



LICENSING ACT 2003

Representations

Details of the representees:

Names: Richard O'Brien and Susan O'Brien
Address: Babbs Farm, Westhill Lane, Bason Bridge, Highbridge, Somerset
Postcode: TA9 4RF
Telephone Number: [REDACTED]
Email address: [REDACTED]

Details of the application to make representation(s) on:

Application Reference Number: **SDC509720128**
Name of Premises: Unit 3
Premises Address: 129 Church Road, Bason Bridge, Somerset
Postcode: TA9 4RG

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder:

The application is for the consumption of alcohol, and for musical entertainment, on premises named "The Beer Shed". The applicant proposes to cater for up to 99 customers from noon to 22:30 or 23:00, seven days a week, throughout the year. Given the opportunity for customers to drink alcohol for up to 11 unbroken hours, we are concerned at the probability that some will become intoxicated and liable to become rowdy or – at worst – violent and destructive, and the application does not provide any convincing reassurances.

It refers to the prevention of crime, but not how they will deal with it when it appears imminent, or when it actually occurs, including the protection of adjacent properties. They "will not undertake any irresponsible drinks promotions", a policy of non-intervention which is not the same as an active policy to monitor customers' drinking behaviour and levels of intoxication, and to prevent it from developing into criminal or disorderly behaviour.

Public Safety:

The site is a rural location, and most customers will arrive by car, but the application does not include a policy to prevent drink driving. This part of Church Road is near the end of a long straight, in which motorists are prone to stretch the 40 mph speed limit, and there is a risk of serious accidents involving customers emerging from the driveway into the path of an oncoming vehicle if their attention is in any way impaired.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance:

The site in the application lies within 200 metres of our property, over open fields, and it is inevitable that we will be aware of sound coming from the site, as will those in other nearby properties. The question is whether it will become a nuisance, and we are very concerned that it will.

We were not approached by the applicant to inform or reassure us about their intentions, nor to elicit our views. We value the peace and tranquillity of the area, where we have lived for 33 years, and anything that upsets this tranquillity will be a disturbance. The application is vague and non-committal in this respect: it does not define an "appropriate level" of noise, nor what their neighbours might regard as disturbing. It states that "there will be low volume background music" (without defining "low volume"), but it does not say whether "the occasional solo or duo guitarists or singers" will also be at low volume, nor whether the live performances will be amplified. Live performance seeks the audience's attention, and it is likely that they will be loud. To be indoors is no protection for neighbours if windows or doors are kept open, which is likely in the summer.

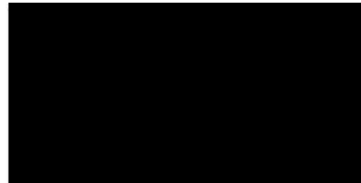
The application confusingly refers to "the playing of live or recorded music in the outside seating area" up to 22:00, yet they ask for a licence to play recorded music outside up to 23:00, and live music indoors up to 22:30. They do not commit to seasonal variations, other than saying "potentially more days during the holiday periods", so they are essentially seeking a licence for every day of the year.

The prospect of 11 hours of noise, at a level they choose, and on any days they decide, is alarming, and the application contains no specific reassurances.

Signed:



Richard O'Brien



Susan O'Brien

Date: 17th May 2023

Please send completed form to: Licensing, Somerset Council, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3AR