

Ian and Susan Hall

We wish to make a formal response to the BBC's proposed Radio 2 oldie "extension".

For a number of years it was clear that the BBC hierarchy decided that they didn't want listeners of our generation (I was born in 1955, my wife in 1958) to be catered for any longer by Radio 2.

This was evident by the changes in presenters and programmes which they pushed through. Established Radio 2 presenters such as Clare Teal, Paul O'Grady, Don Black, Ken Bruce, Bill Kenwright etc who all had loyal audiences playing music from the 50's, 60's,70's, 80's were all dropped. No amount of listener feedback could reverse these decisions.

Eventually like thousands of others, we stopped listening.

And then in February 2015 we had a welcome addition to our radio.... Serenade Radio privately financed, started broadcasting... What a joy. Our kind of music presented by established, intelligent DJs. And best of all NO advertising.

This was followed by Boom Radio in 2021....more great music for our generation.

Meanwhile, the BBC engaged in more cut backs and programme changes clearly catering all the time for a younger audience.

Both Serenade and Boom have now gone from strength to strength gaining listeners all the time. Why? Because they cater for the very audiences the BBC decided they didn't need.

And now seeing the success of these new radio stations, the BBC want to take their listeners away with a new Radio 2 "oldies" station.

This must not be allowed to happen.

Boom and Serenade are privately financed not by the licence fee but by radio enthusiasts and volunteers willing to take a gamble and put their money where their radio hearts are.

Why should the BBC using our licence fee money be allowed to try to take back the listeners they willingly gave up on years ago? It's a disgrace and completely unfair.

Please do not allow the BBC to try to smother the success of both Serenade and Boom Radio,