

Dear Mr. Weaver - I am writing this letter in respect of one particular aspect of the above planning application that is causing me serious concern, namely, the inclusion of overnight camping for wedding guests.

What with climate change, hot dry summers, long lasting droughts and the potential for wildfires, as happened in 2022 all over the UK, possibly 2023 as well, it strikes me as the height of folly to imagine that wedding guests who stay on to camp overnight can, each and everyone of them, be trusted to behave responsibly when it comes to fire risk. Many of them will have consumed large quantities of alcohol during the day long wedding celebrations, and will not be capable of, or in the mood to suddenly become serious, sober and sensible. I am aware written instructions are given to each guest banning camp fires, but it is unlikely that anyone will take much notice. It only takes the smallest transgression or moment of carelessness for a wildfire to start up and spread rapidly, often at ground level through leaf litter and invisible on the surface until it pops up through the undergrowth tens of metres away. A serious wildfire in Tournerbury Woods, an SSSI, would be an absolute disaster.

If permission is ever finally granted for the main and primary purpose of this planning application, ie. to legitimise the existing unauthorised wedding venue within the Tournerbury Woods SSSI, I feel very strongly that either

(a) overnight camping, in connection with weddings and other alcohol fuelled parties, should be banned altogether; or

(b) very strict controls should be an absolute pre-condition of granting planning permission. This should include fully manned, all night monitoring on site by at least two sober, non-sleeping adults who can alert the fire authorities within seconds should the need arise, and take all appropriate actions until the fire services do arrive, including ensuring the safety of all guests and personnel both asleep and awake on the wedding venue site.

I hope you will give this matter your serious consideration.