

Re: Application for a Variation to a Premises License:
The Croft Hall, The Croft, Hungerford, RG17 0HY.

Application ref. 38590 app30014

We live in The Croft, RG17 0 [REDACTED] approximately 40 metres from the Croft Hall. Our past experience of the Croft Hall is very positive and have regarded it as a valuable amenity for Hungerford residents. The current custodians of the hall have worked hard to increase the use of the hall by local groups, for musical events and filmshows.

In general, such events cause little problem, though it is evident that lately excessively loud music has been disturbing and lazy or illegal parking can cause problems.

In principle, therefore we are in favour of The Hall's current licensing arrangements. However, the proposal to extend the license to include music and alcohol purchase and consumption outside is step too far and will cause Public Nuisance and potentially be a Safeguarding issue due to the proximity of the nursery school and scout meeting room next door.

We therefore ask that the variation to include the outdoor space for music and alcohol sale and consumption be REFUSED for the following reasons:

1. This is primarily a residential area. The proposal would likely attract larger groups than currently accommodated with the certainty of high noise levels outside.
2. The Croft Hall car park is inadequate for all visitors, with the attendant overflow onto The Croft itself which is already under parking stress.
3. Loud music and large groups of people consuming alcohol adjacent to the nursery school seems highly inappropriate. Additionally, access to the scout hut is adjacent to the outside area in question. Both issues are Safeguarding issues unless there is suitable supervision of the events by Croft Hall personnel.
4. It is clear that an intention of this application is to extend the type of event held at the hall, beyond the community events of the past, into private parties requiring music and alcohol sales. The evidence of a recent private party on 10 July suggest that all such events need Croft Hall supervision to ensure all conditions of hire are adhered to. On that occasion, even with current arrangements, loud music spilled into the surrounds until past 23.00hrs. Without proper supervision, near residents have no control over such nuisances when they are actually occurring.

We therefore ask that

- the extension of the current Croft Hall music and alcohol license to include outside areas be REFUSED:
- the license should require Croft Hall management provide on-site supervision for private parties to ensure hiring conditions are met.

David and Caroline Whiteley,

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RG17 0 [REDACTED]

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