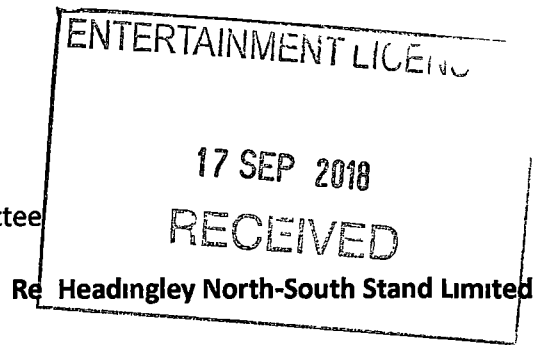


PREM/06227/001

JFA

APPENDIX C

Leeds Licensing Committee



Dear Councillor Harland

I write to you, the chair of Leeds licensing committee, because I object to amount of alcohol abuse already existing in Headingley. It poses a risk to residents' safety and has a deeply negative impact on the quality of our lives.

I am therefore very concerned about the proposed extension to the licensing hours at the Headingley stadium. I think extending the licensing hours beyond the duration of matches and on non-match days is unreasonable. We have sought to reduce use of alcohol and resulting intimidating behaviour from Palm Cove Society residents in the ginnel between Kirkstall Lane and St Michael's Lane which made our lives so difficult. Another extended alcohol licence will just compound the problems. Alcohol abuse remains a grave issue in our area.

Noise in our area is also a problem. We have struggled against the issues arising from living in what some perceive as a student ghetto for many years, with some success. The playing of live/recorded music and performance of dance over such a long duration and until such a late time at night 7 days a week will constitute a serious setback and will deter families from moving into the area.

Whilst we tolerate music from the stadium on match days shortly before the match starts until it ends around 10, we certainly do not want any additional noise from the stadium - especially until 23:30 at night.

Granting this licence would have such a detrimental impact on the local community and the residents, who currently usually have a peaceful and quiet environment from mid evening. Residents like myself have worked hard over the last 20 years to make Headingley a more decent place to live.

The demographics of the area have changed massively over the last 15 years. We have gone from a densely populated student area (with more and more students living in accommodation blocks in the city centre) to a family friendly community. This is evidenced by the fact that there are now insufficient school places in Headingley.

Headingley already has more than enough premises with a licence to sell alcohol and play music. It is still normal to have to step over a pool of vomit on our way to the bus stop or see wheelie bins that have been knocked over by drunken people on their way home from a night out.

Granting a licence to another establishment in Headingley, but this time in the heart of a residential area, would lead to raucous people leaving the stadium at 11 30 at night and noisily making their way through the surrounding streets to get home

I appreciate that the stadium is the 'jewel in the crown' of Headingley, and is set in the middle of a visibly scruffy and un-looked after area in terms of maintenance from the council. Our elected members let us down in terms of refuse collection at the end of the academic year, fining landlords for blocking pavements with rubbish and using the pavements as bin yards, but many of us see the potential in Headingley, appreciate the transport links and will continue to fight to make it a better place to live

I would also like to point out that the stadium is a sporting venue. Leeds has the Arena and theatres for entertainment—Sports people are aware of the damage that alcohol can do to lives and families. An extended alcohol licence also undermines their efforts to educate people in safe drinking practices

An extension to the alcohol licence is detrimental to the ethos of health and sport, as well as to the quality of life of local residents. To grant another licence to a business in Headingley would be irresponsible of the council and seriously questionable

It is also worth noting that the stadium has not taken any opportunity to communicate this application with the local community or conduct any consultation with us, despite having communication channels to do so

In the past they have emailed local residents with communication regarding upcoming matches and stages of the new stadium build. They have missed any opportunity to allay any fears that this licence will be used sensitively and not significantly impact us – which only adds to the assumption that they will use it to the maximum allowance

I would be grateful if you would update me with regards the date of the committee meeting and whether we are allowed to make representations during the consideration of the application

Yours sincerely

