

1. Cllr David Harvey

I wish to object to this licence application on several grounds. Church Green is a primarily residential area and the plan is to place the stage a few metres from two rows of almshouses where elderly people live. When the festival has previously taken place on The Leys local residents have been forced to go away for a few days as they cannot get any respite from the extremely loud music and fireworks late into the night.

The selling of alcohol on a large scale in this residential area may well cause some considerable disruption to residents who also have a right to peaceful enjoyment of their environment. Church Green is unsuitable for a festival of this nature as access and car parking are very restrictive. These comments also apply to those areas adjacent to Church Green.

2. Ms Jennifer Angless

I am responding to the licence application to hold a music festival on Church Green, Witney on 21 August 2021, and I am writing to formally object to this proposal.

Church Green is a public space, and intimately surrounded by mostly dwelling houses.

In the past the Witney Music Festival has been held on the Leys in consideration for residents. Why has this changed this year? Are there less residents than previous years? We could still hear noise, both inside and outside our homes (inside you could feel the vibration of the base) but we did feel the Festival organisers were trying to be considerate,

Where would people park their cars? Where will the toilet facilities be? I am intrigued as to the thinking behind holding the Festival on the Green when the Leys is so obviously much more suitable - more space, easier access, fewer homes in the immediate vicinity?

I am also concerned about the effects that the alcohol licence could have for local residents. As it is, we are always collecting bottles and rubbish on The Green during the course of the day and evening.

I enjoy music festivals, but they are always respectfully distanced from residential homes.

Please do not set the unwise precedent of holding this music festival on the Green.

I am certainly objecting, and would like an answer as to why the Green is considered more acceptable than the far end of the Leys for the stage itself?

3. Mr Alan Godfrey and Mrs Hilary Godfrey

To whom it may concern,

In response to the application to hold The Witney Music Festival to be held on Church Green.

I would like to object to this proposal as a resident of Church Green on the grounds that it would be an inappropriate place to hold this large public event taking into account, parking, toilet facilities, litter and loud noise.

We have already suffered as residents with some people using the lane by our house as a public toilet, amongst other dubious and antisocial uses.

Also the noise created would be unfair to the residents, especially the older residents. The amount of drinks etc would create a huge amount of rubbish in an area which suffers from a recurring problem of abandoned litter every time people gather on the Green.

4. Mr Paul Graves and Mrs Mari Graves

We are writing to submit a response to the notices which have been put up at the end of last week on various posts around Church Green stating that an application is being made on behalf of Witney Music Festival Ltd. for a licence for the playing of live and recorded music and for the sale and consumption of alcohol on Church Green from between 12.00 and 22,00 hours on 21st August.

We wish the Music Festival well but this is the first that we and virtually all of our neighbours have heard of this proposal. We are not aware therefore of exactly what is proposed but we assume that it will be something similar to what in previous years has been held on The Leys. That has involved the construction of a substantial stage and other tents and temporary buildings and the music has been exceptionally loud, so as to heard at times at the far end of the town.

Church Green is a key component in the character of Witney which is recognised in all the publicity relating to the town and acknowledged by its designation as a Conservation Area. It is a place where local residents and visitors to Witney enjoy walking, exercising their dogs, playing games and having picnics against the attractive tree-lined backdrop of the parish church and some of the oldest buildings in the town. In our view, the proposal is totally out of keeping with the existing character of the Green and will severely limit its general use as a public open space at least for that day.

Although the properties surrounding the Green are in a variety of uses, Church Green is in a predominantly residential area and there are a significant number of people living on or just off the Green, a fair proportion of whom are elderly. It is difficult to see how this proposal will be anything other than a major nuisance to these residents as a result of the excessive noise, traffic, litter and volume of people which this proposal is likely to generate, and which the promoters no doubt hope to attract.

In the past when the Festival has been held on The Leys, the volume of sound has been extremely loud at times with the thud of vibration being felt even at a distance. With the houses on either side of the Green, and the bulk of St. Mary's church behind, the sound is likely to be even more amplified and funnelled into the centre of the town. That may be part of the promoters' intention but would be a potential nuisance to people who are not part of the Festival.

We would be concerned that, if permitted, sufficient provision is made by way of toilet facilities. The public toilets are some way distant from the Green and the combination of alcohol and a number of alleyways off the Green, or even front gardens could be dangerous, and unacceptable in terms of public health.

We would also be concerned at possible damage to the grass and surface of the Green. We imagine that large vehicles will be involved in erecting the stage and other buildings required and it seems likely that some of these will need to be driven onto the grass itself. As already referred to, the Green is used for recreation throughout the year by a great many local residents and visitors, and it would be exceedingly annoying and damaging to the image of the town if parts of the Green had to be fenced off to enable turf to be repaired. The promoters will no doubt give assurances that they will take the greatest care but it seems unreasonable that they should expect the community to accept the risk to this most sensitive location in the town, particularly when there is an obvious alternative in The Leys nearby.

As a final point of procedure, we see that the notices that have been put up by the Green state that submissions have to be made between 8th July and 9th August. Since we saw the first notice being put up near the Angel pub on Thursday last week, 29th July, the reference to submissions after 8th July on the form raises the question as to whether proper notice has in fact been given of this proposal.

We should be grateful if you would take these points into account in your consideration of this application.

The following has also been received from Mr Graves

Having been out on part of the Green this morning clearing up lime tree seeds and leaves, I realise that I should have mentioned one other point which I think that Licensing Team needs to consider. That is that, unlike The Leys where the Music Festival has been held previously, Church Green is largely unfenced with public roads on most of its sides. If a music event were to be permitted, I would be seriously concerned for people's safety, particularly children's, with moving traffic on the edge of the Green. The danger would in fact be greater than normal because it would not be so easy to hear vehicles approaching due to the background noise and general crowd distraction.

If the promoters have carried out any form of risk assessment, it would be surprising if they have not identified this as an area of very high risk in terms of public safety and also of potential harm to children. The promoters may be proposing steps to attempt to minimise the risks, but short of stopping all traffic round the Green entirely, it seems inevitable that there will be some measure of increased risk in terms of public safety arising from the proposal.

I apologise for sounding negative again but it could have been a lot more helpful if the Music Festival had consulted beforehand with those who were most likely to be directly affected by their planned move from The Leys

5. Dr Melody Helm

I write in response to the licence application to hold a music festival on Church Green, Witney on 21 August 2021.

Please accept this as a formal objection to the proposal, on two grounds:

(i) On the grounds of prevention of public nuisance:

Church Green is closely bounded by buildings which serve to reverberate and intensify noise. Those buildings, and many more just off Church Green, are for the most part residential. Occupiers would be unable to escape the unwanted, amplified noise except by leaving their homes, which is quite unacceptable.

(ii) On the grounds of public safety:

The increase in people using Church Green is likely to present a traffic hazard.

The Leys continues to offer more than ample space for such a function. In the face of such a close and real alternative, I trust you will reject the application in respect of Church Green accordingly.

6. Ms Fiona Herron and Mr Gerard Nolten

In response to the licence application to hold a music festival on Church Green, Witney on 21 August 2021, I am writing to formally object to this proposal.

While Church Green is a public space, it is almost entirely surrounded by dwelling houses. Past editions of the Witney Music Festival have been held on the Leys, and even then the noise nuisance was considerable (with thumping base tones making it impossible for local residents to sit in their gardens while the festival was on, and the music still clearly audible indoors). Moving the event to the Green would further exacerbate this.

Also, how are people supposed to get here?! Where would they leave their cars?! Where will the toilet facilities be? What is the thinking behind holding the Festival on the Green when the Leys is so obviously much more suitable - more space, easier parking, fewer homes in the immediate vicinity?

I am also concerned about the effects that the alcohol licence could have for local residents. As it is, we are always having to pull bottles and cans out of our hedge, so I can only imagine how awful it could get (also see previous remark about toilet facilities...)

I realise that everyone is longing to get back to some sort of normality, and music festivals are a very important part of this. But in the interests of keeping local residents inside I would strongly urge you not to set the unwise precedent of holding the festival on the Green.

7. Ms Shirley Lefort

I am writing to register my objection to the above festival on 21st August. The objection is not to the Festival itself, but to the decision to hold it on Church Green, which will affect me in terms of noise. In the past it was held in the nearby Leys, which was just far enough away to keep the noise levels down a bit.

Church Green and the adjoining lanes are in a mainly residential area and it's residents are already subjected to noise from the pubs at night. We pay a high rate of council tax and like any other citizens are entitled to a degree of quietness in our homes. The Music Festival is an extremely noisy occasion, and certainly the vibrations from the drums and loud microphones would be more bearable in the Leys, where it would be more suited.

Please can we not leave it there? I know the Fleece would love to have the extra business, but surely we have already accommodated the Fleece enough by extending their tables into the road and in front of the property next door.

I hope you will consider leaving the festival in the Leys.

8. Dr Richard Stevens

This is an objection to the Witney Music Festival using Church Green on 21/8/21.

The houses on Church Green are within 50-75 yards of the centre of the Green. This makes the music far too noisy for the residents of the Green.

Everyone is entitled to like their own style of music but they should not be able to impose it on other people. There are many older people on the Green who do not like pop music and it should not be inflicted on them.

The WMF has traditionally taken place on The Leys, a large open space, lightly used and without many near houses. It is still noisy across Witney and makes a mess but people are generally willing to tolerate that. Any damage to the grass is easy to repair.

Church Green is a heavily used everyday by the community of Witney, but it is rather fragile. Apart from the mess, noise, and drinking, there is a prospect of damage to the Green, damaging it for the community

9. Dr Sue Stevens

I understand that it has been proposed to hold the 2021 Witney Music Festival on Church Green.

I think this is a very bad idea as it will be very noisy and ruin the quality of life for hours for the people who live around Church Green, as I do. Saturdays are always busy around the Green and this will make access and parking a nightmare, never mind the associated litter and general nuisance which the event will inevitably cause.

Please note my concerns and disapproval