

Ymgyrch Diogelu Cymru Wledig
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
CANGEN SIR BENFRO / PEMBROKESHIRE BRANCH

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Pembrokeshire County Council
Licensing Division
County Hall
Haverfordwest
SA61 1TP

15th January 2020

National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd. Application for a premises licence at Gupton Farm, Castlemartin. The application is for a licence to supply and sell alcohol at events planned throughout the year both indoor and outdoor. The outdoor events will include Plays, Films, Live Music, Recorded Music, Performing Dance, Weddings, many with Late Night refreshments. .

We object to this application for the following reasons:

The site is close to South Pembrokeshire's wonderful wilderness area of Freshwater West. That Beach, the dunes and sea have always provided a peaceful area of solace to local people in distress, unhappy, bereft and troubled. With just the roaring Atlantic rollers as a background and no urban noises, no incessant music or low register non-natural sounds to compromise its peaceful integrity, it is an area where people find relief from stresses of work and life, even if just for a short walk. People tell us that a visit to Freshwater west is a lift for their spirit. Because the sea is too dangerous for bathing and for anyone without experience to surf, the beach has escaped commercialisation, which renders it especially loved by Pembrokeshire residents

1. The alcohol will be on sale at the reception/shop, and when events take place, in the barn and in marquees erected on surrounding fields.

In Part 3 of the Application - Operating Schedule - the applicant states

The consumption will be within the camping fields and outdoor communal areas of the campsite or the holiday cottage.

We cannot see how the National Trust staff for all their diligence can prevent guests at events, campers, visitors, and wedding guests from carrying alcohol out of the campsite to consume on Freshwater West beach, during their outdoor and indoor events and as a matter of course. Anyone can take alcohol to a beach, but with alcohol available so close to the beach and at events, there is a danger for the safety of people who walk down to the beach having consumed alcohol and who may not realise how dangerous the sea is there. Alcohol gives false courage after all.

We ask that you refuse the licence because we are concerned that the consumption of alcohol sold on the site cannot be limited to the site.

2. The National Trust lists a number of events to be held outdoors where alcohol will be on sale. These include weddings, films, plays, live and recorded music, performance dance, some possibly with late night refreshments. The hours the licence is to cover in total ranges from 9am to 3 am the following morning. They also state that the premises is open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Because of the special feeling that local residents have for the integrity of Freshwater West Beach we ask that all noise is kept to a level where it cannot be heard at all on the beach. This is a quiet area of south Pembrokeshire and that should be respected. Any noise will also carry along the valley to Castlemartin and affect the houses along the Angle Ridge Road. We raise the problem of noise at this application for an licence to sell alcohol, because alcohol can fuel an increase in the level of noise. If unwelcome noise levels reach the beach we will support the tranquillity of Freshwater West which is a very special place for so many people. The National trust must not be allowed to violate its tranquillity.

We ask that you refuse this licence because the noise level of outdoor events with added alcohol, is a threat to the integrity and quiet enjoyment of the nearby Freshwater West beach and dunes.

3. Alcohol is considered by some to be more damaging than heroin or crack cocaine. This is a quiet country campsite. Everyone has to travel to get to it while proposed music events will attract youngsters. The National Trust staff cannot limit intakes of alcohol, only identify those very drunk. One way or another when alcohol is available it can be obtained. It is sad that the National Trust feel they have to provide it at a campsite where young vulnerable people may be present and at live music venues to which they will be attracted.

We ask that you refuse this application because nothing should damage people's enjoyment of this special landscape, especially those campers staying on this Gupton family campsite in the countryside which welcomes young people to enjoy and appreciate the landscape and environment. This site is away from temptations of urban living including drugs of any kind, of which alcohol is the most damaging.

We are disappointed that the National Trust seeks to commercialise this wonderful part of Pembrokeshire, which was undeveloped. We are disappointed that they feel the need to supply alcohol in this lovely rural, tranquil and special setting. They have an alternative venue at Stackpole for events where they feel people have the need for alcohol. That site would not impinge so obviously on a locally much cherished special and tranquil seascape and landscape.

Yours sincerely

Mary Sinclair
Chairman of the Pembrokeshire Branch of CPRW

I am a member of the National Trust.

I am a Native of South Pembrokeshire and know the value of the peace people experience when visiting Freshwater west