

**From:** Dick Bird [mailto:dickbird@waitrose.com]

**Sent:** 17 September 2011 10:18

**To:** Licensing

**Subject:** Objection to Premises Licence Application for Wickham Village Hall: Ref 11/01405/LQN

For Property and Public Protection, Environmental Health & Licensing  
West Berkshire District Council  
Faraday Road  
Newbury

Dear Sirs

Your Ref: 11/01405/LQN

1. I understand that the Wickham Village Hall Management is seeking a new premises licence for the provision of regulated entertainment.
2. At its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September, Welford and Wickham Parish Council supported the application, despite strong concerns raised by a number of local residents.
3. I wish to record my objection to the terms of the licence as applied for on the basis that it would create considerable noise nuisance and parking difficulties for residents of Wickham who live adjacent or close to the Village Hall.
4. On the ground of noise nuisance, I observe that the Village Hall has only single glazing in its windows and that private homes abut it on two sides.
5. On the parking difficulties, there is a significant parking problem in the area of the Village Hall when it is in use. [The problem occurs to a greater degree in the mornings and afternoons during term time when parents deposit and pick up children at Welford & Wickham School nearby.] The Hall is situated on the junction of the Baydon Road (B.4000) and Welford Road. There is space within the curtilage of the Hall for only around 8 vehicles. Others routinely park on Welford Road and in the adjacent St Swithins Close. Parking in Welford Road near the junction with Baydon Road poses safety issues, especially at night, for vehicles turning into Welford Road. Cars are often parked without lights, which is technically legal now that Welford Road (but not Baydon Road) is within a 30 mile/h limited zone. However, parking within 10m of the junctions with Baydon Road and St Swithins Close is also common, even though this is illegal.
6. Overflow parking into St Swithins Close is common, and has on occasions in the past caused access problems for residents.
7. It would I believe be reasonable on both the above grounds for the licence to limit the way Wickham Village Hall can be used for the prescribed purposes. I therefore request that the terms of the licence be amended to reduce both the hours during which potentially noisy events are held, and the number of such events.
8. I therefore ask the licensing authority to require that:
  - a. performances which might generate significant noise for residents, including but not

limited to live music, recorded music, and performances of dance, be limited to six occasions per year;

- b. performances which do not create significant noise for residents be limited to three per week;
- c. Events not be permitted to commence before 0900 on any day;
- d. Events not be permitted to continue after 2330 on Saturdays, nor after 2300 on any other day.

9. As I understand it, such limits would be above the current usage of the Hall, and would allow the Hall to maintain its role in village life without undue restriction.

10. I believe no application is being made by the Village Hall for the sale or supply of alcohol. If this is wrong, please inform me immediately because it would considerably magnify my existing concerns and I would strongly object to such licence being granted.

Your faithfully

R W Bird  
5 St Swithins Close  
Wickham  
RG20 8HJ