

Appendix 7

1.

Please find attached an email from Event Consultations re Wychwood Festival 2026 - I forward this as you may not have received it. Some Prestbury and Southam residents received this and now we have seen the application 26/000056/PRMA we are concerned that there will be a return to the noise hell that was 60dB in 2024 should this licence be granted.

dB Sound Levels The final part of the proposed variation is a request to amend the existing noise limits (dB levels) to make the event more in line with that which one might ordinarily consider to be the “standard” nationally. The 55dB until 11pm is unusual and we are proposing a target level of 60dB. The request to change the levels is not a request to be permitted to unreasonably disturb residents or neighbours, it is a request to allow the entertainment to be conducted at a level that balances audience satisfaction, artistic integrity, and the prevention of public nuisance licensing objective. We will continue to work with the local community to mitigate sound levels at nearby residential properties and are not proposing to move stages closer to residential properties or reduce the sound mitigation methods from the 2025 event plans.

I object to the application on the grounds the event will cause a public nuisance - noise. I request that this application is heard by CBC Licensing Committee to allow the public to make representation, either through their elected Councillor or personally. There are also highways issues and a public health issue that I believe should be addressed by the committee.

2.

Yes I am objecting to the above application. My objections are set out in my original email below and come under your category 'Preventing public nuisance'. This is because of the excessive noise and night time disturbance.

I wish to make a comment about the application above for the Wychwood Festival. I live in Southam Lane and am one of the closest to the helicopter field where the festival is now held.

This festival has taken place for a number of years at Cheltenham Racecourse and originally caused us next to no problems when it was in its original location. Since it has been moved to the helicopter field it has caused severe problems with noise and disturbed sleep. We have to put up with very loud noise for about two and a half days. During the day this makes working in our garden very unpleasant. In the evening the noise can be so loud that at times it can be impossible to listen to our own radio or television, and this is with all the doors and windows shut (we have modern double glazing). Why does everything have to be so loud, and do the speakers have to face towards our road?

When the music finishes at 11.00pm there is still a lot of noise from the camp site and this goes on well into the night. I don't think people realize how noise travels (do they care?). As the festival takes place in the summer the weather is usually pretty warm and we do not want to have the windows shut when we go to bed, but this is the only way we can get some sleep.

I don't want to stop people enjoying themselves, but I don't want to suffer from extreme noise for two and a half days and two nights' lack of sleep.

3.

I object to this application as written. Wychwood made improvements in 2025 to reduce the impact on the local community which was appreciated. However, points 13-15 of the new licence risk allowing disturbance similar to 2024 to reoccurdisturbance that led to multiple complaints and a licensing review in which Wychwood admitted mistakes. These changes would not only allow those issues to happen again, but make them compliant with the licence. This directly contradicts Wychwood's review submission stating they were "committed to being good neighbours" and risks undoing the good work of 2025.

Environmental Health and Wychwood reference the Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts (1995). Although withdrawn, it remains the only guidance available. Table 1 states that where there are more than four concert days per year, noise levels should not exceed background levels by more than 15dB. With at least seven days of music planned at Cheltenham Racecourse this year, the guidance doesn't support the proposed increase. The code also stresses that limits should be site- and event-specific. Setting target levels equal to those that caused problems in 2024 is counterintuitive.

It has been suggested that noise disturbance in 2024 was overstated due to a "targeted" complaints campaign. This claim is incorrect. Environmental Health carried out no monitoring in 2024, and Wychwood did not proactively inform residents how to complain during the event. Residents filled that gap. The leafletting did not encourage complaints; it explained the issues and provided contact details. Many residents, including my partner, were seriously affected. I could physically feel the music inside my home.

Last year it was agreed that while the council sets licence terms, it does not control how Wychwood operates within them. The council is now being asked to amend the licence itself to allow significantly higher noise levels at noise-sensitive premises.

4.

I object to this application as written. Some improvements were implemented in 2025 which was appreciated. This new application will be 2024 all over again. The noise and disturbances to every day (and night) were horrendous. Their new application would be a serving of the same.. There was no escape from the continual thump , thump of what I suppose was the base notes of guitars , and of course , drums. 3 days of music at an unacceptable volume is bad enough , but Wychwood now propose a fourth day.

5.

I object to the application as a local resident, on the grounds that the proposed changes will cause a public nuisance i.e., excessive noise disturbance, just like in 2024 when the absolute limit of 60dB was regularly reached. Noise pollution was extremely stressful for residents, even inside their own homes, and many complaints were received.

In 2025 the target noise level of 55dB plus the sound mitigation and stringent monitoring worked well for festival goers and residents. Also, Prestbury residents were 'lucky' with a more favourable wind direction which contributed to less invasive levels of sound. However, weather is unpredictable and, even with the current permitted noise levels, this year could be quite different. Increasing those target and absolute levels makes no sense, especially considering the hugely negative impact in 2024.

The proposed increase in event capacity plus adding a fourth day of live music until 11pm hint at plans to further expand the event on a site location which is unsuitable due to its proximity to residential areas with a high proportion of elderly and vulnerable residents.

It's odd that the proposed sound level increases weren't mentioned in the December consultation meeting between the festival organisers and interested parties.

6.

I object to this application, as described below.

The increase in the active noise hours is an unnecessary extension of the disruption caused by this festival. Active music licence hours for last years festival accounted 60 hours. This year's application extends this to 91 hours, a significant increase.

This increase in the permitted number of people, from 9999 to 14999, on site will not help in keeping the disturbance to a minimum. Although the organisers have decided not to include activities in the field to the north main site it seems clear that the extra numbers, staff and paying customers, will need to be accommodated somewhere, perhaps some informal camping arrangements may have been made. The fields between Southam village (and the Ellenborough Park) represent an ideal target for a spot of wild camping.

There is no reason why the residents who live close to this event should be forced to accept higher levels of disturbance at the weekend. Just because it is fashionable to listen to very loud music doesn't make the noise as heard by the festivals neighbours any more acceptable. I appreciate that the groups like to have a big finale, but 65 dB music playing outside my house is not pleasant. Especially when a significant component of this music is repetitive base notes which whistle straight through the double-glazed windows. As to the new condition 45 dB LAeq(15mins) until 3 in the morning. We already suffer from the camping noise, now the organisers plan to add to that noise by having organised events as well. Although the organisers have decided not to include activities in the next field to main site. It is difficult to see how the operators can control the camping related noise as there is no longer any centralised control on the volume of noise produced.

If they want to get louder, bigger and longer please take the Wychwood festival to a more suitable venue where people will not be kept awake until 3:00 in the morning waiting for the hubbub to die down.

There was a significant improvement last year following the introduction of condition onsite target using 85dB LCeq(15mins) with 90dB LCeq(15mins) maximum and the offsite premises target of 55dB LAeq(15mins) with 60dB LAeq(15mins) maximum. Changing the offsite target to 60dB LAeq(15mins) and 65dB LAeq(15mins) will not improve the experience of residents in Southam or Prestbury.

7.

We strongly object to the new proposals by Wychwood regarding their 2026 festival. The noise level suggested is far too high. 2025 was hardly bearable but to request it be higher is totally unacceptable. The distorted noise, especially the bass which arrives like solid waves, interferences with sleep especially for those who retire earlier than 11 pm. And it is intrusive even before affecting everyday activities. When the festival was held in its original place it was tolerable. Why did it move so close to residential areas?. In addition an extra day on the

Thursday wood compound the disruption. Added to this is a suggestion that the festival numbers will increase adding to the late night noise and the traffic and the pollution. The overarching objection is the noise which should not be permitted to interfere, antagonise and completely ignore the concerns of local residents and their quality of life.

8.

I wish to register an objection to the granting of a licence for this application. My objections are fully in line with, and support those already received against this application.

There is NO reason whatsoever, other than logistical, for the stages to be located where they were in 2025. It should also be noted that although noise monitoring was carried out during the event, the noise levels ALWAYS increased during the later hours of the day, up to the end of the days entertainment, and with an extra day added, this will not change. I along with other residents of Southam, were not able to enjoy not only relaxation in our own gardens during the evening because of the noise, but also the interminable hum/drone of mobile generation for the duration of the event. As the weather was hot during the event, people were not able to sleep with windows open due to this noise. If an application is approved, it should be stipulated that ALL mobile generation should have extra sound deadening fitted, external to the unit.

This application should be determined against the objections already submitted, BUT also with a complete relocation of the stages to a point furthest away from most residential properties both in Southam and Prestbury and facing away from these properties. A suitable area would be where racecourse contractors park during race days. This is well away from most properties. I also question why is there a need for an outside entertainment area when the racecourse itself has different areas within its complex for public entertainment purposes. Why are these not used instead.

9.

As a Park Lane resident, I support Wychwood Festival continuing as a family-friendly event but strongly object to the proposed relaxation of noise limits on Friday/Sunday. Proposed conditions:
Target MNL: 60 dB LAeq (15 min) at 1 m from noise-sensitive facades (0900-2300) Absolute MNL: 65 dB LAeq (15 min)

These are higher than the current limits set in the March 2025 review: Target: 55 dB LAeq (15 min) Absolute: 60 dB LAeq (15 min)

A 5 dB increase roughly triples sound intensity and will cause noticeably louder noise in homes. This is especially concerning given: Many 2024 complaints about intrusive noise and lowfrequency vibration felt indoors, even under current limits Frequent exceedances of the 55 dB target in past reports The 2025 review strengthened monitoring/layout but kept (or was asked to tighten) dB limits New Thursday event + capacity increase to 14,999, extending overall noise exposure

The organiser's consultation page offers no justification for raising thresholds above agreed levels. Ticket sales proceeding (pre-sale 9 Feb, general 10 Feb 2026) suggests they expect approval despite objections. I respectfully ask the Sub-Committee to: Reject conditions 13-15 and retain (or strengthen) current limits (target 55 dB, absolute 60 dB or ideally 55 dB) If granted, require: stages positioned/oriented away from homes, enhanced C-weighted lowfrequency monitoring, independent real-time off-site reporting Fully assess cumulative public nuisance from extra day, higher capacity and hours Thank you for protecting residents' quality of life.

10.

I live close to the festival site and object to the extension of the hours of live music, adding an extra day of music (Thursday) and most strongly to the increase in target and absolute noise levels. In 2024 we were subjected to a barrage of intrusive noise and vibration day and night. We couldn't even escape it inside our own homes. We can't have a repeat of that torturous noise pollution. Last year was better when there was closer monitoring so why can't the current levels remain? Either that or move it further away from our homes. It has come as a bit of a surprise that plans are underway to significantly increase the sound when there have been so many complaints and bad feeling in previous years.

11.

My I write as a resident of Southam to object to this application. My reasons for objecting mirror those of others who have commented, in particular the significant noise disturbance, the increased traffic and the extension of the event to a fourth day. The application for the 2026 Festival with the noise levels requested is a return to the bad days of 2024 and the increased length of the event with its aim of increasing attendance is unwelcome.

Southam is always badly impacted by live events at the Racecourse and particularly so in recent years by the Wychwood Festival. Noise levels are actually meaningless when there is constant disturbance from a thudding bass and this was true even in 2025. The hours requested in the application seek permission for music, the sale of alcohol and other activities throughout the day and night until 5am. Do those living near the event have no rights to open windows, enjoy their gardens over a summer weekend or be assured of a good night's sleep? The increased traffic, with its increased pollution, over three days is bad enough. Adding a fourth day extends the problem.

The disturbance and noise caused by this event will in fact probably run to 6 days, with the need for setting up and taking down. Sound tests will be required before the event and these are loud and intrusive.

A litany of problems and objections has become annual. If the organisers are not prepared to seek practical and real solutions to these issues, perhaps it is time for the Festival to find an alternative, less contentious arena