

Appendix 6

1.

I write as the Gloucestershire County and Tewkesbury Borough Councillor for Southam to object to Application 26/00056/PRMA for Wychwood Festival.

Monitoring by Tewkesbury Borough Council has already confirmed noise levels in Southam exceeding a 15minute LAeq of 60 dB. Because LAeq is an energy based average, this means actual sound levels were significantly higher-typically 65-75 dB during peaks-causing intrusive and disruptive noise inside homes.

This impact is especially severe in Southam due to its demographic profile. Verified ONS based data shows that 53.5% of Southam residents are aged 65+, the highest proportion in the area. By comparison, Prestbury is 50.7% aged 65+ and Pittville only 21.9%. Older residents are clinically more vulnerable to sleep disturbance, stress, and health effects linked to noise and low frequency vibration. As a result, Southam experiences a disproportionate and unacceptable level of harm from the festival's current location at the Helicopter Field.

The festival already fails to operate within acceptable noise limits under the existing licence. Adding a Thursday event and increasing capacity would intensify these breaches and further undermine the wellbeing of a highly vulnerable community. A proven alternative site exists further towards Cheltenham, where previous festivals operated with significantly lower impact.

For these reasons, the proposed changes fail the Licensing Act's Prevention of Public Nuisance objective. I request that Cheltenham Borough Council reject the licence variation and require the event to return to its previous, less harmful location

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In 2025 the event organisers made improvements to reduce the impact on the local community which were appreciated. With close co-operation between CBC Environmental Protection, TBC Environmental Health, the event operators/consultants and local residents, there appeared to be few complaints. Southam Parish Council (SPC) do not object to the Festival but is concerned changes now proposed will undo progress made in 2025. Therefore SPC objects to this licence application on the following grounds:

General 1: Refers to a family-focused event. The Activity timeframes for music and alcohol sales as below, do not align with a family-focused event.

General 2: Additional day Thursday is likely to cause increased nuisance to residents.

Public Safety 3: Proposed increased capacity (9,999 to 14,999) is likely to lead to traffic congestion and increased noise nuisance.

Supply of alcohol: Time period extends to 5AM all 4 days. Not conducive to create a quiet night-time environment mindful of neighbouring residents. SPC have received complaints of camp site noise in the early hours.

Music: Operating times allowing music to be played until 5AM (Fri-Mon) is excessive.

Public Nuisance 13 Fri-Sun: Increase in Target Music Noise Level to 60dB from 55dB(2025) is unwarranted. It's unlikely customers will notice this amongst other festival noise. Conversely that increase experienced in a quiet residential location will cause further noise nuisance. At events parents often use ear defenders to prevent damaging children's hearing. This noise level increase in a family-focused event appears irresponsible.

Site Plan: Plan provided is not particularly legible but appears similar to 2025, although stage position appears to have moved closer to residential areas, having been moved away in 2025. SPC still believe layout should be reviewed so noise generating activities (stage & campsite) can be moved back to the west away from residential areas, as pre-2023, when there were no noise issues.