

Public Protection Partnership
West Berkshire District Council
Market Street
Newbury
licensing@westberks.gov.uk

10th November 2023

Dear Sirs

Re New Premises License Application 22873- Awberry Farm, Beenham

I live in Beenham and wish to object to the above application as it fails to promote the following key licensing objectives.

The protection of public nuisance

There are approximately 40 residential properties within 250m of the licensed premises, the closest being less than 150m away. This is approximately 25% of the Beenham parish properties. Awberry Farm is located in the heart of the village of Beenham. It is not surrounded by acres of farmland as inferred in the application.

The use of Awberry Farm as a major events/wedding venue between the hours of 12.00 and 23.00 on a number of Saturdays will clearly be a potential for public nuisance in the form of noise arising from live and recorded music, people giving speeches, guest voices which will often be raised, vehicles arriving and leaving the site and light and anti-social behaviour (on site and potentially in Beenham village)

I do not believe that the noise mitigation measures are sufficient nor will the, predominantly young, staff at Awberry farm be able to impose them. There is no way that guests attending events are going to adhere to the clauses, signed onto, in the hiring contract. The fact that Mr Hopes lives on site also does not mean that any mitigation measures put in place to protect the villagers will also be adhered to. Mr Hopes is not going to want to upset the guests and jeopardise any future business. It is inevitable that considerable noise will be experienced by the residents of Beenham, especially those only metres from the site.

Public Safety

The application states vaguely that "a sufficient number of people will be employed to secure the safety of the premises and its clientele" but there is no comment as to what constitutes a sufficient number or what the qualifications these people will have. I guess this will be the same young casual local employees that this venture was to provide employment for.

I am therefore concerned that a young, inexperienced workforce would lack the ability or authority to properly control any situation from escalating such as unacceptable noise levels from music or guests, ensuring guests leave the site at 10mph or less and preventing or controlling antisocial or abusive guests.

The Highways Officer reported that the sight lines for exiting driveway of Awberry farm were inadequate and that there was a risk to patrons, local residents, parked vehicles on the highway, cyclists, horse riders and other road users of an accident or collision as a result of the increased traffic on Beenham's narrow unlit roads on an event day. Surely this raises concerns about public safety to the residents of Beenham when the guests are arriving and departing.

Based on my concerns raised in this letter I hope you would agree that this application should be refused.

Yours sincerely (Redacted)