

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FROM APPLICANT

Looking at the objections, it seems that they have been compiled by the same person with almost a copy and paste going on. That being said, we at Ross Rugby Club feel that one objection is one too many and of course we don't want to or intend to upset any of our neighbours. In fact, we actively welcome and offer our community room for their use and want them to become part of the club and community and not for them to alienate themselves from us. Some points to help below:

1. The Olliefest reference is a red herring and most of their objections relate to this. Please be clear that Olliefest is a separate application not relating to RRFC and should not be considered in connection with this application. That being said, Olliefest is fully supported by the town and the council and it has been commented by the council as *a festival that many others can learn from*.
 2. As stated above, this is a community room and clubhouse for Ross RFC and not to be used as a pub as such. We want members of the community to be able to use the room for bingo, crib, birthday parties and the like. We want other clubs and committees to use the room for classes and meetings and we feel by having the licence will attract its use and be more beneficial to the community.
 3. Rugby is dwindling nationally at grass roots level and by granting the licence it will bring together all sections of the club. It will bring back players old and new and be somewhere spectators and sponsors can congregate and socialise, which is part of most sports.
 4. With local clubs Hereford, Greyhound, Ledbury, Monmouth, Bromyard and all Forest of Dean sides all having on site bar facilities, it is essential Ross have similar to maintain players and spectators with bar refreshments. We also have support from the RFU.
 5. The use of the pub in Town actually detracts players, as opposing teams feel put out in having to change and then drive cars to the pub and often head straight home instead or choose to go back to their own club. This is true for some of our home team players. Players and spectators will be arriving at the ground anyway, so objections of parking is irrelevant. In fact, it is a benefit to the town that players and spectators stay at the club rather than travel through town and causing more concerns with congestion and cars having to find somewhere to park (where spaces are already restricted) meaning they have to drive around the town often numerous times.
 6. We have taken a lot of pride at the club in the standard of the pitches and we would not let rubbish/litter be left to detract from our great surroundings. We have provided a defibrillator for the club and Greytree residents and even provided the dog walking route around our land, so we take much pride over our facilities and care for the residents.
 7. We have CCTV at the club which was kindly funded by Ross Town Council and is a deterrent to break ins, vandalism and general misdemeanor. Previously we have had vandalism to our tractor property which has since been eliminated.
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1. **To prevent crime and disorder** – by having the licence at Greytree makes it easy to manage our own policies. I must emphasise that we are a sports club and we will not tolerate the use of drugs in or around our pitch/club. CCTV has already seen less crime (in fact none) and we will be applying all the conditions as recommended by the West Midlands Police. Since moving to Greytree some 10 years ago to play rugby, we have not had a single instance which has resulted in any crime or disorder with exception to vandalism of our own property. We are a family club with members of all ages and actively discourage any type of disorder.
 2. **Public Safety** – we have an exemplary record on public safety. We have held rugby cup finals at the pitches with TENS and there have been no instances of threat to public safety. We take the

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safety of our members as critical to the success of the club. There will be minimum extra traffic as they are already there watching the rugby.

3. **Public Nuisance** - We have previously had vandalism at the club and teenagers smoking and drinking, but we have recently had funding from Ross Town Council for CCTV, which is proving a great deterrent and stopped teenagers hanging around the building causing a nuisance. We have had 2 TENS in recent weeks and there have been no complaints which we hope demonstrates we are looking to be good neighbours. The new community room is built in accordance with the building regulations and thermally and sound resistant. The building is positioned away from Abbots close and any neighbours so as to have no effect on them with light or noise. There will be signs posted on all exits requesting the public to respect local residents.
4. **To protect children from harm** – we probably have more people who have been DBS checked than any other club in town, and with a junior rugby club section we understand more about protecting children than most.