

Lucy Corrie

From:

Peter Hodkin <peter@hodkin.org>

Sent:

29 May 2025 21:59

To:

Lucy Corrie; pspo

Cc: Subject: Paul Turner; Jane Barker; Nick Hurley RE: PSPO Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead. MSDC Voluntary Code of Conduct

Follow Up Flag:

Follow up

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Dear Lucy

Thank you for your letter.

On the face of it the suggested voluntary code of conduct by the protestors would be an acceptable alternative to the PSPO, provided of course that it was always adhered to.

Unfortunately, I very much doubt that the protestors will agree. You will recall that we tried to do this ahead of the IAS Event last October (and indeed in previous years), when, through your good offices, our client proposed a very similar code of conduct for the protestors. The Church's said in the email to you on 23 October 2024, copied to the protest leader:

"If he and his colleagues seriously want to cause no disruption to the event and to not harass anyone they should:

- Remain in the space designated by the police for their vigil.
- Not harass, or do anything to cause alarm or distress to, visitors to the event, including by:
 - a. Videoing, live-streaming or photographing any of them:
 - b. Calling out to or otherwise interfering with them
 - c. Chanting abusive language in their presence, such as that "Scientology has to go"
 - d. Getting in their way
 - e. Engaging in hate speech"

They flatly refused to agree to any of these points.

Your code of conduct for the protestors covers the same points, and is acceptable if the protestors stay in the designated space next to the Rockwood Park wall. If they did that, your code does address all of the concerns. Most importantly it ensures that the protestors are well away from the entrance to the Church, and that people can therefore enter unharassed. It also means that the Rugby Club car park can be used again as an overflow carpark for cars, as local residents can park there and walk into the Church unimpeded.

The different points that you suggest for the Church largely describe matters that we have already have in place and agreed. It is not appropriate to include matters subject to licencing – which have their own controls and obligations – in this list, but I see no objection in principle to the other points. I would suggest the following list:

- 1. The Church (its staff, volunteers, agents and/or contractors) shall follow and comply with any instructions given by the police.
- 2. The Church shall ensure that persons providing stewarding or security services in and around its property are identifiable to members of the public by wearing high-vis jackets, armbands or similar.
- 3. The Church shall provide adequate lighting at the entrance to its premises on Saint Hill Road to ensure the safety of pedestrians and vehicles entering or exiting its premises from the public highway. The adequacy of lighting and any additional measures to make the entrance stand out (such as banners, ballons and so forth)

should be agreed with the police and MSDC in advance of an event (and/or the same lighting may be provided if previously agreed).

- 4. The Church (its staff, volunteers, agents and/or contractors) shall not attempt to enter or interfere with a space designated by the police for use by protesters whilst protesters are present within that space.
- 5. The Church (its staff, volunteers, agents and/or contractors) shall not obstruct (or attempt to obstruct) protesters from entering or exiting the area designated for their use.
- 6. The Church (including but not limited to its staff, volunteers, agents and/or contractors) shall not film or photograph protesters who remain within the space designated by the police for their use.

As I have said, however, it seems unlikely you will get agreement from the protestors as they have refused the same in prior years, and that the PSPO will therefore be necessary to eliminate the detrimental effect of the protestors' activities on local people.

Kind regards

Peter Hodkin

From: Lucy Corrie < Lucy.Corrie@midsussex.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 May 2025 17:20

To: pspo <pspo@midsussex.gov.uk>; Peter Hodkin <peter@hodkin.org>

Cc: Paul Turner < Paul. Turner @midsussex.gov.uk >; Jane Barker < Jane. Barker @midsussex.gov.uk >; Nick Hurley

<Nick.Hurley@midsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: PSPO Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead. MSDC Voluntary Code of Conduct

Dear Peter.

Please find attached a letter this Council would like you to consider.

Please respond by 29th May 2025

Kind Regards,

Lucy

Lucy Corrie
Assistant Director – Communities
Mid Sussex District Council
01444 477 028
07702 518616
lucy.corrie@midsussex.gov.uk
www.midsussex.gov.uk

Working together for a better Mid Sussex



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