Appendix D

Representation 1

I would like to give my support to the application made by Mount Farm Vineyards. I think it will bring needed employment to the area, make good use of the land and as there are already businesses of a similar nature in the area it will compliment those too. Mount Farm Vineyards have provided us with employment over the past three years and we have found them to be hard working in a sustainable manner whilst using local trades where possible.

J. Whymark
The Massing Crowcroft Road, Nedging With Naughton,
Suffolk, IP7 7HR

As a resident at the end of blooms hall lane I wanted to contact yourselves regarding the recent application at Mount Farm Vineyard.

I am first of all horrified at how the local village has responded to this application. The British country side relies on local farming and local business in order to survive and how this has been met with such negativity is beyond me. 70% of all UK land is agricultural and the UK government has pledged to unlock this massive economic opportunity by focusing on encouraging all rural business. Surely this is no different.

This should be even more valued in light of Brexit. Local produce should be welcomed by all to support the economy and provide employment and encourage tourism.

For the village this venture could provide a source of employment and a heart to the village which would in turn make the village more desirable and increase property prices. The vineyard would be an excellent venue for village fêtes etc which would have benefitted all the residence.

I'm aware the main concerns that have been raised is in regards to the lane. Although it's narrow at times is really no different to any other country lane in the UK. Mount farm has previously been run as a working farm, with lorries etc going down the lane at regular intervals so this would if anything be an improvement for road users. At no point have I walked down the lane (as a dog owner or mother of two young children) and felt unsafe.

It feels like this is more of a personal attack rather than people having any real concerns about the business. It appears to me that a great deal of consideration has been made to the local community and yet it's been met with pure negativity and a complete unwillingness to discuss options to make all parties happy. With all going on in the world if this is their biggest concern they should count themselves very lucky indeed.

Nova Capstick Corn Barn Blooms Hall Lane

To whom it may concern.

I live at Mount Farm, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead. In close proximity to Mount Farm Vineyard. My parents were arable farmers on this land from 1946, they were followed by my brother who farmed Free Range eggs. At his retirement, the land and buildings were purchased by the Enstrom family, farming vines to produce wine.

Farming is a diverse industry and I believe that any farmer has the rite to produce and bring their produce to market.

In the past people have visited the farm to buy potatoes, both to eat and to grow also corn for their poultry and in more recent times to buy eggs and chickens.

I can see no difference in visiting the farm to taste the wine that is grown and produced on the farm prior to purchase.

Without a licence being granted this can not happen.

I have researched the approximate amount of visitors that other vineyards receive for tastings and tours, as obviously this is of importance to me. It seems to be somewhere in the region of 12 to 30 visits per week depending on the time of year.

I do not consider that this volume of potential customers will disturb my peace or impact adversely on my life or anyone else's for that matter.

The Enstrom family have worked very hard and invested a great deal to create this vineyard.

It is a place of great biodiversity and in the changing seasons a thing of remarkable beauty.

They have my complete support in furthering this enterprise and I very much hope that their license is granted.

Regards,

Diana Wilson.

Mount Farm, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury CO10 9BY

Re: Mount Farm Vineyards CO10 9BY

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to express our support for the above licensing application.

It may seem counter-intuitive that as a licensed premises ourselves we would wish to support an additional application in the area but as a local business I believe it is vital we continue to support and encourage other enterprises which are seeking to grow and diversify the rural economy. I understand the application will help create additional employment but perhaps more importantly it will help further develop agri-tourism in East Anglia.

There are a number of vineyards in our area, with new ones being established, and the Engstroms at Mount Farm are working hard to establish a protected designation of origin for vineyards in the Stour Valley area. If this sector can be nurtured and offer a further reason for more tourists to come, they are sure to bring economic benefits for many promoting an increased spend on accommodation, dining out, visiting other attractions, shopping etc., and I believe it can only be positive for our region.

Yours faithfully

S St J Chapman

The Queen's Head Rede Road Hawkedon Bury St Edmunds IP29 4NN

Dear Licensing team,

I am writing in support of an application for an on and off licence for Mount Farm Vineyard, Stanstead.

I should, first of all, state that I was the founder and previous owner of Gifford's Hall Vineyard which is no more than half a mile from Mount Farm as the crow flies, although I am now retired. Vineyards are an increasingly popular and successful form of agricultural diversification and the Engstroms have invested significantly in the development of the vineyard and its infrastructure.

I have watched the initial establishment of Mount Farm Vineyard with much interest and not a little admiration. It is quite one of the most carefully laid out and planted vineyards I have ever seen with many experimental varieties.

Mr Engstrom and his daughter, Amanda, who run the vineyard between them, have already started experimental winemaking with, I have to say, some stunning results.

It stands to reason that in order to succeed they must have a licence to sell alcohol at the vineyard and on-line.

They will be having their first real harvest this year and I know they plan to sell much of it to Sweden (from which country the family originates) and on-line.

I know there has been some opposition to the application by local people concerned about possible noise from the venue and additional traffic in Blooms Hall Lane which is also being considered for signposting as an official "Quiet Lane".

I have spoken to Mr Engstrom, and I know he is a keen supporter of making Blooms Hall Lane a Quiet Lane, so it stands to reason he is not planning the sort of vineyard which depends on attracting large numbers of tourists. I understand he has offered to pay for the creation of more passing points in the lane if necessary. It is worth noting that there has always been agricultural traffic along Blooms Lane which would occasionally have involved lorries and delivery trucks so the additional passing points would be generally welcome. The development of the vineyard and associated buildings has already created much new work in the district and will continue to do so in future. I believe their venture deserves support and I do hope that they will obtain their essential licences.

Yours sincerely

John Kemp The Woodshed Shimpling Road Stanstead IP29 4EX

Good morning,

Support for the premises licence for Mount Farm Vineyard from Chair and Vice-Chair of WineGB East.

Burn Valley Vineyard, North Creake, Norfolk

We set up our vineyard in 2016 and were lucky enough to secure a grant to help with the building of our Winery on site in 2019. Key to our business plan was the ability to perform Wine tastings at our winery in order to sell the wine from our cellar door, at the best margins. All tastings as prebooked online through our website so we know exactly how many are visiting, the tastings generally last 2 hours. Guests can then buy our wine following the tasting. In my view, when guests book, the majority are coming to have an experience. Trying Norfolk wines, alongside Norfolk produce on our charcuterie and seafood platters. At no point do I believe they are coming to party, or to consume excess alcohol. There are numerous examples of this model across the region and would urge those who haven't been on a tasting to book on this summer and see what is involved. Laura Robinson, Chair, WineGB East

Laura Robinson Burn Valley Vineyard North Creake Beacon Hill Road King's Lynn Norfolk NR21 9LN

Coopers Croft Vineyard

Having the potential to operate tours and tastings direct from the vineyard is an important way to raise awareness of the quality and passion that is at the heart of the UK wine sector. My tours are usually not more than a dozen people, professionally run with only small quantities tasted, and often not consumed. This aids the visitor to decide which particular wine they prefer, followed by 'off-sales' which will then be enjoyed at their own home.

Nick Watson, Vice Chair, WineGB East.

Please contact me for any further clarification or questions.

Best regards

nick

Nick Watson Coopers Croft Ashfield Green Wickhambrook Newmarket Suffolk CB8 8UZ

Matthew Capstick Corn Barn Blooms Hall Lane Stanstead Suffolk CO109BY

12th April 2022

Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence for Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write to you to advise of my full support, as a permanent resident of Blooms Hall Lane, for the Licensing Application related to Mount Farm Vineyards Ltd. It is unquestionable that there would be no cause for concern related to the four licensing objectives (public safety, public nuisance, crime prevention, child protection), when considering in full the specific details of the Licensing Application.

I commend the applicants, who are making extensive efforts to develop a small agricultural business, at premises that have long been in alternative agricultural use, for developing their business in a sustainable manner, that adds real value to the local environment (including extensive creation of native wild habitats), adds much needed employment and economic benefit for the local population (including extensive use of the local supply chain), and will create a business that the local community and the county should be proud of.

I would stress that this licensing application, should any of these objectives have been a concern, would impact my permanent residence more so than any complainants, given the close proximity I live to the Vineyard, yet I have zero concerns. Furthermore, with two young children (both 5 years or younger), I particularly discount the ascertain that there are any child safety concerns, and I would highlight to the Licensing Authority the complete absence of any reported incidents that would substantiate the erroneous claims made in submitted complaints, made by individuals who chose to utilise Blooms Hall Lane as a race track in their younger years.

It should be noted that the manner in which certain complainants have conducted themselves with regards this application is deplorable, and crosses a line into the realms of harassment of the applicants i.e. are vexatious in nature. It is noteworthy to observe the escalation of objections as each prior one has been rejected for carrying no weight. This has progressed to the extent it has become highly personal, orchestrated by an extremely small minority, making accusations and reports (including to Highways) far beyond the extent of the Licensing Application. This is particularly so with regards to the latest Human Rights claims, which sit centrally in the categories of repetitive, frivolous and vexatious in nature, in the eyes of a reasonable person. I find it unfathomable how this licensing could breach anyones Human Rights, and it is clear by making such claims individuals are trying any conceivable angle to try and object. I trust that the Licensing Authority will use its extensive experience to recognise where frivolous, vexatious and repetitious representations, with zero grounding in reality, have been made by individuals, and suitably discount these as non-viable.

I thank you for your consideration of my support, and trust the Licensing Authority arrive at the logical decision with regards this application.

Kind regards

Matthew Capstick

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

I am writing to register my strong objection to this Application.

This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a significant public nuisance, which will adversely effect the existing rights of members of the public, living, working or carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the Premises.

To be clear, my objection is not based on infrastructure or traffic issues, but rather that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance, one of the Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track, No through road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane.

Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to a public nuisance and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation.

I live at the Stanstead end of Blooms Hall Lane, at the top of a particularly steep and narrow stretch of the Lane. Given the absence of passing places, two vehicles cannot pass each other outside my home. When two vehicles meet on this stretch of the lane, vehicles frequently drive onto my property in an attempt to allow the other vehicles to pass. When this happens it causes a significant nuisance to me and my family.

Any grant of a license for activities which involve members of the public travelling to or from Mount Farm Vineyards, will cause a public nuisance in Blooms Hall Lane. Accordingly, I object to the grant of this licence.

Yours faithfully,

Marnie Bragg

6 Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, CO10 9BY

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY -

Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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I live at the end Blooms Hall Lane, and I have experienced, first-hand, how dangerous it can be, especially to inexperienced users. Blooms Hall Lane is a narrow, single-track road that has steep banks and a deceptively visibility limiting curve. In 2008, I was the passenger in a car that was hit by an inexperienced user of this lane. The driver of the vehicle was driving too quickly, had limited time to react given the curve of the lane, and with the steep banks, had nowhere to redirect the car that ensured that it was a front-on collision for both vehicles, causing significant damage and writing-off both cars.

Therefore, the Licensing Authority should refuse this application.

Yours faithfully Charles Johnsen

Coppins House, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Suffolk CO109AY.

With reference to the above application for a licence to sell alcohol I am registering an objection on the grounds of public nuisance.

Reasons:

Applicant has requested online and offline sales at the premises. I have no objection to online sales with collections once a day by couriers or registered commercial companies. I do have objections to the standard opening to the general public for offline sales on the basis of increased 'public nuisance'. I am not a lawyer but the definition of public nuisance "arises from an act that endangers the life, health, property, morals or comfort of the public or obstructs the public in the exercise or enjoyment of rights common to all"*

The act of selling offline alcohol at this outlet, which is situated at the end of a No-Through Road, endangers the life, health, property, and comfort of the public and obstructs the public in the exercise and enjoyment of rights common to all as follows:

<u>Endangers Life</u>: by enticing the general public to visit the premise to buy alcohol, the applicant has not taken into account the increased danger to human life. I have lived in this lane for 20 years and we had one head-to-head collision with a commercial vehicle who had no idea of the speed necessary to make this a safe environment and been witness to two other incidents.

<u>Endangers Health</u>: the increased pollution from the commercial and consumer traffic will have an adverse effect on the health of the natural life (the adjoining Woodhouse Wood is a place of SSI) and on human life (many mothers walk their children up and down the lane) and any increase in pollutants from vehicles must be detrimental to their health

<u>Endangers Property</u>: alcohol sales, where the general public have had tastings, will result in drivers, who have had even a small amount of wine, driving with excessive speed down this lane/bridlepath/walk and very likely cause accidents to other cars, horses and pedestrians coming in the opposite direction

Obstruction to the Public in the exercise and enjoyment of rights common to all: this lane has been used as a walkway and bridleway for many years by the inhabitants of the Stanstead village. It has very recently been recognised in the changes to the Highway Code, (which came into operation on January 29th 2022) that there is a hierarchy of users of public highways "The 'hierarchy of road users' is a concept that places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of the hierarchy. The hierarchy does not remove the need for everyone to behave responsibly. The road users most likely to be injured in the event of a collision are pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motorcyclists, with children, older adults and disabled people being more at risk." ** It is hard to emphasise without a physical visit, how this application to sell alcohol to members of the public from a shop on the premises, will raise the risk to those road users who are at the top of this hierarchy.

The Future

If this premise and company is to be successful, the owners have advised that they need to generate large amount of sales from the vineyard shop. What is deemed 'successful' will be largely determined by the quantity of sales, which can only come by heavily advertising (as the vineyard is off the beaten track) as being open for business and enticing potential clients into the 'No-Through' lane and to the shop for tastings – the idea that they will be successful with minimal visits is directly contradictory to any business model I am aware of. We have all seen how many small farm shops have grown into successful shopping destinations with

huge car parks and the accompanying noise, pollution and danger and it is no doubt in my mind that this is what the applicant envisages in the future.

Finally, I see that the applicant has submitted a 'Highways Comments' report from GW Bullard, which I understand has no bearing on the decision of the licensing authority but in case this report is taken into account, I would like to point out that it was commissioned by the applicant and is factually incorrect; I give you two examples:

- As the Bullard report correctly points out, it is a No Through Road, but there are no signs to indicate this, so vehicles do use it with an idea that they can access Shimpling village. Before they realise their mistake, it is impossible for them to turn around as due to the narrowness of the lane there is no turning point. As a consequence, it is not 'lightly trafficked' lane; it is already heavily trafficked.
- To my knowledge there have been at least 3 accidents in the lane in the last 22 years; one of which involved my wife and children who were driven into headlong by a delivery van and our car was written off. I do not have the photographs any more but the claim was registered and paid by Aviva Insurance Company.

I therefore respectively request that you treat this report with the bias associated with a any report commissioned by the applicant.

For all the reasons above I ask that you only allow online sales and turn down the request for offline sales with a shop, which would only give rise to a significant public nuisance to residents, and other users of the lane as explained above. I understand that Licensing Authorities no longer have the time to visit premises but I would strongly recommend any of your committee, who are in the area, to experience the situation I am describing and make their own conclusions rather than relying on our written objections. If it helps, I am very happy to meet anyone at the beginning and conduct them the length of the lane to visually show them what I am talking about.

Yours sincerely

Hugo Johnsen

Coppins House, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9AY

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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To be clear, my objection is not based on infrastructure or traffic issues, but rather that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance, one of the Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

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Name: ALAN RYDER

Address: HIGHELDS

LEPPER ST. STANSTEAD

CO 10 9 AT

Email:

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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Yours faithfully,

Address:

Sper Street

CJMISON

Email:

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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Yours faithfully,

Name:	CHARLIC GIALING
Address:	IT VALLY VIWE
	SANSTOER
	C010987
Email:	

FROM: Claire Johnsen, Coppins House, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 9AY

TO: Licensing Team, Babergh District Council, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House 8 Russell Road Ipswich IP1 2BX

By email: licensing team@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section17/Grant of new premises license - premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO109BY- Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd.

I want to register my objection to this licence application on the grounds of public nuisance and public safety.

Public Nuisance: Noise pollution Mount Farm Vineyard sits next to our home. The applicant's ambitions indicate that he is looking to scale this business, which will increase noise levels due to higher volumes of traffic, delivery vehicles, waste collection, and customers eating and drinking. Traffic to and from the Vineyard passes beside our house and is audible from our home office and bedroom; any increase in traffic volume will make a considerable public nuisance to our family. Noise pollution has the potential to radically and permanently change the tranquil environment our family has the right to enjoy.

Public Nuisance: Public safety. All visitors arriving and departing from the venue will have to use Blooms Hall Lane. This is a very narrow single track lane, with high banks, no pavement, no street lights or passing place. It will be a significant nuisance to residents and visitors who will have to reverse often 100's of meters to allow oncoming traffic to pass.

Public nuisance: Public Safety. - In the new highway code, which came into effect January 29th 2022, cars need to be vigilant of pedestrians and allow 1.5 meters between a vehicle and pedestrian and adhere to the new hierarchy of road users. Many Local dog owners and ramblers enjoy walking in Blooms Hall Lane. The increased number of cars and delivery vehicles will risk public safety for those walking in the lane.

Public nuisance: Public safety - The only access to Mount Farm Vineyard is via a bridle path which many local horse owners use. The bridle path is narrow, barely 2.5 meters wide, with no passing places.

The highway code stipulates traffic must allow 2 meters between a passing vehicle and a horse. Drivers unfamiliar with the blind spots, narrow width of the track, or rough surface of the bridle bath will put riders and their horses at significant risk.

Due to the ambition of the owners, the size of the visitor and retail space, the engagement of professional consultants to lobby their application, I believe the owners have the vision to make this a large destination venue, considerably more extensive than their license application implies.

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a significant public nuisance, which will adversely effect the existing rights of members of the public, living, working or carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the Premises.

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The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

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Yours faithfully,

Name:

Address:

D WAVEY FAIRFIELDS UPPER ST

STANSTEAD

Email:

Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farm Vineyards Ltd I am writing to register my objection to the application for this premises licence.

This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would (a) give rise to a significant public nuisance, which will adversely effect the existing rights of members of the public, living, working or carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the Premises, (b) endanger public safety on the premises; and (c) cause a risk of crime and disorder.

I will expand on these issues at the hearing, but in the meantime I outline below a number of key points.

Executive Summary

- If a license is granted, the proposed licensable activities will cause a public nuisance which would impact on (a) residents living in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises (b) anyone who currently enjoys Blooms Hall Lane or the bridleway and footpaths in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises for amenity purposes and (c) those residents who have no option but to use Blooms Hall Lane in order to access their homes.
- The legal position is that public nuisance under the Licensing Act 2003 has a very broad meaning and is not confined to noise, odour, litter and street fouling;
- Because of the special rural characteristics of Mount Farm Vineyards and the difficulties of access, the area directly impacted by the proposed licensable activities includes the whole of Blooms Hall Lane;
- The Licensing Authority is accordingly obliged to take into account public nuisance that will be caused in Blooms Hall Lane by the proposed licensable activities;
- The public nuisance that will be caused if this licence were to be granted includes: O Nuisance to those living nearest to Mount Farm noise, pollution etc from cars and other vehicles arriving and departing, car doors closing, cars starting, cars manoeuvring, guests eating and drinking at the premises (in particular in the outdoor seating area), guests on vineyard tours, etc;
- Nuisance to those using the bridleway and footpath running through and to Mount Farm
 Vineyards noise, pollution, etc as in 1 above plus safety issues since vehicles and users of the bridleway would share a single track;
- Nuisance to those who use Blooms Hall Lane to access their houses or who use it for the purposes
 of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance of vineyard traffic would include noise,
 environmental pollution and littering. In addition, because of the broad meaning of public nuisance,
 the nuisance would include for pedestrians, having to avoid traffic by taking evasive action, climbing
 banks, etc; and for cars, having to reverse, etc;
- o Nuisance to those who own property bordering Blooms Hall Lane whose driveways are used as passing places by those using the lane, the nuisance being damage to those driveways. In relation to that point, any suggestion that traffic using Blooms Hall Lane cannot amount to a nuisance because it is a public highway fails owing to the point that traffic going to Mount Farm Vineyards will in practice use private driveways (e.g. at 6 Blooms Hall Lane, Coppins, Acorn House, and Blooms Hall) in order to pass; the use of those driveways as passing places is not the use of the highway and is a nuisance.

I expand on these points in more detail below.

The Legal meaning and scope of Public Nuisance under the Licensing Act 2003

As set out above, my first objection is on grounds that the proposed licensable activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance, one of the Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

I understand the Babergh Licensing team may consider that the expression "public nuisance" in the Licensing Act 2003 is limited and the only relevant nuisances are noise, odour, litter, waste and street fouling. Although I am not a licensing lawyer, that view is clearly not correct. The expression "public nuisance" in the Licensing Act is not narrowly defined. The expression "public nuisance" has its common law meaning which is wide and includes any act not warranted by law (or the omission to discharge a legal duty) if the effect of the act or omission is to endanger the life, health, property or comfort of the public, or to obstruct the public in the exercise or enjoyment of rights common to all Her Majesty's subjects. This definition was approved in the House of Lords case *Rimmington*; *Goldstein* [2005] UKHL 63. See also the Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 by the Home Office in April 2018 where paragraph 2.16 confirms that public nuisance is not narrowly defined and the licensing committee are bound to consider *it in its widest sense*. Therefore, public nuisance includes matters such as any damage, danger or inconvenience to members of the public even if that did not involve noise, odour, litter, waste or street fouling. For the reasons given below, the grant of this licence would give rise to damage, danger or inconvenience to members of the public.

I understand that it has been suggested that the widespread concerns the residents have about effect of the proposed licensable activities on other users of Blooms Hall Lane are not relevant to a licensing application. This is also incorrect. The correct position is that where the licensing authority's discretion is invoked (as it is in this application), the authority has to have regard to paragraph 1.6 of its statement of licensing policy. This reads "The area impacted by the presence of licensed premises is a question of fact and will depend on the particular circumstances of each case". Cases such as R (4 Wins Leisure Ltd) v Licensing Committee for Blackpool, etc show that distance is not the test in deciding matters such as the area impacted by licensed premises and that regard has to be to local circumstances. In the case of Mount Farm Vineyards, the very particular location – its very rural position and limited access - means that the area impacted will include the bridleway and footpaths running through and to the premises; the immediately neighbouring properties; and crucially also the whole length of Blooms Hall Lane. The location of Mount Farm Vineyards means the area impacted is very different to, for example, the area that may be impacted by a venue in a town centre. In a town, the impact on surrounding roads may well not be a factor in determining if the premises create a nuisance. In the case of Mount Farm Vineyards, the nuisance for users of Blooms Hall Lane is a direct impact of the proposed licensable activities taking place at the licensed premises. The cases also show that disturbance caused by patrons going to/from licensed premises is capable of being a public nuisance for licensing act purposes.

Therefore, in the light of objections made, the licensing authority has the duty to consider:

- First, what is the area impacted by the proposed licensable activities?
- Then second, whether the impact amounts to a public nuisance?

As set out in more detail below and in other objections in relation to this licence application, there would clearly be a public nuisance if this licence were to be granted. In these circumstances, grant of the licence would not promote the licensing objectives. The committee should therefore refuse the application.

Objection on grounds of public nuisance

Even if the definition of public nuisance is limited to noise, odour, litter, waste and street fouling, the grant of this licence would give rise to a public nuisance. The public nuisance would impact on (a) those residents living in the immediate vicinity of the proposed licensed premises (b) anyone who currently enjoys Blooms Hall Lane or the bridleway and footpaths in the immediate vicinity of the proposed licensed premises for amenity purposes such as dog walking, cycling, horse riding, etc and (c) those residents who have no option but to use Blooms Hall Lane in order to access their homes. The attached appendix has images taken in recent months of the area surrounding Mount Farm Vineyards and the access via Blooms Hall Lane. As can be seen, this is a very rural spot. The Mount Farm site itself has been designated as a Special Landscape Area. There is very little noise and those enjoying the public rights of way in the vicinity and local residents enjoying their gardens can currently do so in the absence of any significant manmade noise.

Members of the public attending Mount Hall Vineyards to buy wine and to taste wine will in practice have to travel by car, especially if they are buying wine to take away with them. Mount Farm is a considerable distance from any sizeable town (Bury some 12 miles, Sudbury some 8 miles). The nearest public transport is an infrequent rural bus stop some two miles away.

Mount Farm Vineyards is at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a mile down a single track, no through road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane. The Lane is heavily used by village residents for amenity purposes and has to be used by local residents to get to their houses.

The public nuisance that will be caused if this licence were to be granted therefore includes:

- 1. Nuisance to those living nearest to Mount Farm noise, pollution etc from cars and other vehicles arriving and departing, car doors closing, cars starting, cars manoeuvring, guests eating and drinking at the premises (in particular in the outdoor seating area), guests on vineyard tours, etc;
- 2. Nuisance to those using the bridleway and footpath running through and to Mount Farm Vineyards noise, pollution, etc as in 1 above plus safety issues since vehicles and users of the bridleway would share a single track;
- 3. Nuisance to those who use Blooms Hall Lane to access their houses or who use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance of vineyard traffic would include noise, environmental pollution and littering. In addition, in light of the points made above about what amounts to a public nuisance, the nuisance would include for pedestrians, having to avoid traffic by taking evasive action such as climbing banks, etc; and for cars, having to reverse, etc and/or leave the public highway and unlawfully enter private property in order to allow others to pass (thereby opening them to claims for damages);
- 4. Nuisance to those who own property bordering Blooms Hall Lane whose driveways are used as passing places by those using the lane, the nuisance being damage to, and obstruction of, those driveways. In relation to that point, any suggestion that traffic using Blooms Hall Lane cannot amount to a nuisance because it is a public highway fails owing to the point that traffic going to/from Mount Farm Vineyards will in practice use private driveways (e.g. at Coppins, Acorn House, Blooms Hall and 6 Blooms Hall Lane) in order to pass; the use of those driveways as passing places is not the use of the highway and is a nuisance.

These public nuisances will be a direct impact of the proposed licensable activities taking place at the licensed premises and will impact on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the locality of the licensed premises. As noted above, the location of Mount Farm Vineyards means the area impacted includes the whole of Blooms Hall Lane.

In any event, points 1 and 2 above do not relate to use of the lane but to activities on Mount Hall Vineyards itself.

Public Safety issues

Were there to be an incident at Mount Farm Vineyards requiring attendance by emergency services, there must be concerns that the limited access would give rise to a risk to the safety of members of the public attending the premises. Also the safety of those on the bridleway through Mount Farm, especially where it runs right beside the proposed licensed premises, would be put at risk by the proposed licence (a particular concern being the safety of those riding horses, whose mounts might be startled by the presence of cars on and near the bridleway and of Mount Farm Vineyards patrons eating and drinking in the outdoor eating area). Accordingly, in relation to the public safety licensing objective, the licence should be refused to the extent it allows attendance of members of the public, especially if in large numbers.

Scale of operation and nature of proposed activities

The Applicant seems to be presenting this licence application as relating to a small scale operation with reference made to traffic estimates for visitors of 0-5 visitors per day at best. No evidence is provided in support of these estimates, nor are any conditions offered to restrict the traffic to these numbers. Obviously the greater the number of visitors, the greater the public nuisance. A widespread concern is that these estimates are unrealistic for a vineyard that will be producing 40,000 bottles of wine a year. I can find no data to support the Applicant's traffic estimates, but published Wine GB statistics (2021) state that visits to vineyards and wineries rose on average by 57% last year. It is also not clear if the suggested 0-5 visitors per day is a yearly average; if it was then that might in fact show the Applicant expects much higher numbers for example on busy summer weekends. All of this would suggest that the traffic estimates provided by the Applicant should be treated with caution. The number of visitors could be significantly greater. In addition to scale, there are particular concerns in relation to "on premises" consumption of alcohol and other "on premises" activities that do not directly relate to off premises sales. The application states:

In order to sell the wine, this application will be for a small cellar shop/tasting room in part of the winery barn. Here the wine will be *mainly* sold for off the premises, but the customers will also have the opportunity for wine tastings on the premises marked out in the Premise Site Plan. This includes an outdoor seated area overlooking the vineyard. On-licence purchases *such as tastings* will *mainly* be available during limited times that do not interfere with the normal working week of the vineyard – *for instance* Fri-Sun. *On these days customers would also be offered light snacks* (emphasis added)

In a document sent to the Stanstead Parish Council in December 2021 in connection with an earlier application for a licence (subsequently withdrawn after many objections were received) the then plans of the owners of the vineyards were set out. These appeared wide ranging, including quarterly events, tourism, a pop up restaurant and a cafe. It is possible the intentions have changed, but the inclusion of a licence for on premises consumption of alcohol in the current licence application seems to allow for the establishment of a cafe/restaurant with seating overlooking the vineyard; the licence application refers to "serving of food/snacks". The use of the words "on licence purchases such as tastings" demonstrates that on premises purchases will not be confined to tastings; if not in connection with tastings, then presumably the on premises sales will be part of a free standing venture such as a bar, café or restaurant. Any such venture would exacerbate public nuisance concerns by creating a "destination" for members of the public. It is not clear why a broad licence for on-premises consumption is required when the application states "wine will be mainly sold for off the premises".

Local residents fear that the inevitable public nuisance of the proposed licensable activities will be of a significant magnitude because the intention is not a small scale venue for sale of wine produced on the premises, but rather a "destination" to attract the public.

Other points – comments on the Highways Letter

The application attaches a letter (the "Highways Letter") that makes comments on Highways issues. The letter does not appear to address any of the licensing objectives and is therefore strictly irrelevant.

However, several observations on the letter may be of interest to the licensing committee:

- By including the letter with the application, the Applicant is presumably itself acknowledging that access to Mount Farm Vineyards is an issue relevant to licencing.
- In the Highways Letter, reference is made to opening up alternate access. At a meeting with neighbours in December 2021, Hans Engstrom, a director of the applicant, accepted that Blooms Hall Lane is an unsatisfactory means of access for members of the public to the proposed licensed premises and stated that he was looking into an alternate means of access. This licence application should be refused until a satisfactory alternate means of access has been established.
- The Highways Letter makes reference to planning discussions regarding Mount Farm Vineyards. This appears to acknowledge that some or all of the proposed activities for which a licence is sought require planning permission (since as mentioned above until recently Mount Farm was used as an egg farm). I understand that the Planning Department are of the view that the proposed tasting room/cellar shop requires a full planning application. While the absence of planning permission is not relevant to a licensing application, there is nonetheless a statutory duty to consult with the Planning Department on any application. So that the Planning Department are able to make representations in relation to the licensing objectives in the light of full knowledge of the facts, I would therefore ask that the Planning Department are made aware that this application is being made to use premises apparently without proper planning consents being in place and that there are local concerns that the grant of a licence would give rise to a significant public nuisance, not least because of issues around access and amenity.
- The Highways Letter focusses on planning considerations, strictly not relevant, rather than the highly relevant question of public nuisance. But even taking the question of planning issues, the letter selectively quotes paragraph 111 of the NPPF and fails to mention the immediately following paragraphs 112 and 113. These provide that applications for development should give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements within neighbouring areas, address the needs of people with disabilities and be supported by a transport statement so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed. The Highways Letter appears to do none of those things in a manner responsive to NPPF paragraphs 112 and 113. Moreover in stating that there is an existing absence of road traffic injury collisions in the lane, the letter ignores the knowledge of local residents who can give evidence of several road traffic accidents (albeit fortunately serious injury was avoided). It also ignores increases in traffic since buildings at Mount Farm were converted from an egg farm to residential occupation.

Further details about Blooms Hall Lane

Granting this licence application will cause a public nuisance in Blooms Hall Lane and on the footpaths and bridleway leading to and through the licensed premises for the reasons set out below. Mount Farm lies over a mile down Blooms Hall Lane which is a cul de sac ending in a public bridleway. See attached map and illustrations. This is currently the only means of access.

- Blooms Hall Lane is a narrow single track lane flanked by high banks and ditches.
- There are blind corners so visibility is poor.
- The road surface is prone to potholes which frequently go without repair for long periods when potholes are present, driving down an already narrow road becomes especially difficult.
- In winter the lane regularly floods.
- Although the banks have been flailed since the attached pictures were taken, in spring and summer when flailing of the hedges is restricted for environmental reasons, vegetation means visibility is particularly limited.
- The lane is used extensively by wildlife including a large herd of fallow deer.
- There is no street lighting.

- There are no pavements so pedestrians have to walk in the road where they are inevitably vulnerable to traffic. If a vehicle is encountered, pedestrians often have to climb a bank in order to allow the vehicle to pass (this is especially hazardous if there are children in buggies or dogs are involved). Any disabled person using a wheelchair/mobility scooter or child on a bicycle is at particular risk.
- There are no proper passing places. If another vehicle is encountered, this means one or other vehicle has to reverse, often for hundreds of metres. For some commercial vehicles reversing is impractical/impossible; if granted the application would result in an increased volume of these vehicles.
- Given the absence of proper passing places, when vehicles meet they have to leave the highway and drive onto private property in order to pass.
- The lane is extensively used by local residents for amenity walking, often in the company of children and dogs, and by children on bicycles.
- Blooms Hall Lane leads to the only local bridleway and is therefore frequently used by riders on horseback. There is no way to pass a horse; if a horse if met by a vehicle, the vehicle has to reverse, often for hundreds of metres (as above).
- The lane runs directly alongside Woodhouse Wood, a site of special scientific interest and an area of rich bio-diversity which would be damaged by increases in vehicle emissions caused by greater traffic volumes.

The public nuisance caused by granting a licence would impact on (a) those residents who have no option but to use Blooms Hall Lane in order to access their homes and (b) anyone who currently enjoys Blooms Hall Lane or the bridleway leading to the proposed licensed premises for amenity purposes such as dog walking, cycling, horse riding, etc.

The risk of nuisance will be increased if it involves vehicles being driven by those who have been drinking alcohol (even if within legal limits) and/or who are unfamiliar with the road and might not expect to encounter a dog walker, child in the middle of the road, fallow deer, badger, other wildlife, or another vehicle. Even knowledgeable local residents find it difficult enough to navigate especially in the dark (the proposed hours of operation will include hours of darkness in the winter).

Conclusion and suggestion for mediation

In view of the above, I urge the Licensing Authority to refuse this application as currently framed. The location of Mount Farm – its very rural location, crossed by a bridleway, with its only access down a single track road - means that if the premises were licensed and encouraged attendance by members of the public, that would inevitably create a public nuisance as outlined above. Because of the public nuisance that would be created, Mount Farm is completely unsuitable as licensed premises for the public to visit for any purposes, be that retail sale of wine, wine tasting or anything else. That is especially the case if the visit would involve consumption of alcohol. It is unfortunate that the Applicant and its associates have chosen the site of the former egg farm at Mount Farm for their proposed business without first applying for planning consent and a licence. The access issues and the nuisance that would be caused by establishing a retail business at Mount Farm will have been obvious before the vines were planted. It would also have been obvious that planning consent and a licence would be required if they wished to carry out retail sale from the site. One of the overriding aims of Babergh's licensing policy is "supporting strong and inclusive communities that balance the rights of licensable businesses [and] local residents". This licence application seeks to trample on the existing rights of local residents in order to set up a new business in an unsuitable location. For that reason the licence application should be refused. The licensing authority should not prioritise someone seeking to set up a new business over the existing interests of the residents of Stanstead.

I have no wish to fall out with the applicants who are near neighbours. I would like their vineyard venture to succeed. But In light of the licensing objectives and in order to avoid a public nuisance,

the application as presented should be refused. That said, the on line sales element of the licence application could be run in a way that did not cause significant public nuisance. While there would be public nuisance from a licence for on line sales only, it could be mitigated by suitable conditions. So I do not object to a licence for on-line sale only, provided there were conditions limiting collection of wine to no more than say one or two vans/lorries per day. That would mitigate the public nuisance. The application seems to contemplate less vehicle movements than that in relation to on line sales, so presumably such a condition would be acceptable to the applicant. If any licence is granted it should have a time limit (say 3 years), so that the scale and nature of actual operation of the vineyards can be assessed in practice in light of the licensing objectives.

To date there has been no meaningful consultation by the Applicant with local residents regarding the plans which have simply been presented as a fait accompli. I would be happy to meet with the applicant (as I suspect would others) if a constructive conversation could be held to explore possible solutions that might be acceptable to local residents.

Yours faithfully

David Harkness, Blooms Hall, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Suffolk, CO10 9AY

 $\label{lem:lemages} Images of a reaaround \textit{MountFarmVineyards} \\ Images 1 and 2-views from footpath showing unspoiled and tranquil country side$

Image3— BloomsHallLanenearstartoflanelookingbacktowardsStanstead.Notesteephill,highbanks,nopassingplaces



Image 4-Blooms Hall Lane looking towards Stanstead-road of tenfloods at this point and is icy in cold weather. Note blind bendand high banks.



 $Image 5-\\ Further up the lane looking away from Stanstead. Note high banks. Footpath crosses at this point. This stretch has no passing place at all for approximately 450 metres.$





 $Image 7-\\ the lane is heavily used by fallow deer. See tracks on the high bank. Deer appear in road without warning.$





 $Image 9-\\ note the narrowness of the lane. In this spot, even though the reis no bank to the left, the verge is very soft and has a sasteep drop into a water filled ditch. Woodhouse Wood to the left is a site of special scientific interest.$





Image11—thiscardidnotmakeitroundthebendnearthestartofthelaneandendedupintheditch

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Image 12 Map of the area Ordnance Survey. Crown copyright. All rights reserved East Hills Woods Mount Farm Coppin's Spring Hall arko. Hospital Grove Maltings Blooms 90 Hall 76 Coopwell Barnfield Wood // Farm Herbage Grove 0 Stanstead Spr Kiln Farm Scorchford Wood Place Stanstead & Great Wood Farm Scotchford Bridge Bar Wood " Calves Kentwell Park Farm alley Path

Acorn House Stanstead Sudbury Suffolk CO10 9AP 25th March 2022

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY

I am writing to register my objection to this Application.

This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a significant public nuisance, which will adversely affect the existing rights of members of the public, living, working or carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the Premises.

To be clear, my objection is not based on infrastructure or traffic issues, but rather that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance, one of the Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

This application is looking to hold events at the site, sales to the general public, wine tastings, cellar door shop along with food and alcohol. This could result in any number of members of the public attending these premises.

- The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track, No through
 road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places, no speed
 restriction, no drainage, no road markings and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the
 only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way
 that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down
 Blooms Hall Lane. There is no bus service in the area.
- The lane is in the process of being designated as a Quiet Lane as it is an asset to the
 community for recreation and is constantly used by pedestrians, those using mobility
 scooters, horse riders and cyclists. It is so well used that the Parish Council have
 installed a public seat beside the lane on my land for the enjoyment and rest of those
 enjoying the lane as part of their exercise and enjoyment of the countryside.
- I own the land along the first part of Blooms Hall Lane and have a driveway on one of the dangerous 90-degree bends. As two cars or a horse, bike, walker and a car cannot pass each other, my private driveway is frequently driven on by vehicles to get past each other. This results in my driveway being constantly damaged, my ground ripped up and leaves deep ruts making my access impassable causing me a significant nuisance. The banks of my land are being significantly eroded since the vineyard has been constructed.
- My friends and I ride our horses up the full length of Blooms Hall Lane at least 6 days a
 week as it is the route to the Public Bridleway. This is the only bridleway that we have in
 Stanstead, so it is well used as it is also only the only place where a horse rider can ride
 off the road and should be able to enjoy the freedom of riding on a soft surface and free

from traffic. Before it gets to Mount Farm Vineyard the lane becomes a designated Public Bridleway and it runs through the middle of the applicant's site and continues across farmland to the Stanstead Road, Shimpling. Vehicular traffic is not permitted on Bridleways. Anyone attending an event or buying alcohol would have to drive along the bridleway. This is the only bridleway in the village, this questions Public Safety, when riding through the premises on The Public Right of Way. The car parking and manoeuvring area for the premises, means cars will have to reverse out onto the Public Bridleway which runs right alongside the premises.

- The recent changes to the Highway Code make it explicit that when a car passes a
 rider on horseback the car should allow no less than a two-metre gap. There is simply
 not enough room on the bridleway or the lane for a car to adhere to that element of
 the Highway Code, in fact it is physically impossible to fit a car and a horse beside each
 other safely.
- Adjacent to the lane is Woodhouse Wood. This is an S.S.S.I, part of the Kentwell Woods statutory designation with vulnerable ancient woodland indicator species. Members of the public driving to and from the premises will undoubtably increase emissions and have an environmental impact. This wood and the surrounding area supports local herds of over 300 Fallow Deer which spend their time in and around the lane.
- Babergh D.C themselves recognise that this access lane is restricted as they have to use
 a purpose-built waste collection vehicle to access these dwellings as the normal dust
 cart cannot fit up Blooms Hall Lane.
- There have been several accidents along the lane, a car overturned and crashed on the second blind bend destroying the village salt bin and ending up in the stream. Local residents have had head on collisions, with a driver unaware of the dangers, writing both vehicles off. The local Postman has also been hit on more than one occasion. Royal Mail will presumably have the records of those incidents. Horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians are constantly subject to near misses.

Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to a public nuisance and would adversely affect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance would include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

It is not a safe or suitable location for any form of public events applied for or for any on-site sales.

Granting this licence will blatantly obstruct the public in the exercise or enjoyment of rights common to all i.e. walking, cycling or riding safely in their village.

Damage will be caused to adjacent landowners having their land driven over in attempt to form passing places.

There is absolutely no reason why this business cannot sell and have the public taste their wine locally through the myriad of local farm shops, existing retail outlets, farmers markets, county shows and struggling pubs and restaurants who would be delighted to have the public visit their already licenced premises with good public access on suitable roads.

Online sales could be handled sympathetically by bulking orders and using one daily courier run, but this is not a suitable location for any form of public access.

I object to this application and the granting of this licence will give rise to Public Nuisance

Therefore, the Licensing Authority should refuse this application.

Frances Browne

Addition to Objection – Mount Farm Vineyards - Frances Browne – March 2022

An example of the public nuisance - The applicant from Mount Farm Vineyards on Blooms Hall Lane trying to reverse past me and my horse this week with less than 2 feet of space. This is a situation common to both the access lane and the Bridleway passing through Mount Farm.

Highway code - When you see a horse on a road, you should slow down to a maximum of 10 mph. Be patient, do not sound your horn or rev your engine. When safe to do so, pass wide and slow, allowing at least 2 metres of space.



Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

I am writing to register my objection to this Application.

This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a significant public nuisance, which will adversely effect the existing rights of members of the public, living, working or carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the Premises.

To be clear, my objection is not based on infrastructure or traffic issues, but rather that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance, one of the Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track, No through road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane.

Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to a public nuisance and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance would include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

Name: G.F. Person

Address: HUNTER HOUSE

UPPER 57, STANSTERD

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Email:

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House. 8 Russell Road. Ipswich IP1 2BX

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Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is neavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to a public nuisance and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance would include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

Yours faithfully .

Name:

GERALDINE ROSS

Address:

19 ALSTON CRESCENT

COLO GAN

STANSTEAD

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

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Name:

Address:

J H COLEMAN

SWALLOWS UPPEL STREET, STANSTEAD, SUBBURY, SUFFOLK

Email:

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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9 Reach TEAN BEECH. 4 TERRA COTTA RACE STANSTEAD Name:

Email:

Address:

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

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Yours faithfully,

Address:

MRS J. STONE (JULIA)
NO I THE GREEN
STANSTERD SUDBURY SUFFOLK

Email:

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to <u>licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk</u>

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Yours faithfully,
Julie Parrott
Oaklands, Lower St, Stanstead , Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9AH

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Licensing Team, Babergh District Council
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

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Name:	KEVIN DAGLEY
Address:	IS VALEY VIEW
	STANITEAD
	COIO GAR

Yours faithfully,

Email:

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

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Name:	M wilch
Address:	3 THE GREEN
	STRNSTED
	CUIO GAS
Email:	

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Name:	MATTHEW CITTLEBOY
Address:	7 VALLEY WEW
	STANSTEAD
	Suggalk Colo 9AR
Email:	

Yours faithfully,

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Name:	mr. Mrs Garwood.
Address:	12 VALCEY VIEW
	Stanstead:
	SUBBURY
Email:	

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

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Yours faithf	ully,
	P.J COOK.
Name:	
Address:	14 VALLEY VIEW
	STANSTEAD
	SUDDURY SFK.
Email:	

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House. 8 Russell Road. Ipswich IP1 2BX

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	ılly,
Name:	laul Thomson
Address:	Wesleys Stanstead.
	Stanstead.
	C010 9AF
Email:	

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Name: RETER NICHOLS
Address: 8 VALLEY VIEW
STANSTEAD

CO10 9AR

Email:

Vours faithfully

Thank you Ms Green and your rebuttal of the grounds of concern put forward by residents of Blooms Hall Lane. I have had opportunity to consider the matter further, and I consider that any increased use of Blooms Hall Lane, would have an impact upon the residents who live in the vicinity of Blooms Hall Lane. Unfortunately no one to date has produced the figures of current traffic use and the projected traffic use. My contention would be that this tranquil area served by Blooms Hall Lane, would be impacted for residents who live next to the lane, by even a modest increase of vehicular traffic, to use a common term it is all relative to the existing situation.! Not wanting to introduce red herrings, I am guessing that the Act covering the grant of an Alcohol Licence, is subservient to the Human Rights Act,? which covers in detail the rights of an individual, to amongst other things a peaceful existence Thank you Richard Kemp County Councillor

Stanstead Parish Council

Clerk: Mr Roy Weedon
Flint Cottage, The Hill, Stanstead, CO10 9AP
Tel:
email:

BMSDC Licensing Team

25th March 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re Application for Premises Licence for Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane Stanstead.

On Monday 21st March 2022 Stanstead Parish Council had a meeting to discuss this application as it impacts the village of Stanstead. The public were invited to make comments and thereafter the council members discussed the application and unanimously objected to the application.

The grounds for the objection are detailed in the following submission.

Prevention of public nuisance

Outdoor events could be noisy and cause light pollution detrimentally affecting the neighbouring properties and wildlife.

There are several footpaths and bridleways that lead to the property and through the designated licencing area, this is used by ramblers, local people, dog walkers and horse riders. Numerous customers drinking alcohol and anti-social behaviour would be a public nuisance to the rightful users of the pathway and bridleway.

Vehicle pollution will be a public nuisance to the rightful users of the pathway and bridleway.

The license application is for seven days a week potentially creating anti-social behaviour in addition to the three points above.

Public Safety

Blooms Hall Lane is a single-track road which becomes a bridleway and any increase in traffic would make it almost impossible for emergency vehicles to attend the premises in a

prompt manner creating a danger to people attending the venue. The lane is used by ramblers, local people, dog walkers and horse riders therefore any increase in traffic will be a danger to all concerned.

There are several footpaths and bridleways that lead to the property and through the designated licensing area, this is used by ramblers, local people, dog walkers and horse riders. Numerous customers drinking alcohol and anti-social behaviour could create a public safety issue to the rightful users of the pathway and bridleway.

The license application is for seven days a week potentially creating anti-social behaviour which could create a public safety issue.

Protection of children from harm.

There are several footpaths and bridleways that lead to the property and through the designated licensing area, this is used by ramblers, local people, dog walkers, horse riders including children. Numerous customers drinking alcohol and anti-social behaviour could create a safety issue for children rightfully using the pathway and bridleway

Yours faithfully

Roy Weedon Clerk to Stanstead Parish Council Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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Name: SPPR	
Address: High Corner: The Gren	
Email:	

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Endeavour House. 8 Russell Road. Ipswich IP1 2BX

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Name: SAMONTHA WLIGHT

Address: 16. VALLEY VIEW

STANSTEAD

COLO AIAL.

Email:

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farm Vineyards Ltd

I am the secretary of the 10th Battalion Suffolk Home Guard Rifle and Pistol Club, the entrance to which is located just off in Blooms Hall Lane. On Sunday mornings and (in the summer months) on Wednesday evenings, the village end of the Blooms Hall Lane (which is particularly winding and steep) is used by members of the rifle club to get to the rifle club; for reasons of practicality and in order to avoid drawing attention to the firearms they bring to the club, almost all of these members drive to the club down Blooms Hall Lane which is the only means of access. I have been using the lane for over 60 years now and know of quite a few collisions that have occurred there, including one involving my own Father, and these were collisions involving people very familiar with the narrow lane.

I object to this application. I believe the grant of a licence would give rise to a public nuisance.

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Yours Faithfully

Stephen Richardson

45, Swanfield, Long Melford, CO10 9EY

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

I am writing to register my objection to this Application.

This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a significant public nuisance, which will adversely effect the existing rights of members of the public, living, working or carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the Premises.

To be clear, my objection is not based on infrastructure or traffic issues, but rather that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance, one of the Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track, No through road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane.

Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to a public nuisance and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance would include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

Yours faithfully	<i>(</i> ,
Name:	SUSAN SPICED
Address:	3 WINDMILL PLACE
	STANS THAT
Email:	

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Nama: Il PTENNY FORFANCE
Address: POND COTTAGE,
THE GREEN
STANSTEAD

Email:

Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farm Vineyards Ltd I object to the Applicant's application for a premises licence.

My objection is made on the grounds that, if a licence were to be granted, the licensable activities on the premises would,

- a) Endanger public safety on the premises, on the bridleway through and to Mount Farm Vineyards and in Blooms Hall Lane,
- b) Cause a significant public nuisance, which would adversely affect the existing rights of members of the public living, working, or carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the premises, and,
- c) Give rise to crime and disorder.

Granting a premises licence to premises which are more than a mile down a single track lane barely 8 feet wide, that is heavily used by local residents and members of the public on foot and on horseback and which must be used by some local residents to reach their own homes, cannot possibly promote the licensing objectives. The proposed licensable activities will inevitably and directly cause public safety and public nuisance issues and interfere with the lawful right of passage of existing users of the lane and bridleway.

Overview

The land upon which the vineyards have been established was purchased by the Applicant in 2018. Prior to this purchase, the land had been the site of a free-range chicken shed/egg farm. All agricultural activity on the site ceased when the egg farmer retired, and the chicken sheds were decommissioned. The land was not sold with the benefit of any planning permission permitting a change of use and to the best of my knowledge there was not, and has never been, a retail shop or any form of licensed premises on the site.

Since 2018, the Applicants have planted a 20,000-vine vineyard and have converted the former chicken shed into a winery. They have developed a business plan which seeks to establish the vineyards as a tourist destination offering, amongst other things, vineyard tours, wine tasting events and a retail outlet.

The current licensing application is made in circumstances where the Applicants must reasonably be regarded as having knowledge of the following facts:

- The only vehicular access to the premises is via Blooms Hall Lane.
- Members of the public have an established right of way, as evidenced by the Definitive Map maintained by Suffolk County Council, over the public bridleway running to and through the site.
- The only way that members of the public can access the premises is by driving over the bridleway.
- While not directly relevant to this license application, there is no planning consent permitting the operation of a retail shop or licensed premises at the vineyards.
- The four facts set out above were known to the Applicants before the vineyard was planted.

- The route of the public bridleway, and public footpath, runs along the track leading to the
 premises, and in close proximity to the outdoor seating area proposed to form part of the
 licensed premises.
- In a meeting with neighbours in December 2021, Mr Hans Engstrom acknowledged that Blooms Hall Lane was an unsatisfactory means of vehicular access to the premises.
- No attempt has been made to consult with neighbours or the wider community in relation
 to this or any previous licencing application in respect of the vineyard, and invitations from
 neighbours to discuss the application constructively have been declined.
- There is significant opposition to this application from local residents and the wider community, as evidenced by the Parish Council meeting on Monday 21 March 2022, attended by Mr Hans Engstrom and Ms Amanda Engstrom.

Since 2018, the Applicants have, at their own risk, taken steps to establish an entirely new commercial venture including the planting of vines and the construction of a winery. They have done so without first seeking the necessary planning or licensing consents to enable them to sell or serve that wine to members of the public either through online sales or by means of sales on the premises for consumption on or off the premises. Knowing that the only access to the site was unsatisfactory, they have not secured an alternative access. In these circumstances, the Applicants have exposed themselves to the commercial risk that the necessary consents may be justifiably withheld by the appropriate authorities in the exercise of their statutory duties.

The grant of a premises licence in the terms sought would, in my view, breach the licensing objectives set out in the Licensing Act 2003, as it would cause a public nuisance, endanger public safety, and encourage crime and disorder.

The intention of the 2003 Act is to prevent the operation of licensed premises in these circumstances. The Act, the Statutory guidance produced pursuant to s.182 of the Act and Babergh's own Licensing Policy, all impose a duty upon the licensing committee to uphold the licensing objectives and, in doing so, to have due regard to the existing rights of members of the public living, working, or carrying out business in the vicinity of the premises.

Most local residents, and I include myself in this number, are not opposed to local enterprise and have no desire to restrict economic activity which is of benefit to the local community, and which does not give rise to a public nuisance or loss of amenity, or otherwise infringe the existing rights of those who live, work, or go about their normal activity, in the vicinity of such businesses. In these circumstances, I believe that, subject to the imposition of satisfactory conditions relating to the fulfilment of these sales, there would be likely to be support for an application which permitted on-line sales only. Satisfactory conditions would be conditions which sought to reduce public nuisance and would be likely to include, for example, conditions seeking to control the number of delivery vehicles permitted to attend at the premises and the days of the week on which such deliveries/collections were to be permitted.

A licence limited to online sales (subject to satisfactory conditions) would permit the applicant to market and sell the wine produced on the premises, would avoid significant public nuisance, and would respect the existing rights of those living, working or carrying business in the vicinity of the proposed premises.

Save in respect of online sales, and for the reasons given above, I strongly oppose this application and ask the licensing committee to refuse it.

The detailed grounds for my objection are set out below and will be expanded upon at the licensing hearing.

Detailed grounds for objection

I object to the Applicant's application on the grounds that, if a licence were granted in the terms sought, it would,

- 1. Endanger the public safety of members of the public on and in the vicinity of the premises, on the public bridleway and in Blooms Hall Lane,
- 2. Create a public nuisance adversely affecting the existing rights of residents of Blooms Hall Lane and those members of the public living, working, or carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the premises, and,
- 3. Give rise to Crime and Disorder in the vicinity of the premises. a. The Location of Mount Farm Vineyards and the physical characteristics of Blooms Hall Lane
- b. The recent history of Mount Farm and the property now known as Mount Farm Vineyards
- c. The background to the Applicant's current Licensing Application,
- d. The legal framework under the Licensing Act 2003, and,
- e. The grounds of objection.

The public nuisance referred to at paragraph 2 above would include, but not be limited to, noise pollution, environmental pollution, litter and the interference or obstruction of members of the public in the safe exercise of their legal rights, including their rights under Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

In setting out the detailed basis for my objection, I deal with the following issues,

a. The location of Mount Farm Vineyards and the physical characteristics of Blooms Hall Lane Mount Farm Vineyards are located in open countryside at the end of Blooms Hall Lane in the Parish of Shimpling. The tranquil countryside in the vicinity is of particular interest and attraction to local riders and walkers (the area being given a "Special Landscape Area" designation by the District Council).

The only vehicular access to the premises is down Blooms Hall Lane, a distance of more than a mile. The entrance to Blooms Hall Lane lies within the Parish of Stanstead.

Blooms Hall Lane is a narrow, single-track road flanked by high banks, hedges, and ditches. At its narrowest point the tarmacked surface is approximately 2.5 metres wide. The lane has no pavements, no speed restrictions, no formal passing places and no streetlighting. The lane adjoins Woodhouse Wood, an historic woodland, and designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. The wood is home to a herd of fallow deer who wander into the road at will and often cross the lane without any warning. The Wood, and indeed the whole of the lane, is a biologically diverse and ecologically sensitive area.

In the spring the hedgerows along the lane provide nesting sites for many different varieties of native birds. Between 1 March and 1 September there are legal limitations placed on the ability of landowners to flail these hedgerows and verges and, accordingly, the vegetation reduces visibility for motorists and others using the lane.

In the winter the lane regularly floods, and the road surface is prone to potholes. Road repair budgets mean that potholes frequently go without repair for long periods, further reducing the useable width of the lane.

The physical characteristics of the lane, and the lack of any formal passing places means that if a vehicle meets another coming the other way, one or other of the vehicles will need to reverse. Depending upon the point at which the vehicles meet, one vehicle may have to reverse for hundreds of metres. Reversing can be particularly difficult in the dark and during bad weather. On certain stretches of the road, such as the hill leading to the end of the lane and Stanstead village, meeting another vehicle may involve reversing up or down a steep hill and around a blind corner, something which is challenging even for residents of the lane who have had a lot of opportunity to practice! The owners of 6 Blooms Hall Lane, Acorn House, Blooms Hall and Coppins House all have private driveways which lead directly onto Blooms Hall Lane. It is not uncommon for motorists to try to avoid the need for reversing significant distances by driving onto this private land, causing damage and inconvenience to the residents of these properties. *In fact, it is not possible for two cars to pass each other at any point on Blooms Hall Lane, without one of those vehicles driving on/over private property.*

Finally, Blooms Hall Lane grants access to a network of public footpaths and leads to the only Public Bridleway in the village.

Because of its historically quiet and tranquil nature, Blooms Hall Lane has been and continues to be frequently and regularly used by local residents to walk their dogs, take exercise and ride their horses. The importance of the lane as a community asset is demonstrated by the fact that in 2021 Stanstead Parish Council voted to protect the nature of the lane and seek its designation as a Quiet Lane. This process is being championed by local residents and is supported by Suffolk County Council through the Quiet Lanes Suffolk scheme. The designation process is currently moving forward, and it is to be hoped that it will be completed soon.

b. The recent history of Mount Farm and the property now known as Mount Farm Vineyards Prior to 2018, the site on which Mount Farm vineyards now stands was the location of a chicken shed housing free range chickens. The egg farmer, Mr Geoffrey Laflin, did not live on site. Eggs produced by Mount Farm were packed in trays by Mr Laflin and members of his family, and twice a week a large egg lorry came and collected the eggs, which were subsequently sold to the public by various major supermarkets. The days on which the egg lorry visited the farm were known to residents of the lane who were then able to take steps to avoid it. Other than the egg lorry, the egg farm generated a very limited volume of traffic.

In 2018, Mr Laflin retired. The chicken sheds were decommissioned and all agricultural activity on the site ceased. Following Mr Laflin's retirement, the land on which the chicken shed stood was sold to the Applicants. Subsequently, the Applicants have planted a commercial vineyard consisting of, in the region of, 20,000 vines and have converted the former chicken shed into a winery. I understand that the Applicants intend to plant a further 5,000 vines by 2023.

In addition, two of the former agricultural buildings on the site have been converted into dwellings. It is understood that three separate households are now living on the site and a static caravan is also in use by seasonal workers. Accordingly, in the last 4 years, the vineyards site has expanded from being a site with an egg farm (generating little traffic) to a site with a substantial winery, seasonal workers and several new residences. This additional residential occupation of the site has led to an inevitable increase in traffic volumes in the lane in addition to the traffic involved in the establishment and running of the vineyard and winery.

The Applicant has advised local residents that the intention is to produce approximately 40-50,000 bottles per annum once the vines are fully mature. There is no reason to suppose that the traffic required to service the vineyard and winery will diminish in time, nor that traffic associated with the domestic dwellings will reduce. This level of traffic is already putting strain on the lane. A further issue which is relevant to the committee's deliberations relates to the Bridleway which runs through Mount Farm. The Definitive Map maintained by Suffolk County Council currently shows

this as running through the garden of one of the dwellings occupied by the Engstrom family and then alongside the outside seating area proposed to be established as part of the licensed premises. The route of the bridleway is currently obstructed by a newly installed gate to which a sign has been affixed. The sign requests that members of the public refrain from exercising their legal rights to use the bridleway and suggests an alternative route. At the time of writing, it is understood no application has been made for the deviation of the route shown on the Definitive Map and no consultation about any such change has been undertaken. Accordingly, the route of the public bridleway currently runs through the vineyard site in the immediate vicinity of the premises as defined in this Application and members of the public have a legal right to use that route on foot, on horseback or by bicycle.

c. The Background to the Applicant's current Licensing Application

On 24 November 2021 an application was made by Mr Hans Engstrom and his daughter, Ms Amanda Engstrom, for a premises licence in respect of Mount Farm Vineyards. The Applicants' address was given as Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead.

The licensable activities for which the licence was sought included the screening of films, the performance of live and recorded music, the provision of late-night refreshment, the hosting of weddings and other events, and the sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises. The licensing hours were seven days a week, from 10.00 until 23.00 Sunday – Thursday and until 1.00am on Fridays and Saturdays, with extended licensing hours until 3.30 am on New Year's Day. The then Applicants did not inform their immediate neighbours of their plans before submitting the application and there was no attempt to engage in any constructive discussion or to try and find common ground with village residents.

During a discussion with neighbours on 12 December 2021, Mr Engstrom acknowledged that Blooms Hall Lane was unsatisfactory as a means of vehicular access to Mount Farm Vineyards and informed them that he was negotiating an alternative means of access which would allow visitors to the Vineyard to access the site via the Parish of Shimpling rather than down Blooms Hall Lane from Stanstead.

The November application aroused huge concern in the area, not just from those living in the immediate vicinity of the site, but from the residents of the wider Parish, and many others. In the light of the concerns voiced by village residents, the Stanstead Parish Council called an Extraordinary Public meeting, which took place on Monday 20 December 2021.

The meeting was not attended by either Mr or Ms. Engstrom, but to avoid "any inaccuracies" during the meeting, the Engstroms provided the Parish Council with extracts from what was described as their "Mission Statement" – See Appendix 1 – on the basis that copies of this document would be distributed to those attending the meeting.

The mission statement did nothing to allay residents' concerns in respect of the Application. On the contrary, the mission statement revealed the Engstroms' plans to host regular events throughout the year, to set up a Ramblers' and Riders' Café, to run Pop up Dining events at the site, and to erect tourist accommodation on the site.

In the light of the information provided by the Engstroms, and the concerns voiced by those at the meeting, the Parish Council unanimously voted to oppose the Engstroms' Licensing Application and a written objection was subsequently submitted.

In total more than 20 written representations were lodged with the Licensing Authority. The objections included a petition signed by more than 80 local and village residents.

A date was set for the Licensing Hearing on Tuesday 25th January and a Public Document Pack was circulated. However, on 20 January 2022, the Applicants' application was withdrawn and the hearing was therefore cancelled.

Subsequently, on 15 March 2022, a fresh application was made for a premises licence at Mount Farm Vineyards. The Applicant is named as Mount Farm Vineyards and their address is given as Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead. This is the application currently under consideration by the Committee.

The application seeks a licence for the sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises. The licensable activities identified include online sales, a Farm Shop, wine tastings with food/snacks – both indoors and outdoors - and Vineyard tours.

It is disappointing to note that, once again, no attempt was made to consult with, or try to reach any sort of common ground with, local residents. Indeed, offers from neighbours to meet the applicants to discuss the matter in the hope of finding common ground were refused. We understand that a meeting took place at Mr Engstrom's home on 10 March 2022 between Mr Engstrom, Mr Roy Weedon, the Stanstead Parish Clerk, Mr David Finch, the Chairman of the Stanstead Parish Council and Mr Richard Kemp, the Councillor for Long Melford, following which Ms. Amanda Engstrom provided Mr Finch with a copy of the revised, although unsigned, application.

At a Parish Council Meeting in Stanstead on Monday 21 March, the Chairman of the council advised those present that no consultation had taken place during this meeting and that Mr Engstrom had simply outlined the details of the new application, a copy of which was then supplied to Mr Finch/Mr Weedon for information.

d. The Legal Framework

The legislation governing the grant of a premises licence by a licensing authority is set out in the Licensing Act 2003.

Section 4 of the 2003 Act provides that a licensing Authority must carry out its functions under the Act, with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives. These licensing objectives are the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

Section 4(3) further provides that, in carrying out its licensing functions, the licensing authority must also have regard to,

- a) its licensing statement published under section 5, and
- b) any guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 182.

Section 5 provides that every licensing authority must, in respect of each five-year period, determine its policy with respect to the exercise of its licensing functions, and publish a statement of that policy before the beginning of the relevant five year period.

Babergh's Licensing policy is currently set out in their Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 – 2026.

Section 1.5 of the current Babergh policy states that,

"In exercising its licensing functions...the Licensing Authority will primarily focus on the direct impact of the licensable activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the locality of the licensed premises..."

a) Helping to encourage and support strong and inclusive communities that balance the rights of licensable businesses ... and local residents."

Section 1.6 continues,

"The area impacted by the presence of licensed premises *is a question of fact* and will depend upon the particular circumstances of each case."

Furthermore, Section 1.7 provides that,

"The aims of this Statement of Licensing Policy include:

In considering the written and oral representations made by those opposed to this application, the licensing committee will need to consider whether the various nuisances complained of by objectors are such as to amount to a "public nuisance" within the meaning of the act.

Paragraph 2.16 of the S.182 guidance provides as follows,

"Public nuisance is given a statutory meaning in many pieces of legislation. It is however, **not** narrowly defined in the 2003 Act **and retains its broad common law meaning**. It may include in appropriate circumstances the reduction of the living and working amenity and environment of other persons living in the area of the licensed premises. Public nuisance may also arise as a result of the adverse effects of artificial light, dust, odour, and insects or where its effect is prejudicial to health."

As a matter of common law, public nuisance is held to be, "any act not warranted by law (or the omission to discharge a legal duty) if the effect of the act or omission is to endanger the life, health, property or comfort of the public, or to obstruct the public in the exercise or enjoyment of rights common to all Her Majesty's subjects." This definition was approved in the House of Lords case Rimmington; Goldstein [2005] UKHL 63.

In determining whether a state of affairs amounts to a public nuisance the licensing committee are bound to take all the circumstances of the particular case into account. Any suggestion that it is only noise, odour, litter, waste or street fouling that can amount to a public nuisance under the act is simply wrong. This assertion is supported by Babergh's own document of licensing policy, paragraph 14.4.2 of which says, in terms,

"The Licensing Authority interprets "public nuisance" in its widest sense."

Whilst public nuisance *may* include issues such as noise, odour, litter, waste or street fouling, it is clear that the parliament did not intend public nuisance to be limited in this way. The licensing committee has a discretion to decide whether, based on representations made, the issues raised would indeed amount to a public nuisance.

I would also mention that the question of whether a nuisance is taking place in the vicinity or locality of licensed premises, is also something that is to be determined on the particular facts of the case and the term "vicinity" is not determined merely by distance.

Finally, in relation to whether traffic issues can be relevant issues for Licensing Act purposes, they clearly can. For example,

- Babergh's own statement of licensing policy recognises that in appropriate circumstances traffic can be relevant (see para 5.1 which refers to "traffic congestion and/or parking difficulties").
- Most licensed events will require a traffic management plan, demonstrating that traffic going to or from licensable activities may be a valid consideration.

e. Grounds for Objection

This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would,

- (a) Endanger the public safety of members of the public on and in the vicinity of the premises, on the public bridleway and in Blooms Hall Lane;
- (b) Create a public nuisance adversely affecting the existing rights of residents of Blooms Hall Lane and those members of the public living, working, or carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the premises, and
- (c) Give rise to Crime and Disorder in the vicinity of the premises In relation to public safety, my objection is based upon:

- The risks to members of the public using Blooms Hall Lane (especially those on foot or horseback) from vehicles going to Mount Farm Vineyards for the purposes of the licensable activities. The risk from additional vehicles using a narrow lane with steep banks and no pavements are obvious. (The physical characteristics of the lane mean that it is not possible to pass a horse or pedestrian whilst maintaining the two-metre distance required following recent changes to the highway code.)
- My concern that, were there to be an incident at Mount Farm Vineyards requiring attendance by emergency services, the limited access would give rise to a risk to the safety of members of the public attending the premises.
- The fact that the safety of those on the bridleway through Mount Farm, especially where it runs right beside the proposed licensed premises, would be put at risk by the proposed licence (a particular concern being the safety of those riding horses, whose mounts might be startled by the presence of cars on and near the bridleway and of Mount Farm Vineyards patrons eating and drinking in the outdoor eating area).
- In relation to public nuisance, the direct impact of the proposed licensable activities taking place at the licensed premises will include:
- Nuisance to those living nearest to Mount Farm this would include, noise, pollution etc from cars and other vehicles arriving and departing, car doors closing, cars starting, cars manoeuvring, guests eating and drinking at the premises (in particular in the outdoor seating area), guests on vineyard tours, etc. This nuisance may infringe residents' existing rights under the Human Rights Act 1998 in that it would breach the existing rights to respect for their homes and their rights to peaceful enjoyment of their property. This would be exacerbated by the very rural character of the area.
- Nuisance to those using the bridleway and footpath running through and to Mount Farm Vineyards noise, pollution, etc as in 1 above, plus safety issues since vehicles and users of the bridleway would share a single track;
- Nuisance to those who must use Blooms Hall Lane to access their houses or who use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance of vineyard traffic would include noise, environmental pollution, and littering. In addition, because of the broad meaning of public nuisance, the nuisance would include for pedestrians, having to avoid traffic by taking evasive action, climbing banks, etc; and for cars, having to reverse, etc. The public has an existing right over the highway (which includes Blooms Hall Lane and the bridleway). That right is an existing right of public passage, that is to say a "right for all Her Majesty's subjects at all seasons of the year freely and at their will to pass and repass without let or hindrance" (Halsbury's Laws of England 4th edition volume 21 para one page 9). The increase in vehicles in Blooms Hall Lane and on the bridleway from the proposed licensable activities would be a nuisance interfering with that existing right and would extend to the whole length of the lane;
- Nuisance to those who own property bordering Blooms Hall Lane whose driveways are used as passing places by those using the lane, the nuisance being damage to those driveways. In relation to that point, any suggestion that traffic using Blooms Hall Lane cannot amount to a nuisance because it is a public highway fails owing to the point that traffic going to Mount Farm Vineyards will in practice use private driveways (e.g. at 6 Blooms Hall Lane, Coppins, Acorn House, and Blooms Hall) in order to pass; the use of those driveways as passing places is not the use of the highway and is a nuisance.

• Nuisance in the form of pollution affecting the bio-diversity of this sensitive location and increased carbon emissions. In particular the committee should have regard to whether any adverse effects to local bio-diversity and increases in carbon emissions would be in direct breach of the Suffolk County Council's responsibilities and stated policies in this regard.

Finally in relation to nuisance and public safety, there is nothing in the application that restricts the scale of the proposed operation. It is presented as if it will be small scale, but there is nothing to restrict scale at all. The application could lead to 100s of visitors every day to Mount Farm Vineyards.

Conclusion

The premises are situated in a quiet and scenic location, surrounded by sites of special scientific interest. Residents have made their homes here because they enjoy the peaceful nature of the locality, the fresh air and access to the network of footpaths and the bridleway. The Applicant is seeking permission to establish licenced premises in circumstances where to do so will give rise to very significant public safety issues in Blooms Hall Lane and on the public bridleway and to public nuisance affecting more than a mile of ecologically sensitive Suffolk countryside and will destroy the special character and nature of the area around the site. Encouraging people to drive down Blooms Hall Lane for the purposes of visiting the premises, and in many cases drinking alcohol, is plainly contrary to the public interest and will cause significant public safety and public nuisance. For all these reasons the application should be refused, save as it relates to online sales (subject to satisfactory conditions).

Yours faithfully

Judith Lyons, Blooms Hall, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Suffolk, CO10 9AY

Appendix 1 – Mission Statement Pages 1 – 3

Mount Farm Vineyards Hospitality

As a part of our agricultural activities as a vineyard, with subsequent production of grapes grown at the premises in to wine, we will bottle, market and sell those in part at the premises.

Premises

Tasting and event room with kitchen facilities in parts of the winery building. Sufficient parking facilities for staff and visitors. 3 x prospective 2 bed cabins/tents for wine tourists.

Opening and events

- 1. Regular cellar door opening times (strictly for sales and tastings) Tuesday-Saturday 10.00-17.00.

 2. Four events annually Great British Rose Week, including launch party of our brand this year at Easter weekend; English Wine Week and Midsummer end June; Harvest celebration Oct or Nov; and Christmas Market mid-December.

 3. Pop up restaurant with guest chefs and wine tasting (invitation only) Frequency 4 times annually. Might co-inside with events stated previously.

 4. Live music This would co-inside with events stated previously and include as an example a string quartet, jazz trio or similar.

 5. Movie night This will co-inside with events previously stated.

 6. Late night refreshments This will co-inside with events previously stated that may run past 11pm and require hot food or snacks.

 7. Riders and Ramblers Cafe Tasting room opening seasonally Saturday and Sundays between 10.00-14.00. May include but not limited to spring/summer months.

 8. Tourism Groups of max 6 people to stay at the premises by means of tent or cabin over the course of a week. Frequency of groups 5 annually. (NB these may coincide with events previously stated)

Visitor estimations

We have gathered statistics from WineGB and other venues and based our estimations accordingly.

- 0-5 vehicles per day, 0-10 visitors where in line with our sustainable ethos we would encourage visitors to arrive by foot, bicycle or horse.
 5-20 vehicles per event. 5-100 visitors where in line with our sustainable ethos we
- would encourage visitors to arrive by foot, bicycle and horse. We would supply local minibus shuttle if a higher demand.
- Same as point 2 above. N/A
- 4.

- N/A
 N/A
 N/A
 N/A
 O-5 vehicles and 0-20 visitors where in line with our sustainable ethos we would encourage visitors to arrive by foot, bicycle or horse.

 1 vehicle per day as this is catered for via shuttle, foot, bicycle and horse. 5. 6. 7.

Mount Farm Vineyards Marketing and Sales

As a part of our agricultural activities as a vineyard, with subsequent production of grapes grown at the premises in to wine, we will bottle, market and sell those in part online, to wholesalers, and by in-house distribution.

Premises

Warehouse and shop in parts of the winery. Sufficient parking facilities for staff and in-house distribution van.

Opening

- 1. Online sales 24hours to be facilitated during normal opening hours.
- 2. Phone orders and wholesalers during normal opening hours*.

Distribution estimations

We have gathered statistics from WineGB and other venues and based our estimations accordingly. Please note in line with our sustainable ethos, we will ship courier deliveries at one dedicated delivery day per week.

- 1. 1 delivery van per week.
 0-7 local next/same day deliveries with in-house distribution vehicle.
- *Phone orders to be handled by shop personel as per mentioned in hospitality document.

Mount Farm Vineyards Management and Production

As a part of our agricultural activities as a vineyard, with subsequent production of grapes grown at the premises into wine, we will grow grapes, produce, bottle and label our wine at the premises.

Premises

- 1. Vineyard at the land
- 2. Winery with tanks and machinery
- Garage and workshop with agricultural machinery and materials
 Convenient facilities for staff including overnight facilities for temporary workers
- 6. Parking for agricultural staff 0-4 per day seasonal dependent

Opening

- 24hours per day
 24hours per day
 24hours per day

Normal working hours 8:00-16:00 however is not limited to this based on vineyard and winery requirements throughout the season.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to register my objection to this Application. Although I do not live in the vicinity, I regularly stay with my parents who do. When I visit them, I to walk on the footpaths, bridleway and lane to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside.

This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a public nuisance and public safety issues, which will adversely effect the existing rights of members of the public in the vicinity of the Premises.

The activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance and public safety issues, licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track, no through road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane. Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the lane is used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to public nuisance and public safety issues and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on or use the lane. The public nuisance would include noise and environmental pollution caused by visitors to the Premises.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Harkness,

352 Kennington Rd London SE11 4LD

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards,

Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY -

Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

I am writing to register my objection to this application. Although I live in London most of the time, I regularly stay with my parents near the premises. When I visit them, I take exercise in the lane and on the local network of footpaths and the bridleway.

This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a significant public nuisance and will significantly impair public safety, consequently giving rise to an adverse effect on the existing rights of members of the public that live, work or pass by the vicinity of the Premises.

The activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance and public safety issues, both licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track road with poor visibility and steep banks, and without passing places or pedestrian facilities. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property, and there is no public transport nearby. If a licence were to be granted the only way that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane.

Blooms Hall Lane serves only 4 houses and the vineyard, and while present traffic volumes are very low, these low volumes are close to its capacity: drivers travelling in one direction often conflict with those in the opposite direction, resulting in delays while one person has to reverse. The lane is additionally used heavily by walkers, joggers and horse riders from the village, and taking into account the characteristics above is manifestly unsuitable to carry the traffic that would likely result from this license, giving rise to public

nuisances: noise, environmental and litter pollution; traffic congestion and damage to public infrastructure not designed to carry the traffic load imposed on it.

Public safety would be similarly impacted, with a dramatically increased risk of collisions between cars, or even involving pedestrians or horses due to the limited visibility and significant recreational use of the lane. Owing to the low traffic, crossing deer are also a significant hazard on the road at certain times of year, and unwary members of the public may not think totake precautions against this.

Yours faithfully,

Alexander Harkness, 352 Kennington Rd, London, SE11 4LD

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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To be clear, my objection is not based on infrastructure or traffic issues, but rather that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance and public safety issues, Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track, No through road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane.

Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to public nuisance and public safety issues and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance would include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

Name:	FREDA KNOX-MACAULAY
Address:	The GACON
	STANSTEAD
	SUBBURY CUIO 9AS
Email:	

Yours faithfully,

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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Yours faithfully,

Name:	S. CROLL
Address:	COPPERFICEDS,
	UPPER ST.
	STANSTCAD

Email:

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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Y		
Name: Address:	P. A. THEORENO Plover Caltage Starstead Co10 9AT	
Email:		

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to public nuisance and public safety issues and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance would include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

Name:	L. W. HammonD	
Address:	POND HOUSE	
	UPPER ST	
	STANSTEAD COID AAT	
Email:		

Vours faithfully

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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Yours faithfully,

Name:	LESSEN HELLES
Address:	FINCHES
	UPPER STREET STANSTEAD
	SUDBURY SUFFORK COID 9AU
Famail.	

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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Name: W. ARMIT

Address: CUEUCLANDS

THE HILL STANSTEAD
SUDDING COID PAP

Email:

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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Nam	MILJMHUNTER
Address:	NETHERFIELD THEHILL, STANSTEAD SUBBURY SUFFOLK
	CO10 9 AP
Email:	

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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To be clear, my objection is not based on infrastructure or traffic issues, but rather that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance and public safety issues, Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track, No through road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane.

Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to public nuisance and public safety issues and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance would include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

Name: CATODO

Address: ORCHARD HONGE

LIPPER STREET

STANSTEAD COID 9AT

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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To be clear, my objection is not based on infrastructure or traffic issues, but rather that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance and public safety issues, Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

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vanic ianinin		
	16/6-1654	
Name:	W STEVENSON	
Address:	2 TERRA COTTA PLAC	E
	STANSTERO	
	COIC 9 AT	
Email:		

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

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This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a significant public nuisance and public safety issues, which will adversely affect the existing rights of members of the public, living, working or carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the Premises.

The activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance and public safety issues, Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track, No through road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane.

Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to public nuisance and public safety issues and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance would include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Oliver

The Old Rectory Upper Street Stanstead Sudbury Suffolk CO109AT

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

I should like to register my grave concerns about, and my objection to, this Application.

My objection is made on the grounds that, if a licence were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a significant public nuisance.

This would adversely effect the existing rights of members of the public who live, work and carrying out their normal activities in the vicinity of the premises.

To be clear, my objection is **not** based simply upon infrastructure or traffic issues, but rather on the fact that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance (which I believe is one of the criteria that the Licensing Committee is obliged to consider).

The applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption both on and off the premises. These Licensable activities would include on-line sales and sales through an on-site shop, plus events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane - a single track, no-through-road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing-places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property, so, if a licence were to be granted, the only way that the licensable activities could take place would involve customers travelling both ways up and down Blooms Hall Lane.

Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that it is heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the premises would inevitably give rise to a public nuisance that would adversely effect the existing rights of those who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. This public nuisance would include the noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering that would inevitably ensue from visitors using the premises.

I, personally, would be directly affected by this public nuisance since I am a disabled person who regularly uses the lane for dog-walking and leisure purposes on my mobility scooter. Sadly, the nearby public footpaths aren't always fully accessible, especially in winter conditions, so the Lane is a unique and valuable resource for me. Vehicular access to the proposed licenced premises would physically preclude me from using this much-loved local amenity. I would also feel personally vulnerable being alone on a route that is being used by people who have been visiting a licenced premises. This concern extends to the children and young people from Stanstead who often use this Lane on foot and unsupervised.

Thank you for your kind attention. I hope that my objection will be carefully considered by the Licensing Team.

Yours faithfully,

Julie Helen Thomson (Mrs) Wesleys, The Hill, Stanstead CO10 9AP

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence - Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

I am writing to register my objection to this Application.

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The activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance and public safety issues, Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track, No through road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way that the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane.

Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to public nuisance and public safety issues and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance would include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

Yours faithfully,

Graham R Lee.

Name: Graham R Lee

Address: Ellis Barn. Upper Street, Stanstead, Sudbury. Suffolk. CO10 9AT.

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Reference/Type: Section 17/Grant of a New Premises Licence- Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BY -

Applicant: Mount Farms Vineyards Ltd

I am writing to register my objection to this Application.

This objection is made on the grounds that, if a license were to be granted, the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a significant public nuisance to users of the bridleway that runs through the premises. This bridleway has already been rerouted by the landowner, without apparent prior authorisation by the SCC PROW team.

To be clear, my objection is not based on infrastructure or traffic issues, but rather that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance to users of the bridleway, one of the Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tastings where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises. The plan indicates that the are where this activity would take place is adjacent to the bridleway and accessible along the route of the bridleway. There is no indication of where cars would be expected to park. If they parked in the gravelled, hard standing area adjacent to the building, they could block the bridleway and cause a nuisance to a legitimate user.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane, a single track, no-through road with poor visibility, steep banks, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a licence were granted the only way that the public can access the site is along the Lane until it's dead end, and then along a section of bridleway, fenced along both sides except where house driveways lead off it. No provision has been made

to ensure my safety as a horse rider or walker in this section, given that many of the visitors may have no reason to expect that they are sharing the road with horse riders and dog walkers.

In addition, given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is also heavily used by village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to a public nuisance and would adversely effect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purposes of exercise and recreation. The public nuisance would include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

The letter from the consultants GH Bullard suggests that the SCC PROW team have been consulted and are in agreement with the rerouting of the bridleway, although there is no record of this on the public record available on the internet. The original course of the bridleway, behind the farm buildings now converted to houses, rather than in front would be a safer alternative to the route which the landowner has asked the public to use for the last 2 years although it would involve going through 2 five-bar gates which is less than ideal. Indeed the deer proof gate at the other end of the vineyard, while technically usable by horse riders is difficult to open and close and I know of at least one rider who no longer uses the bridleway because they can't operate it. Plus, even if the original route was used, it would still involve riding or walking near the proposed selling area.

I would urge you to consider carefully whether this application is suitable for this site.

Yours faithfully,

Caroline Robinson

Gatefields Meadow, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds, IP294EX

Date: 4th April 2022

Ref: Mount Farm Vineyard

RE Application for premises licence at Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane Stanstead, CO10 9BY

Wine tastings/ vineyard tours, serving of alcohol food and snacks.

My main objections are under the prevention of public nuisance, public safety, protection of children from harm and for environment issues that may cause harm to wildlife and endangered species.

PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

Light Pollution – Harmful for night sky and nocturnal endangered species and annoyance to neighbourhood.

Outdoor events could cause light pollution of which may cause obtrusive light of which I think is not suitable for the location. Apart from it may be classed as a source of annoyance to the neighbourhood it can be very harmful to the wildlife and undermine the enjoyment of the countryside of the night sky. At the moment, the area is intrinsically dark landscape. In particular, the dark landscape currently supports habitats for native nocturnal animals. Some of these nocturnal animals within the area are Bats, Owls, Moths, Foxes, Badgers, Hedgehogs, to name a few. Have a study been done to ensure that the endangered species will not be affected by the light pollution. As the light pollution could affect the endangered species habitat; of which could result in further decline of endangered species within Suffolk.

Noise Pollution – Harmful for horses, dogs and wildlife and causing anti-social behaviour.

The licence application is for six days a week and could be creating anti-social behaviour within the community. Party revellers would be a public nuisance within the day to nature lovers, ramblers, local people dog walkers. There are a number of footpaths, and bridleways though the land area /premises; could frighten dogs, horses, and other wild animals. This could affect the right of way for users of the footpaths and bridleway and could cause safety issues.

There will be an increase in traffic, there would also be noise pollution from vehicles

Noise pollution can affect the wildlife within the area as the communication, mating behaviour, hunting and survival instincts of animals are altered by excess noise. The noise pollution / interference can interfere with their senses and can even cause animals to become ill, especially small animals like mice and in larger animals can even develop high blood pressure due to noise pollution. Noise pollution can have a direct effect on their behaviour and wellbeing; this could affect bats, owls, badgers, and other bird of prey within the area; of which could result a decline in endangered species within Suffolk. In the area of the Stanstead Parish (inc the area of Mount Farm Vineyard ie on Blooms Hall Lane) there are various species of owls, sparrow hawks, kites, hobbies, and buzzards; bats, foxes, badgers, and other small animals of which could be affected by noise pollution – has a study been conducted to ensure these animals will be not affected by noise pollution. As we are in a valley the sound travels – so the implications of noise have wider implications. The nature and harm to the area could be vast.

Environmental Pollution

With the increase of vehicles up Blooms Hall Lane there will be wide range of gases and solid matter which increases global warming, is harming the environment and to human health. (Co2 emissions, source of air and water pollution) This could affect humans, animals, and the wildlife within the area. There could and increase of litter of which could be harmful for the environment and to the cost of the Parish of Stanstead as the only access area is up Blooms Hall Lane. Environment pollution caused by the licence will be public nuisance. For a pop-up restaurant, food operators are only going to be up-there if it is profitable there will be a significant increase in people of which would increase the traffic to the property up a single-track lane. Have any predictions in visitor numbers. been provided? In-order, to establish what the increase in emissions would be? Without the adequate road pull-in car would be reversing long distances, waiting in residential drives with their cars running and as it is a single-track road could cause more environmental pollution. At the Parish Council Meeting a resident who has a property at Blooms Hall Lane indicated that her drive was being used as a pull-in and sometimes they pull in her down drive to wait. This would increase the CO2 emissions more for all residents at the bottom of Blooms Hall Lane.

Public Nuisance to parked cars inc Public Safety

Visitors may try to park down Blooms Hall Lane and block access to farm tracks and other neighbour access areas. Blooms Hall Lane is a single-track road of which holds no yellow or other non-parking stipulation. A parked vehicle would make it impossible for emergency vehicles to access the area and could endanger life and again cause a public nuisance.

Public Nuisance increase number of cars inc Public Safety up Blooms Hall Lane Bloom Hall Lane is a single-track road which becomes a bridleway and any increase in traffic would make it almost impossible for emergency vehicles to attend the premises or neighbouring premises in a prompt manner creating a danger to people attending the venue and for neighbouring premises. The lane is used by ramblers, local people, dog walkers and horse riders therefore the increase in traffic will be danger to all concerned. With the high banks children and vulnerable adults would have an increased risk as there are no pathways and restricted moving out the way of cars due to high banks. The few pull-ins on the single-track road would be filled with cars of which would the cause obstructions to traffic. There are no paths or any parking restrictions. Have any risk assessments been completed for this application?

Increase in traffic would create a public nuisance and a danger.

Public Safety Issue

The licence application is for six days a week potentially creating anti-social behaviour of which could create a public safety issue.

There are several footpaths and bridleways that lead to the property and through the designated licencing area of which is used by rambles, local people, dog walkers and horse riders. Numerous customers drinking alcohol and anti-social behaviour would be a public nuisance to the rightful users of the pathway and bridleway.

By restricting access to a footpath or bridleway by obstructions/ excess noise could cause a public safety issue.

Excess noise or an obstruction to a rider on a public bridleway, could cause the general public harm: - to the visitors of the Vineyard or to the rider, to walkers and/or to a less mobile vulnerable adult or children. Has an evaluation/risk assessment been carried out to ensure all public safety issues have been identified and will be adhered too! (This risk assessment should be done for the existed public highway)

For the rights of vulnerable adults or children all rights under the Equality Act, to ensure that the rights of the Public Ways (Bridleway and footpaths) are adequate within an area of visitors drinking alcohol.

If a pop-up food venue is operating / with wine tasting- there must be predicted visitor numbers available. By issuing the licence where visitors drinking alcohol within access of a bridleway/footpaths that lead to the property and through the designated licensing area – there is going to be a public safety issue.

Any diversion of the public highway (Bridleway / Footpath) should be done via Suffolk County Council. Suffolk County Council should be informed if the licence issued by Babergh District Council could have issues for Suffolk County Council and the safety on public rights of way. I believe that an official diversion of the bridleways/footpaths has not been submitted?

Would it be prudent for Council Inspector(s) to ensure that all rules have been adhered with full liaising and cooperation with the matter of mutual concern? – Public Nuisance, Public Safety and the protection of vulnerable adults and children from harm. An inspector from Babergh District Council and from Suffolk County Council Highways should be consulting together to ensure that Public Safety and all Rights are met. Will the safety of the public be impaired by issuing the licence and cause the reduction of rights and access of public rights of way and if a single-track road with not enough adequate pull-in's would cause an emergency police/fire/ambulance failure to attend an emergency – Thus resulting in the public being put at a higher risk of harm for visitors of Mount Vine Yard, residents within Blooms Hall Lane and all public that uses the road. The single track road is one way in and one way out.

I have been informed that a large amount of people has protested on this in a petition and the petition have been objected by Licencing. Please could you inform me if this is true and on what grounds.

When the licence was applied to before there was over 89 objections just from one petition with other valid letters; of which was accepted. The parish council meetings were empty and now full of members of the village against the licence.

The Vineyard is situated within Shimpling Parish Council; however, the access road is via Bloom Hall Lane within Stanstead Parish Council and effects the Parish of Stanstead. All applications for licences, highways or planning should be given to both Parishes.

Please can you confirm receipt of this complaint.

Yours faithfully Mary Warne

4 Valley View, Stanstead, Sudbury CO10 9AR

Premises: Mount Farm Vineyards, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Suffolk CO10 9BY - Applicant: Mount Farm Vineyards Limited

I am writing to register my objection to this Application.

This objection is made on the grounds that if a License were to be granted the licensable activities on the Premises would inevitably give rise to a significant public nuisance which will adversely effect the existing rights of members of the public who live, work or carry out their normal activities in the vicinity of the Premises.

To be clear my objection is not based on infrastructure or traffic issues but rather that the activities on the premises will give rise to a public nuisance, one of the Licensing objectives that the Licensing Committee is bound to consider.

The Applicants are seeking a Premises Licence permitting the sale of alcohol to the public for consumption on and off the premises. The Licensable activities for which a licence is sought include online sales, sales through an on-site shop and events such as wine tasting where people would be consuming food and drink on the premises.

The premises are situated at the end of Blooms Hall Lane which is a single track Lane, is a No Through Road, with poor visibility. There are steep banks either side, no pavements, no passing places and no street lights. Blooms Hall Lane is the only means of vehicular access to the property. If a license were to be granted the only way the licensable activities could take place is if members of the public travel down Blooms Hall Lane.

Given the physical characteristics of the Lane, and the fact that the Lane is in daily use by the village residents, the licensable activities on the Premises will inevitably give rise to a public nuisance and would adversely affect the existing rights of all those people who either live on the Lane or use it for the purpose of exercise and recreation as this Lane gives access to the network of footpaths and bridal ways in the surrounding area.

The public nuisance would also include noise pollution, environmental pollution and littering caused by visitors to the Premises.

Yours faithfully,

Julia Christopherson. 1 Windmill Place, Stanstead. CO10 9SY

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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You	
Name:	JEBARTIAN BROOMS
Address:	S BLOOMS HALL LAME STANSTEAD SUFFOLL COLO 9BY
Email:	

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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You faith	£.11.
Name:	A. Flaner
Address:	4 Blooms How LANS
	STANSIEAR
	CO10 93-1
Email:	<u>.</u>

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Yours faithfully,
PETE CINN

Name: PETER GINN

Address: 4 BLOMMS HALL

STANSTEAD COID 9BY

Email:

I have lost 3 cats & speeching Cars clown Blooms Hall care. We do not need were tryller

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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Name:	Marman Squimell	
Address:	Z blooms Hall Lune	
	Stanstead Suffolk	
		
Email:		

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Name: Junan Elleson Ho Address: Lymnan Lyken Ho Long Melford

Email:

Yours faithfully,

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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Name:	Riuls Johnston
Address:	3 BLOOMS HALL LAWE
	Worke STANISTAND
	SUPFORK COID 9/37
Email:	

Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

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tours rainni		
Name:	JACKIE CLOVER	
Address:	PEALOCK Prion	
	OLD RECTORY CARE	
	SHIMPLING 1829 440	
Email:	<u></u>	

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Yours faithf	ully,	
TUNET	H a ARTHUR HOMES	
Name:		
Address:	CHABBOOK SHIMPLINE 1929 4HF	
	SHIMLING	
	1/29 4HF	
Email:		

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Mark Green House

Address:

Email:

To: Licensing Team, Babergh District Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

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I believe there are also danger / safety issues to be taken into consideration too, as the single track access road is so narrow, with high banks. Pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists are likely to face considerable increased risk.

Simon Pardoe and Family, Barnfield, Upper Street, Stanstead Full address: Simon Pardoe, Barnfield, Upper Street, Stanstead CO10 9AU

I am writing to register my objection to this Application.

Please disregard any previous objection from myself.

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This application is looking to hold events at the site, sales to the general public, wine tastings, cellar door shop along with

food and alcohol. This could result in any number of members of the public attending these premises.

I am concerned that if this goes ahead, it will become a bridleway that is unsuitable to ride for myself (I am disabled and

riding my horses is one thing I can do) and my young grandson who I lead from my horse. With more traffic on a single

track road, and more people milling about over the bridleway I feel that it will become dangerous for me to use, and it's

one I ride regularly to save on going on the roads.

Also with the new rules of the Highway Code, which states cars must past horse under 10mph and 2 Mtrs distance from

the horse, how is this going to happen on a single track bridleway/road. It's bad enough now, and I normally meet 1 or 2 $^{\circ}$

cars that know the road and are driving suitably, whereas people that have never driven the road will not know to expect

walkers/riders etc, it will be a accident waiting to happen.

Please listen to the people that use that road/bridleway, it's our life's that will be at risk.

Regards

Sue Salmon

Thin Acre

The Street

Shimpling

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk, IP29 4HS

By Email to licensingteam@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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Name:

Address:

1633 17M

Email: