

From: [CM - email redacted](#)
To: [licensing](#)
Subject: Re: The Fox Eating and Drinking House Licence - Sharpthorne/West Hoathly
Date: 17 September 2021 11:15:25

Dear Mr. Bryant

Thank you for clarifying the type of license that is to be granted to The Fox, West Hoathly. With regard to the four licensing objectives you set out I can comment as follows, (which I did touch upon in my original email) :

1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder - I haven't witnessed any crime or disorder on our numerous visits
2. Prevention of Public Nuisance - It is true to say that The Fox have had bands play on various occasions, which do create some noise whilst they are playing. I have not found it to be a public nuisance (in the 15 years we have lived here) and my back garden looks directly onto The Fox. On occasions we have attended these events and they are joyous occasions which bring the community together (at least those that have a music appreciation, of which there are many in the surrounding villages). The bands stop playing by 11pm. Occasionally the sound drifts down the hill but it is not a nuisance noise of constant thrash metal type bands or shouting vocals.
3. Promotion of Public Safety - The Fox pub (under Tim Earlie and Claire Kacy's management) is always well lit at night, so you feel perfectly safe leaving the premises. There are awnings and canopies covering the outside tables, keeping people dry in a shower. When operating prior to lockdown the outside tables had a thick roped off cordon surrounding the seating area to create a barrier to the road. The toilets/bathrooms are well maintained and clean. The tables inside are nicely presented and on one revamp in the past, my husband helped to sand down any possible rough edges on them. Tim recently introduced a question form to fill out with any food intolerances/preferences. I am Gluten intolerant and so I was very pleased to see this. During the pandemic, when the pub was permitted to trade Claire introduced a one way system in the pub, with entrance and exit only. Also a traffic light system for the toilets to encourage a 1 person at a time. Hand sanitizer was available on every table and all staff wore masks (some of which I made for them!). Tables were regularly sanitised. On no occasion did I feel at risk and even when we visited one time ,late one Sunday, we were among only a few people there and the staff member on duty was very strict about having all the doors open in the pub to encourage airflow.
4. Protection of children from harm - We have been taking our children to The Fox for most of their life (now 14years old, twins) and have never had cause to feel that were in any way at risk of harm either inside or in the outside area of the pub. Our children love all of the interesting objet d'art and quirky things to look at as it keeps them amused and is a great place to play I-Spy. Our children are well behaved and treat the pub with respect and although it is a relaxed atmosphere they do not confuse it as a playground. We often sit outside also with our children and our dog and the cordoned off barrier rope is a good indicator to them, as instructed by us, that they do not go beyond and into the road.

I hope these comments and personal experiences of the pub in relation to the Licensing Objectives are well received this time.

Kind regards

Claire Martin

On 17 Sep 2021, at 09:14, licensing <licensing@midsussex.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Claire,

Thank you for your email in respect of the application for a new Premises Licence at The Fox, West Hoathly. To be clear, the Premises Licence that is currently granted to the premises is not under consideration. This Licence remains in existence and is not affected by the application under consideration. The issues surrounding the current licence is a matter strictly between the pertinent parties and not a matter for the Licensing Authorities involvement unless particular issues affect either the promotion of the 'Licensing Objectives' or impacts on the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.

The application currently being considered is solely for the grant of a new Premises Licence for the current Leaseholder.

In respect of applications made under the Licensing Act 2003 relevant representations can be made in opposition to, or in support of, an application and can be made by any individual, body or business that has grounds to do so.

The issues that you have raised may be considered in other types of applications. However, in Licensing Applications a representation is only "relevant" if it relates to the likely effect of the grant of the licence on the promotion of at least one of the Licensing Objectives.

There are four Licensing Objectives which are of equal importance. They are:

1. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
2. The Prevention of Public Nuisance
3. The Promotion of Public Safety
4. The Protection of Children from harm

Therefore, to be accepted in licensing applications a representation must be relevant to one or more of the objectives. I am not permitted to accept any representations that are not relevant under the Act.

Therefore unfortunately, I am sorry that I am currently unable to accept your email as a valid representation at this time. However, please could you contact me with if

there is any further information that supports your representation in respect of the actual application for a new Premises Licence and the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Kind regards

Jon Bryant

Jon Bryant
Senior Licensing Officer
Mid Sussex District Council
Environmental Health

From: Claire Martin

Sent: 16 September 2021 16:06

To: licensing <licensing@midsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: The Fox Eating and Drinking House Licence - Sharpthorne/West Hoathly

I am writing to show my support for Tim Earlie and Claire Kacy who run the Fox Eating and Drinking House and please kindly ask you to grant them a new alcohol licence so that they can keep running their pub and eatery as they have been doing so brilliantly for these last 7 or so years.

It is at the heart of the Sharpthorne community and we have spent much time there over the years, as a place to meet friends, a place to celebrate life events, a venue for many a school committee meeting, somewhere to hold book club, ukulele club and pit our wits against other local quiz teams all of which are made more pleasant by having a tippie and a chance to relax.

It really has a wonderful atmosphere which is masterfully created by Claire's amazing artistic talents and Tim's culinary expertise and they worked so hard during lockdown to try and reinvent themselves to go with the flow in difficult times.

The Fox is directly opposite our back garden and we have never had any problems with noise from the pub either.

So PLEASE, PLEASE give them a licence so they can get back on track and we can have our pub back the way it was.

Yours sincerely,
Claire Martin