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Licensing  
West Berkshire and Wokingham Environmental  
Health and Licensing  
Market Street,  
Newbury,  
Berkshire,  
RG14 5LD

**14 November 2016**

Dear Sir or Madam

**Ref 16/01550/LQN**

**Application for review of premise license for Trunkwell House, Beech Hill, Reading**

As a resident of Beech Hill since 1989 it is with great reluctance and necessity that I have to make the following comments regarding the review of the premise license for Trunkwell House Beech Hill, Reading.

Any business within a small community has to be supported, which I have done, to the extent I stood up at the planning meeting and put my name to turning the premises known as Trunkwell House into a first-class hotel.

As you are aware this permanent/garden marquee in the garden behind Trunkwell House and the large marquees in the adjoining field which are used for weddings and other functions on a regular basis. At times the noise has become unbearable especially during the summer months as we could not have our windows open during the day or in the evenings due to the volume of noise being generated from functions taking place at Trunkwell House. Some evenings the boom boom from the base noise was so strong you could actually feel the windows vibrating. We also had the loud noise of people screaming when dodgem cars were provided at such corporate functions and with fireworks having become the norm most weekends.

Over the years we have been fed with promises that these issues will not happen again. Functions with loud music and noise continuing into the early hours of the next morning take place at week-ends and on any night during the working week.

Although this was and still is very annoying and disruptive, we could normally speak to the event organiser or Mr Walton explaining the problem and asking him to turn the volume of the music down which to be fair to him he did. However, there was always plausible excuses such as this is not our regular discotheque provider and they had the amplifiers turned up too much, or they decided to rearrange the siting of the discotheque to another area within the marquee or I'd hired the marquee out to another organiser and they took on the responsibility for that event, therefore denying he had any control of what went on. It was always excuses but nothing tangible or constructive to address the ongoing disruptive noise situation from Trunkwell.

We were always told Mr Walton's intention was to build a country hotel on the back of Trunkwell House which would extend out into the rear garden and encompass the permanent marquee which was the original source of the noise problems at Trunkwell House (tents do not have thick sound reducing walls). It was in the interest of the current leaseholder and the village at the time to support these plans and a local business as a way forward. We were told this would require the removal of the permanent marquee to make way for the new atrium and function room which were shown as part of the development plans submitted.

Mr Walton and his team applied to WBC planning authorities for a temporary marquee to be established in the field to the side of Trunkwell House, allowing them to dismantle the permanent marquee in the rear garden of Trunkwell House whilst construction and building work took place. .

The new temporary marquee was established in the adjoining field. However since then not only has there been no positive signs of the new development at Trunkwell House but the area designated for the siting of the temporary marquee has moved as well as expanding considerably in size (appendix 2 &3). This is now subject to a Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Appeal under Section 174 for alleged breaches by the Appellant's Parson Leisure Ltd and Mr Robert Walton

Whilst I do not want to deny somebody making a living it should not be done at the expense of others. This I feel is what Mr Walton and now Mr Mann have done and are still doing to the annoyance of myself and those residents living within the vicinity of these marquees especially if and when the larger marquee on the left of Trunkwell House is brought back into use. It is also interesting to note additional marquees are being erected this very day. All this unwarranted noise pollution is abusing the good relationship and goodwill with certain people within the village.

I would ask the licensing committee to strongly review the times and the number of days this noise pollution is allowed to happen until such times the new hotel is built with an integral sound proof function room. Also many of us have very early starts which means our sleep pattern is also disturbed by loud music, general party goer noise and traffic movements going on into the small hours of the next day which is totally unacceptable.

Even the Memorial Hall in Beech Hill which is a wonderful village asset and managed successfully by a committee, are very conscious that residents are not disturbed, hence music is not allowed to be played after 9.30pm to avoid upsetting neighbouring villagers within the vicinity of the Memorial Hall.

Loud fireworks and pyrotechnics are also a disruptive noise issue which often happens without warning. These displays need to be limited using silent fireworks which are on the market (appendix 1).

It is hoped these supporting comments and evidence will help the Premise License Committee come to the correct decision as to the way forward for those affected in Beech Hill by this commercial business at Trunkwell House.

Yours faithfully

C J S Bridges  
*Resident of Beech Hill*