

To the Senior Licensing Officer

REF: Licensing Application 12/02003/LQN - Victoria Arms, Mortimer. Application for Late Night Music

Dear Sirs

I am shocked and horrified to receive a Photocopy of the application only on 20th December 2012 – A full week after it had been made available in the Reading Post. As I do not purchase this local paper, I feel that my rights to a fair hearing have been limited as a local homeowner to make my comments and views known on this subject. I also feel that as this application is being made over the Christmas period, that other residents may not get a fair chance to put their views forward due to the Christmas break and all the disruption on normal working hours that this brings with it.

With regards to this application, I have a number of queries that I would like clarification on. The proposed music times state that they wish to play live and recorded music until 24.00 Mon-thurs and 01.00 Fri-Sat with 11pm being the cut off on Sunday – it then states (indoors). Does this mean that they will be allowed to play music OUTDOORS Mon-Sat but not on Sundays? Or has the music got to be restricted to indoors only all week?

I am very much against this licencing change, and as your records will show, I have emailed the licencing department a number of times in previous years about the high level of noise nuisance coming from this pub. The local residents have to put up with loud noise, kareoke (so loud you can hear it over the TV with windows and doors shut), as well as drunken shouting, swearing and bad behaviour particularly during the summer and after sports games. A number of times people have been seen vomiting in gardens and causing trouble congregating in the street when walking home. In the summer it is particularly bad, as they open all the doors and windows, and music can be heard blaring out at all times, turning a peaceful village into a nightclub, this ruins the quality of life. There is also a large congregation of men, when sport is being shown, and it feels very intimidating as a woman to walk past when this occurs, with drunken men leering, and appearing very aggressive. I have made complaints to the council in the past about the level of disruption and noise, but as usual the council failed to do anything as by the time anyone arrives then noise and commotion have long gone. I have spent the last year finishing a PhD thesis often being kept awake by noise – my email to you dated 25/11/11 was only one of many instances over the year, but at 3.45am it was annoying enough to warrant an email to you.

Within 100m of the Victoria Arms pub, there are at least two very elderly single women, who both have serious medical conditions. These ladies get scared by the noise (one having had part of her brick gatepost knocked down and destroyed a few years ago by drunken customers from the pub). They are not people who will be likely to complain. We also have a number of families with young children, who are in the first years at school. There is no doubt that they will be kept awake by the noise, as we are currently disturbed by the volume of music from the pub currently. Taking this later into the night will only cause more trouble. In the next few months, my new neighbours will be welcoming a newborn baby to their family – again rowdy drunken people will make life miserable for everyone. It is important that the local residents are taken into consideration in this process, not just the owner and customers. WE as residents are the ones who have to live with the constant disruption and we are the ones who have to clean up the mess and damage caused.

Parking is also an issue, with very little available at the pub. MANY customers park down the street, and walk to the pub, as if they do not want to be seen drink driving. This causes many parking and traffic issues, with buses and cars often not being able to pass without extreme caution. There is also the junction of Windmill Road, which is a blind turning, again causing potential accidents. There are a number of groups who frequent the Victoria Arms, who ride motorbikes, quadbikes and fast cars, who are often seen speeding up and down Victoria Road on a Sunday, appearing to be having races – there appears to be nothing we can do

about this, but it disrupts the local community and is exceptionally dangerous, especially when you see small children being driven at speed on a quadbike without a helmet on!

I have lived in Mortimer all my life – nearly 30 years, and this is the only pub that appears to cause any kind of loud noise and rowdy behaviour. We have two other pubs in the village, and neither have the same reputation as the Victoria Arms. I have witnessed many episodes of drunken behaviour, swearing, small fights, vomiting and urinating in gardens and general disruptive behaviour over the years. This year I have also witnessed what appeared to be a drug deal with customers walking out of the pub to a car, being given something, and then going back to the pub. This is all seen whilst going about my own business in my home. It saddens me that there is nothing that can be done about this blot on the village community.

Mortimer is a VILLAGE – not the inner city of Reading. We do not want this type of behaviour on our doorstep, and I feel that granting this change of licence will just encourage the bad behaviour later into the night.

Not only will increasing the hours of live music cause noise disruption, it will also cause potential problems with parking later into the night, possible drunken damage to property and also help to destroy the peaceful nature of the Village.

In order for my views to reach you by the 2/1/13 I am emailing a copy of the Representation Form, however I will also be posting a copy so that I am legally covered and my views are not discounted via a loophole. Please find attached the relevant forms.

I hope that you take this into consideration when making your decision.

Yours sincerely

Miss Elise Fraser
Ms Anne Fraser
Mr Glenn Durbridge