

Appendix 5

From: Charley Hart
Sent: 10 August 2023 14:13
To: Licensing <Licensing@westberks.gov.uk>
Subject: Watermill Theatre - response to objections

Dear Vikki,

Following on from our phone call and in light of the objections that we have received in relation to the Watermill Theatre's application to vary our premises license, we would like to propose a change in how we would like to vary the license.

The only change we would now like to make to our premises license is the ability to sell alcohol outside for the duration of 'The Lord of the Rings' run, so until Sunday 15 October, at which point, our license would then revert back to what it has always been with no other changes.

We wanted to write to acknowledge the concerns laid out and hope our offer might allay your concerns.

The main stimulus to apply for a variation was to have an outdoor bar for 'The Lord of the Rings'. We wanted to have this in place for the show to make the experience for audiences more immersive – introducing them to the Shire and allowing them to enjoy the atmosphere in the garden. The indoor bar is of course available, but this sits slightly outside of the 'world' of the show.

We understand the concern that having the ability to sell alcohol outside could mean that we would do more outside events in the future which weren't related to the theatre. This is why to alleviate this concern, we would like to propose that the only change we make to our premises license is the ability to sell alcohol outside for the duration of 'The Lord of the Rings' run, so until Sunday 15 October, at which point, our license would then revert back to what it has always been. Our hours will remain the same.

We would be most grateful if you would take the time to consider this proposal in light of this being a limited period.

All the best,
Charley