

To: Licensing Dept – Wokingham Borough Council

Re: Statement of Licensing Policy – July 2018

**This email is submitted by the Remenham Farm Residents Association “RFRA” supporting the proposed cumulative impact licensing policy for Remenham as outlined by Wokingham Borough Council “WBC”**

The RFRA is a group of eight owner-occupiers of residential properties in Remenham Lane which lie within the Remenham Church Conservation Area and whose names/addresses/years in residence are given below

REDACTED – 48 years

REDACTED – 40 years

REDACTED – 37 years

REDACTED – 24 years

REDACTED - 22 years

REDACTED – 19 years

REDACTED – 11 years

REDACTED – 11 years

The objectives of the RFRA are to:

Provide a representative interface with WBC and Premises Licence holders.  
Monitor and report on licensed activities and any associated public nuisance.  
Maintain the rural environment and secure the rights of ‘quiet enjoyment’.

The Parish of Remenham is a small rural community evidenced by the fact there are no public services such as mains water, mains sewerage, mains gas and no public transport whatsoever.

Much of the land is the subject of restrictive covenants imposed by Viscount Hambleden in 1948 (the benefit of which is now vested in the National Trust) to protect the rural nature of the land and over the years WBC has chosen to ignore these covenants when issuing Entertainment Licences.

During the months of July and August the following riverside activities, all prefixed by ‘Henley’ yet nevertheless taking place wholly within Remenham Parish and adjacent to Remenham Lane.

At a conservative estimate this involves the influx of at least 200,000 people mostly arriving by car and creating immense public nuisance and safety concerns on the access points along Remenham Lane, which is very narrow, in many places single track, and totally unsuited for such volumes of traffic. **There have been several instances in the past where emergency vehicles have been unable to gain necessary access to provide their services.**

The licensed activities set out are spread over twelve weekends in the Summer and when taken into account with the considerable set-up and take-down times, often several days before and after each individual event with large commercial vehicles coming and going on a daily basis. Consequently the Parish in general but more specifically the residents in Remenham Lane are subject to tremendous public nuisance and which shows no signs of abating. We call it “event creep”.

Henley Royal Regatta  
Henley Festival  
Henley Women’s Regatta  
Henley Oxford & Cambridge Lightweight Regatta  
Henley Swim  
Henley Veterans Regatta  
Henley Classical FM concert  
Henley Rewind South Music Festival

**We therefore wish to strongly support the adoption of a cumulative impact licensing policy on the following grounds:**

### **1 Public Nuisance**

This is where an activity “endangers or interferes with the lives, comfort, property or common rights of the general public”. In view of the already multiple activities noted above, we consider that the issue of any further Licences in Remenham over this period will constitute a public nuisance, both in respect of noise, quiet enjoyment and traffic. Should WBC nevertheless be minded to grant further licences, due recognition of the associated public nuisance should be made. This is reinforced by experience, over the last ten years, in the management of the Rewind Festival, where despite repeated assurances by the organisers, noise and traffic issues have risen every year with a significant increase in public nuisance.

## **2. Health and Safety concerns**

Remenham Lane simply cannot cope with these extreme amounts of traffic, both cars and especially large commercial vehicles before, during and after these events, such that emergency vehicles (Fire & Ambulance) are frequently held up and unable to attend promptly and efficiently thus presenting a real threat to the Health and Safety of both persons and their properties. We have recently sent photographic evidence of this to the Licensing Dept at WBC. We would also add that Remenham Lane is the subject of a daily 'rat run' where vehicles wanting to cross Henley Bridge use the lane to avoid the lengthy queues of traffic on Remenham Hill – adding further to the problem.

## **3. Existing licences**

We fully accept that the existing licences for Remenham will not be affected by the introduction of this amended policy.

**We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.**

Yours truly

REDACTED - (Secretary) Remenham Farm Residents Association

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