

David Hammond
Head of Planning and Environment Services
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
B60 1AA

6th May 2010

Dear Mr Hammond

Ref: Application to vary the Premises Licence for The Rousler in Bromsgrove

I am writing with regard to the above and to register an objection to the two variations requested. This is on the following grounds:

1. Variation to extend the licensed area to incorporate the roof terrace

We previously objected to the original planning application for the roof terrace and this further request appears to apply for the lengthening of the drinking hours outside as well as inside the premises.

If this request is granted then it would still generate high levels of noise that will lead to a loss of amenity. We are also concerned that the proposal is likely to lead to noise being emitted from the premises so as to be a statutory nuisance.

In the original planning application it said (section 5.5) that "There is little, if any, chance of noise and disturbance to noise-sensitive properties being caused by a well-managed use of the proposed terrace area". This is just not true as several drinkers gathered together on an open roof on a summer evening are bound to make a great deal of noise.

Sound carries easily across Crown Close and living on the opposite side of the green we are regularly disturbed by noise from the back of the High Street premises. Rowdy drinkers on their way home, loud music from the dance studio, skateboarders, multi-tone car horns - all of these noises disturb the peace. Crown Close is like a bowl and sound is reflected all around off the back of the high street buildings. It is particularly intrusive at night and in the early hours of the morning when the background noise level drops away. The other noises are transient, and we can live with that. The terrace would produce noise from one place over several hours every night. It would be consistent and regular, and loud. In addition to noise from the terrace, there would be breakout noise from the pub every time the connecting door was opened. The sound would also be projected from first floor level that means it would travel much further than street-level noise. The terrace would be in a direct line to our houses, and bedrooms and we would not be able to ignore it.

It would be even worse if customers could use the roof late at night, and worse still if the pub allowed music there. This unnecessary development is bound to be a nuisance to people living nearby and will mean a loss of amenity. It will cause extra noise at quiet times and we believe there are noise pollution and environmental health issues at stake. The noise will stand out, and will significantly affect our lives and the character of the area. Crown Close is a designated Conservation Area.

If the application for the roof terrace is approved, against the wishes of residents, we would urge the council to impose a planning condition, to the effect that the terrace should not be used after 11 p.m. every night. We believe that such a planning condition would be a reasonable, responsible and modest step to take. The pub would have its terrace, the drinkers could smoke, and the residents would have the assurance they would not be unduly disturbed. Imposing a planning condition would help to minimise the detrimental effects on the amenity of the local environment.

2. Advance the opening hours to 0900 hours and extend them by one hour

This is a real concern and, if accepted, would indicate a "couldn't care less attitude" from our council. We thought that the objective was to promote responsible drinking not to encourage it by opening Pub doors just as people roll out of bed.

We already have the dubious honour of being the first town in the country to issue a nationwide none drinking ASBO to one of our residents and have this reported in all the national newspapers. Also this is a Pub that seems happy to allow it's customers to break the law by using the adjoining Cleggs Entry as a toilet. This creates a health and safety issue for the public and no one seems able to take any action to stop it.

We hope that this extension will not be granted.

Ccfi – Environmental Health Department