

(redacted)  
Bourne Lane  
Beenham  
Reading  
RG7 5

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

**Licence application Awberry Farm Barn Ref 22873**

I've lived in Beenham since April 1994; our house backs on to Awberry Farm's land.

**I am writing to express my support for the application.**

I believe the applicant has taken reasonable steps to engage the community and has listened carefully to those who have opposed the proposals to use the barn as an events venue. I have been pleased to see the applicant has made significant modifications to accommodate those objections; as an example, the significant measures around noise management through noise insulation and noise management (eg hours of operation) and a commitment around minimising light pollution.

The applicant has also reiterated his commitment to providing employment opportunities for local young people. Whilst some objectors will dismiss the value that part time work in hospitality offers, the skills acquired in those roles serve young people well as they develop their careers further.

I have confidence the applicant will be committed to minimising disturbance to neighbours in all forms; the conditions attached to the successful application for a change of use of the barn limit the number of days the barn can be used as an events/wedding venue as well as the hours of operation on each day the venue is in use, and as the applicant lives in the farmhouse next to the venue, he will be on site and present at each event.

I do not believe that granting a licence will generate any material risk to the public or those attending it. The type of events proposed at Awberry Farm Barn have been held there on occasion by the previous owner of the farm. I cannot think of an occasion where harm has been caused or there was reason for complaint.

As with any change, those who object are likely to flag those objections more than those who are either supporter of the change, or are neutral to it. As a point of fact, the planning application for change of use of the barn attracted almost as many supporters as objectors. That application generated 60 named supporters and 62 named objectors.

This application has the potential to bring something exciting and new to Beenham. The proposed venue is very different in nature (facilities, scale, and I expect pricing) to the Village Hall, local club, and the community room shared with the school. I don't see the proposed venue competing with or putting those facilities at risk.

In my view, whilst there are some who will object to any application of this kind, granting a licence for the Barn thus supporting the applicants plan to invest in the village would be good for the local community as a whole.

Nigel Toon