

From: Tim Barker
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2023 9:21 AM
To: Licensing <licensing@westberks.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: The Boxford, RG20 8DD

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Dear Sir/Madam - As a resident of Boxford, I would like to lodge a relevant representation in objection to the extended licensing hours that have been applied for at "The Boxford, Boxford, Newbury. RG20 8DD"

The Boxford (still under construction) looks like it will be a beautiful, family-focused, premium restaurant. As with The Woodspeen (owned by same proprietor), the vast majority of patrons will be driving to this destination restaurant given the small number of residents in Boxford.

It's on the basis of primary car-travelling patrons that I object to the request for extended licensing hours until 24:00 on the basis of prevention of crime and disorder, and public safety.

Nearby pubs and restaurants in the area (Five Bells, Halfway Inn, Red House, Hare & Hounds, The Woodspeen) all close by 23:00.

As the most recent drink-drive enforcement campaign shows (<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/thames-valley/news/2023/january/w.c.-2-january/more-than-700-arrests-made-as-part-of-drink-drive-campaign-thames-valley/>) there is a concerning rise in cases of drink driving in Thames Valley, with a 24% year on year increase in arrests, and an alarming 42% increase for under 25s.

My concern is that, by being so out of alignment with other local establishments, The Boxford can easily become a magnet for late night drinking in the area, with many travelling by car.

Given this, and the establishment's presentation as a "family-focused, community restaurant" I would propose 23:00 as entirely appropriate for The Boxford for both the consumption and retail sale of alcohol. I have no objection to a later opening on New Year's day.

Many thanks for considering this relevant representation.

Mr and Mrs Barker
Boxford
Newbury
RG20 8

Regards

Tim Barker

