

From: Georgia Willan
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 4:47 PM
To: Licensing <Licensing@westberks.gov.uk>
Subject: REF 09/01533/LQN-DPS/77-FV

Dear West Berkshire District Council,

I am writing to **object to the application made by The Watermill Theatre** in Bagnor, Speen, Reference Number: **09/01533/LQN-DPS/77-FV**.

The existing Watermill Theatre license is sufficiently broad for the theatre to operate, the proposal will bring further nuisance to the resident community and harm to the environment rare biodiversity.

Bagnor is a rural hamlet of outstanding beauty and important biodiversity and rare nature. I have enjoyed this village for walks and stays with local residents, which I continue to do.

The Watermill Theatre already has means to entertain its guests within its current permit license. They do not require a broader scope. The existing license already has a negative impact on the conservation area and the new application would make this far worse.

Outdoor performances and large numbers of visitors cause noise issues which impact the birdlife, feeding and mating of animals and the river life, not least the wild brown trout spawn, one of the most important of the chalk streams (the Lambourne) in this country. The area around the theatre is also suspected home/home to protected animals such as Water Voles, Otters and Hedgehogs, all of which are endangered, further threatened by this licence application. The river already noticeably suffers from litter and cigarette pollution.

Beyond the environmental impact, the traffic in the village blocks residents and inhibits them accessing their homes. The increased HGV transportation through the village has deteriorated the roads (requiring tax funding to repair them in parts but more required).

All of these will be exacerbated by this application.

The environment and nature are at the forefront of the community with many public footpaths allowing the important and rare wildlife to be seen – this cannot be compromised.

Extending The Watermill Theatre's hours will further disrupt the tranquillity of the area, increase pollution, and brings no value-add given the theatre has plenty of space and commercial operating capability to run their business already.

Similarly, the hamlet community does not need further alcohol and food licensing. The hamlet has a Pub which has an active license (albeit look for new ownership). This should be sufficient.

Bagnor is hamlet and not a town. A hamlet must be protected for its residents and natural environment.

I strongly urge the council to reject this proposal to protect the environment and local village.

Yours Sincerely,
Georgia Willan