

RESPONSE OF CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY TO PREMISES LICENCE REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This is the response of the Church of Scientology Religious Education College Inc ("the Church") to an application to review its Premises Licence made by Mr Alexander Barnes-Ross on 10 December 2025 (ref: LI/25/1895) for its property at Saint Hill Manor, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead RH19 4JY.

The Church of Scientology has been present in East Grinstead since Saint Hill Manor was purchased by the founder of the religion, L. Ron Hubbard in 1959. Subsequently the estate was transferred to the Church. The largest Scientology Church in the United Kingdom was built on the grounds of the estate, a building known as Saint Hill Castle. This Church is a registered public place of religious worship, and thousands of Scientologists from around the world come to it each year to practice their religion. The Church also holds a number of substantial community and family events in the Church and the Saint Hill grounds over the course of the year, which are very popular with local people, with thousands attending. The International Association of Scientologists (IAS) Annual Anniversary Event is also held at Saint Hill over three days in October each year – attended by Scientologists from around the world, which concludes with a Charity Concert also attended by many local people.

[Attachment 1- Community Events]

The current Premises License was granted in 2009 and has been amended several times since. The licence provides requirements to notify the relevant health and safety authority with details of events and activities, submit a noise management plan and, for larger events, complete full risk assessments, be in full liaison with Sussex police and appoint professional childcare. The Church complies fully with these requirements.

The only licensable activity that occurs at Saint Hill is the provision of regulated entertainment. As the provision of entertainment incidental to a religious meeting or service, or at a place of public religious worship, is specifically exempted from being regulated entertainment – there is in fact very little that occurs at Saint Hill which is a licensable activity. Much of the activity which occurs during the 3 days of the IAS event is not a licensable activity. The Charity Concert, held on the Sunday night, clearly is.

Similarly, while the Church holds several community events throughout the year, most do not involve licensable activity because they do not involve selling alcohol, providing regulated entertainment or supplying late-night refreshments.

The Designated Premises Supervisor for the last 10 years has been Colin Dyer, who is a British citizen.

At the outset I feel it prudent and relevant to provide a brief background so as to understand why this application for a review has been made by Mr Barnes-Ross. Mr Barnes-Ross lives in London, many miles away and hence he is not part of the local

community nor personally involved in any local activities. He has never attended any event or function at the Saint Hill property - beyond when he organises protests at the IAS Event. He has made it clear over the past three years that he is motivated by animus towards the Scientology religion. He has also publicly stated since he began filing complaints with authorities that his intent is to incommode the Church as much as he can.

After filing what proved to be a purely vexatious complaint with Mid Sussex Planning Enforcement, on 4 December 2023 he announced:

"I'm not just doing this as a one-off thing. I'm gonna continually, you know, keep poking."

In this complaint he asserted, that a new building at Saint Hill may not have been built in accordance with its planning permission. This was investigated by the Enforcement Officer who measured it and confirmed the building had been constructed in accordance with the approved planning documents. This wasted a great deal of time and money for both the Church and the Council, in investigating this nuisance claim.

He has posted hundreds of videos on his anti-Scientology YouTube channel, many where his repeated refrain is:

"I'm on war-footing and I'm not f---king about".

While protesting at the IAS Event this past year, on the 3rd day Mr Barnes-Ross said on his live stream:

"If only someone would call the Council to report the noise nuisance which nobody appears to be willing to do".

As part of his ongoing campaign, he has run social media campaigns targeting local and Mid Sussex Councillors as well as local charities for engaging with the Church on charity events causing a great of harassment. He has made no secret that he seeks to make a living from posting anti-Scientology material on social media and monetising it - specialising in rage bait.

The Information Commissioner's Office concluded that Alex Barnes-Ross' conduct:

"appears to have been calculated to harass and offend."

(For the sake of clarity and brevity I have attached a few pieces of evidence of this).

[Attachment 2 – Complainant background]

An integral part of his strategy is using tabloid media that specialise in "sensationalism" feeding them embellished self-serving stories, and then pretending that he did not originate them. In the absence of a real story with any substance, he generates negative material himself – with misinformation and disinformation. What he does not simply make up, is highly selected or twisted

What is stated by Mr Barnes-Ross in the current application, aside from being misleading or untrue, is not relevant to the premises licence and can only be understood in the light of Mr Barnes-Ross' overriding agenda.

He states that he is only concerned about, and singles out, the IAS Event in October, much of which does not involve licensable activities. It is held in temporary marquees erected on a field behind Saint Hill Castle. Local neighbours on Saint Hill Road are the Sports Club, Rockwood Park and the Rugby Club. The remainder is fields and woodland. There are only six houses on Saint Hill Road which is three quarters of a mile long.

The IAS event is attended by several thousands of Scientologists, nearly 50 % of whom travel from abroad to attend. This creates a significantly large boost to the local economy. As mentioned, the long weekend event also features a charity concert which is also attended by more than a thousand non-Scientologists, and through which significant sums are raised for local charities and sports clubs.

Apart from a break during COVID, the IAS event has been held every year but one in the same field, with marquees, since 2005. It has always passed smoothly with no issues or incidents of any kind.

While outside of the scope of the Premises Licence, the only issues the Church has had to contend with have been those created by Mr Barnes-Ross and his small handful of associates.

For the past three years he has organised a protest, with a small handful of anti-Scientologists, outside the Church gates on Saint Hill Road to coincide with the three days of the IAS Event. This, and only this, has required the Church to request a police presence on the road. It has also required the Church to have to increase security substantially – particularly as several of the anti-Scientologists have previously trespassed on Church property, some have criminal backgrounds and, in the case of one, who had openly called for the assassination of the Church's leader and is the subject of a Court injunction for assaulting Scientologists.

With their presence right on the doorstep of the Church, holding anti-Scientology placards and shouting and chanting loudly the intent is evident. In 2023 Mr Barnes-Ross led a regular chant calling for the complete eradication of the Scientology religion. At any opportunity as Scientologists drove or walked past, they directly shouted at Scientologists on foot and through car windows while videoing and live streaming all their activities on the internet. Security at the gate had to be tightened, which slowed down the speed at which cars could enter. This created a temporary backup of vehicles on Saint Hill Road at certain peak times.

Mr Barnes-Ross and other anti-Scientologists standing on the verge of our property and at the main entrance gate meant Scientologists on foot had to walk in the road to avoid them. The cause of any "safety hazard" was the anti-Scientologists. We received many complaints from Scientologists about being harassed and feeling unsafe entering their own church. This is what happened in 2023.

Mr Barnes-Ross and associates shouted out the names of individual Scientologists while live streaming and posting this on the internet. YouTube has taken down more than a dozen of his videos for violating the safety and privacy of our members.

In order to protect Scientologists from being harassed and videoed while entering their church, in 2024 the Church asked the Council to grant a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) – requiring the anti-Scientologists to hold their protest a little further down the road, away from the gate. The anti-Scientologists had refused to abide by police instructions to stand in an assigned location both in 2023 and again in 2024. The Council decided to monitor the situation in 2024, which resulted in somewhat better behaviour from the handful of anti-Scientologists – but they still refused to stay in a designated area and were still upsetting Scientologists arriving by foot. The extra security measures still meant some back up of traffic on Saint Hill Road at peak times.

Fortunately, the PSPO focused minds on resolving the issue, and the Highways Authority and the police agreed with us in principle to measures which would stop Scientologists being harassed at the gate. This was by creating a safe walk-way on the verge with a 6 ft high barrier. We also reorganised our traffic management and parking plan. All vehicles ingress through an entrance further down the road which led directly into the parking field. This allowed us to carry out security checks more on our property. The irony of this is that although Mr Barnes-Ross accuses us of not taking on board a suggestion of the Council to create another entrance for our members to avoid the protesters, when we did that this year, Mr Barnes-Ross moved his protest to that location which was also, further ironically, the exact location the police had designated for them over the prior two years which Mr Barnes-Ross was not satisfied with.

The combination of these measures meant that the purpose of the PSPO had been achieved. We appreciate the Council were, understandably, very reluctant to use such a measure unless absolutely necessary.

For the 2025 event we therefore were able to avoid congestion and to reduce the harassment of attendees by Mr Barnes-Ross and associated anti-Scientologists. From all reports from our attendees they felt the organisation of the event went off rather well and without a hitch.

In addressing Mr Barnes-Ross's individual points, which I do in the table below, it should be borne in mind that the three-day event he singles out only partially involves licensable activities. The Premises Licence is operating smoothly and well and that all of the licensing objectives are being met.

I have also included a Google Earth view of the area so it can be clearly seen as to what and where are the "local neighbours" in amongst the rolling fields. As a matter of standard procedure, a notice is delivered to all residents in the local vicinity days before the event that includes a dedicated phone number should anyone have any complaints or issues. We have never been called with complaints since 2014, when we engaged a new sound management company. Our local neighbours have written letters of support for the IAS Event and other events that we do because they are safe, friendly and are such benefit to the community.

[Attachment 3 – Charity support]

[Attachment 4 – Local neighbours]

I have endeavoured to deal with each of Mr Barnes-Ross' points in the table below. I have tried to do so as briefly as possible. I am happy to provide anything further that you may need. Mr Barnes-Ross seeks to create an illusion of problems where none exist. There have never been any issues with the licensable activities at Saint Hill in all of the years – despite the size of the many events that have taken place they have always been safe and well managed.

It is certainly our view that the Premises Licence in its present form is satisfactory and proper.

CLAIM	RESPONSE
Prevention of Crime and Disorder Many of the workers who are flown in to facilitate the IAS event do so under the visa waiver program or using Religious Minister visas, which stipulate the worker must be engaging in clergy work that relates to the administering of religious practice, not sales, fundraising, video production or event management.	The Immigration Act 2016 places a duty upon licensing authorities to ensure all applicants for premises and personal licences have the right to work in the United Kingdom and that licences and authorisations are not issued to persons who are unable to provide evidence of such. In this case the Licence holder is not an individual and the Designated Premises Supervisor is British. Any foreign national attending an event in the UK in any capacity has a duty to ensure that they fulfil any visa requirements. A wide range of different activities are permitted under the immigration rules, and we are not aware of any violations.
The IAS event is as its primary function a fundraising exercise for the Church of Scientology's membership body and generates millions of dollars for the organisation annually. The Patrons Ball, which typically takes place on the Saturday, is a black-tie dinner at which Scientology's donors receive trophies and awards for donating vast sums of money, as evidenced by promotional materials	Whilst this mischaracterises the IAS event, any foreign national attending an event in the UK in any capacity has a duty to ensure that they fulfil any visa requirements.

<p>published by the church after the event. Ticket prices start at \$600, and a number of staff from overseas are expected to perform tasks unrelated to the administering of Scientology's so-called religious activities, such as sales and event production.</p>	
<p>The local authority has not done due diligence to ensure those visiting the United Kingdom in order to work at this event are doing so under the correct visa/work permits, and having spoken to several ex-workers, it is clear this is a systemic, repetitive issue that has not been duly investigated.</p>	<p>As above. The local authority has no such duty.</p>
<p>In December 2025, the Church of Scientology was the victim of a ransomware attack by Russian cybercriminal group <i>Qilin</i>, who accessed and published a number of internal documents relating to the Premises Licence Holder and the IAS event held at Saint Hill. These documents include evidence a number of workers were flown from Scientology properties in Europe to work as security staff during the IAS events in 2024 and 2025 (Appendices 01A and 01B) and that at least 4 staff members were working at the property without the required work visas during the event that took place in October 2025 (Appendix-02).</p>	<p>He refers to alleged stolen documents and makes an allegation without any knowledge of the facts. Any foreign national attending an event in the UK in any capacity has a duty to ensure that they fulfil any visa requirements. A wide range of different activities are permitted under the immigration rules, and we are not aware of any violations.</p>

<p>A Freedom of Information Act request submitted to the Home Office revealed that in 2023, a total of 21 religious worker visas had been granted under sponsorship by the Premises Licence Holder (Appendices 03A and 03B). Legislation requires workers to be paid at least the minimum wage, which for a full time 40-hour work-week would have equated to £21,673 per annum. Staff at Saint Hill are members of Scientology's 'Sea Organisation' and sign one-billion-year contracts and are expected to work 7 days a week, often 14-16 hours a day with no time off. They are provided communal berthing, food and a weekly stipend of just £50 a week for their lifetime of service. Even if the holders of these visas were working just 40 hours per week, one would expect to see an increased expenditure on staff wages of £455,145 reflected in the Premises Licence Holder's annual accounts if they were being paid the National Minimum Wage.</p> <p>However, the 2023 accounts filed with Companies House (Appendix-04) show an increased expenditure of just \$294,860 AUD (£148,095 GBP) which suggests the workers at Saint Hill who have had their visas sponsored by Scientology are not being paid minimum wage, which is in breach of visa rules</p>	<p>As with the above, the allegation is wrong and misinformed.</p>
<p>Under the Immigration Act 2016, as specified under Section 3.1 of the Mid-Sussex District Council Statement of Licensing Policy, the Licensing Authority has a statutory duty to ensure licences and authorisations are not issued to "persons who are unable to provide</p>	<p>What section 3.1 actually says is: "The Immigration Act 2016 places a duty upon licensing authorities to ensure all applicants for premises and personal licences have the right to work in the United Kingdom and that licences and authorisations are not issued to persons who are unable to provide evidence of such".</p>

<p>evidence" of rights to work. There are currently no conditions on the Premises Licence which relate to overseas workers, visas or the minimum wage and for this reason, I believe greater scrutiny is required to ensure the Premises Licence Holder is meeting their obligations under UK legislation to ensure staff members visiting the UK in order to work at large-scale events, such as the IAS event at Saint Hill, are doing so with the correct visas and that they are being paid the minimum wage.</p>	<p>In this case the Licence holder is not an individual and the Designated Premises Supervisor is British.</p>
<p>The Church of Scientology has a documented history of engaging in illegal activity including the largest infiltration of the US government in its history, known as Operation Snow White. They have also been found guilty of fraud on multiple occasions in Europe and were rejected by the Charity Commission in 1999 after it ruled Scientology "does not benefit the public." The current Premises Licence allows the organisation to engage in prolific fundraising activities for an overseas entity with no checks and balances to ensure such activity is taking place lawfully and without threat, coercion and/or intimidation. It is therefore necessary for the Council to consider limiting the scale of events held on the property so as to minimise the likelihood of such illegal activities taking place, or having a widespread impact on the local economy.</p>	<p>This mischaracterises entirely old matters. In the past Scientologists had been subject to extraordinary discrimination and mistreatment by certain States. This included what can best be described as "heresy trials" – later reversed in Belgium, Italy and Spain, when Scientology was recognised as a religion.</p> <p>They were also persecuted in the USA by some government agencies, who passed on false information about them. Snow White refers to a programme in the 1970s to legally discover false reports in such files and get them corrected. There are several courts decisions confirming the legal validity of the programme. In violation of what the programme mandated, in the 1970s a small number of people engaged on this violated the law and were rightly punished. Subsequently the office responsible was disbanded completely.</p> <p>With the advent of Freedom of Information laws, the purpose of the Snow-White programme was subsequently achieved. Later, culminating in 1993, the USA</p>

	<p>Internal Revenue Service concluded the largest investigation in IRS history into all Scientology Churches, as well as Church leaders personally. The IRS found everything was fully in order and in compliance with the law, with nothing wrong with any of them, and declared all Scientology churches to be tax-exempt, non-profit public benefit bodies.</p> <p>In the United Kingdom, the Charity Commission based its 1999 decision on a decades old case where a judge had suggested that Scientology may not be a religion, concluding that the obvious public benefits that flow from religious practices were therefore not applicable.</p> <p>This decision was clearly wrong and discriminatory. Since then, the Church, which is the legal entity for all Scientology churches in England has been registered as a charity in Australia.</p> <p>In 2013 the UK Supreme Court ruled unanimously that Scientology is a religion and also found that the earlier treatment of Scientologists was “illogical, discriminatory and unjust”. Scientology teaches that the laws of the land should be followed, and as a community Scientologists are widely recognised as law abiding, moral and decent.</p>
<p>Public Safety</p> <p>During the IAS event held at Saint Hill in 2023, 2024 and 2025, inadequate measures were put in place by the Premises Licence Holder so as to protect the public, and evidence suggests there is a lack of due regard for public safety during these large-scale events</p>	<p>This is not true.</p>

<p>Although the Premises Licence Holder agreed to review its security arrangements so as to satisfy the authorities' concerns around public safety, the measures suggested in this meeting were not implemented during the 2025 IAS event. Namely, additional lighting was not implemented around the entrance to the property, an alternative entrance was not provided for pedestrian traffic that would prevent people from walking in the road and security staff did not wear hi-vis jackets.</p>	<p>There was additional lighting at the gates, an alternative entrance was effectively created by the 6ft barrier, security staff wore hi vis where necessary – although the need was much reduced by the other measures.</p>
<p>In 2025, the Premises Licence Holder was granted a Planting Licence by West Sussex Highways, which authorised the planting of 35 trees to create a hedgerow on public land directly opposite the entrance to their property. However, inspections by the Highways Authority show that a total of 105 trees were planted, leading to an unlawful obstruction of the public right of way which minimised the space available as a pedestrian refuge along Saint Hill Road. The Premises Licence Holder also erected hoarding along the Highway around the entrance to their property which, although was authorised under the assumption it would create a barrier between pedestrians accessing the site for the event and road traffic, in practice resulted in an increased number of pedestrians walking in the road in order to avoid the hoarding (Appendix-06</p>	<p>The statement regarding the planting licence is not accurate, but also irrelevant to the Premises Licence.</p> <p>The hoarding made it unnecessary for anyone walking by to walk in the road.</p>
<p>In addition to the hoarding, the Premises Licence Holder also placed planters and other obstructions on public land directly outside their entrance during the event in</p>	<p>Such planters were there on the advice of the police. They served the same purpose as the hoarding (and were covered by the same licence) in keeping Scientologists arriving by foot from being harassed by</p>

<p>both 2024 and 2025, which despite being ordered to remove by Highways, remained in place for the entirety of the weekend</p>	<p>the anti-Scientologists. As such this improved public safety.</p>
<p>This resulted in a dangerous environment which put members of the public in an unnecessary amount of danger, which is evidenced in live streams and video footage captured by protestors outside the event across the weekend at the following URLs:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhEwDUI_xzc</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSI9k4smASA</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/live/m9wVhc1eDus?si=k0GX4jCVzh8aLjkW</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/live/DhINZyCIrt0?si=xryYVC-AfyGJv2BZ</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/live/BhDKugJ2Lyc?si=IU0cw2SZICHmp0Ey</p>	<p>The measures taken ensured public safety and nothing on the videos shows otherwise.</p>
<p>For the 2025 event, West Sussex Highways implemented an emergency Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) across the weekend, reducing the speed limit on Saint Hill Road to 40mph as a result of the obstructions and resulting danger posed to pedestrians. Evidence relating to this, and demonstrating the Premises Licence Holder's lack of due regard for public safety is contained in Appendices 07, 08, 09, 10 and 12 and 13.</p>	<p>The TTRO was issued by Highways just before the event, as they said, to protect those erecting the hoarding. They left the signs up for the duration. We were grateful to them for doing so. We have requested a number of times that the speed limit for Saint Hill Road be reduced – because of the amount of foot traffic generated year-round by, not just visitors to the Church, but also the two sports clubs next door. This has always been refused as, apparently, it is necessary for there to have been an accident or two first – and fortunately that has not happened.</p>
<p>These obstructions are a direct consequence of the IAS event, which</p>	<p>In the same way that synagogues have to employ some physical barriers to protect</p>

<p>takes place on the property once a year, and must be considered as part of the Premises Licence review under Sections 5.8 and 8.4 of the Mid-Sussex District Council Licensing Policy, which states "the Licensing Authority believes a level of responsibility for customer or member behaviour clearly exists beyond the site boundary" and the Operating Schedule "should include conditions designed to mitigate the likelihood of the premises contributing to issues in the local area."</p>	<p>worshippers from abuse (and worse) from anti-Semites, we obtained a licence from the Highway Authority to protect our members from the anti-Scientologists. Public safety was improved as a result.</p>
<p>Section 18.2 states the Licensing Authority "does not regard the review process as a first resort to solve a problem. It does expect some intervention and discussion by an enforcement agency in an effort to resolve and prevent problems escalating." It is clear that intervention by the relevant enforcement agencies has so far failed to resolve the issues of public safety and over the last three years, the problems have in fact escalated. Unfortunately, the advice of MSDC based on the outcome of the PSPO (which suggested lesser measures be implemented, and for a new pedestrian entrance to be created) has been ignored, as has intervention by WSCC Highways with regard to obstructions on the public highway</p>	<p>We have taken measures, described above, in full coordination with the police, highway authority and yourselves, to ensure public safety, notwithstanding the presence of the anti-Scientologists on the road. There have been no safety issues in the licensed premises.</p> <p>The Church has made a planning application that includes improving access to the premises, in alignment with an independent transport assessment that was carried out.</p>
<p>Appendix 13 are the notes from a meeting MSDC officers held with WSCC Highways during the PSPO process, which demonstrates the public safety concerns generated as a result of the event, which have not been remedied.</p>	<p>In the absence of anti-Scientologists, there were no noted public safety concerns. People can enter and exit safely without having to take extraordinary measures to avoid being near anti-Scientologists who shout abuse at them.</p>

<p>The Premises Licence Holder has wilfully disregarded their obligations in several respects relating to public safety and it has therefore become necessary and justified for the Licensing Authority to intervene to ensure the licensing objective is met during the IAS event, either by implementing additional conditions on the licence or by restricting the size/scale of larger events on the property</p>	<p>This is nonsense.</p>
<p>It is important to note these problems relate only to the annual IAS event, which takes place once a year, and there is no evidence the licensing objective of public safety is not being met during smaller events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Light switch-on event or Summertime Swing. For this reason, I do not feel it necessary to revoke the licence entirely, but rather to place a restriction on the number of attendees permitted at events on the property</p>	<p>There have never been any issues on the licensed premises. On the road outside the issues created by the anti-Scientologists only occur during the IAS event. There are no issues at the other events, notably because there are no anti-Scientologists – they are also attended by thousands of people.</p>
<p>Under their existing Premises Licence, the Church of Scientology are required to provide the Council with at least 6 weeks' notice of events so as to allow the authorities to plan accordingly. This was raised by the Council during the PSPO process (Appendix 05), and notification was duly given in 2025 6 weeks before the event took place, however the notification did not include the actual date of the event – which was announced less than 3 weeks ahead of time. This places unnecessary strain and a burden on limited Council resources and blue light services, and so a condition that specifically requires the date of the event to be included in the 6 weeks' notification would also be justified.</p>	<p>The plan was filed in June, months in advance. There was no issue.</p>

<p>The prevention of public nuisance</p> <p>In 2025, there was widespread media coverage of the disruption caused by the IAS event to the local community:</p> <p>https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25593532.scientologists-played-bagpipe-music-east-grinstead/?ref=rss</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/nov/09/east-grinstead-hosts-scientology-uk-headquarters-event-tom</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/nov/09/east-grinstead-hosts-scientology-uk-headquarters-event-tom-cruise-cruise</p> <p>https://www.thesun.co.uk/tvandshowbiz/37207243/tom-cruise-helicopter-east-grinstead-scientologists/</p> <p>https://www.themirror.com/entertainment/tom-cruise-scientology-event-helicopter-1483477</p>	<p>There was no disruption of any kind at the 2025 event. The media was generated by Mr Barnes-Ross himself, as described above.</p> <p>There were no noise complaints at all from local people – there are in fact only a small handful of properties on Saint Hill Road. During the festivities bagpipe music is played to welcome people, but not loud enough to bother any local residents and it is monitored by an independent sound management company that is retained every year for the IAS Event. Mr Barnes-Ross fails to mention that he employed a bagpiper himself, who stood and played his bagpipes regularly through the Friday afternoon right next to Rockwood Park on Saint Hill Road. We are not aware of any complaints.</p> <p>As a significant note, on day three of the 2025 event, Mr Barnes-Ross (as seen in his live-stream on YouTube) stated that there had been no complaints to the council and then urged his followers to make complaints.</p>
<p>Unlike smaller events at the property, the IAS event is attended by thousands of people who travel from across the world in order to attend the gathering (Appendix 11). This leads to a significant increase in congestion and disruption to the locality which amounts to a public nuisance, as evidenced by photographs taken by the Council during the PSPO observation exercise during the 2024 event (Appendix 12).</p>	<p>There was no congestion at the 2025 event. As described above there was some back up of traffic at peak times in 2024, due to the heightened security checks required because of the anti-Scientologists presence. However, the measures adopted for 2025 resolved this. As noted above, other Church events are also attended by thousands of people – without problem.</p>

<p>The Premises Licence Holder has persistently engaged in activities that amount to a public nuisance during the annual IAS event over the last three years such as obstructing a highway or public right of way, excessive noise, behaviour that endangers or disturbs the community, reckless and dangerous behaviour and creating widespread annoyance.</p>	<p>The event is supported by local neighbours. Over a thousand local people attend the charity concert, and thousands attend other events through the year. None of these issues exist and we have had no complaints from our neighbours.</p>
<p>The event itself takes place in a 45,000 square foot marquee erected on the property without planning permission. In 2024, MSDC issued the Licence Holder with a Planning Contravention Notice (Appendix 14) and was assured that they would seek permission prior to the erection of the marquee for the 2025 event (Appendix 15). Scientology subsequently submitted an application for a Lawful Development Certificate in May 2025 (DM/25/1292), which was rejected on 25th July 2025. Construction of the marquee began in August 2025, leading to widespread disruption in the local area due to heavy goods vehicles and construction workers using Saint Hill Road to access the site for several weeks prior to the event taking place, and several weeks afterwards during the dismantling stages.</p>	<p>Through the years up to 2024 the IAS event was considered by both the Church and the Council to be permitted development, and, while the Church retains that view, the Council have informed the Church that while the event itself lasts only three days, the time taken to erect and dismantle the marquees should also be included in the 28 days allowed. The Church does not consider that is a correct interpretation of the law, but always works with the Council and have submitted a full planning application that will ensure the event has the required approval. That application also includes additional infrastructure to make things better for everyone using the site. A huge amount of work has gone into preparing the planning application which was submitted ahead of this year's IAS event.</p>
<p>A large car park is also created by temporarily paving over several acres of the land with plastic track-way which is visible from Saint Hill Road. The total area of disturbed land amounts to over a quarter of a million square feet.</p>	<p>There was no 'paving'. The temporary trackway protected the land. The field is used as an overflow carpark, not just for big Church events, but also the local Sports Clubs – and it can become very muddy and unpleasant in the winter months. This problem will be resolved by</p>

	<p>the current planning application. While the field is largely screened from the road and neighbouring properties, the innovative plan will ensure that it retains the appearance of a grass field and does not become muddy the year around.</p>
<p>In addition, the unauthorised construction work takes place in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and has resulted in significant damage to the land and disrupts members of the public from enjoying the peaceful, rural countryside due to its scale and visibility from Standen, Gravetye Manor and local public footpaths (Appendix 16).</p> <p>Intervention from the planning authority has not prevented this persistent problem, which creates a public nuisance, and thus justifies a review of the Premises Licence so as to consider implementing a restriction on such large-scale events from taking place on the property</p>	<p>While noting that this has nothing to do with the Premises License, it is also nonsense.</p> <p>We observe that in any event, as noted in the Licensing Act Guidance, the planning and licensing regimes are separate and subject to different considerations, and that controls should not be duplicative.</p> <p>This will be considered as part of the planning application process and as a result is a planning issue not a premises license issue.</p>
<p>Media coverage of the 2025 event includes complaints from local residents describing the “disruption” and “chaos caused by the event, and references loud, repetitive bagpipe music played by the Premises Licence Holder over loud speakers pointing at Saint Hill Road. This was noted by Council officers during the PSPO process and is described as “excessively loud” and something that “could cause a public nuisance and confusion” in section 4 of Appendix 5. Although in 2024 the volume was reduced after a request from Sussex Police, it was</p>	<p>The only complaint regarding the bagpipe music was from the anti-Scientologists. It was not as loud as the anti-Scientologists own shouting and chanting. As mentioned above, the anti-Scientologists had their own bagpiper in 2025. We are not aware of any complaints from local residents. There were only two local people amongst the anti-Scientologists standing shouting and chanting outside of our church, so we cannot rule out it was themselves.</p> <p>There was no disruption or chaos.</p>

<p>subsequently turned up again moments later and persisted across all three days, as well as in 2025</p>	
<p>The public nuisance starts at the construction of the marquee itself, not just the event weekend and as such, results in a persistent and ongoing disruption to the locality. This restricts the ability of members of the public to enjoy the countryside due to loud and intrusive noise, heavy goods vehicles and congestion from the thousands of cars that arrive at the property during a short space of time for the IAS event.</p>	<p>This is a subjective comment and the opinion of the individual making this application to review the premises license. There is no substance provided in this comment.</p> <p>There was also no particular disruption. There are no public footpaths in the immediate vicinity of the event, the field is well shielded and a long distance from any residences. There was no congestion or loud intrusive noise.</p>
<p>Although it may be argued disruption caused by the unauthorised construction work is a matter for the planning department, it is important to consider that it only occurs as a result of the event as the marquee is built to facilitate and host the IAS event. It is therefore a direct consequence of the event, which is currently permitted under the Premises Licence and should therefore be a matter for the Licensing Authority to consider.</p>	<p>As stated above, we observe that in any event, as noted in the Licensing Act Guidance, the planning and licensing regimes are separate and subject to different considerations, and that controls should not be duplicative.</p> <p>It is precisely because it is a planning matter that a full planning application has been submitted.</p>
<p>Under sections 5.8 and 8.4 of the MSDC Licensing Policy, these factors – including traffic generation, near misses and congestion must be considered as they only occur as a result of the large-scale event and not from every-day use or smaller events at the property.</p>	<p>The very temporary congestion issue, even in 2024, was no worse than anyone travelling through the centre of East Grinstead after work on an average day. It was eliminated by the measures taken in 2025.</p>
<p>For the last three years, Tom Cruise has arrived at the property via helicopter and</p>	<p>The incident on West Hoathly Road at Saint Hill Green was not related to the</p>

<p>the event has generated a substantial increase in congestion on local roads – leading to a car accident at Saint Hill Green in 2025. As far as I can see, the operating schedule does not include any conditions related specifically to the disruption this large event causes to the local community. It does not, for example, place any conditions related to traffic management, road safety or lighting near the entrances other than requiring an event management plan to be submitted in advance.</p>	<p>event. Our vehicle was stationary at the junction. Another car was coming around the bend too fast where there is poor visibility. The other driver braked when he saw our vehicle and skidded on the wet road scraping the side of our vehicle. It was a minor incident with no injuries.</p> <p>A comprehensive event management plan is required to be submitted by the licence – and all matters are adequately addressed.</p>
<p>Section 5.7 states “Larger or high-risk outdoor events or events which are deemed unusual in nature will be expected to have met with, and sought the advice of, the multi-agency Safety Advisory Group (SAG) so that the safety and control of the event can be planned several months in advance. The Licensing Authority will assist with advice and guidance.” This event, which Scientology claims draws thousands of attendees from across the world, has to date escaped the scrutiny it requires and therefore public nuisance has become a persistent issue. Due to its scale both in geographic size and attendance numbers, the event should be considered a “larger or high-risk outdoor event” and/or an “event which is deemed unusual in nature” and should therefore be subject to consultation with the Safety Advisory Group. Due to Scientology’s failure to provide adequate notice, they are in breach of this section of the licensing policy which stipulates “safety and control of the event” should be “planned several months in advance.”</p>	<p>SAG meetings were held with police, fire and licensing.</p> <p>Our event is always considered low risk as there have never been any incidents in over 20 years and our planning and implementation has exceeded expectations and requirements.</p>

<p>It is clear to local residents and the authorities that this event puts extraordinary strain on public services, creates severe disruption to the local highways network and the impact of this event is felt throughout the local community. It is therefore not just a case of a few people being annoyed but rather a pattern of behaviour that has been found to be unacceptable and in the public interest, demonstrated by local and national media coverage</p>	<p>This is complete nonsense, as covered above and by way of attached support letters from our local neighbours.</p> <p>We are confident that the existing Premises License incorporates all that it needs to.</p>
<p>The large IAS event creates a concentrated temporary nuisance with a high impact and requires intervention to protect the local amenity.</p>	<p>The existing Premises Licence is perfectly fine.</p>
<p>The protection of children from harm The Licensing Act 2003 explanatory notes states "The fourth licensing objective relates to harm to children beyond matters relating to physical safety."</p> <p>Children and vulnerable adults are put in considerable danger by attending large events at the premises. The government's 1971 Foster Report (Appendix 17) found that the practice of Scientology is harmful to its practitioners' mental health and in 1984 High Court Judge Lord Justice Latey ruled "Scientology is out to capture people, especially children and impressionable young people." (Appendices 18 and 19)</p>	<p>It is absurd to refer to two references which are respectively 54 and 41 years ago, let alone to do so in such a dishonest fashion. John Foster QC carried out a one-man inquiry into Scientology, at the request of a government that had placed a discriminatory ban on foreign Scientologists coming to this country in 1968, to determine whether such a ban was justified. In 1971, he concluded that it was not. He did not however hear any evidence, and he did not reach the conclusion that Mr Barnes-Ross falsely alleges.</p> <p>Similarly, Mr Barnes-Ross fails to mention that Mr Justice (not Lord) Latey's judgment was in a child custody case, heard in private, to which the Church was not a party and presented no evidence. More importantly the Court of Appeal ruled that the case set no precedent and was</p>

	<p>only binding between the parties involved. In another custody case heard by the English High Court in 1998 the judge rejected Latey J's conclusion, and found that the Scientologist father was entitled to his own religious beliefs and that this had no bearing on the matter of custody. Moreover, the person who claimed responsibility for feeding the Judge the information which led to his making negative comments was later found by the High Court to have lied on oath on 11 separate occasions. This four decades old judgement was also long before Scientology was formally recognised as a religion by the United Kingdom Supreme Court in 2013.</p>
<p>Core to Scientology's belief system is the teaching that children are immortal spiritual beings - adults stuck in small bodies - and are subjected to the same level of coercive control and ethics punishments as an adult. This results in, for example, children walking along the dark Saint Hill Road to attend the event unsupervised which was observed by Council observers in 2024, and evidenced in video footage captured in 2025. This puts children at an unnecessary risk of harm, and adequate measures are not put in place to minimise this such as lighting around the entrance. Conversely, the Premises Licence Holder placed obstructions in the form of planters, hedging and hoarding along the Highway which forced pedestrians – including children – to walk in the road among oncoming traffic. No hi-vis jackets or lighting was provided and WSCC Highways had to implement an emergency TTRO reducing the speed limit to 40mph to reduce the danger this created.</p>	<p>The Church and Scientologists treat the care and proper safeguarding of children very highly.</p> <p>One of the key reasons for the creation of the safe walkway was to prevent a recurrence of the verbal abuse children had received from the anti-Scientologists – and the fact that they had to walk on the road with their parents to avoid them.</p>

<p>This means the licensing objective has not been met and justifies intervention to minimise harm</p>	
<p>There are currently no provisions in place to protect vulnerable people from harm at the Church of Scientology. During the Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse, the Church admitted to knowledge of several instances of child sex abuse within its UK premises (Appendix 20), however there is no evidence to suggest these have been reported or handled appropriately. For example, Scientology doctrine forbids members from reporting crimes to law enforcement, and members face expulsion and excommunication for doing so. Although the Church may have submitted some form of policy to tick the box in regard to protecting vulnerable people, in practice this is not applied and those who have been the victim of crime at Saint Hill are punished for seeking help or reporting the incident to the authorities. The licence holder therefore falls short of its duties to protect children and vulnerable people on the premises</p>	<p>This is again complete nonsense. If Mr Barnes-Ross had produced the actual report of the Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse on <i>Child protection in religious organisations and settings</i> you will see that the Inquiry, whilst very critical of circumstances found in other religious bodies, made no criticism of the Church of Scientology whatsoever.</p> <p>Moreover, Mr Barnes-Ross lies about the evidence given by the Church to the Inquiry. There was no admission of any instance of child sexual abuse within its UK premises. On the contrary the evidence provided stated (in response to a question about the previous 10 years): "<i>There are no known allegations of child sexual abuse within the English Church in the last 10 years.</i>"</p> <p>This was followed by the following statement: "<i>About 20 years ago there was an incident reported to the police which resulted in a prosecution. The victim was given pastoral support and auditing to help her to deal with the incident, including her own guilt about what had happened.</i>" That incident did not occur on Church premises, and contrary to Mr Barnes-Ross' false assertion was reported and handled appropriately.</p> <p>Scientology doctrine encourages members to report crimes to law enforcement. People who commit crimes and are unwilling to turn themselves around are expelled from the Church.</p>

<p>Proposed measures</p> <p>There is a clear public interest in this matter, as evidenced by the international media coverage of Scientology's activities at their UK headquarters at Saint Hill. There is also significant evidence of growing concern among local residents over the disruption, chaos and interference large-scale events at the property cause, and attempts to engage with the licence holder to remedy these concerns have been ongoing for three years, to no avail.</p>	<p>Contrary to this assertion the only negative media regarding the IAS event was generated by Mr Barnes-Ross himself. He is also working hard on social media to rage bait people – using the same kind of tactics adopted in this complaint.</p> <p>Beyond what Mr Barnes-Ross has managed to create with his own false representation, there is no evidence of any concern amongst actual local residents, let alone growing concern “over the disruption, chaos and interference large-scale events at the property cause” – for the simple reason that this does not exist. This supported by the attached letters of support from the local neighbours.</p>
<p>It is therefore necessary and justified for the Licensing Authority to intervene through a review of the Premises Licence. A review allows the Church of Scientology to make their case and for a reasonable resolution to be sought, rather than to punish them or prevent events from taking place all together. This is therefore a fair way of working together to minimise disruption, mitigate harm and ensure the Licence Holder meets the licensing objectives.</p>	
<p>I am not seeking to restrict or prevent smaller events from taking place on the property, for example community/charity events, bonfire night, Christmas light switch-on and Summer Time Swing concert. My concerns relate exclusively to the large annual IAS event which draws</p>	

<p>thousands of attendees to the area, where the impact on the community is significantly greater.</p>	
<p>My proposal therefore is that the Premises Licence is amended, or conditions implemented that prevent large gatherings (exceeding 1,000 attendees) from taking place on the property. Should Scientology wish to hold a larger-scale event, I propose that they are required to submit a Temporary Events Notice. This would allow the authorities to undergo the required due processes needed in order to assess potential harms, ensure the licensing objectives are met, and minimise disruption to the local community</p>	<p>For over 20 years the IAS event has been regarded as low risk by police, fire and ambulance as well as H & S inspections due to no incidents having occurred.</p> <p>Almost all of the community events involve more than 1000 attendees. There have been no incidents of any kind. The current Premises Licence is perfectly satisfactory.</p>
<p>The current Premises Licence allows the Licence Holder to hold events that place immense pressure and stress on limited Council resources, blue light services and the Highways authority, coming at a significant cost to the taxpayer.</p>	<p>In fact, it is only the actions of Mr Barnes-Ross and anti-Scientologists that have put some additional stress on the Council, the police and Highways authority. Without that we have worked well and cooperatively with the Council, requiring minimum work on their part. The police's only concern has related to the activities of the anti-Scientologists, without that their presence is never needed and the Highways authority have also been perfectly content.</p>
<p>Several attempts by the relevant authorities to intervene over the last three years have resulted in no change to the impact this event causes on the local area and as such, a review is justified and necessary, and I believe has the potential to resolve these issues.</p>	<p>As covered above, there are no difficulties at all in relation to the Premises License activities. Peripheral issues to the licensable activities are those created by the presence of a handful of anti-Scientologists on the road, which we were able to somewhat mitigate by the actions taken by the Church, and, to be fair, with</p>

the Council and Police watching, the anti-Scientologists were on better behaviour to avoid harassment of individual Scientologists in 2025.

Janet Kenyon Laveau
Trustee

ATTACHMENT 1

Community Christmas Light switch-on event



Bonfire night

<https://sussex.press/west-sussex-news/church-of-scientology-at-saint-hill-welcomes-over-3500-to-dazzling-bonfire-night-celebration/>



Folk festival

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/community/international-cultures-shine-in-east-grinstead-and-crawley-for-dew-folk-festival-2025-5233165>



Community Easter egg hunt

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/community/thousands-celebrate-easter-at-saint-hills-spectacular-community-egg-hunt-5092754>



<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/easter-eggs-travaganda-at-the-church-of-scientology-in-east-grinstead-4575572>



Community Spring Fayre

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/hundreds-of-families-enjoy-saint-hill-spring-fair-on-a-sunny-sunday-4162976>



Days Out Fair



Charity Concert



Summertime Swing charity festival

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/arts-and-culture/show-your-swing-moves-for-charity-at-festival-in-east-grinstead-5227273>



ATTACHMENT 2

Alex Barnes-Ross Video Statements of Threats (from YouTube videos)

1. 2023-11-15-ApostateAlex

And although the long-term thing I very publicly stated this wasn't a one off thing, I did a protest, now we're gonna go about my life. I'm at the start, **I'm on war footing. And I'm not messing around, right, this is going to be the next 20 30 40 years of my life.**

2. 2023-12-07-ApostateAlex

And I'm gonna leave you with one message and one message only. And that is **I'm on war footing and I'm not f***king about**

3. 2023-12-19-Apostate Alex

And my final message is Scientology. **I am on war footing and I am not f***king about.**

4. 2024-01-01-ApostateAlex

I've said it before and I'll say it again. **I'm on war footing and I'm not f***king about.**

5. 2024-01-12-ApostateAlex

And I'll end it with my favorite saying for 2024 which is **I'm on war footing and I'm not talking about**

6. 2024-02-01-ApostateAlex-EG Council REMOVES all references in meeting minutes

The council is in crisis and they need to be doing something about this. They cannot hide any more. We are not going away and we will not be silenced. Because guys don't forget, **I'm on war footing. And I'm not f***king about.**

7. 2024-10-02-ApostateAlex

I'm here fighting on your behalf. I'm doing what I can, and I have one message and one message only, and that is, **I'm on war footing, and I'm certainly not f***king about you.**

8. 2024-03-16 ApostateAlex

And I really mean it when I say that **I'm on war footing and I'm not f***king about.**

9. 2024-03-20- ApostateAlex on EG COUNCIL

But until then, I have one message and one message only. **And that is I am on war footing and I am not mucking about.**

10. 2024-04-13 ApostateAlex RE EAST GRINSTEAD, PODCAST

We're gonna keep going hard on this. I'm gonna keep bringing it to you guys. And, look, I made it very clear. **I'm on war footing, and I'm not f***king about.**

11. 2024-05-05-ApostateAlex

And that's all I'll say for now. But guys, thank you so much. And Scientology, I have one message for you. And that is **I'm on war footing and I'm not f***king about**

12. 2024-05-29 ApostateAlex

But that's it from me. And as always, **I'm on war footing and I'm not f***king about**

13. 2024-09-01 ApostateAlex -Captain Davey's little tent

But that's it from me for now, and as always, **I'm on war footing, and I'm not f***king about.**

14. 2024-09-26-ApostateAlex-Scientology 'Human Rights' exhibition comes to London

And as always, **I'm a war footing and I'm not f***ing about you.**

Promoting merchandise he sells on his website apostatealex.com:

Tweet URL: <https://x.com/ApostateAlex/status/1751671241633636692>



Apostate Alex @ApostateAlex

28 Jan 2024, 18:19

Whether it's saying **no** to Dick Sweatman or cleaning up the Council's mess, we've got you covered. Introducing the Activist Toolkit! <https://apostatealex.com/collections/activist-toolkit?source=dashboard...>



As well as a few other items he flaunts in an attempt to monetize his rage baiting and hate mongering:



2 of 7

Activist Toolkit | Apostate Alex

18/02/2024, 13:13

<https://apostatealex.com/en-gb/collections/activist-toolkit>



Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

See page 3

Date: **21 August 2024**

Public Authority: **East Grinstead Town Council**

Address:
East Court
College Lane
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 3LT

Decision (including any steps ordered)

The Commissioner's position

13. The question for the Commissioner here is whether the complainant's request has the potential to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption irritation or distress to the Council. In reaching a conclusion on this question the Commissioner has taken into account the reasoning of the Council, which in summary is that the complainant has pursued a campaign relating to the Council beyond a reasonable level, including that some of their actions have been inappropriate. The complainant argues that their request does have value and serious purpose.
14. Having reviewed the evidence provided by the Council, the Commissioner considers that some of the complainant's behaviour appears to have been calculated to harass and offend people involved with the Council. This includes merchandise that depicts individuals involved with the Council. This reduces the value of the serious cause the complainant may be pursuing.

ATTACHMENT 3

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM LOCAL CHARITIES

“The money received from your charity concert makes a significant impact on The Friends of Crowborough Hospital enabling us to purchase equipment for the hospital and contributing to the costs of our annual fundraising fete”.

[REDACTED] - Chair of the Friends of Crowborough Hospital

“The generous IAS donation has been allocated towards the lifeguard service which operates from Chichester. This covers all established RNLI lifeguarded beaches in West Sussex and the new service, launched in 2025, which covers Brighton and Hove.

“The charity’s lifeguard services deliver water safety advice, first aid and in-water rescues at our beaches”.

[REDACTED] - Fundraising and Partnership Lead RNLI

“The incredible support generated through the Charity Concert and the monies raised has had a significant economic impact on our organisation, providing unrestricted funding that allows us to use it where we think it will make the greatest difference.

[REDACTED] CEO Age UK East Grinstead & District

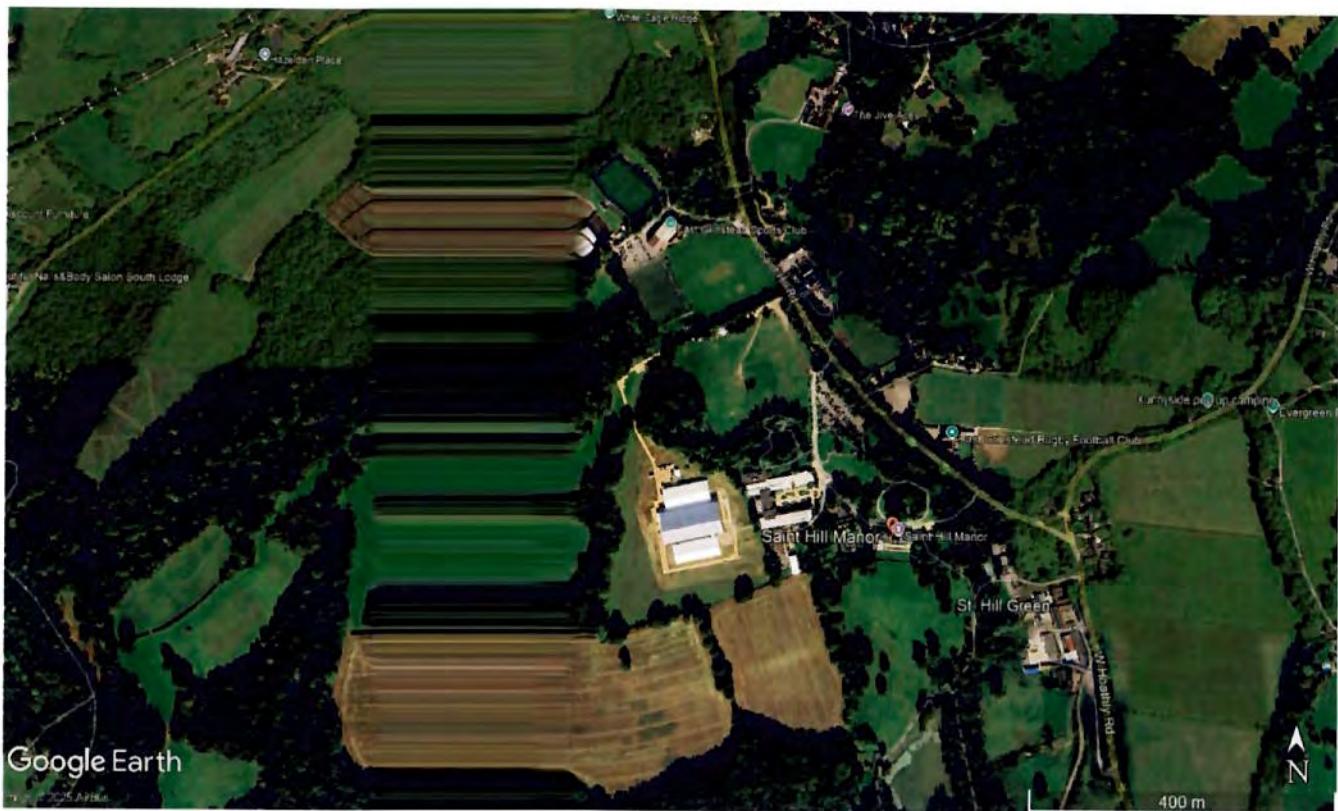
“Receiving an award from anyone is very encouraging for all the volunteers that support our Cricket Club, but the one from the Church of Scientology is always special as it makes a difference.

“The recent award will enable us to provide very good safe playing, practice and coaching facilities to support the juniors not available elsewhere in the town.

“That is why the Church of Scientology award is so very, very, good for us and is greatly appreciated by the management and volunteers alike”.

[REDACTED] - President East Grinstead Cricket Club

LOCAL NEIGHBOURS:



Rugby Club

"It has recently come to my attention that protesters are raising issues with the annual international gathering at CoS this October. In past years our club has supported the church at the time of this gathering by providing additional parking grounds.

"We have always supported the CoS events and have seen the efforts they make to support the community via these events and their annual charity concert.

"In past years we have been approached by a protesting group that has made a nuisance of itself leading to us banning them from our grounds and seeking security staff to ensure they have no access.

"Their presence has also caused us to restrict access to our grounds for media companies wishing to sensationalise any protest against the CoS.

"Can I close this letter by saying that we have a policy of being a good neighbour and we have always seen this reciprocated by the team at the CoS."

EG Cricket Club

"I am writing on behalf of East Grinstead Cricket Club who are located in Saint Hill immediately adjacent to the Church of Scientology.

"I write in relation to the international gathering held annually by the Church, which is attended by up to 6,000 people and is also well supported by the local community.

"The Charity Concert, which I have attended on several occasions is very well organised and does not impact on us as an immediate neighbour whatsoever.

"The traffic is well organised to the parking areas and from what we have seen causes little or no effect on other road users.

"Control of the attendees is extremely well organised with all the social facilities available within the Marquee.

"The impact of up to 6,000 people being in the town must help the local shops, with many staying on several days or returning later to see more of the area.

"The Church being adjacent to us make us fully aware of any event they are holding which has never caused us any problems. We also see the good work they do supporting local charities and the community both at the Saint Hill facility and in the town. They do some extremely good work helping whenever they can."

EG Football Club

"On behalf of East Grinstead Town Football Club, I am writing to express our full support for the Church of Scientology's planning application for additional car parking and associated infrastructure at their site in Saint Hill.

"This proposal will deliver clear benefits for the wider community. Each year, the Church hosts its international gathering, which includes a well-attended charity concert raising funds for local causes. The improved parking facilities will greatly assist with the safe and efficient management of these large events.

"Importantly, the car park will also serve the thousands of residents who take part in family-friendly community activities held at the site throughout the year, such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Bonfire Night, and Christmas events. These occasions bring people together and strengthen the fabric of our town.

"Furthermore, the proposed car park will be made freely available to those attending activities at the neighbouring Rugby Club and Sports Club, including our own training sessions. This will significantly ease roadside parking pressures, reduce congestion and improve safety for all.

"We believe this project will be a valuable addition to the town's infrastructure, enhancing both community events and local sporting activities. We therefore support the application."

Sports Club

"We are writing in support of the annual international gathering held at Saint Hill in East Grinstead, which has been a valued and established part of our community for decades.

"Over the last few years, we have seen first-hand the positive impact that the Church of Scientology and its members have had in East Grinstead and the surrounding areas. They have consistently supported local charities and community initiatives, including East Grinstead Sports Club which demonstrates a genuine commitment to giving back and contributing to the wellbeing of our town.

"The international events at Saint Hill, including the well-known Charity Concert, are not only uplifting and professionally run, but they also provide a meaningful opportunity for community members to come together in a spirit of celebration and cooperation. These events have always been conducted with the utmost respect for the community, and they reflect positively on East Grinstead as a whole.

"In addition, the economic benefits of the gathering are considerable. Each year, thousands of visitors travel from all over the world to attend, bringing welcome trade to our local hotels, restaurants, shops, and transport providers. Many extend their stays or return at other times, further supporting the local economy and enhancing East Grinstead's reputation as a welcoming destination.

"It is clear that the benefits of this event to the local area-socially, culturally, and economically-are substantial and longstanding. I hope that Mid Sussex District Council will recognise this and continue to support Saint Hill in hosting their international gathering as they have successfully done for over 30 years."


"I fully agree with the application for the parking facility as it will help not only the Church's international gathering each year but will also be very appreciated by all the people who attend events at Saint Hill (Easter Egg Hunt, Bonfire Night, Christmas events, etc.). I have been at some of those events myself and on rainy days it gets very muddy and it makes it difficult for parents with baby to move through the mud and for everyone it would be much nicer to be able to not walk on a muddy surface when getting out of their cars, also it would makes it much easier for the car so it does not get all muddy.

"I live across the road and I have also seen many times the Saint Hill field being used by events at the Rugby and football club and the East Grinstead sport centre, so that will help all the people coming to these events too."

"This will be a welcome addition to the local area. More people now live in East Grinstead and the surrounding location hence more parking for events at Saint Hill, the Rugby Club and other associated activities is a natural and needed progression. It will increase the safety around the local area and also the access for the many people who attend these events. These events include such gatherings as Bon Fire Night, Christmas events and Easter to name a few. As a neighbour to the area, living literally 1 minute from the area I strongly support this initiative and all the extra good it will bring to the immediate surroundings."