

Edge O'Common  
14 Barnfield Road  
Riverhead  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 2AY  
Tel: 01732 452194  
Email: [peterbaigent@bai14p.plus.com](mailto:peterbaigent@bai14p.plus.com)

12<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Licensing Partnership  
PO BOX 182  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1GP

Dear Sirs,

**Licensing Application No 11/01004/LAPRE – Amherst County Primary School PTA.**

The scope of the above license application by Amherst County Primary School PTA for indoor and outdoor music 7 days a week and the sale of alcohol up until midnight is totally incompatible with the surrounding area. The School is situated in a residential area to provide primary education and is surrounded by houses, many only a few feet from its boundary. The intrusion of noise from outdoor music will be unbearable for the residents, making peaceful evenings in their gardens a thing of the past. The School has no car parking facilities, which already causes problems in the surrounding roads at the commencement and conclusion of school each weekday and on Saturday mornings. A situation that will be further exasperated when the proposed additional yellow lines are put in Witches Lane. Experience has shown that inconsiderate parking will mean the residents will be unable to get in/out of their drives and will then be woken-up in the early hours of the morning with farewells and car doors banging.

The premises are publicly owned and purposely built for the education of children, it is not a commercially owned business or a social club, and as such the application is completely inappropriate. If the PTA wish to stage two or three functions each year then an application for this within prescribed limits with no outdoor music might be more acceptable to the local residents. There are other premises nearby, which already hold a licence along with car parking facilities.

Yours faithfully



Peter Baigent

Copy: Chairman Riverhead Parish Council

Tinkers Halt, 1 Cranmer Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2AT

15 June 2011

The Licensing Partnership  
Sevenoaks District Council  
P O Box 182  
SEVENOAKS  
Kent  
TN13 1GP

Dear Madam/Sir

**Amherst County Primary School, Witches Lane, Riverhead, Kent TN13 2AX  
Application Reference No. 11/01004/LAPRE**

We wish to make a representation regarding the proposal mentioned above.  
We object to the proposal under the prevention of public nuisance and health and safety.

### **Public Nuisance**

#### Car Parking

1. There is inadequate car parking in the vicinity of the school which would ultimately effect the neighbourhood.
2. During events residential roads would be jammed with parked cars both legally and illegally. Driveways blocked. Parking on pavements which not only contravenes the highway code is also a hazard to parents/children in prams and the disabled in wheelchairs.
3. Excessive noise through car doors banging, especially at night when the venue closes. Also excessive noise from car occupants through alcoholic farewells. Be it taxis or private vehicles.
4. In the event of an emergency would there be enough space for emergency vehicles to park?

#### Requested Days/Hours

1. The requested Monday - Sunday (7 days a week ) are too much.

# Appendix C

2. The hours as stated on the application are excessive and beyond belief and reason. One example Friday and Saturday 01:00hours and on Sunday from 09:00 hours until 00:30 hours. (I did question this with the Licensing Partnership as I thought perhaps an error had been made, but they confirmed that the hours stated were correct).
3. My understanding of this is basically that should the license be granted an all day/night party could persist and on a regular basis with alcohol served from 12:00hours to 00:00hours.

## Noise from outside live or recorded music

1. Outside live or recorded music we totally object to. The only exception being the usual end of school year "picnic in the park" party. This event we support. It is a once a year party and the hours it operates, so far, have always been reasonable.
2. Our garden is only a few feet away from the boundary of the school so the intrusion of live or recorded music at the strength of decibels required for such an outside activity to be successful would be unbearable. We use our garden for the purpose of relaxation and wish to continue to do so. We also do not wish to be confined in a house with closed windows and doors.
3. The days and hours of the license are unreasonable for a school in a residential area. We do not wish to have continual noise as not only would this be a nuisance but detrimental to our health.
4. We live at No.1 Cranmer Road, so we border onto the Holmesday Cricket Club and Bowling Club. They already hold a license and have adequate car parking facilities. The thought of yet another venue bordering on us wishing to increase this activity we consider unfair and unreasonable.

## Setting up/Removal and dispersal of venue equipment on the site

It is currently proposed on two occasions; a circus event and a bi-annual joint school ball are held in the grounds of the premises. This obviously will result in an immense amount of equipment being transported to and from the site.

1. I believe the transportation of this equipment will cause considerable disruption in Witches Lane as the vehicles would be of a very large nature so negotiating to enter the school could be a problem. Probably the road would be blocked for a period.
2. I am assuming that the circus would also have a troop with their caravans, marquee, stands etc. Tradespeople would be needed to erect and dismantle equipment. Noise and disruption to the community would result.
3. This would also cause disruption to the daily operation of the school as the pupils would not have use of the school playing field, during this period.

# Appendix C

4. What timing will be calculated for this? Is the work going to be done at night or in the early hours so it disturbs the neighbours sleep?
5. I have similar issues with equipment for the school ball. (Before this has always been held in a private venue fit for purpose). Marquee, flooring, tables, chairs, etc. etc.
6. Their planned one evening, open air event, in the school grounds could disturb the neighbours, for up to three days with a marquee to erect and take down. Certainly on the night and into the early hours when the event is in progress it is bound to cause a nuisance with noise, lighting, music etc.. This event has no benefit to the pupils of the school as they are all under 12 years of age.

## Health and Safety

It is our understanding that the license applied for covers up to 5000 people.

1. We consider that there is not enough exits/entrances on the boundary of the property in the event of an emergency as the 2 exits are on the same side and would create a bottleneck.
2. Even if there were 1000 people trying to exit the premises at the same time this would present a major problem in itself. One exit is only just wide enough for 2 abled bodied people to pass through at a time. The other exit is much wider. That is fine if the traffic is only one way.
3. Two way traffic - i.e. the emergency services assisting in such an emergency would first have to find parking and then enter the grounds along with their equipment. There would be people trying to exit and enter the grounds at the same time. I do not believe the current facilities are adequate.
4. It is impossible for people to exit the premises on three sides of the boundary; as two sides have houses backing on to the premises and the third side has a thick beech hedge and fence.
5. Lighting. We are assuming that for outside events in the dark that lighting will be required as a healthy and safety issue. We are concerned that this will be a nuisance.

## Alcohol license

Should this license be granted we consider that a stipulation should be made that it is only permitted for use at school related events where the appropriate custodians are present. Prohibition should be applied to all other hirers of the premises. This would safeguard the community and the school children.

**Final comments**

We have lived in harmony with the school for over 26 years and much admire their approach, constant hard work and excellent results. It is our belief that Mr Derry Wiltshire and his team always consider, not only their pupils and parents, but also their neighbours and community. We can only come to the conclusion that this application has been made by an over zealous, **temporary**, fund raising committee. They have failed to give any consideration to the neighbours in their ambitious quest to satisfy their fund raising activities.

The application has been made by a committee who are not **permanent**. Our genuine concern is that people come and go and we will be left with a replacement committee who no doubt will want to outdo the previous one. The current committee appears to prove our case where instead of the usual "picnic in the park" there are plans for a circus in the school. What can we expect next year? Already another new event, the bi-annual joint Ball.

I asked a PTA Member the period of the license and she informed that it was only for 12 months. I explained my surprise as I had previously been informed by the Licensing Partnership that it was for an indefinite period. After she left I contacted the Licensing Partnership for confirmation of this and they reiterated that it is not for 12 months as claimed by the PTA member, it is actually not time limited.

The committee that has applied for this application are ill informed and have given out incorrect information. Although I am very sure they have good intentions, they are misleading the public by informing them that the license is for one year only. This ultimately could make the difference on whether the public decide to object or not as we have been assured by the PTA that it is back to normal events next year! I do not think that they have thoroughly thought through the implications of their ambitious plans and how it will affect the community.

We can only reiterate that the application, as it currently stands, is **totally unacceptable to us**.

Yours faithfully



Dorothy Linda Newman



Alan Charles Newman

**Janet Lockie**

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**From:** Christopher Hathway [c.hathway@atlas.co.uk]  
**Posted At:** 15 June 2011 16:49  
**Conversation:** Amherst School License Application  
**Posted To:** Licensing (Licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Amherst School License Application

Dear Sirs

I have just received from a neighbour a copy of the application from Amherst School for a 7 day a week licence for entertainments at the school premises.

As a local resident I am writing to object to the proposed application. I understand that in the past the School has applied and been granted a licence twice a year to sell alcoholic beverages but this application far exceeds this. As a junior school I do not understand why they need an application which runs late into the evening for every day of the year. It will potentially further destroy the ambience of the area which was, when I moved into Barnfield Road in 1942, a quiet and pleasant neighbourhood. The potential for out door music and drinking seems totally at odds in a residential area. I know that we have been assured that it will still be only twice a year but I am sure that this will soon be breached for one reason or the other if not during this year but at some future date.

I am also disturbed that only a selection of neighbours who are potentially effected by this application were advised that an application had indeed been made. Parking is a major problem in the area and this application will extend this problem further into the evenings. The school has virtually no off road parking and therefore anyone attending their functions until late into the evenings will have to park in the roads with the resultant noise and disturbance.

Kindest regards

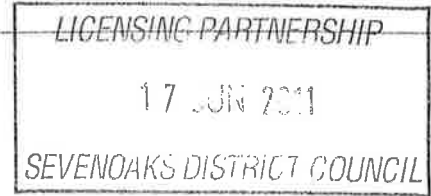
Christopher Hathway  
3 Barnfield Road  
Riverhead  
Sevenoaks  
TN13 2AY

Tel 01732 452493

Glenn Curtis

Subject: FW: Licensing Application: Amhurst County Primary School

From: Richard Camp [mailto:r.camp@sky.com]  
Posted At: 17 June 2011 09:56  
Posted To: Licensing (Licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)  
Conversation: Licensing Application: Amhurst County Primary School  
Subject: Licensing Application: Amhurst County Primary School



Dear Sir or Madam,

We wish to raise an objection to the granting of a license for Amhurst County Primary School such as is described in your published Public Notice. Our reasons are as follows:

1. the premises named is surrounded by housing, and the sound occasioned at the entertainment covered by such a license would lead to a distinctly damaging and detrimental effect on a quiet residential neighbourhood;
2. there is insufficient parking to accommodate the number of cars likely to be in the area when the entertainment proposed is taking place, and street parking of the vehicles of those attending the events would lead to much noise and traffic congestion. Congestion in the area has already been of concern to the local traffic authorities.

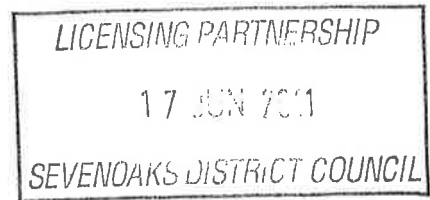
I would be grateful if you would consider these points in your deliberations.

Yours faithfully,

Mr & Mrs CWR Camp  
26 Witches Lane  
Riverhead  
Sevenoaks  
TN13 2AX

Sylvia Lewis

**From:** Chris Stewart [chris.stewart142@btinternet.com]  
**Posted At:** 16 June 2011 21:16  
**Conversation:** Amhurst School License Application  
**Posted To:** Actioned emails  
**Subject:** Amhurst School License Application



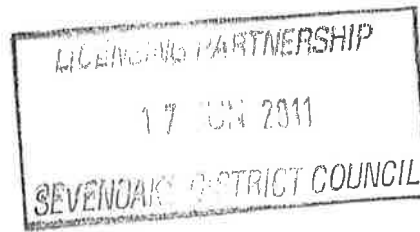
Dear Sirs

- We would like to object to the application for 7 days per week licensing for Amhurst School.
- It is out of all proportion to the occasional requirements for normal social events for a primary school.
- The regular day to day parking is a gross inconvenience for local residents and any extra evening events would exasperate this to some great extent.
- The outdoor music license would also cause a noise nuisance in a residential area with many houses surrounding the school on three sides.
- Granting this license would allow the school to hire out its premises for uses beyond that of the educational requirements of our local children.

Consequently we object to granting the licence.

Christopher Stewart  
Chairman Bullfinch Lane, Barnfield Road and Witches Lane Residents Association  
46 Bullfinch Lane  
Riverhead  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 2EB  
T 01732 457744





3 Cranmer Road  
Riverhead  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 2AT

Tel: 01732 469662 (Home)  
01732 454629 (Work)

17 June 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Amherst County Primary School Licensing Application

I am writing regarding the above Licensing Application, as I do not think it should be granted in its present form. We live directly behind Amherst School, our back bedroom is opposite the back doors to the school hall, and every time there is any kind of activity there with any music we can clearly hear it, as the back doors are usually opened up, as the hall gets very hot when there are a lot of people inside.

This hardly ever bothers us, although it has on the odd occasion, because it is usually used early in the evening before we go to bed, however, were this application to be granted with the possibility of noise from 9.00am to 12.00midnight Monday to Thursday, and until 1.00am on a Saturday and until 12.30am on a Sunday, it could very possibly become a public nuisance. We are unable to sleep if there is any music at any time, recently there was somebody playing the drums in one of the classrooms until after 10.30pm and our son just had to stay up until they stopped. This is a rare occasion and we have therefore never complained, but we see no reason why a school would need to be open until 12.00midnight on a weeknight, or until 1.00am on a Saturday or 12.30am on a Sunday.

We are quite happy to hear the noise associated with a school on weekdays and on Saturday mornings when they play football, when you buy a house next to a school you know this will be the case, however, it is a place of education, not a social club, and we do not want to be disturbed outside of the reasonable hours associated with a school. If, as I understand, there is no intention to hire the school out to outside hirers then I do not understand why they would need such an all encompassing licence.

Apart from the nuisance from the actual music, there will also be the problem of people parking in all of the surrounding roads. We already have a problem with people parking in our road at drop-off and pick-up times, often making it very hard to get out of our drives. I understand from a neighbour who lived here at the time, that as part of the planning application for Riverhead School it was agreed that people would not park in our road, but at the Harvester or Bullfinch Pub, or would drop off at the school, but this has not been adhered to. If the school is open until 12.30am or 1.00am we will have people parking outside our homes, and the consequent banging of car doors will undoubtedly wake us all up, assuming we have been able to get to sleep in the first place!

I would also question if it is appropriate for a school to be selling alcohol on almost any occasion, but this aspect of the application does not bother me as much as the noise nuisance, although it will undoubtedly contribute to the noise problem.

# Appendix C

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This representation is in no way a criticism of the school. Our son attended Amherst until last year, and we hold the school and the Headmaster in the highest regard. We do understand that some sort of licence needs to be granted to allow the school to carry out its normal activities and fundraising activities, but this should not be at the cost of those who live around it.

I look forward to hearing your response to the above.

Yours faithfully.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R Ware".

R Ware (Mrs)

## Appendix C

Donna Thorne

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**From:** Bill Dubbins [billdubbins@talktalk.net]  
**Posted At:** 20 June 2011 10:09  
**Conversation:** Licence application No. 11/01004/LAPRE  
**Posted To:** Licensing (Licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Licence application No. 11/01004/LAPRE

Dear Sirs,

We write to object to the above licence application for live music, recorded music, plays, performances of dance, films and the sale of alcohol at Amherst County Primary School, Witches Lane.

As close neighbours, we are primarily concerned with of the noise and disturbance this may cause if granted, both during the daytime and later at night, particularly at weekends. There would also be an added problem with parking in our road at weekends, when there are more likely to be relatives or friends visiting (sometimes already a problem at school pick up times on weekdays).

It would appear that there are no restrictions or limits as to how many events may take place, or on how long the licence is to run. If it were possible to limit the number of events, this would be , for us, more acceptable.

Yours faithfully

William & Clare Dubbins

(13 Cranmer Road)

TN13 2AT

Appendix C

Donna Thorne

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**From:** Arthur Russ [arthurruss@waitrose.com]  
**Posted At:** 20 June 2011 14:55  
**Conversation:** Application 11/01004/LAPRE - Amherst County Primary School  
**Posted To:** Licensing (Licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Application 11/01004/LAPRE - Amherst County Primary School  
Please find attached letter of objection to this Application.

regards

Arthur Russ

01732 453863

7 Barnfield Road,  
Riverhead,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent TN13 2A

Licensing Partnership,  
PO Box 182,  
Sevenoaks TN13 1GP

18<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

11/01004/LAPRE: Amherst County Primary School, Riverhead, Sevenoaks

We refer to the above TO OBJECT to the granting of any licence in the terms applied for so as to preserve the established amenity of the local residents which would otherwise be seriously degraded by

- noise generated outdoors and in by particular recorded music whether amplified or not
- the noise of arriving and particularly of departing cars with the associated slamming of doors and cheery farewells aided on some, if not all, occasions by the prior consumption of alcohol
- more of the inconsiderate parking problems already suffered as cars must be parked in the road (no school car park). At the beginning and end of the school day and say for term-end celebrations when a continuous line of parked cars all but blocks us in our drive due to the narrow road is one thing but possibly for every evening is completely out of order.

If the application was amended so that only activities within the school buildings were concerned, no activity was allowed on a Sunday, a 2230 hours time limit was imposed and a monthly limit of say 2 events (or an average of two monthly) no objection would be raised. This would meet what is understood to be nearer the school's intentions and would surely meet a school's reasonable objectives.

Lastly we would like to say that having the school is, we think, welcomed by the local residents, as is the care they take to be good neighbours – but people and circumstances change and one wishes to avoid the risk of any subsequent unpleasantness with the school.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) A G Russ    Maureen Russ

Arthur and Maureen Russ

PS    0100 hours on the application on Friday and Saturday is an error and invalidates it?

LICENSING APPLICATION NO. 11/01004/LAPRE

**WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THE AMHERST SCHOOL'S PTA  
LICENSING APPLICATION FOR SUBSTANTIAL HOURS AND  
ACTIVITIES BECAUSE OF :**

- **PREVENTION OF CRIME & DISORDER**

The potential large number of people (in excess of 500) catered for will increase the likelihood of crime in a mainly residential area. The gathering of such a large crowd drinking and dancing indoors/outdoors until after midnight will also contribute to the likelihood of public disorder in a small residential area.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY**

The potential large crowd of revellers will certainly present a hazard to public safety inappropriate to a quiet residential area.

- **PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE**

The unacceptable noise made by a few hundred car doors slamming & engines revving after midnight is a public nuisance to people living in the vicinity of the school premise, those living close to the school premises may well experience noise nuisance from the begging of the event until after the end of the event a very long period of not being able to properly enjoy their own home.

- **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM**

The prospect of some inebriated parents driving their children home and putting the latter at risk is very high.

From the following residents of Witches Lane

*JF Fry* 22b 01732 462351

**Donna Thorne**

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**From:** Sally Spencer [sspencer@ttjonline.com]  
**Posted At:** 20 June 2011 10:15  
**Conversation:** Amherst School license applications  
**Posted To:** Licensing (Licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Amherst School license applications  
**Importance:** High

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to register my opposition to the general license being applied for by Amherst School.

I think this type of license would give the school carte blanche to run more events throughout the year that would cause disturbance to the neighbours through an increase in noise and traffic.

I am also concerned that if the school were to secure the general license, it would be a short step to hiring the premises out for other non-school related functions.

I hope this email is acceptable in place of a letter. I would have written the letter but was unaware of the application until a neighbour advised me on Sunday (yesterday) and he was under the impression that the consultancy period ended today. I must add that it is disappointing that neighbours weren't notified sooner.

Yours faithfully,

Sally Spencer  
The Turning  
Barnfield Road  
Riverhead  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 2AY

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13 Barnfield Road  
Riverhead  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 2AY

Tel. 01732 452626

Licensing Partnership  
PO Box 182  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 1GP

15 June 2011

Dear Sirs,

**Licensing Application 11/01004/LAPRE  
Amherst County Primary School, Riverhead**

We wish to object to the above application on the following grounds,

The school is in the middle of a residential area and causes enough nuisance to its neighbours without adding to it.

There is insufficient parking at the school and the surrounding residential roads will be used and no matter how quiet people are, the closing of car doors at gone midnight will wake sleeping residents. The proposal to increase the yellow lines in Witches Lane will only extend the parking problem.

Whilst we have no objection to the very occasional event the extent of the application is so extensive as to be of great concern. We cannot see any justification for the proposed activities and sale of alcohol to go on till midnight every day of the week. There is a contradiction between the application and the public notice on the opening times.

Now the school has academy status the Licence would enable it to more readily let out the premises to third parties, this could change the whole nature of the area.

If the intention is to hold few events, is it not more appropriate to seek individual event licences, or is it possible to say give approval for up to ten events in any one year? This would seem reasonable and be more compatible with the premises prime use as a school.

Yours faithfully



John and Morwenna Perkins



2 Cranmer Road  
Riverhead  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 2AT

01732 450408

16<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Licensing Partnership,  
PO Box 182  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 1GP

Dear Sirs,

Application No. 11/01004/LAPRE

Regarding the above licensing proposal for Amherst School, I feel for a school the hours stated are excessive.

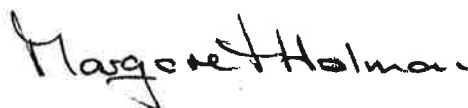
My bedroom is 30ft from the boundary of the school field and feel that music and alcohol until midnight weekdays and Sunday is too late. Midnight Saturday is acceptable provided it is inside the school and not in a Marquee on the field.

I cannot believe that parents of junior school children would want to be out that late at night.

There is also a problem with the parking, it is inadequate when all the school is involved and late at night this could be a noise nuisance to us residents.

I chose to buy a house behind a school and accept the normal school noise on weekdays in the playground and swimming pool and Saturday morning football, I enjoy knowing that children are laughing and playing, but late evening is in my mind not acceptable.

Yours faithfully



[Margaret Holman (Mrs)]

# Appendix C