant number of residents would obviously be a potential threat to the safety of the residents themselves and their property.

2. PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

1. The points above highlight dangers of potential crime and disorder.

2. The availability of alcohol and doubtless other substances is a threat to all. It will be a "packed" area, there are numerous places in the wider grounds for criminal/disorderly activity and the grounds can be entered from many other places eg the river paths, the Meadows, Clifton Park, Clifton Alliance.

3. PUBLIC NUISANCE

1. All of the above.

2. Proposed site of staging on the first Cricket Pitch is directly facing the A19 and therefore the sounds will reverberate directly over a wide residential area.

3. Parking and Buses.

Unless there is no parking in the whole area (except for residents) there will be dangers and a public nuisance. There was talk of parking for 700 cars. Where and How?

Of Note. At the Beer Festivals held at the Club all cars were forbidden. Attendees had to walk or be dropped off by taxis etc. This on the grounds of safety. Even that caused problems at the "pick up time" when everybody was leaving together. However, the numbers attending those events were minute compared with the numbers being anticipated at the York Festival.

Buses could be an answer but where would they load and unload without doing damage to the environment and potentially residents' property?

I write as a member and supporter of the Club in all their sporting events and activities and have and do support them financially. This is a step too far. Obviously living opposite the Club we are particularly aware of problems etc but hundreds of residents and attendees are potentially endangered /inconvenienced or their lives disrupted in a completely unacceptable way.

I repeat, it is the wrong site for such a MASSIVE event. It would necessitate a huge security exercise involving police, private security and others.

Yours sincerely,



From: >
Sent: 02 February 2020 19:25
To: licensing@york.gov.uk
Subject: The proposed York festival at york sports club

Categories:


This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I live at [redacted] which is about 400 yards away from the Sports club . I am objecting to the proposed festival on the grounds of

- 1) Public safety: especially parking of cars in dangerous/unsuitable places: a massive increase in the number of buses and other traffic on Shipton road : 20,000 people in an area that in my opinion is not big enough to hold them plus the staging ,the food stands and bars and toilets .The emergency services might have problems getting through at the beginning and end of the festival .
- 2) Public nuisance : Litter, noise, disorderly and antisocial behaviour similar to that witnessed in York each weekend but with far more people concentrated in a smaller area and adjacent to a generally quiet residential area.

I attended the meeting at the sports club on Monday 27th and I was pleased that people's opinions were being listened to. However I know that this festival has been advertised since before Christmas and many hundreds of tickets sold .No doubt the artists will have been booked for a long time too. I feel that we were presented with a fait accompli and this only served to increase my antagonism towards this what I would consider to be ill-considered scheme..

The proposed York festival at york sports club

2/2/2020 19:25 

To licensing@york.gov.uk

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[Handwritten signature]

YORK

City of York Licensing
Hazel Court EcoDepot
James Street
York
YO10 3DS

3 February 2020

Dear Sirs,

In re proposed 'York Festival', June 2020

I am writing to object to the grant of a licence for a 'York Festival', to be held at the York Sports Club. I understand that representations concerning the proposed event should be made with reference to one of the following four licensing objectives:

- 1. Prevention of crime and disorder
- 2. Public safety
- 3. Prevention of public nuisance
- 4. Protection of children from harm

This I do below, on the second and third pages, under all those objective headings.

INTRODUCTION - THE PUBLIC MEETING

I attended the public meeting – at the Sports Club – on 27th January and the information provided did little, if anything, to reassure the majority of those attending. As one would expect, in the venue that stands to profit financially from the event, there were a few in favour of it at any cost to the community. From the Clifton (Without) Parish Council's January newsletter, the chair and ward councillors' demeanour and the promoter's confidence in an ability to deal with all problems, I fear that the event is a 'done deal'. The advertisements, press notices and ticket sales reinforce this.

GENERAL CONCERNS

My main concerns as a householder living close to the club result chiefly from the scale of the proposed event. It was made clear by the representative of promoters, Cuffe and Taylor, who attended that the venue was chosen because the Community Stadium was too small at 8,000 capacity (the Head of Licensing pointed out that the stadium does not hold an appropriate licence, in any case). Cuffe and Taylor's representative was somewhat vague as to the reason for not choosing the York Racecourse, which already has the experience and infrastructure for hosting such events, so it is tempting to assume that the Racecourse asked too high a fee, did not see why they should not organise it themselves, or knew they had already caused too much unpopularity by a similar event. If the last is true of the Racecourse, there is no way that this venue would not be worse.

We saw a slide summarising the residents' queries, but little was done to reassure us on these points. Much was made of the experience of Cuffe and Taylor in 'Boutique Concert and Festival Experiences' The scale of the proposed event does not strike many as 'boutique'

Definition of boutique from the Cambridge Business English Dictionary © Cambridge University Press
used to describe a small fashionable business that sells a particular product or service:

boutique hotel.

a boutique grocery/market/winery

EXCESSIVE SIZE

The sheer size of the proposed event means, I suggest, that it falls within the scope of the **Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975, CHAPTER 52, subsection (1A)**

This act gives discretion to The Secretary of State to require a 'safety certificate' for a sports ground which in his opinion has accommodation for more than 10,000 spectators.

I therefore request assurance that, if this event is to be licensed, and such a safety certificate has not been required, appropriate and equivalent measures are, or will have been, put in place to ensure public safety.

If attendance of 20,000 - or even half that number is likely - this would surely be a change of use for the premises/site which would require planning approval, if it happened too often in a year. I assume that any licence granted could be only temporary and, in any case, for only one year – at least in the first instance. I assume, in this eventuality, that it would never be licensed again.

OBJECTIONS TO GRANT OF LICENCE for a 'York Festival' at York Sports Club

1. Prevention of crime and disorder

This would need to be the subject of a major police exercise. It may be that the police have already been consulted, but, if so, the public would need to know at what level. Appropriate arrangements, with a police, rather than just a private security, presence, would need to be planned. Even if the promoters were to pay the police, their necessary involvement would still stretch them at a time of the week when they are already overtaxed.

2. Public safety

It might well be thought desirable for public safety to close roads to cope with this number of cars, buses, cyclists and pedestrians. How would residents and emergency services maintain access and egress? Road closure is the case at Cuffe and Taylor's Lytham Festival, which may be analogous for size, but not for location. There, the event is held on The Green, by the sea, and this is essentially served by one long road and so can be isolated much less inconveniently. Again, the police rather than a private firm would need to manage this on a public highway – the A19. There could also be a wider traffic gridlock affecting emergency services. It would be dangerous to close the A19 and, if the intended number were to attend, in such circumstances not to close it would equally be foolish and dangerous. The inevitable conclusion is not to allow such a licence ever for this venue. It is claimed by the promoters that many people would arrive by public transport. This would result in further problems at the railway station and generally along Shipton Road (A19), where buses would need to disembark and later embark passengers.

3. Prevention of public nuisance

Previous outdoor amplified events at the Sports Club have caused public nuisance. Vanguardia is to be involved, we hear. This is a respected firm in this area of expertise, but I contend that the promoters would not want to bring the volume of sound down to a level which, while not dangerous, would not disturb residents over a significant area. Cuffe and Taylor may have experience at Scarborough, but that has a permanent open-air arena, in a hollow, with the performers and sound system facing away from residential properties, towards the sea. I feel sure that Vanguardia could enable an independent monitor – if not everyone with web-access – to observe the sound level in real time. If the authority were to ignore objections and license this event, even if only for one year, proper, independent, sound level monitoring would need to be in place.


The traffic considerations mentioned in (2.) above would be bound to produce substantial nuisance as well as potential danger, for visitors and residents. Previous events at the Sports Club, even though of a far smaller scale, have resulted in a considerable volume of parking in residential streets, with blocking of access and egress, not to mention serious damage to grass verges. It is amazing that the club is not already required to provide adequate parking facilities on-site for much smaller scale events. The racecourse would be able to deal with this aspect, so why is it not the subject of this application?

The Sports Club manager tried to reassure us at the public meeting, by saying that only one such event would ever be held per year. Unfortunately, I do not see this as legally binding, but do, however, see it as an admission that this event would be highly undesirable for their neighbours. If such an event were not likely to cause serious problems, would this not be a one-year licence application? As it is, I assume the reasoning is that after three years too many people would object and it would never happen again – though the promoters and club would have made enough profit – while they would not wish to stop at a single year's level of income. That is, of course, if three years' income did not make all those who would profit financially claim it as too valuable to stop.

4. Protection of children from harm

This event is due to take place in the period following shortly after the end of school public examinations. It would be likely to attract well-off children who might well find young adults to accompany them to fulfil the apparently sensible attendance limitations. If this happened, there would not be adequate protection for those underage. There would be likely to be some underage drinking and the possible use of illegal substances. I hope the licensing authority does not regard this as inevitable with this type of event – and if it does, will not grant a licence for this reason, if for no other.

Yours faithfully,



5

30/1/2020

Dear Sir,

Premises License Application

York Sports Club, York Festival. June 2020.

I am writing to object to the Premises Licenses Application on the grounds of Public Safety, Prevention of Crime and Disorder, and Prevention of Public Nuisance.

It has come to my notice that Cuff and Taylor have put in an application to hold a three-day music festival on the site of the York Sports Club.

I attended a meeting organised by the three local councillors on Monday 27th January. A staff member of Cuff and Taylor made a presentation and later took questions. I thought that the presentation was unconvincing and failed to answer some of the questions put by residents. In addition, the promotion of their idea was backed up by their slides on the festival they have been running in Lytham St Anne's. I understand that this festival is not comparable in the sense that they make use of areas within the several miles of land next to the sea front and this acts both as a concert venue and a car park. There are multiple exits to the site they use in Lytham. In addition, this has grown over the years to become an event which is very inclusive in that there are other events taking place across the city as part of the Festival. In York, the 'Fringe' event has been cancelled, the Rose Theatre has gone bankrupt and there is no similar festival to that in Lytham involving different sections of the community.

I am currently under treatment, part of which may be the need to rest. That will be difficult in the circumstance of the Festival and I am probably not the only person in this situation.

My objections to the proposed festival are:

Firstly that the proposed site is unsafe for the numbers which are expected to attend, namely in the region of 20,000. This is more than half of the attendance

at a Leeds United football game – an enormous number of people. There are only two small gates to the Sports Club, leading directly on to a 40mph road. The pavement on the road is less than two metres wide and without a disruptive full closure of the road, it is impossible to see how it would take less than several hours for the departing crowds to leave the Sports Club car park (see picture below). With no other access to the site, this disruption will endure throughout the day, and I also question how ambulances could access the event.

All of these factors of course risk compromising public safety, generating nuisance (such as noise and waste) and leading to disorder in the crowds, which should be enough of a concern for you to reject the license.

Secondly, it is difficult to see how the applicant can manage noise from the event. I have several concerns, including the large number of additional trucks and cars that will need to access the Club, the noisy work that will be required to put up fences and a stage and the loud noise from high-spirited audiences coming and going over the whole weekend. In particular however, I would ask how it can be allowed for a stage to be positioned only 200m from our house, and pointing directly at my bedroom window (see image below).

I presume that you are aware of the law on concert noise (like at this link: http://www.manchester.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/26384/noise_control_for_open_air_concerts_and_events.pdf) In that document there are clear limits for the noise and I would expect that the lowest would apply – York Sports Club is certainly not a stadium or an arena. The festival has done nothing to tell us what the limits would be, or really how loud and disruptive this would be in any case. The nearest house to the site is Lime Trees, the NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Clinic. There will be several days at each end of the festival of vehicles and work involved in putting up and taking down the structures for the event. What is the plan to protect this service during the period of this work.

For all of these reasons I am asking you not to grant a License on this occasion.

Thirdly, the site opens on to the busy A19 road. There is no parking at the club and the Park and Ride does not take the number of cars which might be expected especially as the London-York line may be disrupted on the same weekend. There are going to be hundreds and hundreds of cars descending on what is a residential area. No comparison with Lytham is relevant because there is adequate space there along the sea front. The A19 is used frequently by emergency vehicles. It is not uncommon also to see cars who are wanting to

access the Sports Club, if they are delayed in a queue, to drive around the central bollards and go along the wrong side of the road to drive into the Sports Club and the road is not safe enough for the many people who may move off the narrow pavements because of the lack of space. All of these issues make me very concerned about public safety – for the residents, people at the festival, and the wider city.

Fourthly, I was unimpressed by the lack of answers which Cuff and Taylor had to questions put to them. They still seem to be exploring the site and to be “doing more work” on addressing the questions put to them. They did not give me the impression of a company who had developed a plan which could meet the concerns expressed to them about safety for an event on this scale.

I am not opposed to the development of a York Festival. I think this would be best approached by developing a structure to engage a wider population in participating in the discussion and hopefully working towards identifying a suitable site so that there was a ‘buy in’ from a wide group of York residents. I do not think that the company gave enough reassurance that they had addressed the multiple problems which could arise from the use of this site. I also felt that the consultation meeting was very late in the day, so that it did not feel like a participatory event but an event which was paying lip service to the concerns of local residents. I can also add that the three local Councillors involved in the meeting might have initiated discussions such as this meeting at a much earlier stage. There are no doubt many people in the area who are keen for the Festival to take place but, having taken advice from an experienced person, this site is not suitable for such a large event. Having also spoken to someone who is familiar with the Lytham Festival, I felt that the promotion of this event on Monday, which suggested I compare the two, was essentially comparing two very different venues. The Lytham site is spread along the length of the sea front in an open area. By comparison, the York site is small, cramped and opens out onto a busy road.

I suggest that the Council take a step back and hold, over a long period, a discussion with residents to develop plans for a York Festival, which have been thought through clearly, thoroughly risk assessed and have the support of residents to develop a sustainable Festival site. The presenter failed to give a response to my questions about the length of time it would take for those attending to leave the site and about the legality of the distance between the

stage and nearby houses. He simply side stepped the questions and did nothing to strengthen my confidence in their ability to address issues of legality.

I would like to point out lastly that pedestrian access to the Sports Club is also possible from the Ings. I assume that this would be secured during the whole use of the club by Cuff and Taylor. Otherwise, if pedestrians were to walk to the site across Rawcliffe Meadows from the Park and Ride end, several thousand people would be walking across an important SSSI.

Yours sincerely

Narrow pavement outside York Sports Club

40mph Road

2m wide pavement
leading towards
Clifton

Exit from festival



