

## Appendix C

**1.** Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application which I do from a position of experience having managed a Council owned Castle set in 14 acres of parkland surrounded by a residential area on three sides and the cliffs and sea on the other.

However, before I make my specific OBJECTIONS I would like to make some general observations:

The consultation ends on July 17 but the facility has already operated over the weekend. Has a licence already been granted? If so, was there a consultation of any kind? I hate to use the expression but is this 'a done deal'?

A public consultation following complaints about activity in Public Open Spaces in the Maldon District ended on 4th July with the purpose of: "...we are considering implementing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to ensure that alcohol is consumed sensibly and to stop the use of psychoactive substances in these areas." Doesn't such a facility fly in the face of this and in any case shouldn't the consultation be discussed before such a licence is granted?

The 'public notices, it seems, were displayed in such a way, wrapped around lampposts that unless they were pointed out, they were not truly visible. Even trying to read them was very difficult and photographing for later reading needed two or three images per notice.

The stated benefits and reasons for this facility seem to be around stimulating local business and using local suppliers. Such a facility, in my opinion, will do nothing at this time to regenerate similar businesses in and around the town which, after the last year or so, maybe struggling. As for local suppliers, what is the definition of 'local' Money spent here will be diverted from the permanent businesses in the town

The application is not site specific and seems to be for a generic use of the park; does this mean it can set up anywhere should it be granted?

A facility, not selling alcohol and operating during normal trading maybe welcomed, or at least less objectionable, if it was purpose built and located near the car park, incorporating the toilet block

and was a permanent facility; however it may still affect local businesses which are unable to compete on equal terms and may still raise the same substantive objections.

Will any licence issued, with permissions to use the park from Maldon DC insist on specified trading hours irrespective of weather conditions?

If a licence was for events held in the Park then a specified number of occasions, say maximum of four weekends per annum, would be less objectionable.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS AND CONCERNS REGARDING THIS APPLICATION

1. Maldon District Council has articulated its own concerns over antisocial behaviour in the park and to this effect has undertaken a consultation to establish if it is a problem and were looking for suggestions to solve the problems. A bar in a family park operating until late evening would do little to alleviate these problems and has the potential to increase anti-social behaviour altering the pleasant non-commercialised, natural and pleasant family nature of the park.
2. Depending on its siting, it could cause annoyance to the residential areas around the park, particularly the boat-houses, as groups attend and leave the facility late at night, noise from activity and possibly loud music. Inevitably there would be a general littering both around the licensed facility and across the park where littering is already an issue.
3. Alcohol can fuel bad and inappropriate behaviour and this area, alongside the open river which is not well lit, is then likely to cause health and safety issues. The Park, generally, is a large unlit area with trip hazards potentially causing injuries. Toilet facilities may also be an issue and 'under-age' sales of alcohol into the evenings also a worry.
4. Assuming the bar becomes popular and depending on its location it could cause parking issues for the residents of the original Remembrance Avenue as this is double yellow lines; the sailing club which has a private car park and the area of Remembrance Avenue, where we live, marketed as Burnham Shores which currently is also a private road. There may also be issues on the residential areas on the north side of the park.
5. Servicing the facility, in the trial location, will involve vehicles, often heavy delivery vehicles driving through residential areas, either alongside the river which is inadvisable or over the park possibly churning it up in wet conditions. As the park is a facility where children play and dogs are exercised again this is not conducive to family use of the park. Aren't there already restrictions regarding vehicles in the park? Should this go ahead the specific site-location needs careful consideration and a thorough, published risk assessment is required.

6. There is no clear indication in the application where this facility will operate from and/or what form it will take - it seems a blanket-area licence – possibly for a tent, vehicle, both, tables across the park etc. The Children’s playgrounds around here could be spoilt by this type of activity. Also if the style is “white plastic chairs” – this is not conducive to the natural format of the area

7. Once an initial licence is granted drift is likely to occur from the stipulated conditions, resulting in further applications - permanent build, variations to hours etc which, once the precedent is set are more difficult to oppose. Again, should the licence be granted, very specific conditions should be attached.

8. There are plenty of drinking and eating establishments in Burnham in the Main Street through and town centre and fringes. A facility of this kind is likely to reduce the viability of these businesses leading to a declining town centre. There are also facilities at the Marina and at the west end of the park and along the sea wall which would be adversely affected. Especially as they sell ‘take-away’ for consumption in the park, often at the picnic tables. These other businesses operate rain or shine and are a reliable service. Will this proposed facility be a fair-weather facility offering no genuine service but more about profit, closing and opening randomly? Again, specific operating conditions should be written into any MDC contract issued to the operator should this go ahead.

9. To attract business, it is more than likely events would be held at the facility, (already suggested by the potential operator) increasing traffic, noise and possible ant-social behaviour, noise and resulting in more applications for variance.

10. We already experience noise and annoyance from groups of people acting under the influence (of goodness know what) who congregate on the seat near the houseboats and / or return along the sea wall late at night. This is likely to increase.

For the above stated reasons I OBJECT TO THE GRANT OF THIS LICENCE IN ITS CURRENT FORM

## 2. Concerns

1. The application has absolutely no detail except for opening hours.
2. No clear specific location to comment on.
3. The bar has opened before the consultation deadline date to submit the community views and concerns of the 17th of July.
4. No clarity as to what is the objective to install a bar in a family park.

### Objections

1. MDC has expressed concerns on antisocial behaviour, this will not help the situation.
2. A bar with no facilities I presume are to use the park toilets which families and youngsters using in the park playground and sports fields. Health and safety.
3. The opening time is until 10.30pm some nights. Will there be extra teams to clean the toilets empty the bins. The rat population already increases when there is more food around. Another health and safety issue for small children.
4. Coming home to a house boat, across the park or even passing the park late in the evening I would be concerned for my families safety.
5. Business will be taken away from Burnham High Street. The bars, cafes, restaurants & shops that have already had a tough year we should be encouraging people to use these facilities.
6. Parking, already an issue.
7. The path along the quay has a big drop another health and safety issue if people are encouraged to drink more.
8. Extra costs to the council for policing, cleaning and maintaining the area.

I could understand if the bar is for a special event only, the beer and food festival, a music or show event during the school holidays.

Yours sincerely,

**3.** Application from: Bar4Events

Proposed premises:

Riverside Park,

Burnham on Crouch.

Consultation date 17th July 2021

Riverside Park is a good family

Outdoor facility to the Burnham on Crouch community and visitors.

The application for a licence to operate a bar during day and evening hours I note has already opened for business with out the community consultation. 17th July deadline.

My objections to the bar in a family park will result in antisocial behaviour, noise, parking of vehicles in surrounding residential areas. No toilet facilities late at night.

Our house is overlooking the river and there can be antisocial behaviour late at night.

This bar proposal would only encourage the situation.

Burnham town centre's existing business, restaurants, cafe pubs, bars and shops should be the main priority to encourage new and existing customers.

I cannot see this bar being of any benefit to our community.

Only in a managed event should it be considered.

#### 4. Public nuisance

The service is sited too far from public toilets. I have already witnessed one person urinating in the bushes in the park and returning to their table.

The protection of children from harm

The benches provided for customers are situated away from the seawall giving no clear sight of the foreshore.

I have noticed that some parents sit at the benches and allow the children to play out of site and unsupervised at the water's edge.

I am concerned that this will result in potential injury or even drowning.

If the bar and seating were to be moved closer to the access road and public toilets the children would remain safe and visible.

Yours sincerely

**5.** I followed the suggested link to oppose the granting of this license is the link incorrect?

The notice very discreetly (I assume so nobody sees it and therefore no objections) taped to lamp post states that objection should be made in writing.

I strongly object a) because of noise b) because of the litter c) because of location - these are my main objections.

Furthermore, living adjacent to the park I see and hear what goes on - and whilst I do not want to start a public order complaint - attracting large groups of people to a country park and feeding them alcohol will lead to anti social behaviour, excessive noise and dangerous conduct.

Children play in that park do we really need to encourage drunks? As a woman I would not feel safe walking through a park full of intoxicated people. Then there is the issue of the teenagers who gather there - who is going to police these youths having access to alcohol?

A country park is not a place for a bar! Burnham has more than enough pubs, bars and coffee shops - in my opinion this is not a good move and is unfair on the people who live adjacent and the current users.