

18th May 2022

To Whom it May Concern

RE: Variation of a Premises Licence, Ansty Village Centre, RH17 5AS (Ref: LI/22/00660)

I'm writing to express my great concern regarding the application to the Variation of a Premises Licence for Ansty Village Centre, Deaks Lane, Ansty RH17 5AS (Ref LI/22/00660). I live directly beside the Village Centre and these requested changes have a direct impact on my family & neighbours in terms of noise disturbance.

During the original application several residents, myself included, highlighted the concern of the noise being emitted from the club, whether from the balcony or from internal events (recorded music etc). The Licensing Authority Sub-Committee took onboard these concerns and amended the original application of an outside curfew from 22.00 to 21.00. Below is a direct quote from decision letter:

'The reasons behind the amended conditions in particular is the Sub-Committee decided that as an area in which noise does currently travel when the background noise levels are low, that a reduction in the use of the outside area and balcony was necessary to ensure the residents would not be disturbed after 21:00 by noise from the premises. This is particularly important in the Working together for a better Mid Sussex Solicitor & Head of Regulatory Services FC / 003471 / 00233823 summer months when residents may have their windows open for ventilation and need to ensure any children in bedrooms facing or near to the premises were not disturbed too late in the evening as they were trying to sleep, especially on week days.'

The above points are still very valid:

1. Noise does travel, especially during the evening hours when the traffic using the main road (Cuckfield Road) dies down.
2. The Village Centre is surrounded by houses, with children of all ages (babies to ones taking exams) therefore it is essential & respectful that residents are not disturbed.
3. In the summer months windows are opened for ventilation and the bedrooms of my house (mine & my daughter's) directly face the Village Centre. I feel, a change of curfew times, may restrict me in opening these windows with a fear of noise disturbance late at night. I know this will be the same for my neighbours as they have bedrooms in the same position in their houses.

With regards to the comments regarding lack /no complaints to date about noise, the surrounding neighbours and John Thorpe have a WhatsApp group to highlight any disturbances. To date this has worked, and on past occasions action has been taken but this, of course, was after myself, my daughter and my neighbours were disturbed. To say that they have not received any complaints is confusing, especially regarding amplified music where on one occasion the music (DJ) was so loud that it could be heard through double glazed windows.

The final point I feel I need to highlight is with regards to the comparison to other local villages *'operating in similar rural environments many of which have far closer and more densely populated areas of neighbouring residents'* giving East Grinstead Sports Club as an example. Below is a photo taken directly from Google maps of East Grinstead Sports Club and Ansty Village Centre. As you can see the two cannot be compared as it is obvious the number of houses in direct proximity to the Centre in Ansty is greater vs the one in East Grinstead.

Photo 1 East Grinstead Sports Club



Photo 2 Ansty Village Centre



My request is for you to seriously consider not accepting this variation to the premises license for Ansty Village Centre; for the curfew to be increased for the balcony to 22.00 and amplified music to midnight. The residents went through this process only a year ago which resulted in a reasonable outcome for all parties. To have to, again, revisit this matter is very disheartening, especially when we keep hearing that the Village Hall Committee has its residents' interests foremost in their minds.

Yours sincerely

Emma Sparham

Redacted

Cuckfield Road

Ansty