

By email 15/5/11

THE LICENSING ACT 2003
REPRESENTATION FORM FOR "INTERESTED PERSON" / "BODY"
(living in the 'vicinity' of the premises detailed below)

Your name / Company name	
(Name of Body you represent) Please tick one: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
i) a person living in the vicinity of the premises <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Postal Address (inc post code)	Longstanton, Cambridge,
Contact telephone number:	
Mobile Number:	
Email address:	

Name of Premises you are making a representation about:	Black Bull Public House
Address of the premises you are making a representation about:	56 High Street, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire, CB24 3BS

The prevention of crime and disorder:

There is a direct correlation between the consumption of alcohol in concentrated venues (such as public houses) and the occurrence of crime and disorder in the environs around such venues. The extension of licensing hours in pubs and clubs elsewhere in the country has resulted in more widespread crime and disorder. To extend the licensed hours of the Black Bull would, logically, lead to more frequent occurrences of crime and disorder and at times which are far more antisocial than currently licensed hours allow.

The prevention of public nuisance: The Black Bull is centred in a highly residential area. The current licensed opening hours are obviously as tight as they are (tightness being a matter of opinion) for very good reasons and the primary reason must be to minimise the possibility of "nuisance" to those living in the vicinity.

Frequently during the summer the noise from the Black Bull's users (inside and out) is unacceptable and excessive. Residents have to have windows open during the summer so noise cannot be reduced (by closing windows) without overheating in our homes. Thus any extension to the hours during which they can play very loud music would be a massive disruption to normal life in the neighbourhood and would result in increased phone calls to the police, at the very least.

Twice last year we had to contact the police to indicate that parties/concerts/music are going on way past their operating hours in the Black Bull. On one occasion the police have denied this, then a senior policeman has apologised the following day for getting it wrong (having listened to the recorded phone conversation) and failing to respond to the problem. On one occasion, live "music" was playing at such levels that inside our house we could not even hear the policeman to which I was speaking on the phone - our double glazing seemingly rendered completely ineffective by the high sound levels. This was at 12:35 am during midsummer... and caused great upset in our 1 and a half year old baby who was woken up by the "music" when we arrived back from a long car journey. We should, at that time, have been able to have stepped from our car into the house with her fast asleep. This behaviour is utterly unacceptable and any application to make such disruptive "events" licensed we would consider a gross act of stupidity, an affront to human decency, an invasion of privacy and a direct and considerable breach of our human rights.

That the Black Bull already occasionally breaches its current licensed hours is cause for considerable concern when a significant extension to current hours has been requested. If granted, we should fully expect them to exceed even the new hours - an even more considerable cost to the neighbourhood!

Public Safety: The impact of increased hours of drinking on public safety is no doubt well documented – I suspect Cambridge City police have data on what happened when the majority of the city's pubs were able to serve alcohol well beyond 11 pm.

I work 6 days a week. Allowing later opening on Thursday and Friday night (12.30 am and 1.00 am respectively on Friday and Saturday mornings) could be expected to have a detrimental effect on my family's sleep on two days when I – and many ordinary working folk – have to get ready for work at 6 am. The currently licensed hours are entirely adequate for a quiet village public house. The proposed new hours are excessive and inappropriate for the venue and its location. This is not a city night club! Driving to work on 5 hours' sleep – if we are to assume silence occurs at precisely 1 am – is not safe. My ability to carry out my role would also be significantly impaired.

Protection of Children from Harm: As indicated above, very loud music has – occasionally – already been played at such levels that it penetrates into the very core of our home even with deep roof insulation and high quality double glazing. We now have two very young children. The proposed licensed hours together with the ability to play "live music" and "any recorded music" – if at the levels already observed – would be detrimental to my children's health.

Additional: My wife and I strongly oppose the proposed changes (music and dancing indoors) unless sound proofing in the venue itself was installed to prevent such nuisance in the surroundings – and, of course, the licence would have to insist that the venue had its windows fully closed in the summer to prevent escape of sound. This latter seems only fair if, as at present, neighbours are unable to have any form of ventilation when loud music is bellowing in our direction – sometimes in breach of the current licensed opening hours. Of course, adequate ventilation at the venue could be achieved with sealed air conditioning units. We have already repeatedly witnessed "indoor music" being played at levels in the summer that might as well be considered "outside music" – having the doors and windows of the Black Bull wide open has this effect!

Additional (TIMES): An extension of weekday opening hours to 11.30 pm from the current 11.20 pm would seem a reasonable compromise. Playing any form of music to midnight on other days at sound levels that impact on the neighbourhood (particularly in the summer) is unacceptable – unless the sound is kept within the premises through adaption to their current means of ventilation (see above).

Additional (suitability): Longstanton is a quiet country village. The Black Bull public house is located at the heart of a residential area. The majority of the proposed changes to the licence, if granted, would change the Black Bull into a very different place. The impact these changes would have on the local population would be very negative indeed. Such changes are not appropriate for a village. As indicated above – this is not the centre of a city! Families live all around the area surrounding the Black Bull!

This form should be returned along with any additional information you may feel relevant within the Statutory Period, which is 20 working days from the day after the day on which the application was given to the licensing authority by the Applicant.

In the case of a request for review, a copy of your letter must be served on the Premises Licence Holder as well as to the Licensing Authority

However, because of the tight timescales involved, and to assist in the determination of the application process, any representations should be forwarded to the licensing authority AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and preferably within 14 days of notification of the application.

If in any doubt, please contact the Licensing section on the above telephone number.