

Dear Sir

I understand that you have received a proposal for the popular summer Picnic in the Park to be taken over by a private Events Company who want to turn it into a paid entry event in our local park. This Events Company is requesting a drinks license to sell alcohol as well as a music license to play loud music in a residential area from 11am to 9pm on Saturday 1st September and Sunday 2nd September. I am writing to object to this proposal.

Pittville Park is a public park, a wonderful local facility which is supposed to be available for everyone to enjoy free of charge. This Events Company propose closing off part of the public area of the park for a week to allow for setting up and dismantling of marquees, fun fair rides and about 70 stalls. Charging for entry means that the popular Picnic in the Park will only be accessible to those who can afford the entry price and for those people who will be able to afford to pay for their children's entertainment. This discriminates against those people who are unable to pay.

A large commercial event like this should not be held in Pittville Park but be held in the grounds of the nearby Racecourse. The local racecourse has excellent security arrangements, easy access for unloading trailers and setting up marquees and tents and plenty of hard standing areas so that the grass won't be destroyed. The racecourse, unlike the roads around Pittville Park, has ample parking facilities for the expected 5,000 people.

Yours sincerely

Anne Bartlett (Mrs)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object most strenuously to the application for September 1st and 2nd 2018 - Picnic in the Park in Pittville park.

I reside in one of the flats that overlook Pittville Park so have a valid reason to complain/object.

People come to the park to enjoy being able to use the wonderful new children's play area - children laughing and enjoying the area which is great.

Families and people of all ages come to picnic in the park, ride bikes, jog, play football or use frisbees, walk their dogs, sit quietly on the benches to watch the world go by etc and all of this involves people laughing, talking and again enjoying themselves. People wander through the park or spend an hour or two - very rarely do they stay the whole day.

However putting on music with a sound system for the whole day is not what the park was designed for and nor should it be. This would be utter torture and we would be forced out of our homes for the entire weekend. We had the misfortune of being at home for the August Bank Holiday in 2017 when permission had sadly been granted to a music and outdoor event at the Pittville school opposite our flats and it was the most awful weekend of the year - constant loud din of sound/music - so we had to have our windows shut on the hottest weekend of the year - it was dreadful. And this would be the same.

Please do not grant permission. Such a commercial event should be held where it is more suited - somewhere such as the Cheltenham racecourse grounds which have sufficient parking/access and are away from more residential areas.

A very angry Cheltenham resident

Regards,

Caroline Frewing

Pittville Court Flats

I refer to the application for a license in respect of the above event.

The only view I have is about parking. I live on the north side of East Approach Drive.

Currently, the normal day to day parking restrictions are as follows:

Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm - south side limited to residents parking although only the residents of the south side can apply for permits. There are no restrictions on the north side so anyone can park there at any time.

Parking on East Approach Drive will become an issue for residents on both the Saturday and Sunday of that weekend. I have lived on East Approach Drive for over 15 years and it is common that when there is an event at the park and/or the Pump Rooms or the park is heavily used during the summer months, the road is full of visitors cars. An event that may have 5,000 visitors will cause extra problems as this number is way beyond the size of the usual type of event.

During the most well attended events at the racecourse, East Approach Drive becomes parking permit only for all residents.

May I urge you to consider permit parking for East Approach Drive on 1 and 2 September, in line with current arrangements for race days?

Thank you

Caroline Macklin

East Approach Drive

19. DEC. '17.

Dear Sir,

Would you please register my objection to the proposal to extend the PICNIC IN THE PARK event in PETERVICK PARK 1-2 September '18.

PETERVICK PARK is one of the main attractions in Cheltenham for both residents and visitors. It is attractive because it is clean & tidy, well cared for and beautiful and peaceful. It is open and available to everyone. The proposed event would restrict the most used part of the park for almost one week. It would be noisy and out of keeping with the normal atmosphere of the park. It would introduce and encourage the drinking of alcohol, not only during the event but in my view afterwards. Drinking in the park is always on the edge of being a problem and should be discouraged.

Another fear that I have is that this event could encourage the idea of holding similar events during future years.

Please do not grant permission on the scale proposed

Thank You,

DK. WAGSTAFF

DK Wagstaff  
Albert Road

Licensing Cheltenham Borough Council.

The Park is much used and enjoyed by many local people at all times but particularly at Weekends and Bank Holidays by the General Public, Dog Walkers, and Keep Fit Enthusiast.

There are a number of Blocks of Flats surrounding the area to be fenced off. the

Occupants are mainly Elderly and bought their homes in Pittville to enjoy the

Peaceful Atmosphere of the Park Area as Joseph Pitt intended.

The area is occasionally used to entertain families during the Year and School Holidays. All are well organised and of short duration. The noise levels this year in particular was reasonable. I believe it is more or less cost free except for a few activities. Wonderful for Cheltenham Residents and Visitors and accepted by the local Residents.

THE 2 DAY PICNIC IN THE PARK SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED.

.The prolonged noise restriction of movement [Fencing},and general disruption for Local Residents and Regular Users of the Park is unacceptable. Not to mention Parking problems.

The only gain would be to the Greedy Traders and the Council with their Fees.

PS

Why were not all Local Residents informed ??? Why such short Notice ?

E.L. Dickinson

Albert Road

My objections to the proposal:

This affects the area of the park most widely used by families as it is adjacent to the play area

Many groups meet for picnics, family gatherings, for children to play, watch the ducks, learn to ride their bikes and scooters, play games - all at no expense

More music/noise inflicted on the neighbourhood (the volume at events means that residents have to shut all windows in order to listen to their own choice of radio/tv) - not ideal in the summer

Loss of a recreational area in the school holidays

Fencing - it's against the principal of public parks which were intended to be a community facility

Parking - where?

Clean up after - who pays?

Detrimental effect on environment

A similar event at Pittville school last summer did not draw in the hoped for numbers

Is this really the right place to introduce alcohol? It makes a mockery of the existing notices which claim the area is alcohol free

There aren't many things young families can do without spending a lot of money. Please don't take this away from them for a week in the summer

Jackie Anderson

Pittville Place

I write to object to the granting of a License to hold the above event. My reasons are:

1. Pittville Park is a Public amenity and all of it should be available for the Public at all times. Private companies should not be allowed to cordon off areas and charge admission. It is contrary to the freedom of access which is the right of every individual.

2 The annual event of the Picnic in the Park which has been held for a number of years has been an enjoyable family event open to all. It is wrong to allow a Private Company to hijack it and make people pay to enjoy such an event.

3. The infrastructure around Pittville Park will not sustain visitor numbers of 2,500 per day.

James Bartlett

West Approach Drive

Dear Sir/Madam

18.12.17

Picnic in the Park

As a resident of Pittville Court, overlooking, and approx 20 yards away from the Park, I am very concerned about the application to hold a music concert (masquerading) as a picnic in the Park. My reasons are as follows:-

- A. Nuisance - including noise from both music & estimated crowd of 5000+ generators
- B. Parking already very limited.
- C. Alcohol sold in alcohol free zone
- D. Closure of the area to the public for a week.
- E. Unruly behaviour and security of persons
- F. 9 Security lights last time when there were 2 they shone brilliantly into my flat.

Full details of this event are already being advertised by computer and are obviously unsuitable to be held in a residential area with a large population (many live in apartments) as well as housing.

We have a wonderful venue at the Racecourse, many concerts are successfully held there. Would this not be a better idea?

Yours faithfully

Jillian G Herbert

Albert Road



Dear Licensing Department,

Picnic in the Park - licensing reference 17/02054/PRMA

I am a resident of Wellington Square and am writing to object to this proposal.

I cannot see how this event could be staged without causing substantial public nuisance to residents living nearby and, indirectly leading to issues of public safety.

The noise nuisance comes from the performance of live and recorded music from 11am to 9pm on the Saturday and 11am to 8pm on the Sunday. I appreciate that you can talk about a cap on the decibel level but the whole objective of having music is to play it as loudly as possible to up the atmosphere. And the constant throbbing of the bass was the thing that drove local residents mad when you allowed the Beat Fest event at Pittville School this summer. So, unless you are going to position Environmental Health Officers on site staring at their noise meters, we can have little confidence that there will not be adverse consequences for local residents.

There is also public nuisance from light. That part of the park is very dark so I assume that artificial floodlighting will be installed for the duration. This will impact on those residents in Albert road whose windows overlook the area.

The second issue of public nuisance, with potentially adverse implications for public safety is parking. There are limited spaces around the Pittville Lawn end of the park but restricted to 4 hours and no return within four hours. So while I have no doubt that people will park there, it will be a nice little earner for the County Parking Enforcement team. Having said that, they will probably be the last places to fill up as human nature says that motorists will look for free parking first. They will find that on the bays by the side of the children's play area denying use by users of the play area, the car park in Pittville Park off Albemarle Gate, Albemarle Gate itself and roads off, West Approach Drive, the Pump Rooms, East Approach Drive and, on Sunday at least even Albert Road offers free parking.

In addition to the public nuisance of parking for so many in a parking restricted area, it is worth noting that the County Council are consulting on proposed changes to parking in this area that would see double yellow lines for the stretch of Albemarle Gate from Evesham Road to number 3 Albemarle Gate. They are doing so because they have accepted that parking there presents significant dangers because of the bend in the road. If County are sufficiently impressed by arguments of public safety, I would hope that Borough would not demur.

Please acknowledge receipt.

kind regards

Mrs Joanna Stafford

Wellington Square

Thank you for your recent letter, December 2017 regarding the application, Picnic in the Park.

This sort of event I feel should be more suited to the race course where there is ample space and less of a populated area nearby.

The last event in the near vicinity of the pump Room was held in October on a Sunday. Although a charity event there seemed little consideration to the residents in the surrounding area. The music started just after 8am in the morning and the volume and continuous chat from the compare was totally unacceptable...I gather there were several complaints. I also believe the organisers of this event have applied for permission to hold it next year.

We also had two nights when this area again was fenced off to show two films – I was unable to hear my television above the volume of the film.

To fence off an area of public park for a week I do not agree with. We are going to be subjected to noise and disruption.

Two days of live music you say from 11am- 9pm and 11am to 8pm. I am sure there will be testing happening from very early on! And would there be a limit to the volume? Who would be monitoring this?

Where are all these people going to park – they will be taking parking places away from the general public who just want to come and enjoy the park and the playground with their children and walk their dogs, not necessarily PAY to go into a fenced off area.

As a resident of East Approach Drive I strongly object to this event. We seem to be subjected to more and more of these entertainment events outside as well as all the various happenings in the pump room!

Yours

Lynda Walden

East Approach

I should like to make an input to the decision-making process in respect of the [John Rhodes] Application for Premises/Alcohol/Music/Funfair Licensing for the Picnic in the Park event proposed for 1 and 2 Sep 2018 in Pittville Park.

My house at 61Albert Rd is opposite the N end of Pittville Lawn, from which there is an entrance via the footbridge over Wymans Brook to that part of Pittville Park where it is intended to locate the proposed Picnic in the Park event.

I should like the following to be considered, please.

1. There is an element of principle involved: I am concerned that a private business should be permitted to cordon off a substantial area of a park which belongs to the council and therefore to the citizen and then to charge an entry fee. I dare say that the business will pay 'rent' to the council but it remains the case that the citizen will be denied his usual free access to what he believes to be his in order to allow a private business to make a profit.

2. The children and families emphasis in the proposal is an appealing one. To be consistent with this emphasis I ask for consideration to be given to the proposed timing for funfair rides, music and bar opening: a closing time on both days of, say, 6.30pm would seem to be much more appropriate - while the opening time could very reasonably be significantly earlier, say 9.30am.

3. It is important to manage noise effectively/responsively [for the 2017 event in Pittville school it was not]. I suggest that the Council [Environmental Health?] should be readily and immediately accessible to Joe Public; and that the noise monitoring unit should be contracted to report directly and in real time to the Council - with the private business footing the bill.

With kind regards

Michael Canning

To whom it may concern:

As residents of Pittville Court, we are very concerned to see the above application for two days of live music/food and drink stalls/ etc on September 1st and 2nd 2018. It calls itself Picnic in the Park. How anyone will be able to have a quiet picnic with the background to live music and noise from the expected 5000 visitors is incomprehensible. I note that the prosecco pavilion will be adjacent to our garden fence, and the music stage in front of the lake. There has obviously been no thought for the residents in these plans or to the disturbance of the wild life on the lake. Activities for children at the end of their school holidays is of course welcomed and already the park offers a magnificent play area and it is lovely to see the grassed section often used for family gatherings. However the scale of this event in a limited space is totally unacceptable, and the noise level from what will inevitably be loud music will be unbearable. It would be very regrettable to have the park unavailable for public use for a whole week.

We therefore voice our protest at this application. I note this event is already being advertised on the internet which, we suggest, makes a mockery of a consultation process.

Diane and Roger Daymond

Pittville Court

I wish to object to the above but am unable to do so from your website. It also appears that I cannot see details of this proposal as your website simply leads me from Licensing to Planning.

I am, I have to say somewhat surprised that so little time is allowed for objections from notification. The only notification I have seen is a notice on the park railing, late last week and that does not provide sufficient detail; Application Number etc. The information given is sparse and the imminent closing date of the 26th of December will clearly seriously restrict any objections. For instance, your offices close on the 22nd and no allowance has been given for holidays. A closing date of the 26th of January would appear to me to be more practical. (unless it is as has been suggested, that the timing was deliberate)

It does appear that less than a week has been given to submit objections

...

I am concerned about this event for several important reasons. I am also a little surprised that being on the Licensing Committee you allowed this to proceed. This year we had one on the school playing fields. It took four days to set up and over a week to clear away. As with this proposed event there is not a single parking space provided. Just a fortnight ago we had a small event for one day, the grass in the park was damaged and I presume the tax payers will foot the bill.

These people are proposing to close several rights of way, which is as you know illegal.

Perhaps you can advise me how I can lodge a complaint? Additionally, I can only reiterate that it simply is not good enough that only five working days have been allowed from notification to the closing of acceptance of objections.

Regards, William Greenwood

Pittville Court, Albert Road

Pittville Place  
Albert Rd  
Cheltenham  
GL52 3HZ

Dear Sir / Madam

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018

I am in possession of details of the proposal for Picnic in the Park 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2018. I am concerned about the large area of the Park which will be required, and also the noise which will be generated by 2 tribute bands over 2 days from 11am - 4pm in close proximity to my living accommodation.

I would request that you give these observations some consideration when viewing the application

Yours sincerely

I am writing as a resident of East Approach Drive, I have grave concerns about the above event. not the event itself but the problem of 2500 visitors each day. These people have to get to Pittville Park and the parking is inadequate for the number of cars that will generate, consequently East Approach Drive will become so congested and the people who park in the road have no thought for the residents who live in the flats on the right hand side and are trying to get out of their drives. They park badly, and we already have enough problems with that with the school run.

I feel that if this event is going to go ahead other arrangements for example the park and ride car park, should be made and East and West Approach Drive should be made a no parking zone, a bit like when the races take place. ie temporary permit parking and this should be enforced.

I hope my concerns are taken on board when issuing a licence. I realise that events should take place at the park and I have attended some myself.

Nicola Jones

I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband both of whom are residents at Apartment 6, Albert House, Pittville Place, GL52 3HZ. Pittville Place is directly adjacent to Pittville Park. We wish to object to the proposal to have an event licensed for music and the sale of alcohol in Pittville Park on 1st and 2nd of September 2018.

We have general objections to the 'Picnic in the Park' proposal which are associated with the wider provision of services by Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) as well as specific objections that relate to the Licensing Objectives of CBC.

#### General Objections

1. The view across the upper lake and the lawn in front of the Pump Room is one of the major tourist attractions of Cheltenham. The proposal for 'Picnic in the Park' with the lawn fenced off and the stage by the lake, will obliterate that view for a whole week at the end of the school holidays during the height of the tourist season.

2. The lawn leading down from the Pump Room to the Upper lake is a favourite picnic spot for families and residents of Cheltenham during the Summer. Residents pay their Council tax and expect to be able to freely enjoy the peace and quiet of the Park. This proposal will radically change the ambience, tranquillity and attraction of the park and will deprive families of the opportunity for the free and peaceful enjoyment of the amenities for which they have already paid via their local tax. We note that a commercial organisation is proposing to run this event and charge an entrance fee. We find it unreasonable for the Council to allow one organisation to pursue their profit motive in a public venue effectively subsidised by local residents who may be excluded from the venue by the cost of the entrance fee.

We would not object to the proposal quite so strongly if there were to be no entrance fee to Cheltenham Council Tax Payers or if the venue were moved to the area the other side of the A435, Evesham Road say, between the back of the Leisure centre and the Lower lake or to the area on the old golf course.

3. We note that the proposal is for an event to take place over two days, the first and second of September, 2018 and the licensing application is for music and the sale of alcohol from 11.00 am each morning until 8.45 pm and 7.45 pm on the Sunday. Yet the application asks for 'dates to be licensed' to be 29/08/2018 – 04/09/2018.

In the event of the licence being granted, It would be intolerable for music to be played and for alcohol to be sold outside the times that the venue is open to the public. We hope that will be made abundantly clear in any licensing decision.

4. The proposal is for climb-proof fencing to be erected around the venue and for staging to be erected on the lawn by the lake. That will potentially damage the grass and leave unsightly scars on the ground when the fencing and staging are eventually dismantled. How will that be rectified and who will pay for it?

The Prevention of Public Nuisance



1, The music that it is intended to play over a loud speaker system will be a nuisance to local residents for up to nine or eight hours each day. 'Music in the park' that is occasionally played in the band stand or under the portico of the Pump Room can easily be heard in Pittville Place and that music is not transmitted via loudspeakers and is only played for a maximum of a couple of hours a day. The Picnic in the Park proposal is for bands to be playing through out the day and for the music to be transmitted via loudspeakers. The music proposed for 1st and 2nd of September would therefore be louder and be played for longer and would cause greater disturbance and nuisance to local residents to say nothing of the potential disturbance to the wildfowl on the upper lake, since the proposal is for the stage to be immediately in front of the lake.

2. We acknowledge that this application is for licensing and not for the policing of the event. or for traffic management. However, it is expected that 5000 people may visit the event over the two days. Where will they park if they come by car? There is insufficient parking for these numbers in the Pump Room car park . Parking is prohibited in most of Evesham Road and in Albert Road. Will they park at the Race Course or the Leisure Centre where it is often difficult to find a parking space, and approach the venue on foot? One can anticipate traffic chaos in the area surrounding the venue and nuisance caused to residents in nearby roads where parking may be possible. Will the area be policed to ensure a reduction of such traffic nuisance and to ensure that there is no disorderly behaviour outside the venue when people leave it?

3. It is noted that the venue will be floodlit at night for security reasons. That lighting may well cause a nuisance to residents immediately around the venue.

#### The Prevention of Crime and Disorder and The Protection of Children from Harm

1. We are concerned at the prospect of alcohol being sold throughout the day leading to disorderly behaviour both inside the venue and outside once people leave it after several hours of alcohol consumption. It may be that someone who appears to be the worse for wear with regards to alcohol consumption may be with a friend who is still able to purchase more supplies despite Challenge 21 being in place and the good intentions of the event organiser and staff.. Families outside the venue using the park amenities and childrens' play area may well encounter anyone who is under the influence of alcohol since the exit from the venue will be very near the gates to the Childrens' play area.

Jill Rosenheim and Tony Sussmann.

I note the application to hold a music event on 1st & 2nd September 2018 & would comment as follows.....

If you have ever tried to park near Pittville Park at the weekend in August or September you will be aware that it is very difficult. Therefore where on earth would an influx of 5000 people manage to park for the event? The only option would be the racecourse and surprise surprise, that is where all existing large music events take place in Cheltenham.

Therefore, if there is to be a "picnic in the park", please be sensible and ensure that it takes place at Prestbury Park and not Pittville Park.

Thank you

Stewart Frewing

Pittville Court

In reference to the Party in the Park 1-2 sept 2018

We are residents of Pittville and live right on the park ( 98 Evesham rd).

We are just residents of Cheltenham and have no business interests that would be benefited by the event going ahead.

In any case we are very much in support of this event taking place. Not enough use is made of the park for these types of events especially when compared to the other side of the town.

Maybe a park and ride from the racecourse would ease things along with a temporary extension of parking times allowed on the park ( from the current 4 hrs to all day as who wants to leave a party just to move a car !! ).

Regards

David Collins