

From: Cllr Mike Hodges
Sent: 01 June 2026 00:25
To: Nazyer Choudhury <Nazyer.Choudhury@haringey.gov.uk>
Cc: 'licensing@haringey.go.uk' <licensing@haringey.go.uk>; Cllr Marie Kristensen < >
Subject: Entertainment Licence New River Sports Centre

Dear Nazyer,

I would like to object to the above venue being granted a licence for outdoor musical entertainment.

At a music event last summer, the sound travelled as far as Paisley Road, disrupting residents enjoyment of their gardens and causing them to retreat inside to avoid the noise.

The stadium is a sports venue and whilst the sound of the tannoys for sports events can be heard for some distance, sustained loud music is of a different order.

Centres will understandably want to maximise their income. This could be done through inside events such as weddings or meetings where the sound is contained within the building. The applicant wants to have the ability to hold events spanning three afternoons and evenings.

I believe in 2014 when planning was granted to refurbish the sports centre, it was stipulated that no sound should be heard outside the grounds of the sports centre. It would appear that last summer's event was in breach of this. I ask that any licence granted would continue to have this stipulation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Hodges

Councillor White Hart Lane Ward.

From: Cllr Lucia das Neves <Lucia.Dasneves@haringey.gov.uk>
Sent: 29 May 2026 07:20
To: Licensing <Licensing@haringey.gov.uk>
Subject: Licensing application: New River Sports

Dear Licensing Team

Re: New River Sports application

I am writing as to object to this Licensing application in my capacity as the ward councillor for Woodside Ward, representing the interests of residents in my ward.

Before I address the licensing issues directly, I would like to say how disappointed I am that the Council did not engage with local councillors or local residents before submitting this application, as I would have said this was good practice and certainly something the Council has done in other areas/for other projects.

I would also add that the advertised notice had the date of 5 May 2026, two days before the local election. In the middle of the pre-election period, which is usually a business as usual only kind of time in Council work, this would have made it very difficult for local politicians to engage with the proposal. I find the timing highly unusual.

My objections are as follows

Prevention of crime and disorder

The venue is already plagued by crime - The Council Leisure team told me in writing they had to erect ugly temporary fencing around the site recently to prevent people entering in the evening and threatening staff/using facilities illegally.

How will they manage crime and safety with many hundreds of people at the venue? It is unclear what plans they have in place to manage security and indeed whether this would be appropriate for a highly residential area opposite two schools and a nursery. Adding in alcohol into the mix seems to have further potential issues relating to disorder. Locally residents complain of lots of ASB relating to street drinking and urinating - on the high road for example, in local parks and on the streets.

Public safety

White Hart Lane is already a high traffic and congested area. We have had several serious accidents around the junction of White Hart Lane and the High Rd N22, the Haringey highways team has acknowledged that this area is a problem and have been drawing up plans to improve matters. This New River spot has only one small and not so frequent bus service. It seems likely cars will be a significant mode of accessing very large events at this location. What will the increase in traffic due for road safety and public safety? This is likely to increase safety issues for pedestrians and young people accessing after school and evening activities and the local park. It's not clear how this will be managed.

We already have a documented request for better road safety at White Hart Rec - when I met with the Chief Executive of the Council for a walkabout we talked about better road crossing to access the Rec. We will be increasing traffic significantly on a road that already sees heavy traffic driving sometimes at speed. Local road complain of the same.

It is clear that 2,000 people arriving at this location will put a huge pressure on the road itself and others. The car park has no where near enough capacity to accommodate these vehicles. This suggests Taxis will be also a key method of arrival and departure, especially since alcohol will be permitted at the venue.

How will they manage crime and safety with many hundreds of people at the venue? Have they consulted police? This is a highly residential area, with community facilities and green spaces. The impact will be huge.

Prevention of public nuisance

Residents report the venue has already been contravening the original planning permission for the site, with events with amplified music, this further proposal will only increase the noise in a highly residential area. People need rest and recuperation in their homes - not frequent loud noise late into the night. New River is also near some large housing estates where people do not have their own outside space - they'll be relying on local green space to rest and live out their right to family life and to recuperate from work. How will they do so with loud music and 100s of people movements in their local area potentially on weekday evenings and weekends? Local residents already report hearing the noise of activity at the venue currently in roads like Woodside rd N22, Maryland rd N22 These and beyond.

The sheer idea of moving 2,000 people around the area - I've highlighted the traffic safety issues above - but just the practicality and nuisance of it. Could an event be held on the same day as a Tottenham match day? The nuisance and disruption on White Hart Lane an in wood green centre is great, coupled with events at Ally Pally already. But New River is a

sports space - not a big venue designed to manage these matters. They are already having trouble managing crime at the venue when it's just a simple sports centre.

The pressure on our local community is already great, sandwiched between Spurs and Ally Pally, that were created to sustain large events. New River was not. And since it's unclear what frequency would be, but the aim is to make money, what's to stop it being very frequent?

For events of this scale, people arriving and leaving will make noise, disrupt local activity. For example, there are no public toilets between the venue and say Wood Green tube station, so when attendees leave, we are likely to see what happens in Wood Green now en route to Ally Pally - people using the street and local gardens!

Environmentally, there will be light and noise pollution from running evening events, affecting the peaceful and calm environs - which boasts the Wolves Lane Centre and local allotments - local green areas of value and that provide respite for local people. These are areas of nature conservation too. Noise and light pollution will dramatically alter those spaces, taking away from their environmental and wellbeing benefits.

Protection of children from harm

New River is opposite a secondary school, a special school and a nursery. If we have week day evening events there - serving alcohol, when you people might be engaged in after school activity, it could increase their exposure to harmful drinking and encourage it? And is it right to have this kind of an event so near young children? Is this appropriate?

Parents and the community want to feel children are safe. Coupled with this, the Council Leisure team knows that Mulberry Academy are wanting to work on funding applications to bring the sports field next to the school (and opposite New River) back into use - it currently has a drainage problem - and they approached me as councillor and the Council for support. Their ideas included use for sport into the evening - which they Council said would help, as we have shortage of certain types of pitch for groups running sports in the borough. How will having loud events with alcohol and hundreds of people moving around impact this potential use and the schools' plan?

In summary:

Overall, I feel these plans have not been well thought through and have not engaged local people. I've had nearly 50 complaints about the plan to date in my inbox - all from local people. This reflects the local strength of feeling and concern. The fact that we have not seen a plan - do not know how it could work, means we cannot understand the centre's vision. We just have the basic licensing application to go on. And I feel there significant

planning implications here about changing the use of this venue and the breaches that residents believe have already taken place. Not a good sign or a good start.

The Council has missed a real opportunity to engage locally with what the centre could be - after all, local people are users and could be more so. I support the idea of a thriving leisure centre, we want places like this succeed - but by not working with local cllrs and the community to develop the ideas, you shut out the very people they seek to serve.

Kind regards,

Lucia

Lucia das Neves

Labour Councillor for Woodside Ward