

As customers of The Black Horse, we would like to lend our support in saving our local.

We all use the pub as it is the only one in the area that offers traditional service. Many of us use the pub 7 nights a week and have never witnessed any anti social or criminal behaviour.

Many of us are residents of St Johns Road and have used the pub for many many years.

Name	Signature	Name	Signature
HARVEY VOOD		S. Birdland	
James Bayle		CHRIS SHORNEY	
Nathan J ROSS		M. S. MATTARAN	
Leon Ross		M. MATTARAN	
KIQUIN CRISWELL		M. J. PARKER	
NICOLA LUNN		K. COLE	
TINA RHODES		J. WOODWARD	
B. HEAP		C. STEWARD	
N. RHOODES		D. BAKER	
T. PROWING		G. WOODWARD	
S. HANCOCK		A. WOODWARD	
A. DUNN		PAUL WOODMAN	
M. BRIGGANCE		M. WOODMAN	
CAROL ANN SHAW		LEW DUNN	
ALEX LAWE		DAVID DUNN	
John Tycosa		Tim Wood	
K. B. BAKER		W. Wood	
Labon Jones		George E.	
D. B. PARKER		Colin D.	
D. COOPER		F. HANCOCK	
D. DOREAN		M. GILBERT	
Linda Morgan		J. DAVIES	
M. Evans		J. A. BAKER III	
J. HAYDEN		R. E. SHORNEY	
L. EDWARDS		BOB BAKER III	
B. TAYLOR		JOHN WOODMAN	
T. TAYLOR		M. JAMES	
R. CLEVELAND		S. TAYLOR	
R. PEAR		T. BAKER	

1st January 2012

Licensing Department
West Berks Council
Newbury

Dear Sir

Re: Licence Review for Black Horse Public House, St Johns Road, Thatcham

With reference to the above, we would like to state that we have had no issues whatsoever with nuisance, crime or public disorder at the Black Horse.

We live 100 yards from the pub and have suffered no adverse effects from its presence in our neighbourhood. We visit at least once a fortnight and have found the staff operate the pub in a sensible and reasonable manner. The Black Horse has been open for a long time and provides a service to the community, the members of which are very friendly and well behaved!

We are happy to have the pub on our doorstep and have found noise levels appropriate to the fact that we live so close; the Black Horse would be greatly missed by the majority of the community and we wholeheartedly support an extension to the current licence.

Yours faithfully



Mr & Mrs M Beaumont

Matthew Threlkeld
127 St. John's Road
Thatcham, Berks RG19 4

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to give my views on the Fythcombe Licensing review of the Black Horse Public house.

I have been a resident of St. John's Road for over twenty seven years and live just around the corner from the Pub.

I have frequented the Pub for the majority of these years, having always found it welcoming, friendly and obviously conveniently close.

I find the reasons disclosed for the review to be absolutely laughable and downright insulting to the barstaff and customers.

I can understand that occasionally noise could be an issue, but to claim that the Pub encourages intoxication and criminal behavior is absurd, have myself had too much to drink on occasions and have been refused (politely) any more alcohol.

The average age of customers must be mid forties with a large number of pensioners who frequent the Pub. Would those pensioners drink there if it was a troublesome Pub? I think not!

Also fail to understand why the Police canvassed local residents about supposed issues is this standard practice? and have they nothing more important to do?

Will continue to frequent the Black Horse as I find it the most friendly and safest Pub in Thatcham to drink.

Yours Sincerely
Matthew Threlkeld

Miss D M Jones

28th December 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you with regard to the application review for the premises licence of The Black Horse public house in Thatcham.

I would like to write to inform you that I am a local customer in The Black Horse and that I am extremely sad to hear that people are complaining of anti social behaviour.

Every time I have visited the pub, which is often on my days off, I have found the pub a very lovely friendly pub to be in. I have never personally witnessed any behaviour which would make me feel that I would never wish to drink within the pub again.

I am deeply saddened to hear such accusations and am willing to stand in court and represent the pub and Beverley herself.

I also feel that Beverley Barnaby have been victimised. I have witnessed her go through, what I can only class as "intimidation" since she took over the public house in June 2010. Prior to this the previous Landlord never had any issue with any resident within the local vicinity.

I have also noticed the change to Beverley Barnaby's life, she has become very down and withdrawn also frightened of breaking a glass by accident in case a Police man walks through the door.

What I ask is why anyone should be made to feel like this on top of running a business is this necessary; the pub is a good pub, a very local community pub. I have never witnessed anything that would make me not wish to continue drinking here.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D Jones". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Regards".

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a representative of the Albert Auston Buffalo Lodge, I hereby offer our support to the Black Horse in review of its current licence.

The Black Horse has been home to our lodge for over thirty five years. We meet here twice a week; many of our members are elderly gentlemen who would most definitely not feel safe visiting the premises if the allegations made were justifiable. We frequently have visitors from other lodges who enjoy coming to the pub because of its friendly atmosphere and welcoming staff and also wonderful home-cooked food which is provided for us on occasions where we request it.

It would be a massive loss not only to us but to all of the locals if this pub were to lose its licence. We would like our lodge to remain at the Black Horse for many years to come.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tomlin".

Mr and Mrs G. Davies

29th December 2011

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of St. Johns Road and a customer of the Black Horse for over twenty years I hereby offer my full and unwavering support of the pub and its staff. My garden is directly opposite the front of the pub and in all these years I have never had cause to complain about any of the activities within the Black Horse.

I frequent the pub often and as a gentleman of a 'young' eighty years of age would be ill inclined to spend time in a place that had the kinds of problems that the complaints have supposedly referred to. I have certainly not ever felt unsafe or intimidated by the pub, customers or staff. I have always found it to be and still find it to be a lovely, friendly atmosphere and a great place for me to meet up with my friends for a drink.

I believe that it would be a great shame for many people to loose our local pub and indeed an even bigger shame for a pub that has been here for so long to close due to misguided information.





HYDRAULIC, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

For the attention of Denise Anns

Date 23-12-2011

Re application No 11/02043/lqn The Black Horse Thatcham RG193Y

Dear Madam

I write to give my support to the Black Horse public house in St Johns rd Thatcham Who are currently undergoing a licensing review . As a regular in the establishment for Several years I find it a great place to spend time, having a social drink with a cross section Of our local community . Not just business men like my self but trades men and workers all Enjoying a social after work drink and social chat in what I have found under current management to be the friendliest pub in the area. I am appalled at the allegations being made against the pub as I have never witnessed any anti social behaviour at any time (unlike many other premises in Thatcham) and feel the pub is being unfairly targeted . The Manager and staff are at all times whilst professional friendly – polite and very welcoming particularly to the elderly and disabled. I have seen the manager work hard to Establish a lovely place to relax whilst controlling the more problematical customers, it Saddens me that old established locals like this are a dying breed but as a large part of Our heritage and culture and should be preserved, and would ask that you consider this

In your decision.

Yours sincerely

Mr I F Vince

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "I F Vince", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Beverley Barnaby
The Black Horse Public House
2 St Johns Road
Thatcham
Berkshire
RG19 3SY

28th December 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to confirm my attendance at the license review of the Black Horse public house in St Johns Road, Thatcham. I also wish to confirm that I will speak on my own behalf, and on those of the customers and the pub itself.

I would like to draw your attention to some background information which may help you to conclude a fair and just ending to this somewhat unfortunate matter. Since taking over the role of manager at the pub, I have worked tirelessly to improve the facilities, atmosphere and clientele and have, with the help of my staff, managed to rid the pub of all cocaine users; often putting myself in some compromising situations to do so. As a result of this, the clientele of the Black Horse is on average, aged between 30 and 85 years old, of varying professions and backgrounds. These are most definitely not the sort of customers who would engage in or create criminal situations or anti-social disturbances.

Many residents of St Johns road itself use the pub on a regular basis and have done so for many years. Since the previous license review I have had only three visits from police in relation to levels of music – for going over time. On all these occasions it has been before the assigned pub closing time of 11.30pm. I have not been notified of any complaints about noise pollution, or criminal activity from the council or the police. I am aware that it is Environmental Health that deal with complaints on noise issues so I am questioning as to why the police force are dealing with this matter? I myself have called the police in relation to noise pollution and have been told that I need to direct my queries to Environmental Health.

I have actually been a resident of St Johns road myself prior to taking over the position of manager in June 2010. I was also a longstanding customer, friend and employee of the previous landlord, Mr D. Beakes, who himself admits to having many late Friday night music sessions, sometimes carrying on until the small hours of the following morning. He was not subjected to the same level of scrutiny or what I view personally as victimisation from various bodies, and for that reason among many I question why? I am a well bought-up and educated middle aged woman with two adolescent daughters; one a student at University and the other due to begin A-Levels at Kennet School next year. I would not condone bad behaviour or disturbances from my customers; just as I would not as a mother when concerning my daughters. I am well-respected and liked by customers and staff alike and we all view the Black Horse and it's regular clientele as one big family that's being added to all the time – I even have a female customer who feels comfortable and safe enough to breast feed her three month old daughter inside the pub; not the sort of place to do such a thing if the allegations against the pub have any grounding in truth.

I would ask that you and your colleagues bear the information I have provided you with and my customers and staffs opinions in mind when making your decision. Since the last license review we have undoubtedly lost a lot of business due to the revoking of the late license and we can ill afford more. The pub has been in St Johns Road for over 120 years and we would like it to be here for many more to come.

yours Sincerely
Beverley Barnaby

As I said we have had no notification of any issues be it noise or criminal activity from the environmental noise or the police just the notice to display in the window and the date to attend the hearing.

In five months we have had two visits from the police in relation to the live music, (Solo Singers) that we have on a Friday night, running over time, once by 7 minutes and the other occasion, which was a 60th birthday party, by 22 minutes. I was told by the officer that attended that it was a complaint from a neighbour about the music / noise. The officer, a PC Murphy from Newbury Police Station also categorically said that someone has a vendetta against either me or the pub. I have several witnesses to this.

It confuses me somewhat that when I phoned the Police in relation to noise nuisance I have been told that it is not their area and to phone environmental health who have a 24 hour line for this purpose. So why are the Police visiting us for this reason I ask?

The outcome of the hearing is that they could take away our premises licence which means the pub will close and six people would become unemployed at a very unstable time in our economic climate also many of my customers would loose a lovely friendly pub to come and enjoy a drink.

I would like to ask you to visit us and form your own opinion and support the Black Horse and its locals to keep us going for another 150 years.

Thank you for your time in this matter and I await your reply.

On behalf of myself, Beverley Barnaby and all the customers of the Black Horse.

Yours Sincerely
Barnaby.

Beverley Barnaby
The Black Horse Public House
2 St Johns Road
Thatcham
Berkshire
RG19 3SY

29 December 2011

Dear Mr Cameron,

This may seem an unusual request and I know you are extremely busy; but I am writing to you to ask for your help in supporting the survival of our local community pub, the Black Horse, which is situated in St Johns Road in Thatcham, Berkshire. I have been the manager of the premises for only eighteen months but have managed to slowly build up the business by introducing bar snacks, quiz nights and a football team amongst other initiatives.

We have developed a welcoming and varied customer base, many of them elderly gentlemen who are residents themselves of St Johns road and the surrounding area. We are currently undergoing a licence review, the second of which we have had to contend with in around six months. The local police force is bringing this case to the licensing committee themselves due to supposed noise pollution, anti-social behaviour and public safety issues. Myself and all the customers and staff are extremely baffled for a number of reasons as to why this is the case.

Since the last licence review we have seen no evidence from the police or indeed, the council, that this is the case. I have spoken to many residents personally in the area and they have all said that they have no issues whatsoever with the pub and its clientele. I do not operate with many customers of the younger generation and the large majority of the clientele are of an older generation. They come from varied backgrounds and professions from local tradesmen to business owners and retirees – hardly the sort to partake in the alleged 'anti-social behaviour.'

As a woman of 45 years of age, I would certainly not feel comfortable or safe in my place of work if this were the case. The Black Horse has been running for over 150 years and is a life line to many of my regulars; the pub has also for the last 35 years been home to the Albert Austin Buffalo Lodge, who meet here twice a week, many of them are in there late seventies and again would feel very unsafe here if the allegations were correct.

They have already taken away our late licence and we currently have to close at 11:30 PM. This has greatly affected our trade as many customers will now leave us early to frequent other pubs in the town that are open until 2 AM. The previous Landlord of the premises had many many occasions where late music / drinking went on and he had no complaints other than standard letters from environmental noise, certainly never a licence review. The pub is much quieter and I have worked tirelessly to rid us of undesirables. The pub has a great atmosphere and we are all like a big family. We all feel completely victimised by the Police / Council and are wondering if there is an underlying issue going on.

"TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY"

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE BLACK HORSE

Dear Resident of St John Road

As we move closer to the festive season, I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to join me and some of my team for a Christmas coffee morning and nibbles, both on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st of December at 10:30 am.

I do hope you can make it as I am committed to working with you to ensure that everyone enjoys the festivities with minimum impact and with due respect for each other. Through this informal gathering, and by combining our collective experience, we can develop a solution with the aim of establishing a closer understanding and involvement between all residents of St Johns Road.

To start, I would like to give a little information about myself. I used to live in St Johns Road for a few years and so have experience of both living in the road, and also working for the previous manager. Since taking on the managers' role, the whole team has worked hard to change the image, character and atmosphere of the pub.

Some of the improvements include the redecoration of the toilets, providing a better garden area for families and outside enjoyment, and passing the relevant environmental requirements so we can now serve delicious home-cooked food. These changes have been great to encourage new regulars. We have also tackled some of the anti-social activities that used to dog the area by installing a CCTV system. This provides 24 hour surveillance both within the pub and on the road outside. The system has already identified anti-social behaviour in the road, which had nothing to do with the Black Horse, and also identified a team of men who were scamming the fruit machines in a number of public houses in Thatcham.

I will continue to make changes, and would like to use our informal coffee mornings to ask for your ideas, advice, support and suggestions to continue to improve the Black Horse going forward.

We have a really diverse mix of customers covering all sorts of trades and professional people, as well as a good representation of families and people of the third age, which really reflects the demographics of the town. I believe this encourages a real village pub environment right in the heart of Thatcham, one which has been in existence for over 150 years.

Unfortunately in these times there are always a minority who spoil it for the majority. As manager of the Black Horse, I am committed to identifying and banning these undesirable individuals from the pub. I'm also working closely with other licensees in Thatcham, supporting the pub-watch initiative and alert system.

I do hope you will be able to pop along for a chat and coffee. By sharing ideas, the result can only be positive and help move us all in the right direction. I look forward to seeing you and listening to your suggestions.

Let's all work together to make this a Very Merry Christmas for one and all.

Best regards,

Beverly,
Manager Black Horse.