

From: [Sam Heynes](#)
To: [Jon Bryant](#)
Subject: RE: Licence Variation
Date: 06 December 2021 16:06:19
Attachments: [jmaqe003.png](#)
[jmaqe006.png](#)
[jmaqe007.png](#)

Hi Jon

It will be of great assistance to go through it with you prior to the hearing, which I have added to my diary. Will the meeting be help via zoom or in person?

I've added some comments below.

If this complaint is from the immediate neighbours (Kingsleys), as background they were misinformed by their solicitor when they purchased the property and have been upset about the hall usage ever since they moved in, asking that we limit it's use as they find it intrusive. This is difficult to do as the hall needs to pay for itself and is very popular, providing a venue for weddings and local events throughout the year.

If we reduce the hiring of the hall we would be forced to increase the precept to cover this loss of income. We believe we run the hall with great integrity and try to balance the needs of hirers, neighbours and the community at all times.

Kind regards

Samantha Heynes PSLCC

Parish Clerk

Cuckfield Parish Council



01444 454276
www.cuckfield.gov.uk

Office Hours:
Monday to Friday
10am – 3pm

Cuckfield Parish Council, The Queen's Hall, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5EL

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From: Jon Bryant <Jon.Bryant>
Sent: 06 December 2021 15:44
To: Sam Heynes <Sam.Heynes>
Subject: RE: Licence Variation

Hi Sam

If it will assist I can come over and explain the process for you on either Tuesday or Wednesday. You would attend as the Parish Council representative to explain the variation to the Panel. The panel is made up of three district councillors who are from outside the immediate area of Cuckfield. I have just heard that the time and date is fixed for 10am on Friday 17th December.

I will prepare a report in the next day or so giving details of the variation application, the legislation that has to be complied with by the panel and the details of the representation that remains unresolved. It will also have the additional conditions that may be placed on the licence in respect of the variation. I present the report, as the applicant you would give details of the variation and the purposes of it and the restrictions that you have requested in order to reduce any impact on local residents (outside area used only until 2100hours, music will only be performed outside during a wedding ceremony and the performance of a play with amplified music would be held just once a year). You would also outline the value of the premises to the local community and the variation is to assist in diversifying it's use etc.

I have copied the representation below for your information. I have clarified with the below the extent of the variation with the person making the representation as there appears to be some confusion by them. I am awaiting their further reply.

As you point out the Licensing Team haven't been made aware of instances of the windows being left open or excessive noise but I have requested further details.

Representation

Dear Jon,

Thank you for your emails.

I

I understand the application is to extend the current licence to cover performances outside, as well as inside. However I am conscious that performances outside will be considerably louder than those inside, and therefore should be under stricter time limits. I cannot seem to see the operating schedule online, so apologies if I may have missed some of the finer details here.

Performances – we are only planning to hold the Rain or Shine theatre production outdoors once a year; this is currently held on Cuckfield Rec immediately to the rear of the garden, so currently already takes place outside.

In respect of the recorded music played outside during wedding ceremonies; does this mean during the actual ceremony only, or during the ceremony and subsequent wedding reception? If the former then I would question why a licence is required outside up to 12:00am Mon-Sat and 11:00pm on Sundays? I can't imagine there are many ceremonies taking place that late and would request this be limited to 6pm throughout the week.

We mean music will only be played during wedding ceremonies themselves and note the validity of the concerns regarding the timings, did I complete something incorrectly on the application?

If the latter then I would strongly object to this change in licence. The music is already overpowering under the current licence, where the sound limitation device and walls of the hall are presumably limiting it's volume to local residents. The playing of music outside (presumably without the sound limitation device) would be even louder and have a greater impact on our lives. Our bedroom and study face the garden of Queen's Hall and are a mere 50 yards from where the music would be played. This will no doubt limit my partners ability to concentrate or take work calls during the day, and for both of us to sleep at night.

We do have sound limitation devices in place at the hall. All music must end at 11.30pm currently and the hall must be vacated by midnight. We have someone attend the hall from approx. 11pm to ensure this occurs. Events of this nature typically only ever happen on a Friday or Saturday evening, not during the day, and certainly not during the week days as the hall is used by regular hirers running various classes. I have not been made aware of a complaint regarding excessive noise during the day (other than the wedding party earlier in the year who did take their music outside without permission).

I understand via word of mouth from other residents that there may be a requirement to have all music moved indoors after 9pm. However, I cannot see this anywhere on the application and this would not be of any assistance during the day. There is also ongoing evidence that the current rules are not being adhered to or monitored in any way by the Parish Council, and I therefore have no faith that any future conditions will be adhered to (we will shortly be raising with you a complaint about another incident of loud music and windows not being shut while a party was being held in the hall last weekend).

This seems irrelevant as music will not be permitted outside under the licence other than for wedding ceremonies. |

I would be interested in the evidence that the rules imposed are broken on a regular basis. We do not receive complaints and if we ever do, we address these with the hirers. This is a village hall, it is not manned for events in the same way other village halls are not manned. We are not a hotel which is constantly staffed.

There was a band in the hall the weekend before last, we have not yet received any complaints about this. The current rules regarding windows are complicated by the covid rules to allow ventilation. We do tell hirers of the rules and will penalise anyone who does not follow them via the loss of their deposit. If we are not aware of any issues we are unable to follow up with hirers.

Lastly, if a condition has been added to limit the consumption of alcohol to 21:00, then why is the application allowing the sale of alcohol until 11pm? Surely the application itself should be amended, rather than adding a condition, to avoid any confusion here.

The sale of alcohol inside is allowed until 11pm, and alcohol consumption outside will need to cease at 9pm and move inside.

Kind regards,

Details

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been trying for several days to submit a comment against the proposed variation in licensing for Queen's Hall, Cuckfield, app. number LI/21/1341. Each time I try to submit an error message comes up saying 'Your comments could not be submitted due to an error in the system'.

As the closing date for comments is today (1st December) I am forced to submit my comments and objection here and ask that they please be registered against the application as per the due process.

Our comments are the following:

- commenting as a neighbour*
- objecting due to prevention of crime and disorder, public nuisance and other issues*

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to strongly object to the variation in licensing in its current form. My partner and I feel strongly that if the current proposed licence is agreed it will result in a number of detrimental effects to our wellbeing and livelihoods, and that of our neighbours.

Our property directly adjoins the memorial garden and on several occasions this year we have already been disturbed by the noise from events held at Queen's Hall. The noise has at times been so loud it can be heard through double glazing with all doors and windows closed. This has prevented us from entertaining family and friends, and has even prevented us from sleeping at night. As you

can imagine, when outside the noise is even worse, making it impossible to sit outside in our private garden and forcing us to keep windows and doors closed, even in summer.

I work as a teacher for the local authority and have to rise early during the week. The music and noise from the hall has already kept me awake on several evenings up to midnight, disrupting my sleep. This is with the music currently turned off by 11:30 and the noise coming from people exiting the hall; the idea that it may continue outside the Hall until midnight on any day of the week is daunting, and I fail to see how it will not affect my livelihood.

My partner works from home almost every day of the week and has also been affected by the noise from the hall. He often feels unable to make business calls because of the music that can be heard in the background, again with all doors and windows shut.

We can only imagine how much more intrusive the music will be if allowed to be played outside in the memorial garden, and the extent to which this will affect our wellbeing.

The current licence states that doors and windows in the hall should be shut at 9pm so as to contain the noise, however we can see that windows and doors are not being closed. We would like to know how the council plans to enforce this, in addition to their statement that people outside will be moved inside at 9pm in the new licence. This information should be added to the licence application.

The council also state in their conditions that a sound limitation device will be maintained, but do not state what the sound limitation will be. This should also be added to the licence application.

We feel that the application should be amended to the following:

- The number of events per year should be limited (we believe there is a current limit of 20 weddings per year, this limit should also apply to outdoor events) and this limit should be stated on the application*
- Sundays should have no events with live or pre-recorded music or performances to allow residents to recover*
- Monday - Saturday all playing of live or pre-recorded music or performances and should cease by 10pm*
- Monday – Saturday alcohol should not be sold on the premises after 10pm*

We appreciate that the Queens Hall is an important village amenity and has multiple uses and functions. However, we do not think it is unreasonable to ensure local residents working in the community are able to get a good night's sleep on weekdays and one day of respite at the weekend. This is particularly important given changing working conditions leading to more people working from home and requiring a suitable environment to do so.

*Kind regards,
Residents*

Kind regards

Jon

Jon Bryant

Senior Licensing Officer

Mid Sussex District Council

Environmental Health

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