

Licensing Dept
St Albans City & District Council
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24 October 2018

Variation to the Verulamium Park Premises Licence 2018

The Abbey Precincts Residents Association (APRA) objects to the above application as a matter of principle. We think that a licence to sell alcohol (on and off sales) throughout Verulamium Park from 10 am until 10 or 11 pm throughout the year cannot meet any of the Licensing Objectives, most obviously the prevention of Public Nuisance. Nor does it seem compatible with the designation of a public park and statutory monument.

We note that the existing licence held by 1Life does permit the sales of alcohol under a Temporary Event Notice, which should be adequate to cover the number and nature of events that have been held in the park in recent years, without the extensions applied for in this Variation. Clearly the main requirement for the application is the plan to hold a large-scale Christmas Festival in the Westminster Lodge area which because of its size and duration could not be covered by a TEN.

Representatives of APRA and other local residents have participated in two recent meetings with the applicant and colleagues. As a result of these discussions, we understand that an amendment will be proposed that will restrict the Variation applied for to the specific times and location of the proposed Christmas Festival, and only for 2018. Such an amendment may address some of our wider concerns for the present, but it does not alter the fact that licensing the festival could lead to a substantial intrusion in this important green open space. We are also concerned that the need for a licence for this is to facilitate an event that would otherwise not be commercially viable.

Peter Trevelyan (Chairman APRA), Robert Pankhurst (Secretary APRA)

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