

RESIDENTS' PUNK ROCK FEAR

Plan for Elm Park concert attacked

MOST residents living near the Elm Park football ground, Reading, are against plans for a punk rock concert there in May.

But some say they do not mind 25,000 punk rock fans going to the concert — providing they do not cause trouble on their way to and from the ground.

The majority of residents in roads near the ground said they were worried that fans would cause trouble. They had to put up with enough during the football season, they said.

The punk rock concert, which has yet to be given a go-ahead by Reading Football Club's board of directors, would be held on a Saturday in May from mid-day to 10.30pm. Among acts which could appear are The Stranglers, who have been banned from some venues, and The Clash.



■ Mr Charles Matthews... "fear of trouble"

Mr Jarvis Lewis, a barman at the Spread Eagle in Norfolk Road — right opposite Elm Park — said he thought the pub would close, except for regular customers, on the day of the concert.

Mr Lewis, who lives in Kent Road nearby, said punk rock fans were "just disastrous". He was also worried about the "sheer noise" the concert would cause.

But the landlady of the New



■ Mrs Jane Mackinnon... "punk rockers are worse"

Inn, Oxford Road, Mrs Kathleen Egan, said she would not mind punk rock fans "as long as they behave themselves". She said: "I wouldn't refuse to serve them simply because they like punk rock. You have to treat everyone on their merits."

The pub was popular with rock fans during the annual Reading Festival, and in two years the only trouble had been three broken bottles, she said.



■ Mr Henry Wilson... wants police patrols

Mr Charles Matthews, of Connaught Road, said that if the event went ahead, there was "always a fear of trouble-breaking out". He said he could hear the Rock Festival at Richfield Avenue from his home and it worried him late at night.

"You can hear it as clearly as if you are there. If there was a concert at Elm Park it would be even louder," he said.

Mrs Jane Mackinnon, 23,



■ Cathy Rogers... "I would worry us — as it is we hear the pop festival"

who lives opposite the ground in Norfolk Road, said: "The football crowds are pretty rough sometimes but I should think these punk rockers are worse."

She said she would be against the concert as her home was "vulnerable" to damage if there was trouble.

Miss Linda Stanfield, 18, of Wantage Road, said: "There would probably be some violence. And the noise will

residents. And I would be worried about the sound — it would disturb children who go to bed early.

"There would be more violence with punk rock people than with soccer fans. They spit in people's faces and things like that."

Mrs Mary Cox, of Wantage Road, said that if the fans were brought to the ground by coach, she would not object. She was worried about violence and damage if they walked to and from the ground.

Mrs Edith Fox, of Norfolk Road, said she would not worry if there was adequate police protection in the street. She said she had never had a window broken or been the victim of any trouble. She added: "I'm quite lucky really."

Mr Henry Wilson, who runs a newsagents and grocers in the road, said he would want to see police patrolling outside his door, as they did during soccer matches.

But 16-year-old Cathy Rogers, of Prince of Wales Avenue, who said she liked punk rock music, was all for the idea.

"I would go along," she said. Punk rock was not as violent as people believed, she added.