

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 May 2026 11:53
To: licensing@york.gov.uk
Subject: Fwd: Futuresound Events, Museum Gardens

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted]
Date: Fri, 1 May 2026 at 10:57
Subject: Futuresound Events, Museum Gardens
To: <licencing@york.gov.uk>

Dear York Licensing.

In response to your Notice of Application, I wish to make a representation regarding the application.

I am a resident of Marygate. I am concerned about the noise and nuisance created by large numbers of event attendees being discharged into a residential area, especially when they have been drinking.

I am not opposed to a limited number of events happening at the Museum Gardens (although not every weekend during the summer months ... which may be the level we're reaching). I am, however, concerned about drunk and rowdy people causing noise and stress for residents, eg leaving rubbish, using the street / doorways / alleyways as toilets or making people feel unsafe going to and from their houses after dark.

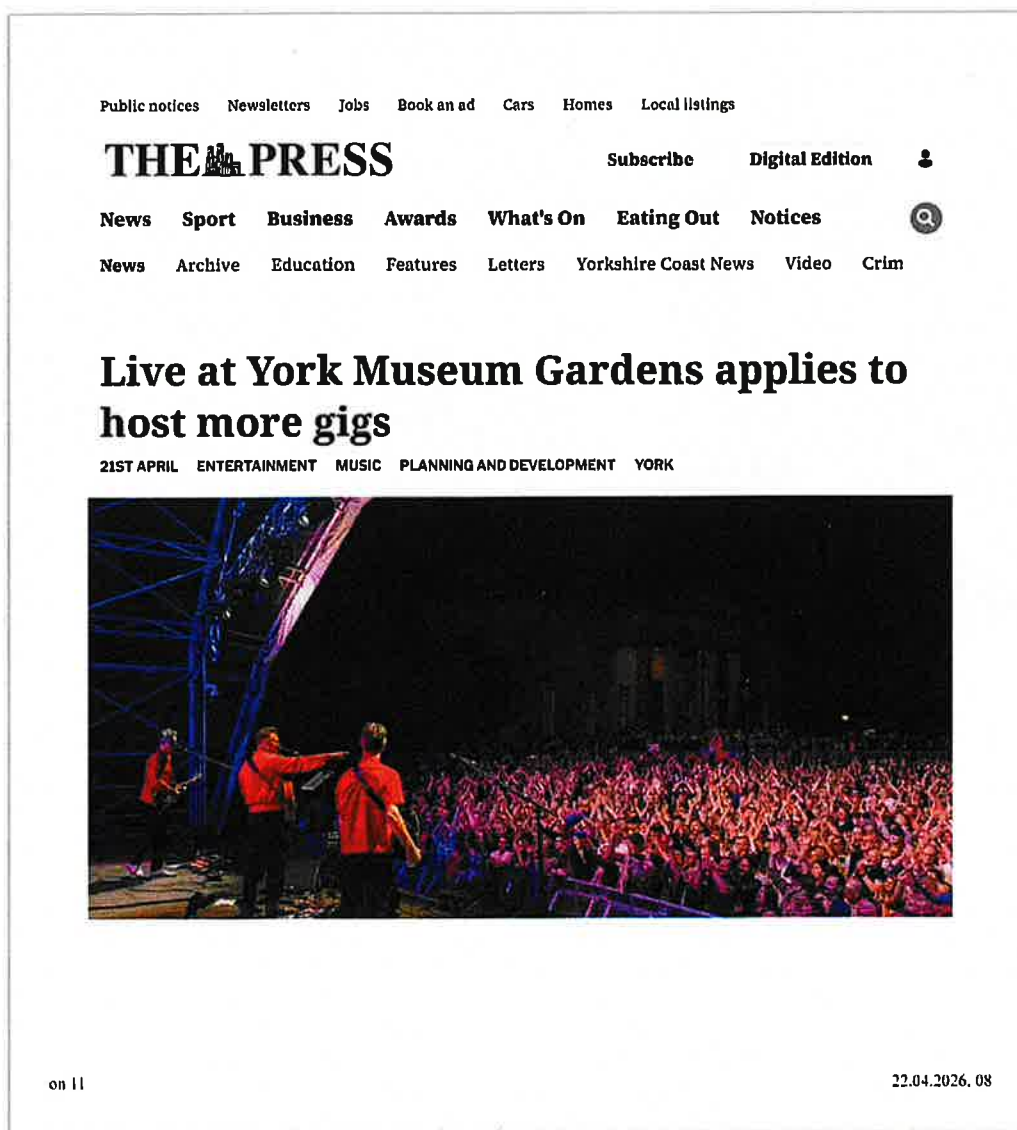
If the events were to exclusively discharge attendees onto the city side of the Museum Gardens it would go some way to addressing this concern.

Regards

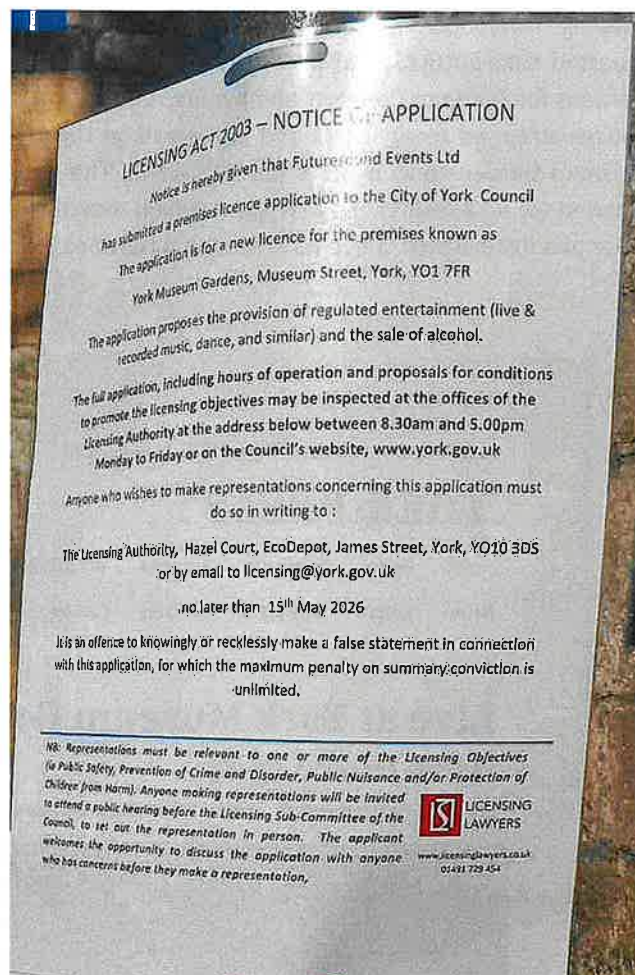
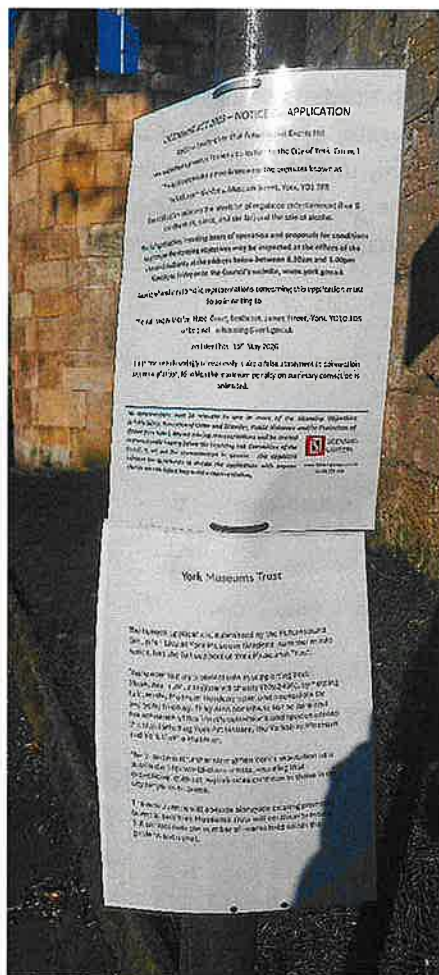
Marygate Mews

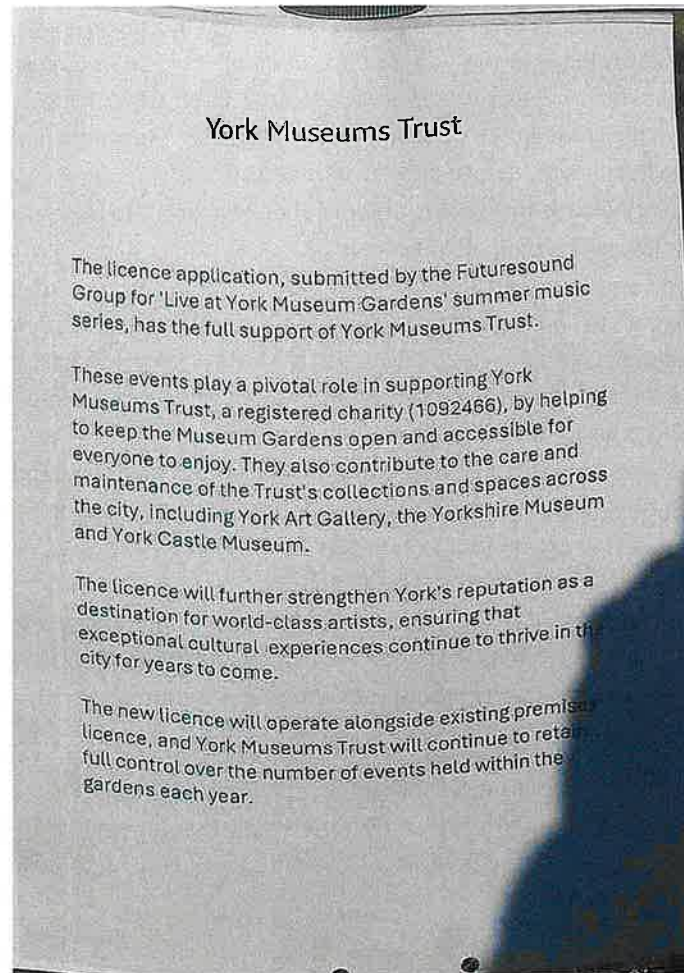
OBJECTION: A LICENCE OF 12 NIGHTS OF UNSPECIFIED EVENTS GRANTED TO A THIRD PARTY (FutureSound) RATHER THAN TO THE SITE LOCATION OWNER AND MANAGER (York Museums Trust and York Council)

Reading newspaper the York Press (on a tip-off from a friend on 21st April – see picture below), it reported that FutureSound had made an application for an extension of right of use of Museum Gardens for live Rock Concerts and events running to 12 days. This preceded the appearance of paper notices strapped to signposts and lampposts in the street in Marygate, or strapped to the fence of Museum Gardens only by days (on 23rd April). The notices leave only until 15th May to consider and respond to. As a resident of Marygate, which directly neighbours the gardens and is impacted by the noise and disturbance of events in Museum Gardens York, I write to make the following representation.



Disappointed, as a direct neighbour of Museum Gardens, having provided reliable feedback and suggestions on a number of issues regularly since 2007, often representing multiple parties, that neither York Museums Trust, nor their agent/sub-contractor, FutureSound, made any serious proactive attempt to consult direct neighbours on the nature, size and likely disturbance and nuisance to be caused by events before this moment – and that the nature and scale of events is undescribed in both the York Press article and the lamppost signs – but certainly there will be prolonged sale of alcohol.





Before considering detailed observations: this approval, sought by FutureSound, cannot fairly be considered in isolation from other considerations as listed below:

- **Who should be the rightful Subject of the Approval, and Answerable for the use of the York Museum Gardens location?** There should certainly be constraints on Yorkshire Museums Trust regarding the overall use of Museum Gardens. It should be clear that Yorkshire Museums Trust does not have the potential to cause excessive disturbance by means of multiple subcontractors like FutureSound, each with a 12-day licence. York Museums Trust should not have “full control over the number [and nature] of events held within the gardens [and limiting access to the gardens] each year” – without clearly, and publicly defined, agreed limits. This should be the condition of any new approval granted.
- **Conservation Areas:** Both York Museum Gardens and neighbouring residences in Marygate, York are within the *York Central Historic Core Conservation Area*, and subject to its constraints and goals.
- **Historic and Scheduled Monuments:** The Roman Fort of Eboracum, Medieval Site of St Mary’s Abbey, St Mary’s Lodge, the Hospitium, St Leonard’s Hospital Undercroft, Yorkshire Museum and the Observatory are all within the York Museum Garden site and need treatment according with their scheduled historic status.
- **Botanical Gardens:** The site was granted to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society under condition of establishment of botanical gardens. This makes Museum Garden a visitor magnet, but one requiring care.

- **Noise Control:** The number of, and noise level generated by concerts and outdoor events AT A SITE, are generally subject to the *York Council Code of Practice and Guidance Notes on Noise Control for Concerts and Outdoor Events*, dated March 2025. These should be used to document a specific guideline within any new approval for Museum Garden – and this should consider the particular size, nature and location of the site.
- **Residential Disturbance from crowds and drunkenness and the impact of Planning/Building Restrictions on Listed Building neighbours.**
- **Highway Usage, Blockage and Public Safety:** From the experience of both 2024 and 2025, FutureSound expect to commandeer the entire street and residential parking area of Marygate (from the Museum Garden gate on Marygate to the river) for usage as a heavy vehicle unloading area for large items requiring forklift – for a period of around 5 days for set-up and subsequently 2-3 days for dismantling.
- **Parking Restrictions and Disturbance:** Direct loss of most paid-for residential street parking options for neighbours throughout the duration of the set-up, event period and take-down; added to heavy parking expectations of visitors – not only in Marygate Car Park but additionally even on double yellow-lined areas of the street
- **Access to a Public Park:** since the proposal involves closing public access to the gardens entirely for an extended period (from experience: throughout set-up, events and dismantling).
- **Community** contribution; consultation, sharing and reimbursement of disturbance and damage.

Any hearing or decision on this application should also provide assurance that all associated Council departments responsible for the matters listed above and discussed below (conservation area, listed buildings, parking, safety...) above have policies and permissions in line with any impact of the events permitted.

Detailed Comments and Objections are as follows:

Background

Marygate neighbours of York Museum Garden have a long record of contribution to York Museums Trust (at least since 2007) – recognising the need to give the buildings within the gardens future and economic security – while also partaking in joint consultation: to ensure proper consideration of positive suggestions on inclusions, as well as measures to constrain potential excesses. But on this occasion the consultation of neighbours has only been sought by means of notices tied to signposts and lampposts in the street – certainly not a proactive consultation made in good time. Maybe just the minimum necessary (“tick in a box”) in the process of trying to get an application approved. Since the notices appeared unexpectedly only weeks before a decision should be made, they largely exclude the potential of real consideration and response. A more positive consultation would be preferable in future – and maybe should be included as an expectation in the words of any approved new licence. As can be seen from the pictures above, the notices pinned up on lampposts and fences by York Museums Trust/Future Sound are not clear about the exact nature, objectives, impact and likely noise and disturbance of the planned future events, and give time only until 15th May for consideration and comment. They imply that is all up to YMT to have over-riding decision making.

Before the granting of the first permanent year-round licence to York Museums Trust for the use of the Hospitium for events like weddings, a Council Open Hearing was held on 17th September 2007. Marygate residents attended and noted their support for securing the Hospitium’s future. In the Marygate Representation on FutureSound Licence Application. 8th May 2026

Hearing discussion, both senior staff of York Museums Trust (including CEO Janet Barnes) and Marygate residents – all attendant at the Council hearing – agreed that measures should be put in place to control visitors outside of garden opening hours in line with the offering of alcohol and the need for not unduly disturbing neighbours with either noise or other unusual disturbance during late hours. The meeting particularly noted that such noise control would have been appropriate at an event held in the Hospitium, and subject to formal procedure, on the weekend before the hearing, when late leavers caused excessive noise disturbance. The findings of the hearing on 17th September 2007 (not only about noise, but also about access for potentially alcoholised visitors) should continue to be considered and observed in any new decision.

The two parties both agreed restrictions on the hours available for events (not 24hour as had been applied for), the use of measures to restrict noise created to a level considerate of residential neighbours (including sound-proofing by the closed windows of the Hospitium, and the use only of the Museum Street entrance to the Museum Garden. These measures, it was agreed, would circumvent noisy exit of visitors at late hours, and furthermore, encourage the use of public transport away from an event involving alcohol over extended hours – rather than making the convenient use of cars parked in Marygate Car Park for drivers over the alcohol limit.

On relevant occasions since 2007 respecting use of Museum Gardens locations (e.g. the Hospitium) for wedding and other event use, Marygate residents have been mindful of the need for active use of Museum Garden premises in order to support their maintenance and upkeep – and supported such use, including moderate use of alcohol, but with discussed and agreed measures to control visitors attending such events.

But while Marygate residents have been generally supportive of musical events, as organised since July 2024 by FutureSound for one weekend a year, these have not been without significant disturbance - caused both by very loud noise, but also by vehicle deliveries and visitors. The scale (overall number), nature and purpose of further expanded events have not been made known to neighbours by York Museums Trust (the site manager) despite their obvious impact: there has been no clear consultation or documented concern for the direct implications upon them (other than the recent signs on lampposts), nor indication of the overall events plan.

It is not clear that the extended licence sought is not merely an outright commercial motivation for the profits of FutureSound. Widescale expansion of such large events – run potentially by multiple 3rd-party FutureSound-like companies (for which “York Museums Trust... will retain full control over the number of events”) is not in keeping with the size of the site and the noise enclosure which it offers. In 2024, for example, the wall of speakers was directed towards Marygate, with no sound hindrance, particularly for the upper storeys of neighbouring buildings in Marygate and particularly their bedrooms.

Neighbours in listed properties without sound protection (even from the wall at the Museum Garden site periphery) may only have the sound protection of historic, old single glazed windows, and may be subject to the vibrations of a listed house. The impact of amplified drums and bass can be particularly disturbing, particularly since the stage in 2024 and 2025 was only around 100m from residential buildings in Marygate and the loudspeakers faced in that direction. Amplified bass and drums even resulted in disturbance for at least one resident of Westminster Road – 700m or so away from the site.

While the stage position and loudspeaker wall direction was modified with some improvement in noise level on Marygate in 2025 (in response to direct feedback by a Marygate residents after the 2024 event), both the 2024 and 2025 events organised by FutureSound did not include the construction of any sound barrier or curtain. And there was also no proactive advice given to neighbours by either York Museums Trust or FutureSound on the likely sound disturbance, time and duration.

The following Detailed Points should be taken into Consideration...

- **Overall Number of Annual Events allowed at the Site and Responsibility for Compliance:** The expansion in number and attendance of large rock-style concerts does not continue in the spirit of the initial understanding between residents and the Museums Trust CEO reached over the Hospitium Licence granted in September 2007. The Council hearing, amongst other things, had to take account of the excessive noise created at an event held in the Hospitium on the weekend before the hearing. This wedding created excessive noise when soundproof windows were left open, and there was a particular volume blast at the late-night end of the event, followed by the exploits of a “merryman” participant playing a trumpet outside at around 1.30am.

Any expanded use of the Museum Garden ought to be granted to York Museums Trust who are responsible for the site, its maintenance and conformance to regulation. The overall limits should be available and transparent before any partial sub-contracting of the expanded permission to FutureSound.

- **Historic Conservation Area, Historic and Scheduled Monuments and the Botanic Garden:** Given the historic and cultural significance of the Museum Gardens site – within the *York Central Historic Core Conservation Area*, it would be most appropriate for the cultural reputation and conservation goals not only the site, but the historic City of York and its Council as well, to develop attractions within the site with the specific goal of developing the historic charm of the site itself, as well as within the spirit and goals of the conservation area – without an over-emphasis on alcohol or loud rock music. Over centuries, the Museum Garden has hosted historic events, including Passion Plays (and their modern versions), the York Mystery Plays, a live Viking festival and Mela and similar activities for daytime garden visitors.
- In both 2024 and 2025, the historic buildings of Museum Gardens were “blotted-out” by huge rock concert staging, as well as walls of speakers, meal hut villages and toilet cubicles. The Museum Garden is the location of a string of historic and scheduled monuments (Roman Fort of Eboracum, Medieval Site of St Mary’s Abbey, St Mary’s Lodge, the Hospitium, St Leonard’s Hospital Undercroft, Yorkshire Museum, the Observatory), as well as the site of the Botanic Garden assured by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. “Blotting out” such historic buildings (e.g. obscuring the Yorkshire Museum with major rock-concert-style staging and walls of amplified speakers” right in front of it), the erection of huts for meal and drink providers, and the provision of large numbers of toilet cubicles changes the nature, perception and treatment of the site by large crowds of visitors, and is likely to cause damage. Certainly: extensive relaying and re-planting of trampled-down lawn areas and plants directly after the event (as in 2024 and 2025) are not within the normal imagination of a Botanic Garden – and particularly not, if those lawns and plants are subjected to being covered or walked-on for a prolonged 20-day session (see later section for calculation of this estimated duration in number of total days, which equals 12 days of events plus 5 days set-up and 3-days dismantling).
- **Noise Disturbance and Control – including that caused by Alcoholised Leavers:** Marygate residents welcome and support events held within Museum Gardens which support the future of the Gardens and project his historic culture, provided they meet strict noise

guidelines and other appropriate constraints. But the Museum Garden site is simply not large enough or contained enough (sound protecting enough) to become a standard and regular (frequent) location for large, loud, and particularly: highly amplified outdoor, rock concert-like events. In order that the number and limitations of such events are upheld by the managing organisation of the gardens, any new approval should contain specific text on the subject of noise control considering the particular nature and location of the site and its visitors. The overall annual number of events and the specific maximum noise level permitted should be specifically stated.

The *York Council Code of Practice and Guidance Notes on Noise Control for Concerts and Outdoor Events, 2025*, provides some of the draft text – that if only 3 events per year are held at York Museums Trust's site/location (the Museum Gardens) then the maximum noise level should not exceed 65dB above the normal ambient noise level at that time of day for more than 15 minutes. Or if a licence allows up to 12 outdoor events per year in the Museum Gardens overall (including Prom Nights, Fireworks and other Events not subcontracted to FutureSound, then the maximum noise level should never exceed (at any of the events) 15dB above normal ambient noise level at that location at that time of day for more than 15 minutes. The limit of 3 loud noise disturbance is already exceeded at the Museum Garden site, by virtue of film, York Proms night, Fireworks and other events. Clear constraint on the site overall (on York Museums Trust – not a single subcontractor of theirs) would ensure good neighbourliness. The limit needs to be one for the location – not for a single, third-party sub-contracting organisation like FutureSound.

The specific and exact wording should not refer to a potentially changing *Council Code of Practice and Guidance Notes on Noise Control*, which could be potentially altered without particular consideration of the Museums Garden site, and potentially be changed without the clear awareness of the site's neighbours. The wording of any new licence should consider the particular nature of the Museum Gardens site, the inherent unsuitability for large, loud outdoor events, as well as the nature of the local Conservation Area and the limitations which apply also to its listed buildings and those of its neighbours. In particular, there should be a particular restraint on the overall noise level and particularly on the amplification of bass and drums, since amplified bass and drums are likely to carry well beyond the site and affect, possibly damage, older historic buildings on the grounds, as well as neighbouring buildings. The Bay Horse pub (now Roots restaurant) in Marygate, for example, required installation of a second sound-proof glass barrier before granting of permission for music events in their premises.

Single glazed historic properties in the area have not been sheltered at higher floor levels from direct sound from FutureSound events in 2024 and 2025, and are potentially subject to considerable rattling and vibration (dependent on the volume of precise low frequencies). Historic building construction is flimsy by modern building standards and not sound-absorbing. Meanwhile, check measurements conducted by Council Engineers on the neighbouring streets including Marygate during the course of live concerts, should therefore be stipulated to be at sufficient elevation (i.e. above Museum Garden periphery wall height) to measure the noise impact on neighbours appropriately, and thus to control sound levels on the day. At the time of the Hospitium licence granting in 2007, there was an expectation that sound would be contained within the building by closed windows. But no sound barrier or sound curtain has been erected for either the 2024 or 2025 FutureSound events.

Other late-night activity in Museum Gardens (later than 9pm, including audience exit) can also be noisy and disturbing – caused, for example, by drunken leavers – and should be controlled. In addition: other York Council departments (e.g. listed planning and listed building permission) may need to allow historic building measures to be undertaken by neighbours to dampen noise (e.g. full double or triple glazing in listed buildings: in line with modern standards and best practices for sound-proofing).

To provide louder noise for the audience, York Museums Trust have the option to use their existing buildings (the Yorkshire Museum, the Tempest Andersen Hall and the Hospitium) to host events and help damp sound disturbance to neighbours. This would also have the benefit of encouraging a greater link to the history of the location.

Other larger sites in York (e.g. York Racecourse) are better suited to large, amplified outdoor rock concert performances - and are likely not to lead to follow-on boozing, cruising, disturbance and nuisance in town.

- **Residential Disturbance – Highway Usage, Blockage and Public Safety; Parking Restrictions and Disturbance; Loss of Access to a Public Park:**

The evidence from 2024 and 2025 is that FutureSound/York Museums Trust expect to commandeer the entire lower end of Marygate (approx. 300 yards from Marygate floodgate to the Marygate entrance to Museum Gardens for delivering, offloading and removal of a large volume of equipment (staging, lighting, food/drink stalls, toilet cubicles etc). Museum Gardens also appear to have this expectation for other events (e.g. the World Womens Rugby Cup Cap ceremony). This results in disturbance caused by the loss of nearly the entire Marygate residents' street-parking permit area). Such demands have not historically been made for the long established Gun Salutes held in the gardens,

Despite large volume and large size of many of FutureSound deliveries, they are not delivered and offloaded directly within Museum Garden. Instead, lorries park on both sides of Marygate (including in double yellow-lined areas when multiple lorries appear), and forklift trucks offload and onload large items. Many loads extend widely from the lifting forks. The forklift trucks then travel at speed in and out of Museum Garden for site delivery. The disturbance and noise of set-up and dismantling lasted (both in 2024 and 2025) 5 days set-up and 2-days dismantling. This raises a question directly regarding public safety: since the offloading area is not cordoned off. To do so would create much more disturbance – not only for residents, but also for users of Marygate Car Park, and tourists walking via Scarborough Bridge from the station to the city centre (Marygate Lane and Museum Garden is a high-traffic pedestrian thoroughfare).

During the period of set-up and take-down, and extending throughout the entire period of any concerts held in-between, York Museums Trust and FutureSound have chosen in both 2024 and 2025 to close Museum Garden entirely for all access for the entire period of set-up, events and dismantling. At its simplest, this is the loss of access and right-of-way to a *Public Park* – affecting residents, York visitors and tourists alike.

For residents: no easy access to town (and with a licence for 12 nights of events in a row added to 5 days set-up and 3 days take-down, the loss of access would amount to 3 weeks; and be particularly disturbing at the time of any possible flood causing the Ouse riverside also to be inaccessible). Added to this disturbance: residents are likely to suffer noise, disturbance and drunken nuisance from access to the Museum Garden site by event visitors after normal

Garden opening hours – and in particular: be most badly affected by nuisance caused by alcoholised leavers on late-night exit. Restricting after Garden-opening hours access to mirror that applied to the Hospitium Licence (all via Museum Street gate – promoting use of public transport, rather than private cars parked in Marygate Car Park) would be appropriate – particularly for large audiences out-of-Garden-opening-hours.

Meanwhile, Marygate Car Park users are likely to take their accustomed walking route to the centre of town via Marygate Lane, only to find the Museum Garden gate on Marygate closed. Their likely diversion on foot will be down Marygate (right through the customary FutureSound offloading area) to the Ouse riverside. This is potentially a significant safety risk. To guarantee safety, York Museums Trust and FutureSound should be obligated to deliver into, and offload, directly within the Garden site as a condition of any new extended licence.

Tourist visitors to York, meanwhile, are simply denied access to the gardens at a “high tourist time-of-year” (in July): they have had no potential during FutureSound 2024 and 2025-events to view the popular historic monuments and botanic garden within Museum Garden for a prolonged period.

Extending the full garden closure for FutureSound to 20 days (12 days events plus 5 days set-up and 3 days dismantling) is a prolonged disturbance for all affected. But 12 days of events per year spread over 3 separate sessions (with 3 separate set-up and dismantling periods) would mean even more disturbance – 36 days, resulting from three times 4 days performance plus three times 8 days set-up and take-down for each individual session.

Large events like those organised by FutureSound in 2024 and 2025 create large crowds – both inside and outside Museum Garden. It generates queueing for access via permitted entry points, disturbance caused by entrance and exit, and a particular risk associated with prolonged alcohol consumption. Given that the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) has identified that inappropriate behaviour at events often stems from excessive drinking, including “pre-loading” (drinking before arrival), York Museums Trust should be defined by any new approval to be the *Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS)* “who is responsible for managing the site” (according to the Licensing Act 2003). There needs to be a clear limit on numbers and consideration of appropriate entry and exit points, and control of external areas – e.g. the riverbank – a particular danger for late-night intoxicated adventures.

Despite the UK Government’s intention to “cut red tape” since April 2025 in support of the hospitality sector (e.g. FutureSound), including music venues, extended alcohol drinking, loud music, and a profit-target should not become a prime goal. There needs to be full recognition of the need for community safety and reduced alcohol-related crime. According to DrugAbuse.com: “rock concerts and alcohol are closely linked, with over 93% of people admitting to consuming alcohol at live music events”. “Music festivals have a deep-seated history with alcohol and overconsumption. [And] to further complicate the matter, sneaking alcohol into music festivals has made it much harder for organizations to monitor and institute consumption policies”. “Staying hydrated is often a primary concern due to the exposure to the elements and alcohol can exacerbate this problem. In fact, alcohol can cause the body to lose fluid and electrolytes.” Perversely: though “the licence application... submitted by FutureSound... has the full support of York Museums Trust”, even though the consumption of alcohol in the Museum Garden during normal Garden opening hours is prohibited by York Museums Trust and appears on signage within the gardens.



“Visitors are not permitted to consume alcohol whilst in the gardens”

Musical and other events without amplification and extensive alcohol consumption, more clearly pitched to the nature and history of the site would benefit tourist attraction, visitors and the site itself more – by retaining and developing its long-term charm: not merely a new prime reputation as an outdoor rock concert site – where participants drink during the performance and potentially then carry on outside noisily (on the riverside) or in town.

Events reflecting “a clear, unique identity” (like the Viking Festival and Mela), and unamplified (particularly of bass and drums), would be more appropriate to the continuing development of reputation and history of the Museum Garden and Abbey site, as well as the York Museums Trust.

Most Important Points Re-Summarised:

- Any new approval (for York Museums Trust) needs to define a clear limit for the manager (York Museums Trust) on the number of events per year which may be held at the site/location (Museum Garden). There also needs to be a clear attendance number limit for all events - given the needs of transport, parking, queuing and access, nuisance and site safety, as well as surrounding area safety (particularly given the presence of alcohol). The safety disturbance caused by set-up and dismantling also needs clear limits. And site access outside normal garden opening hours needs specific consideration. This information should be publicly documented; known and transparent.
- York Museums Trust (rather than FutureSound) should, in advance of any permission subcontracted to FutureSound, be obliged to consider the historic nature of their site and its promotion, but also be obliged to proactively consult and consider implications on neighbours. Regarding the profits from such activities, these should be shared with the City Council and directly with Residents – to provide a common interest as well as “checks and balances” and recompense by means of a fund to cover the costs of damage, disturbance and nuisance - rather than merely disappearing in commercial pockets at the cost of Council and residents.
- The maximum noise disturbance of 15dB above normal ambient noise should be stated in any new licence (this value suggested in York Council’s Code of Practice and Guidance on Noise Control for Concerts and Outdoor Events, 2025) and apply to ALL annual events of a new, maximum 12-events per year licence for York Museums Trust and the Museum Garden site as a whole, with the option for them to delegate or subcontract some of these events to third-party organisations like FutureSound. In other words: York Museums Trust, with prime responsibility for Museum Gardens, should “own” and manage the total number of events at the location. There should be no question or possibility for multiple third-party, subcontracted agents like FutureSound to apply for, or be sub-contracted by York Museums Trust to apply for, a licence for up to 12 events at the Museum Garden site. And yes, 15dB maximum above the ambient sound level (for a maximum of 15 minutes) at that location, AT THAT TIME OF DAY – should applying to ALL 12 (MAXIMUM) SUCH EVENT DAYS (as defined by the Council Guide on Noise Control). Any licence should transparently state the maximum number of events, noise and access arrangements. There should not be scope for “sound creep” on the number or dB range of noisy events – for example, by enabling multiple sub-contracted organisers like FutureSound each to receive a 3-event or 12-event licence for Museum Gardens with York Museums Trust in “full control over the total number of events,”
- All the considerations, objectives and constraints should appear in one approval document – focussed firstly on York Museums Trust – tuned to the particular circumstances and complications of their important site – allowing neighbours as well as all other affected parties to be informed and consulted in plain and concise fashion – about the intended nature, organisation, objectives and likely knock-on effects and disturbance of specific future events – without those parties having to keep step with multiple developments on multiple different fronts (e.g. changes in a separate noise guidelines document, changes in alcohol offerings or opening hours defined in separate licensing regulations, changes in noise protection permissible in listed buildings etc.)

THIS REPRESENTATION IS MADE ON BEHALF OF:

Marygate, York

Marygate, York

Marygate, York

Marygate, York

Marygate, York

Marygate, York

Marygate, York

From:
Sent: 14 May 2026 13:54
To: licensing@york.gov.uk
Subject: Representation regarding the new licence application for York Museum Gardens
Categories: Helen

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.

This representation concerns the application for a new Licence for the premises known as York Museum Gardens, Museum Street, York YO1 7FR.

The representation is made by Marygate, York, YO30 7BH on Thursday 14 May 2026
by email to licensing@york.gov.uk

The representation is made with specific relevance to the licensing objective of **"The prevention of public nuisance."**

1 Insufficiently clear application

The language used in the application for the grant of a premises licence is insufficiently clear and is therefore ambiguous about the relationship between the types and numbers and duration of the activities proposed. Clarification of these factors is of crucial importance to weighing up the extent of the likely nuisance. For example, it is unclear whether "for a maximum of 12 days in any one calendar year" means 12 days of Live Music, or 12 days of each of the four categories totalling 48 days, or whether it is a mix of each activity to a maximum of 12 days. Although presumably one of those 12 days is allotted to the York Proms.

2 Loss of residents' amenity

While the Licensing and Regulatory Committee's purview is limited to controlling the sale of alcohol and the regulated activities it is worth pointing out that for residents living on Marygate and surrounding streets a great deal of the public nuisance is related to the days before and after the activities. The 2024 Futuresound music event itself was for 3 days but the prior Build Phase lasted 4 days and the subsequent Break Phase lasted 3 days - a total of 10 days of disruption for residents and the Gardens closed to the public. The huge vehicle activity along Marygate clearly increases the risks to pedestrians and motorists. The loss of so many residents car park spaces is a significant problem as the pressure is already high for available spaces. These spaces are charged for by YCC so will compensation be available?

3 Cumulative Impact

As a resident adjacent to the premises, I am concerned to find that I may have imposed upon me 4 sets of rock concerts, ie 12 days of rock music (which due to the weather will all have to be in either July or early September (August being the holiday month)). Including the site works, that is 36 days worth of upheaval and noise with no real respite for residents - the cumulative impact of that intensity would be intolerable. Moreover, this period in the year is exactly the time of year when visitors to York would be drawn to the

Garden as one of the very few peaceful havens available in York. It is also the same period in which I would want to spend pleasant evenings in my own garden - which now may be impossible.

4 Noise levels

YCC's Code of Practice and Guidance Notes on Noise Control for Concerts and Outdoor Events clause 4.2.3 states that for more than 3 events in a year the Maximum Noise Level expressed as an LAeq should not exceed the background noise level by more than 15dB(A) over a 15 minute period. It is important that the Committee draws the applicants attention to this and that a reading is taken of the background noise in the Gardens at times through a couple of evenings so that the actual background noise level can be measured and agreed by all the parties, including residents

5 Capacity of the Premises

If the capacity figure (including staff) is over 5,000 this is not only a crucial figure for the application process and fee but will result in more that 30,000 people movements to and from the site in the July and September period. This is a lot to achieve without surrounding disturbance and the Committee should consider imposing a cap on numbers.

6 Increased hours of the sale of alcohol

The new application increases the hours of the sale of alcohol over the existing licence by 15 mins to 23:00 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and therefore extends 30 minutes past the time of the various activities outlined. This will undoubtedly increase the likelihood of anti-social behaviour from the audience leaving the premises affecting near neighbours late at night and should therefore be refused.

7 Lack of Consultation

In its Statement of Licensing Policy 2025-2030 section 7.4 YCC recommends the applicant make early consultation with responsible authorities, such as the Police. That may well have happened but I am not aware of any consultation undertaken by the applicant with those most affected by the imposition of this increased public nuisance - the surrounding residents. Museum Gardens is a most sensitive site adjacent to many households and it is extraordinary that, as far as I am aware, the applicant or premises owner, has not made any overtures to residents nearby who are all stakeholders in ensuring a properly drafted and carefully controlled Premises Licence becomes agreed.

In conclusion:

- i the ambiguity of the statement "for a maximum of 12 days in any one calendar year"**
- ii the lack of any sense of control or limitations regarding the license period**
- iii the cumulative impact of these activities, and**
- iv the lack of public consultation made by either the applicant or the owner of the premises**

4

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From: _____

Sent: 13 May 2026 17:29

To: licensing@york.gov.uk

Subject: Re: Support for Premises Licence Application - Future Sounds Group

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.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the premises licence application submitted by Future Sounds Group for their events at the York Museum Gardens.

I strongly believe that this series of events will once again be a positive addition to the local area and will contribute to the community in both a responsible and beneficial manner. From my experience of their previous events, I know that the applicant is committed to operating in accordance with all licensing objectives, including the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance, and the protection of their customers from harm.

I have attended events organised by Future Sounds on a number of occasions and have found them to be responsible, professional, and considerate. I am confident they will manage the on site events appropriately and respond promptly to any concerns raised by local residents or authorities - as they have done previously.

The proposed events undoubtedly bring much to the local economy whilst providing some much needed additional culture for the people of York and its thousands of tourists.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Licensing Authority to approve this application.

Yours faithfully,

Art | Gardens | Events

Tel:

Email: _____

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means that the licence application as currently drafted should be either withdrawn or refused. Much more consideration, with residents, of what the application is actually trying to achieve is needed and then it can re-submitted with the with the necessary controls regarding timing and frequency built in.

Finally, I wryly quote from an email I received from the previous Chair of York Museums Trust, James Grierson, on 22 July 2024 shortly after the first rock concerts took place in which he stated to me, "If it's any consolation we envisage concerts like these only very rarely."

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From:
Sent: 14 May 2026 23:09
To: licensing@york.gov.uk
Subject: Application for Museum Street, York, YO1 7FR 8.4.26

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Date: 08 April 2026 Applicant: Futuresound Events Limited

Comments / Representations

Re the licence requested.

As such I am opposed to granting this many extra days due to the detrimental effect from noise and disruption to the residents in the near vicinity and those on the other side of the railway lines who will also have to put up with the noise.

It should be noted that a commercial organisation is making the request and is it about time that the views of the residences of York be taken into account rather than the councils view that almost anything that brings in tourists to York is good. Many residences, who regularly use or would like to use the City centre believe that there are already too many tourists and that they negatively impact on residences lives.

That being said it is understood that the Museums Trust require funding to continue and allowing more events will satisfy this.

If it is allowed there should be safeguards with in the licence.

1. Futuresound Events Limited have already said that should they get the licence they would wish to use all the in one block during the summer. This would mean that residence would have to put up with noise intrusion for a full summer month. This is grossly unfair. Therefore, I would request/suggest that there should be at least 14 days between ending of one event (including striking and erecting any sets etc) i.e. no more than 2 events could be run in the same month. (though preferably only one)
2. That there be no construction, practice or events taking place during St Olave's services on Fridays and Sundays and where possible that Futuresound liaise with the church to see if a quiet period can be held during funerals and weddings (this is a source of income to the church which like the Trust is a charity as such).
3. That as part of granting any licence is that any organisation is not allowed to apply for an increase in days for a period of at least five years. This will prevent creep and allow residences

to gauge the problems of any increase. You may also want to consider how many years this license is granted for.

4. That the entrance on Marygate is not used either before, during or after any event and that crowds be stewarded out of the Museum street entrance or the river entrance to the Marygate carpark if in use, via the flood door (aprox 1000 people). This would reduce the noise effect on local residences.

I can not find what information you require about me to make a rep against so assume that my name and that I live in the parish is sufficient.

Regards

Longfield Terrace

4030 7DJ

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

14th May 2026

Supporting Letter for Premises Licence Application – Futuresound Events Limited, at York Museum Gardens.

Dear Licensing Team,

I am writing in support of the application for a new premises licence for Futuresound Events Limited located at York Museum Gardens (8th April 2026).

The last two years of 'Live at Museum Gardens' concert series has proved itself to be a well organised event and addition to York's cultural offer for both residents and visitors to the city.

The concerts have not only positioned York on a national platform of high-quality summer events, they've had an economic impact on the city's nighttime economy in terms of local hospitality, overnight stays, transport and most importantly a much needed income revenue to York Museum's Trust.

Make it York supports the growth and development of the event which has proven to be committed to promoting Licensing objectives, operating with a safe and responsible management plan, community engagement events for local residents, a noise management plan and strong relationship with York Museums Trust. In the current economic climate, with scarce funding available, the Trust, an independent charity, needs to diversify its' income streams to maintain its' rich heritage offer which is a vital component of York's cultural and historical fabric, keeping the city vibrant year-round.

Yours faithfully,

· Make it York

