

Alex Lisowski

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 June 2018 14:25
To: Licensing Team
Subject: Variation of Premise Licence Druids Rickmansworth

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: REPRESENTATIONS

Dear Licensing,

I have reviewed the application to vary the premise licence and make the following comments.

This department has concerns about the impact the proposals could have on the residential properties in the area. The premises are located at the end of the high street which is predominately residential, it is situated on the corner of the high street opposite retirement housing to one side and houses directly opposite and on the road behind though these are further away.

Our main areas of concern in relation to noise are: -

- The use of the outside area
- The licensable hours
- Playing of Live music – as this is difficult to control

The character of the area needs to be a consideration as it is a built up area with hard surfaces which noise will reflect of. The outside area is open and as such any sound created in this area could be difficult to control, whether it is from people noise or music. A detailed schedule would be required to demonstrate how the sound will be controlled; for example half hourly monitoring and recording of results and action taken should the monitoring indicate an problem or a complaint recieved.

Noise from the premises must be monitored to prevent public nuisance - the only reference to controlling the noise from the premises is 'from 21:00h, sound levels outdoors will be monitored periodically' this is vague and open to interpretation also it does not indicate if or what action would be taken should levels not be satisfactory.

I would advise against putting a 'permitted level' as a condition as it would depend on the type of noise, make it more difficult to monitor for applicant as well as residents and officers

Unfortunately I am not available for the hearing but I will arrange for an officer to be available should there be any further questions.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
 Residential Environmental Health Manager
 Residential Environmental Health
 Three Rivers District Council
 Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 1RL
 01923 776611
www.threerivers.gov.uk <https://my.threerivers.gov.uk/>

Alex Lisowski

From: paula hiscocks [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2018 19:04
To: Licensing Team
Subject: FW: Application for a premises licence at Champs, 205 Hight Street Rickmansworth.

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am against this application due to its close proximity to residential housing and sheltered housing for elderly residents.

The hours and use of the outside facilities would be detrimental to residents who could have work early in the morning or who, due to age, may retire to bed before 11pm.

Kind regards
Cllr Paula Hiscocks
Rickmansworth Town Ward
Sent from my iPad

Alex Lisowski

From: David Sansom [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 June 2018 15:57
To: Alex Lisowski
Subject: RE: Hearing for Champs (Druids) 205 High Street, Rickmansworth

Dear Alex

I would like to object to any relaxation in the rules on the hours that alcohol can served or the playing of music.

Champs is in a residential area with a retirement residence directly over the road, this application includes using the beer garden late at night which will seriously impact a great many local residents. Its present hours allow plenty of time for customers to have a drink, the changes will simply shift the business that the pub gets to later in the night to the detriment of local residents and the staff.

Regards

Cllr David Sansom
Rickmansworth Town Ward

RECEIVED

04 JUN 2018

ML

May 3rd 2018

Dear Sirs

"Champs" 205 High Street
Rickmansworth WD3 1BB

We are writing to register our
objection to the variation of
Premise Licence for the above
mentioned premises.

1. To change the garden area to
be licensable to close 23.00,
this area is already abused
my customers and not monitored
by staff as it is already used
well after this time presently

a late closing time will only encourage further abuse of the area as the manager and staff clearly do not have it under their control.

As the only pub to offer these drinking times, will only encourage people to attend from other pubs in the town when they close, so will cause an increased footfall in the area which only comes with extra noise and anti social behaviour.

Taxis outside the pub using their car horns to notify their customers of their arrival.

Unfold disturbance to are
Sleep at the weekends with
people leaving noisily at lam

Serving food inside and out
till lam will again encourage
people in from other earlier
Closing pubs.

The placement of smoking area
at the front of the pub directly
onto the street again till lam
with anti social behaviour
directly outside ~~the~~ bedroom
window.

The noise level from "live bands"
will be heard throughout the
house and garden.

And Bar staff expressing their views on the application on social media that "they don't care about the residents peace and as long as "champs" get their way everyone should be happy about it regardless of the distress a late licence will cause to the surrounding homes.

The area of pavement outside the Pub is not cleared by staff or management and people do loiter outside for a considerable time already, smoking and making noise and the staff make no attempt to move them on.

Punch Taverns and their managers are clearly only interested in their own profit and have no consideration for any residents in the immediate area of the pub.

So we conclude that there be no change to the current licence and someone actually enforces the current timings attached to the outside area.

Yours faithfully





Re Premise licence change at
Champs (Druids) 205 High Street
Rickmansworth

I am writing to express my concern regarding the application for a new/extended licence for Druids/Champs. These premises are situated in a residential area and this licence will cause a significant increase of nuisance in particular noise, to large numbers of people who reside in the nearby properties. Allowing loud music, films etc to be played until late at night will affect

the health and wellbeing of many residents.

These residents living nearby, have families, and many work, this includes keyworkers who play an important role for the local community. Any disturbance caused by this license will have a significant impact on their jobs.

The noise nuisance in the form of drunken, rowdy anti-social behaviour will persist long after the license time ends. This is already occurring.

The extended license will encourage others, already intoxicated from drinking at other premises nearby, to come and congregate at Champs Drivels. This again will increase the noise nuisance.

further, and will almost certainly cause an increase in anti-social behaviour.

I challenge this licence as it is inappropriate and unnecessary to encourage individuals to continue to consume alcohol and smoke late into the night.

I also object to the licence with reference to the Human rights Act Protocol 1 of Article 1 - this protects your right to enjoy your property peacefully, section 8 - Respect for private and family life.

Being disturbed late into the night will affect the sleep, health and wellbeing of many individuals and

their families, and impact on
their right to participate in activities
of their choosing.

I trust you will take concerns of
the residents seriously.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Licensing Act 2003

REPRESENTATION FORM

The boxes marked * are mandatory, and any forms with these incomplete will be automatically refused

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| *Your Name | [REDACTED] |
| *Postal and email address | [REDACTED] |
| Contact telephone number | [REDACTED] |

| | |
|---|--|
| * Name of the premises you are making a representation about | "DRUIDS" known to us as PUNCH TAVERNS LTD, "CHAMPS" - new to us! |
| * Address of the premises you are making a representation about | 205 High St., Rickmansworth WD3 1BB |

| | |
|--|--|
| * Which of the four licensing Objectives does your representation relate to? | Please detail the evidence supporting your representation. Or the reason for your representation, use separate sheets if necessary |
| To prevent crime and disorder | RICKMANSWORTH POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO PREMISES SEVERAL TIMES. D.C. KING COULD VERIFY |
| Public safety | PUB IS ON A VERY BUSY CORNER TRAFFIC WISE. CUSTOMERS OFTEN SPILL OUT ON TO PAVEMENT. |
| To prevent public nuisance | NOISE AT THE MOMENT IS LOUD WHEN MUSIC IS PLAYED ON A SUMMER AFTERNOON (SAT. usually) IT IS VERY LOUD. CAR DOORS BANGING WAKE OUR RESIDENTS (cont. on sep page) |
| To protect children from harm | CONCERN re: "seeking to amend restrictive childrens condition." Children prev. used bouncy castle backing on to a busy roadway. Adults allowed to use B. Castle whilst |

We fully understand that this Representation will be made available to the applicant and drinking included in the Sub Committee's Hearing papers which are publically accessible documents, and any subsequent appeal court proceedings.

Signed: [REDACTED] Date: 16.5.2018
 [REDACTED] 27 residents
 Licensing Dept. in charge of children made aware of this.

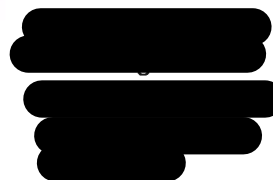
This form must be returned within the Statutory Period, which ends on:-
 If this form is sent as an email attachment, its transmission will imply that you have agreed the above conditions.
 Please see Notes overleaf.

NOTES



WE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] FEEL THAT THE
PROPOSED CHANGES WILL IMPACT ON
OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IF THESE
CHANGES SHOULD GO AHEAD.
WENSUM COURT IS A BLOCK OF
SHELTERED ACCOMODATION FLATS
DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE "DRUIDS".
WE ALREADY HAVE TENANTS WHO
USE EAR PLUGS AT NIGHT TO GET TO
SLEEP BECAUSE OF THE NOISE WHEN
PATRONS LEAVE THE PUB . IF THE
HOURS ARE EXTENDED THIS CAN
ONLY GET WORSE.
CAN I ALSO POINT OUT THIS AREA OF
RICKMANSWORTH IS A
CONSERVATION PROTECTED AREA.
THANKYOU FOR YOUR
CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER.

[REDACTED]
WENSUM COURT.

1st June 2018

Licensing Department
 Three Rivers District Council
 Three Rivers House
 Northway
 Rickmansworth
 WD3 1RL

Dear Sirs,

Ref: Letter in opposition to Druids/Champs application to extend license

I am writing to strongly oppose the application by Druids to extend/increase their license hours and licensed premises.

In my view the total application but specifically the requests to be able to serve alcohol for longer periods, serve food late at night including in the garden, extend even further their licensing hours and to include the garden into the licensed premises will hugely impact on the lives of the local residents. One of the continuing issues with Druids we have is their refusal to accept that this is a residential rather than commercial area and their latest application shows yet again their disregard for us.

We have had ongoing issues with Druids dating back to 2005 with regard to the volume of noise produced by them. [REDACTED] suffer considerably with the volume from the existing sporting and music events. I am unable to open my windows or enjoy a quiet evening in the garden at all during the summer months because of the noise nuisance/anti-social behaviour from the venue. I can tell even with all doors and windows shut who is winning/losing and every word of every song. Even though they should currently alter the volume under the terms of their license at 10pm and this does not happen. The existing football and Rugby matches they screen both inside and outside in the garden as it stands are intrusive, unpleasant and already disrupt our lives. Any extension to the existing hours will reduce still further the limited time we get to enjoy our homes and this conservation area.

Allowing them to extend still further their hours not only increases the risk or anti-social behaviour and public disorder but will create even more issues for us the residents. Which already include drunken shouting and screaming and the slamming of car doors both in the garden and when leaving. Any potential increase in licensing hours will only serve to make these issues even worse for us.

I already frequently remove broken glass from outside my home and bottles and glasses from my garden. I cannot understand why a venue in a residential area that already causes issues for the residents should be allowed even further opportunity to impact our lives by the drinkers / sports fanatics who will be drawn to the venue by the possibility of being able to drink even longer into the

early hours of the morning. With the resulting reduction even further in the hours of peace and quiet and sleep we are able to enjoy.

In August 2005 when we went through a similar issue with the the venue the then Chair of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Chris Brearley said :

"Any extension of opening hours must meet with strict criteria. We need to be reassured that there will not be excessive noise or other public nuisance. Both landlords in these applications have followed proper procedures and made reasonable cases but the case made by local people has prevailed."

He added:

"We have to strike a balance between the needs of responsible drinkers and the interests of local residents - in particular their right to a peaceful night's sleep. Three Rivers is a good place to live and we are working to keep it that way."

I would hope that once again the Committee would take these points into account when making their decision.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature block]

Licensing Act 2003
REPRESENTATION FORM

The boxes marked * are mandatory, and any forms with these incomplete will be automatically refused

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| *Your Name | [REDACTED] |
| *Postal and email address | [REDACTED] [REDACTED] |
| Contact telephone number | [REDACTED] |


| | |
|---|---|
| *Name of the premises you are making a representation about | Druids, soon to be Champs |
| *Address of the premises you are making a representation about | 205 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1BB |

| | |
|--|---|
| *Which of the four licensing Objectives does your representation relate to? | Please detail the evidence supporting your representation. Or the reason for your representation, use separate sheets if necessary See additional sheets |
| To prevent crime and disorder | This pub characterises itself as a sports pub and advertises on the Punch Taverns website that it attracts a large crowd on match days. If it were to serve alcohol outside until 23.00 and inside until 00.30 on such days, the risk of crime and disorder (as well as great disturbance in this residential area) would increase. |
| Public safety | |
| To prevent public nuisance | <p>The pub currently generates a lot of noise, often much later at night than its current licence permits. The garden is <u>very</u> close to many houses and flats. The application seeks to include the garden in the licensable area, and to keep it open later than currently licensed, so that even more noisy activities would occur, and later into the night. This would seriously interfere with residents' reasonable expectation of a peaceful night's sleep. This is first and foremost a residential area.</p> <p>If the premises' licensing hours were extended, the intrusive noise frequently associated with the current closing time (loud shouting and laughter, car doors slamming, taxis sounding their horns etc) would be happening even later at night, and be even louder because patrons would have been drinking for longer.</p> <p>The proposed new lighting and signage on the building appears over-bright and garish, and inappropriate so close to residences – especially as this is a conservation area consisting mainly of pleasant, mid-Victorian buildings.</p> |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| To protect children from harm | The application seeks 'to amend the current condition re children on premises', but does not specify how. It would presumably mean, if granted, that accompanied children could be onsite after 22.00, which seems inappropriate and potentially harmful to children if adults who have been drinking become boisterous. |
|--------------------------------------|--|

I/We fully understand that this Representation will be made available to the applicant and included in the Sub Committee Hearing papers which are publicly accessible documents, and any subsequent appeal court proceedings.

Signed:



Date: 3/6/18

This form must be returned within the Statutory Period, which ends on:-

If this form is sent as an email attachment, its transmission will imply that you have agreed the above conditions.

Please see Notes overleaf.

NOTES

- 1) Please complete the form in black ink or type only.
- 2) If you do make a representation, which is considered relevant, you will be expected to attend a meeting of the Licensing Authority's Committee and any subsequent appeal proceedings in the Courts. If you don't attend the meeting for any reason the Committee will consider any representations that you have made.
- 3) All representations whether made on this form or not must be returned to this office within the statutory period, starting the day after the application was given to this Authority. The statutory period is 28 days for a full variation or 10 working days for a minor variation.
- 4) The representation must relate to one of more of the four licensing objectives, nothing else can be taken into account. The objectives are:
 1. **The prevention of crime and disorder.** This relates to any crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour at the premises or related to the management of the premises. The licence holder/applicant can't generally be held responsible for the conduct of individuals once they leave the premises;
 2. **Public safety.** This relates to the safety of the public on the premises, i.e. fire safety, electrical circuits, lighting, building safety and capacity, first aid etc.
 3. **Prevention of public nuisance.** This can relate to issues such as, hours of operation, noise emanating from the premises, vibrations, lighting, litter etc.
 4. **Protection of children from harm.** This relates to protecting children from the activities carried out on the premises whilst they are there. The law already provides special protections for children under 18 to buy alcohol.
- 5) Your representation will be passed to the applicant to allow them the opportunity to address your concerns. It will also be published in the report made available to the Licensing Sub-Committee, which will be publically available. And if any subsequent appeal is made by any party, your representation will be used in the appeal court proceedings. Names and addresses will only be withheld from the Committee report at your request and with our agreement.
- 6) Note that it is **not** acceptable to lobby a councillor who is a member of the Licensing Committee.
- 7) Please return this form when completed with any continuation sheets, either by post or hand to:

The Licensing Officer, Three Rivers District Council, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1RL.

Or as an attachment by email to: Licensing.team@threerivers.gov.uk

If you have any queries or need advice in this regard, please contact the Licensing Team on 01923 776611

Additional material to Representation Form dated 03/06/18 re current application for Variation of Premises Licence made 08/05/18 for Champs (currently Druids)

As a resident in the otherwise mostly peaceful residential area [REDACTED], I am very concerned that the owners of Druids (soon to be renamed Champs) are yet again seeking to extend the premises licence, both in opening hours and in scope.

The last time a Variation of Premises Licence application was made for Druids (in 2005), it was largely **not** granted, and it asked for much less than the current application. The reasons for the decisions cited related in particular to the following two licensing objectives:

The prevention of Public Nuisance

The prevention of Crime and Disorder

The decision took "fully into account that this is a residential area". (*Source: Premises licence number Prem/72/05, Annex 3, Reasons for the decisions.*) It is also a Conservation Area.

There surely cannot have been such a change in circumstances that the Licensing Sub-Committee would come to a different conclusion now, especially when the requested changes are even more extreme.

My main concern is noise outside the pub:

- Duration of noise (longer than now)
- Type of noise (more types of noisy activities, and all permitted in the garden)
- Finish time of noise as customers disperse

They have requested much longer hours, an increased range of licensable activities, and for the garden to be included in the licensable area. I fear that this would add up to a massive increase in duration and type of exterior noise, finishing as late as 01:00 hours on Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday, if not later – their record is poor.

I urge the Committee to please consider the many residents who live just yards away from this already very noisy establishment, and not to grant the latest application.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Precedent, and current failure of Druids to comply with its licence

In a press release (PR 424) on the TRDC website, about the rejection of the last application, dated 16/08/05, Councillor Chris Brearley (Chair of the Licensing Committee) was quoted as saying, “We have to strike a balance between the needs of responsible drinkers and the interests of local residents – in particular their right to a peaceful night’s sleep.” It is already often impossible for nearby residents to achieve a peaceful night’s sleep, because the pub does not adhere to the existing conditions stated in its licence.

In particular:

Prem/72/05 Annex 1 (d): Customers will be encouraged to disperse quietly at closing time.

- Often they are not encouraged to disperse at all, and certainly not quietly. They continue loud conversations behind the building, in the car park and often comfortably seated in the external drinking area, which was (in theory) supposed to have been closed hours earlier (see Annex 3). There is slamming of car doors, and sometimes taxis even sound their horns.

Prem/72/05 Annex 1 (d): All windows and doors will be kept closed after 23:00 hours, except for access and egress.

- Often the front door onto the High Street is latched open until well after 23:00, allowing noise (including music, karaoke and pub quizzes) to spill out and into our homes.

Prem/72/05 Annex 3: The external drinking area will be closed to customers at 22:30 hours every day.

- It is difficult to remember *any* day when the outdoor area was closed to customers at 22:30! Last night (Saturday 02/06/18) I recorded a video [REDACTED] at 23:50, showing a group sitting outside in the pub garden, drinking and chatting. It’s even possible to hear what they are saying ... from the bedroom! Last night was not a busy night for the pub; many a time the garden is heaving with people until very late, often after midnight, creating a truly unacceptable amount of noise. Despite frequent complaints and requests from residents, the staff have failed to establish a culture of complying with their licence. What confidence can the residents have that they would start now, if the extended licence was granted? I would love to see the current licence enforced, with penalties for breaches, but that does not seem to happen, despite many complaints.

Smoking shelter

I note from the Punch Taverns planning application (18/0902/FUL) that they intend to erect a new smoking shelter at the very front of the premises, the closest possible location to the maximum number of residences. The Development Proposal on the Punch Taverns website promises heaters and an external TV in the smoking shelter. This would presumably be open at the sides, and would be open to customers as long as the premises is open – i.e. until 01:00 hours on Friday and Saturday nights, according to the application – irrespective of when the external drinking area is closed to customers (currently, supposedly, 22:30 and they have applied for extension to 23:00). This sounds like a cynical bid to keep the garden buzzing with noise until the entire premises closes.

Enclosures with this letter:

- Images taken from the Punch Taverns website showing how extremely close the pub is to a large number of residences at this quiet end of the High Street, including sheltered accommodation for the elderly.
- Images from the Punch Taverns website emphasising that the proposed new smoking area (with heating and an external TV) would be as close as it could possibly be to the maximum number of residences.
- A copy of the TRDC press release from 2005 (PR 424), stating and explaining the rejection of the lesser application made then.

PROJECT CORE VALUES

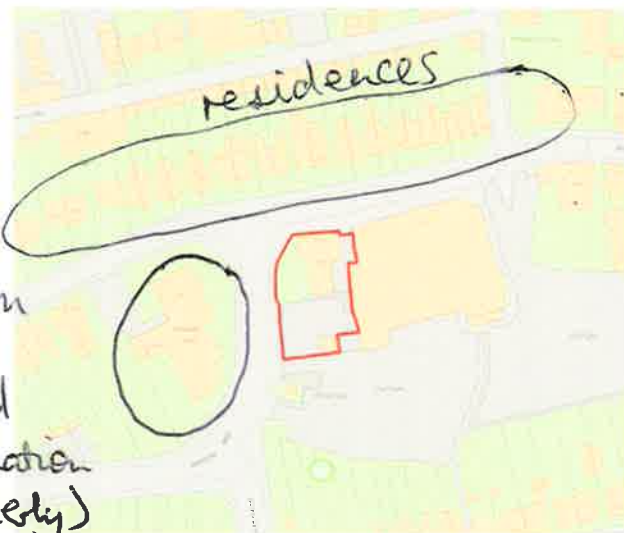
The premises is located in Rickmansworth, a small town in south-west Hertfordshire. Situated just 20 miles north-west of central London, and inside the perimeter of the M25, Rickmansworth is a popular place to live as a commuter town with an underground station straight to central London.

The premises is ideally located on the High Street of Rickmansworth, next to a large M&S Food store. This makes the premises a perfect destination for shoppers as well as evening drinkers.

The premises is also well known as a place for watching sports and appealing to customers who are attracted by this offering.

The offer is to be branded as Champs. This will appeal to both local trade and people shopping on the main high street.

Externally, there will be an attractive new beer garden area, together with a smoking shelter offering heaters and an external TV. Catering to sports fans with five big screen TVs throughout the premises, Druids offers the perfect destination for many customers.



ORDINANCE SURVEY

KEY INFORMATION AND SITE PLAN



LOCATION PLAN



Garish lighting and signage
NB Conservation Area



Wensum Court (sheltered accommodation
for the elderly)

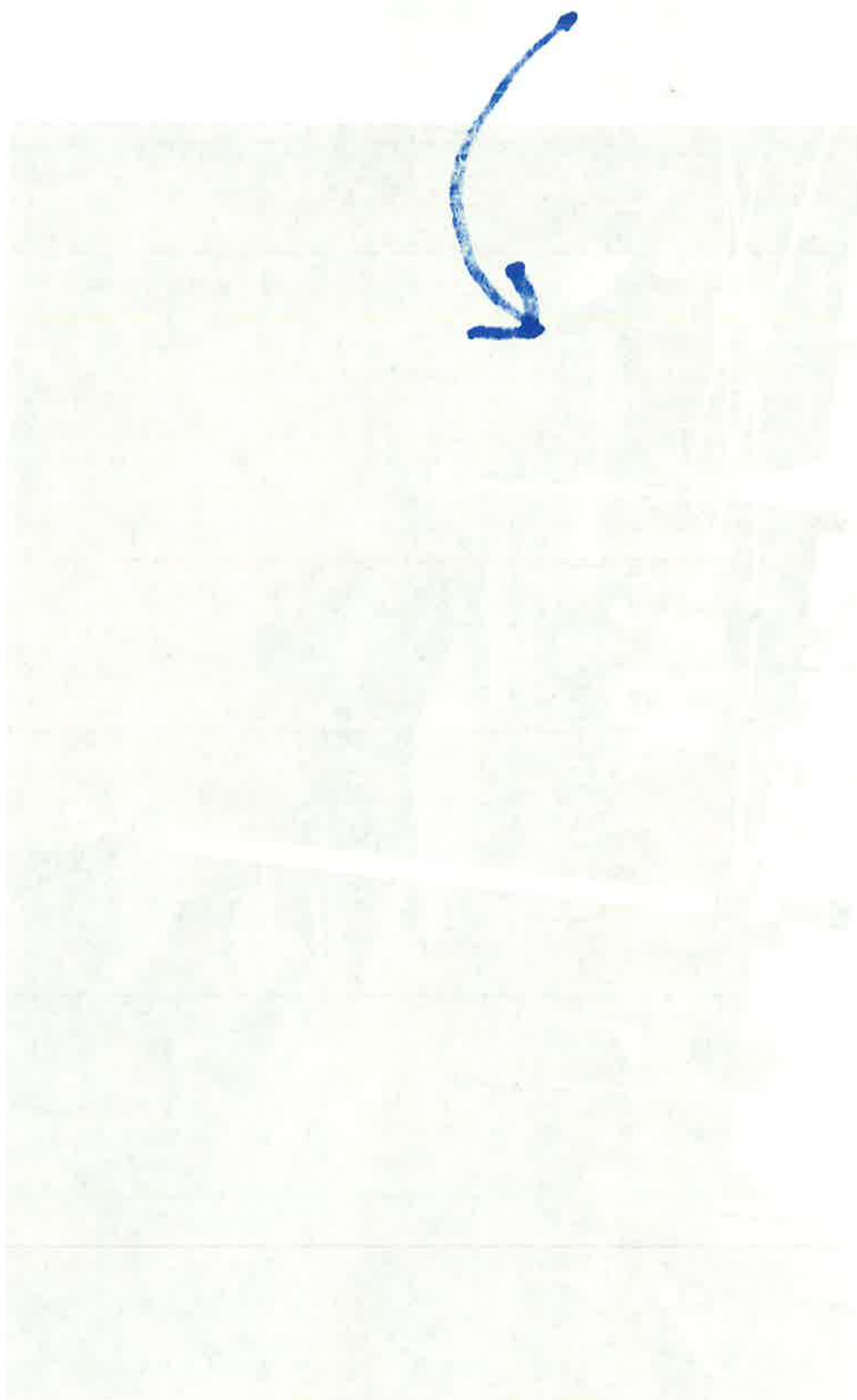


Pub garden, showing extreme proximity of many homes



Proposed location of new smoking shelter







| Key | Description |
|-----|---|
| 1 | Carpark – repair to tarmac and white lining to new layout |
| 2 | Disabled Parking bays |
| 3 | New Low level fence with gate access to edge of carpark |
| 4 | New Indian Stone Paving |
| 5 | New Astro Turf Flooring |
| 6 | New Fire Pit with Bench fixed seating |
| 7 | New Composite Decking |
| 8 | New Timber Pergola/Smoking Shelter |
| 9 | Cellar Extension |

SITE PLAN





Rickmansworth - extended opening hours blocked by residents

16th August 2005

PR 424

The interests of local people prevailed at Three Rivers District Council's licensing committee meeting last Friday (12 August). One application by a Rickmansworth pub for extended opening hours under the new licensing laws was rejected by the Committee and another was withdrawn by the applicant - both as a result of representations from local people.

The new licensing laws require that any application for extended opening hours meets with several criteria, including the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance.

An application for extended opening at the Druids public house was turned down and the Fox and Hounds public house's application was withdrawn by the landlord following concerns received from local residents. Written representations were made by a number of local people to the Committee, including residents of Wensum Court sheltered accommodation in Rickmansworth High Street.

Evidence for objection raised by local people included late night noise levels, car doors slamming, taxi traffic and concerns about possible anti-social behaviour.

Chair of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Chris Brearley, said:

"Any extension of opening hours must meet with strict criteria. We need to be reassured that there will not be excessive noise or other public nuisance. Both landlords in these applications have followed proper procedures and made reasonable cases but the case made by local people has prevailed."

He added:

"We have to strike a balance between the needs of responsible drinkers and the interests of local residents - in particular their right to a peaceful night's sleep. Three Rivers is a good place to live and we are working to keep it that way."

Miss L M Sandall, who lives in Rickmansworth, addressed the Committee on Friday. She said:

"Extending any pub's opening hours has a major impact on the lives of people living in the area. The longer hours the pubs stay open the less of a normal life we get to live. The hearing seemed to go well and it is important that people are informed that an application has been made."

The transition to the new licensing regime under the Licensing Act 2003 began in February this year. The deadline for conversion of existing rights ended on 6 August 2005 but it is still possible for those who have missed this deadline to make a new application.

Promoting local safety is one of the main themes of Three Rivers District Council.

Three Rivers District Council

Three Rivers House

Northway

Rickmansworth

Herts WD3 1RL

Druids_Champs licence application: what would it mean, if approved?

| | Existing Druids licence | Current Champs application | Impact if approved | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Garden | NOT included in licensable area | INCLUDED in licensable area | All licensed activities could take place outside as well as inside | |
| Garden closing time | Close by 22.30 | Close by 23.00 | All licensed activities allowed until 30 minutes later than currently | |
| Recorded music | | | | |
| Mon-Thurs | 10.00-23.00 | 10.00-23.00 | No change | |
| Fri-Sat | 10.00-23.00 | 10.00-00.30 | Recorded music permitted outside until 23.00 and inside until 00.30 (1.5 hours later than now) | |
| Sun | 10.00-22.30 | 10.00-22.30 | No change | |
| Live music | | | | |
| Mon-Thurs | Not licensed | Not licensed | No change | |
| Fri-Sat | Not licensed | 10.00-00.30 | Live music permitted outside until 23.00 and inside until 00.30 | |
| Sun | Not licensed | Not licensed | No change | |
| Supply of alcohol | | | | |
| Mon-Thurs | 10.00-23.00 | 10.00-23.00 | No change | |
| Fri-Sat | 10.00-23.30 | 10.00-00.30 | An additional hour of alcohol supply | For comparison: Fox & Hounds existing alcohol supply licence |
| Sun | 12.00-22.30 | 12.00-22.30 | No change | <i>10.00-23.00, same as Druids</i> |
| Opening hours | | | | |
| Mon-Thurs | 08.00-23.30 | 08.00-23.30 | No change | |
| Fri-Sat | 08.00-00.00 | 08.00-01.00 | Open for an additional hour, and patrons leaving the premises at 1.00 am | |
| Sun | 08.00-23.00 | 08.00-23.00 | No change | |
| Showing films | | | | |
| Mon-Thurs | Not licensed | 10.00-23.00 | Films permitted outside until 23.00 | |
| Fri-Sat | Not licensed | 10.00-01.00 | Films permitted outside until 23.00 | |
| Sun | Not licensed | 10.00-22.30 | Films permitted outside until 23.00 | |

Note: application also seeks 'to amend current condition re children on premises' (presumably to allow accompanied children later than 22.00 - not specified)

Alex Lisowski

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 June 2018 15:15
To: Licensing Team
Subject: Photo of Druids breaching licence
Attachments: image2.jpeg; ATT00001.txt

Categories: REPRESENTATIONS

FAO Alex Lisowski, Licensing Officer

Alex,

Thank you for your time this morning to discuss the current licence variation application from Druids/Champs.

Here is the photo I showed you, taken at 23:50 on Saturday 2nd June [REDACTED] showing the pub garden of Druids. The time stamp only says 'Saturday', not the date (which is all that the iPhone displays at the moment, as it's a recent photo), but note that the garden is supposed to be closed EVERY night at 22:30 and this was 1 hour 20 minutes later than that.

Points to note:

- The existing Druids licence states that the garden should have been closed at the time the photo was taken. It wasn't. (This is a very frequent occurrence.)
- At least one of the group shown came outside carrying a drink, when the latest time alcohol should have been sold was 20 minutes earlier - a bit suspicious.
- This was a quiet night at the pub - there was no match on that day. If there had been, the garden would usually have been heaving, and a great deal louder.
- The acoustics of the High Street, with many residences so close to the pub, mean that sound reverberates a lot.
- It is even possible to hear what people are saying ... from inside the bedroom.
- The evening this was taken, there continued to be noise (loud conversation from behind the building) until after 00:15. Again, this is not uncommon.

I am currently trying to find a way of sending the video I showed you, taken at the same time and supporting the points about noise, from the garden and also the roaring from inside the pub at the same time.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

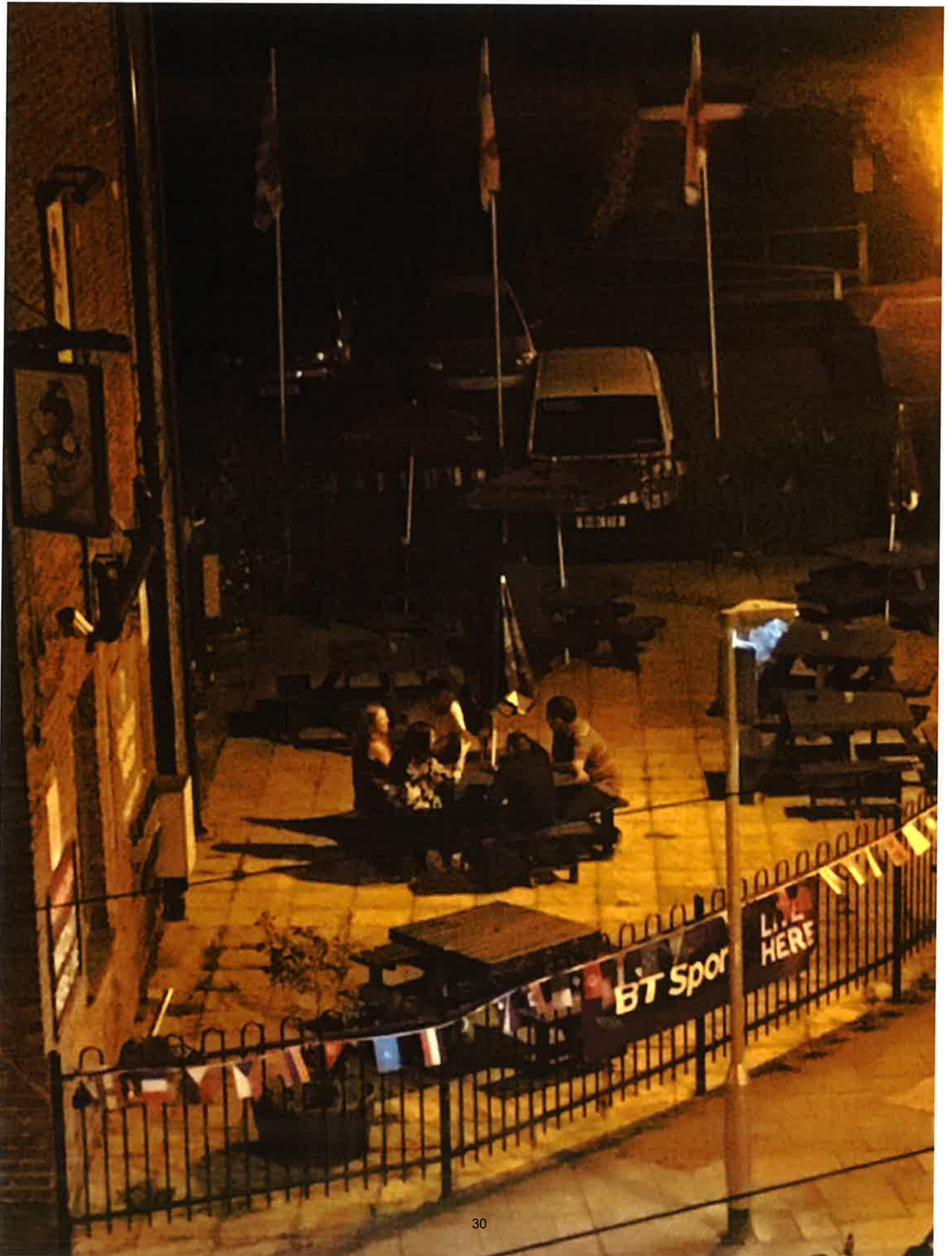


Saturday

23:50

Appendix 3

Edit



Three Rivers District Council Licensing Authority
Three Rivers House
Northway
Rickmansworth
WD3 1RL



23 May 2018

**Objections to Proposed Changes to Premise Licence for:
Druids / Champs, 205 High Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1BB**

As residential neighbours [REDACTED] we strongly object to any extension to their operating hours. Our reasons are listed below.

We know that Druids routinely violate their current licencing arrangements by keeping doors open late in the evening while playing loud recorded and live music, and by allowing customers to continue to use the outside area late in the evening. There is no evidence that customers are effectively advised to disperse quietly as we frequently hear rowdy people around the pub, especially late in the evening.

[REDACTED], we frequently find beer glasses and bottles in our garden or on the pavement – sometimes broken. The broken glass is an obvious hazard, while the smokers from the pub (with their bottles and glasses) that use our property wall to sit on are an unwelcome nuisance.

Live music and karaoke is regularly performed on site. When this occurs, volume levels are much louder than when recorded music is played. We find the level of noise generated by Druids frequently unpleasantly loud and disturbing to our peaceful living; and disruptive to our sleep.

We are concerned that the later opening hours and alcohol serving hours will exacerbate the level of noise and unsociable behaviour in the area. The proposed extended hours of playing recorded and live music will likewise cause unwanted and untoward levels of noise in the residential area. Additionally, the proposed changes to the layout seem to allow for a larger floor area, thus allowing the pub to host more customers – more people naturally equates to more opportunity for increased noise and nuisance.

We are concerned that the proposed pergola structure to form new external smoking shelter is very close to the footpath and residential houses and would allow smokers to be visible from multiple angles, even from down the road. We believe that every opportunity should be taken to prevent children from seeing smoking (and vaping) in action, and as such we object to this area being used for smoking.

In summary, we object to the proposed variation of Premise Licence for Druids (2018-05-08) because the enlarged licenced area and later operating hours will cause additional public nuisance and provide more opportunity for crime and disorder in this residential area.

We fully expect that the application for Variation of Premise Licence by Druids will be denied.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



27th May 2018

Licensing Department
Three Rivers District Council
Three Rivers House
Northway
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
WD3 1RL

Ref: Druids (Champs) Licensing Application

LETTER OF OPPOSITION

Dear Sirs

I write to oppose the proposed changes to licensing hours, as submitted by Champs (Druids) of 205 High Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1BB, on 8th May 2018.

I believe the entire application, but most particularly the application for extended hours, including the addition of live music into the early hours of the morning and the sale of food through to 1am in a residential area, plus the inclusion of the licensable area to the garden, will significantly impact our local area for the following reasons, to name but a few.

The noise at Druids is already excessive. So loud is the music of a weekend that we can name the songs whilst standing in our house with all of the windows and doors shut – we have even installed acoustic glass to try to reduce the noise pollution, but to no avail. As residents, there is no possibility of ever sleeping with the window open given the noise that is already generated from the pub. Even the chants from the pub garden when sports matches are being played is disruptive and makes for a poor quality of life at times such as the World Cup. We have complained to the police a number of times to ask that the disruption be addressed and I know the local council has previously had to make visits to remind the pub of its duty to keep the doors shut and to cease music at an appropriate hour in this primarily residential area. However, even on the few occasions when the doors are shut, the noise is disruptive. The thought of this noise pollution being allowed to spread into the early hours of the morning, and of the garden hosting TVs and live or recorded music, is abhorrent to those of us trying to enjoy this primarily residential area. A peaceful night's sleep seems a reasonable request by a homeowner, but to grant this application would ensure this is a right forever denied to us.

I have previously been told by the Council and the Police that, as residents, we have a right to stand on the pavement outside our house at any time of day, and not to be disrupted by noise from an opposite building – unfortunately, we have no such luxury in our home as noise levels from the pub are so intrusive. Extended hours and a grant to carry out noisy activity such as TVs or live music in the garden will certainly increase the disruption we are already living with.

Extended hours of drinking will not only create more noise for this residential area, but will also likely bring increased public disorder. As it is, there is often broken glass on the pavement in the mornings and there is often late night shouting and drunken anti-social behaviour in the street,

which is nothing short of a public nuisance. To permit this licensing application can only worsen the anti-social behaviour, enabling more time for alcohol consumption and pushing emptying out time to the early hours of the morning when yet more noise and taxi traffic will cause burdensome and unsafe conditions for the residents.

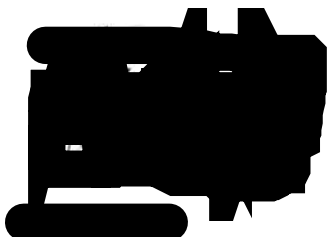
The safety of our neighbourhood and children must be a priority. Broken glass could cause harm to anyone unfortunate enough to tread on it, late night drinking will ensure I don't feel safe walking home at night on the odd occasion I need to do so, and the rubbish generated by late night snacks, not to mention the empty beer glasses on the street, will be of detriment to our residential community.

Rickmansworth, a conservation area no less, is a beautiful place to live and we should be working to keep it that way – not to reward this already troublesome public house with extended licensing which can only serve to exacerbate existing issues for residents. I would ask instead that the Druids (soon to be Champs) invests time in improving their compliance with existing licensing restrictions and invests money in acoustic glazing!

Our quality of life will most certainly be reduced further should this licence be granted, but perhaps more importantly, the safety of residents, and reputation of Rickmansworth as a place of natural beauty, will deteriorate. I therefore hope you will see fit to abort the proposed licensing application at the earliest opportunity.

With thanks in anticipation.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.