

Arundells planning application 16/01144/var

An application to hold up to 24 events in the garden.

Objection by the Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society

4th March 2016

The Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society again opposes the variation order proposed because the wording is too vague and ineffective to reach the outcome implied by Lord Hunt's letter to Close Residents. This spoke of "not more than ten events in the garden" and "the kind of classical music recitals that were routine in Sir Edward's lifetime".

We would not have objected to ten of the twenty four events making use of the garden but the order states only that they "**anticipate**" that ten of the twenty four being held in the garden. They could, therefore, hold all the events at the doubled capacity of 120 and in the garden without infringing the variation order. The variation order must state that **not more than ten** events may make use of the garden.

The proposed traffic management plan to advise those attending to park outside The Close is another vague and ineffective statement. The hours of the The Close Traffic Wardens are well known locally and experience with events at other locations in The Close shows that visitors bring cars in and park on the roadways. Arundells' management must back up their proposal by agreeing to fund the overtime of the Cathedral's traffic team to cover **all** their events so that they can control and charge for any parking. There must also be a firm undertaking that all events' equipment unloading and recovery takes place on Arundells' forecourt and not in the roadway.

Finally, music volume is not only concerned with amplification and a firm definition of the proposed volume and type of music is required. String quartets would be acceptable; brass instruments would not. There also needs to be some specification as to the type and number of musicians. The noise management plan has no merit: music cannot be focussed in a specific direction only.

All the above is concerned with raising money because Arundells has failed to pay its way as a visitor attraction. Sir Edward's Will anticipated this and stipulates that in this event the property should be sold and the proceeds used for the promotion of education in music. This was Sir Edward's intention and is still the best way forward. Sir Edward chose to live in a quiet and secure Cathedral Close and was the Preservation Society's Founding Patron; he would have been the first to oppose the present plans.

The revised application is only acceptable to us, therefore, if:

- **The number of events that can use the grounds is specifically restricted to a maximum of ten per annum.**
- **There are clear limits to the type of music allowed.**
- **The Trustees pay for attendants to manage the traffic during all 24 events annually, and**
- **The roadway is not used for loading and unloading.**