

(redacted),  
Beenham,  
Berks RG7 5

9th November 2023

Public Protection Partnership (Licensing),  
West Berkshire District Council,  
Market Street,  
Newbury RG14 5LD

Dear Sirs,

Re : New Premises Licence Application 22873. (Awberry Farm, Beenham)

I object to the above licence application which is effectively both a license to sell alcohol AND a license for music and dancing.

I am a resident of Beenham and my house will be directly affected by the failure to meet the licensing objectives of the Preservation of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm

Beenham is a quiet village in an AONB, West Berkshire planning committee imposed noise restrictions on the venue which is the subject of this licence, which are clearly unenforceable. With the best will in the world, to expect the applicant and one named guest to control the noise both within and outside the building, and at the car park, is clearly unsustainable. The applicant would have other duties than noise enforcement and the named guest would have to be 'on duty' at all times and thus precluded from celebrating by partying, eating and drinking and other distractions at the festivities I am. That the proposed licence would also allow alcohol, music and dancing outside the barn.. Clearly my house and other neighbours, barely 250m across an open field from the venue, would hear unacceptable noise from guests partying. This would undoubtedly constitute a public nuisance in that it would impact on my quiet enjoyment of the property.

There is also a problem with the nuisance caused by lighting of the premises. Quite rightly, regulations for public safety require bright lighting of car parks, courtyards and gardens used by guests at the wedding venue. However such lighting would create a public nuisance to the neighbouring premises in that it would give light pollution. Within the AONB there should be dark skies and a minimum of such light pollution.

I cannot see how both the noise and lighting aspects can not impact upon our quiet enjoyment of our house and garden.

I am also gravely concerned about the Protection of Children from Harm aspect of the licence. Beenham has narrow country lanes and traffic going to and from the venue will put the numerous children (including my grandchildren), pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders in danger, particularly at the entrance/exit from the venue which is opposite the playground.

Surely there is a also grave risk of harm to children by the extended right to consume alcohol, and dance as revelers spread along the public footpath within the curtilage of Awbery Farm from the entirety of the venue or even to the recreation ground?

Another aspect of the prevention of children from harm needing your consideration is the inevitable noise and light pollution at night will disturb children's sleep and could result in possible health and psychological problems. My own grandchildren, who regularly visit, suffer from autism and ADHD, and need a quiet environment to settle, and I'm sure that there are others within the village who may not have even been diagnosed.

If it transpires your committee are mindful to grant the licence I would respectfully request that a restriction be included to prevent alcohol sold being consumed outside the barn and no music-dancing and on no more than the 28 event-days . In my opinion this proposed licence could I fear seem to seek to circumvent the planning consent

To conclude, I would therefore respectfully urge you to reject this application.

Yours faithfully,

Elizabeth Bragg