

From: Thomas Putter <thomas@putterfamily.com>
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 5:47 PM
To: Licensing <licensing@westberks.gov.uk>
Subject: ref.nbr: 09/01533/LQN-DPS/77-FV

Dear Sirs

I am writing in my capacity as owner of Elm Cottage, let to the Head Gardener at Bagnor Manor. Mr Simon Frayne and his family reside at the property. Emma Frayne, Simon's wife is a nurse by profession. In particular she counsels bereaved parents of deceased pre-natal and natal children. Both, by nature of their activities are early risers.

It is unfortunate that the holiday period has been chosen to consult on the proposed amendments to the licence for Watermill Theatre. The Frayne family is away and cannot comment.

Whilst the theatre in the past has been considered a cultural asset, its increasing commercialisation over the last years has led to increasing criticism in the village. During Covid the attempts to host outside events were tolerated, but caused significant inconvenience in terms of noise. The new plans will exacerbate this inconvenience and run the risk of seriously undermining the ability of neighbouring residents to enjoy the tranquillity and rural peace that all came to Bagnor for. Increased outdoor activity, just when everyone wants to enjoy their own gardens is not acceptable. The possibility of loud congregations around the consumption of alcohol outdoors, does not fit into the rural idyll that Bagnor is. This possibility is real given the fact that the pub has closed down . But the pub had no late night outdoor events or drinking, strict closing hours and then became a restaurant with much less traffic ,until it closed down. The closure of the pub/restaurant has generally been welcomed by the community. The evident possibility that the Watermill becomes more than a local theatre, but instead a venue for outdoor functions will be highly detrimental to the neighbourhood, even to the extent of impacting the values of the houses nearby. It is very surprising that a charity would wish to take such a blatant and inconsiderate approach.

The residents of Bagnor, consisting largely of middle-aged people and retirees, have a right to a peaceful nights sleep, not interrupted by late performances or the aftermath of bottle disposals and cleaning up. This is not to speak of the traffic congestion and increase in road risks potentially late at night, especially where alcohol is involved.

Please note my very strong objection to the proposed plan.

Your sincerely
Thomas Putter