

Application to vary premises licence Clapcotts Farm, Spetisbury, DT11 9DF

Representations received in support of the application

1	<p>I am writing to inform you of my support of the above licensing application.</p> <p>Shaun & Marcia have worked extremely hard for the past five years building up a local farm shop and cafe.</p> <p>More recently they secured a licence for a bar but only from 9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. The addition of longer licensing hours would be a real community boost as the majority of the villagers use the bar in the afternoon, but have to leave by 6.00 p.m. There is so much support for them, that I am truly amazed that by having just a couple of objections there is a possibility that they will not be able to get the full licence.</p> <p>The shop and cafe have created employment opportunities for the local community and the village really need this to work as it is an excellent meeting place.</p> <p>This does not seem fair at all, they are on the edge of the village. have had sound proofing fitted, therefore not affecting anyone not even the close neighbours.</p> <p>I really hope that licensing can come to the conclusion that having the licence is the correct way to go.</p>
2	<p>I wish to offer my support for the Open application 052070 – Clapcotts Farm, Spetisbury, DT11 9DF. I have used these premises frequently and I am aware of previous concerns from some of the community but I believe that all these concerns have been addressed. In particular the prevention of a public nuisance.</p> <p>Through listening to the relevant authorities Shaun Hannam as fully adhered to their instruction which I would see as the below list of how issues were resolved.</p> <p><u>The prevention of public nuisance.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed to keep windows and doors closed during regulated entertainment.• installed sound-proofing in the area used for live entertainment• installed acoustic lobbies at the entrances and exits of the premises• installed a sound sentry device which acts as a visual warning if noise levels exceed 95db.• placed notices at the entrances and exits to remind customers to leave quietly <p>With the closure of the last remaining Licensed premises in the village, this gives back to the village a focal point for meeting up with friends and neighbours in a quiet and pleasant location. An eclectic mix of people live in the village, Lawyers, Barristers, Scaffolders, Farmers, and probably more importantly retirees who would welcome a facility to socialise.</p>
3	<p>Spetisbury is in dire need of a community hub, and we fully support the above application for Clapcotts Farm.</p> <p>The farm provides a safe environment for a wide range of people - from individuals and families to groups and local businesses.</p> <p>Please consider supporting this application, so Marcia and Shaun can continue with their great efforts to bring the local community together.</p>
4	<p>Reference: Open Application 052070 – Clapcotts Farm, Spetisbury, DT11 9DF.</p> <p>Dear Licensing officer,</p> <p>My husband and I are writing in support of Shaun and Marcia's licensing application. We have lived in the village for several years and feel it is important to support local businesses and this one is especially important to us as it provides a social hub for the village.</p> <p>Since the closure of the pub, there has been nowhere for the local community to go and meet up and enjoy social events together. This is vitally important for the health and wellbeing of the local community, and the Shack will enable social events and evenings to happen again, bringing the</p>

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	<p>community closer, and enabling us to look after each other better. The Shack is a friendly and welcoming place, where locals can gather to catch up, and new faces are greeted warmly.</p> <p>The Shack is set well back off the road, with ample car parking and space outside for sitting in the summer, as well as a large open room with the bar in it. There is plenty of space for children to sit inside or go outside and play safely, well away from the main road. Although there is a log burning stove lit in the Shack in the winter months, it has an effective guard rail around it to ensure adults and children maintain a safe distance.</p> <p>Shaun has put in a huge amount of time and effort to ensure that the Shack is abiding by noise and environmental regulations, he has done several sound surveys and has installed a monitor to show if the noise levels go above a certain level, and he has fitted an outer door to limit sound as well. In conclusion it would be a detriment to the village if the Shack was not to be given the license, as it would impact on the connectivity and health and wellbeing of the local community. I would strongly recommend that the license is given.</p>
5	<p>I have been an employee at Marcia's farm shop and kitchen and the Shack for nearly a year now. Throughout my time here I have been impressed by the management of my bosses Shaun and Marcia regarding the Shack.</p> <p>In terms of the prevention of crime and disorder, I have been told since my first day to ID anyone who looks under 21 to prevent the underage sale of alcohol; I have been instructed to stop the sale of alcohol to anyone who is too drunk, and to stop the sale of alcohol by 6:00pm to abide by our current licensing rule.</p> <p>As for disorder, the temperament of the locals we regularly have in drinking is calm, happy and peaceful. Anyone who wishes to drink in the Shack is greeted with a smile from all and made to feel welcome. We have rarely seen signs of disorder in the Shack, but if we did I feel assured that anyone on the bar or my boss Shaun would deal with it responsibly and quickly.</p> <p>Secondly, Shaun and Marcia have always been careful to prevent public nuisance. To my knowledge they have conducted several sound tests, which confirm that any sound produced from our property would not be heard or disrupt any houses nearby. We also had a box fitted that monitors the sound produced inside the bar area, and lights red if our sound level is too high.</p> <p>Finally, we have always been a very family friendly place, we regularly have children and parents in after school for milkshakes and ice creams. Therefore our pub/dining area is very safe for children as are our grounds. We do have a fireplace, however the in a guard around this and only adults are permitted to stand near it or put wood on the fire.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Shack is a fun, safe and family friendly place which acts as a well needed social hub for our village since the woodpecker closed. Myself and the village included would be so grateful to be able to use the shack during these extended hours and see it grow to its full potential.</p>
6	<p>I'd like to support the alcohol license application for Clapcotts Farm, ref: 052070.</p> <p>After losing the local pub over a year ago the village community has been dramatically affected, generally in terms of people not getting to see each other regularly. A vast array of people of all ages and backgrounds were drawn to the pub as a way to meet up with friends and to make new ones.</p> <p>The current licensing hours at Clapcotts make it difficult for working people to get together in the week - unlike when the village had a pub. The weekends are also problematic as the bar has to close before people finish their weekend activities.</p> <p>I should add that Clapcotts is a much better asset for families compared to the pub as it's away from the main road so safe for dogs and children.</p> <p>It's been very frustrating that the licensing has taken so long for such a critical asset to the village and wider community. I hope that things now progress swiftly and Clapcotts is able to become a new centre for village life.</p>

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7	<p>Open Application 052070 – Clapcotts Farm, Spetisbury</p> <p>I would like to give my full support to this application.</p> <p>As a resident in the village, the farm shop and café / bar have become of great importance following the demise of the Woodpecker and provides a much needed hub for the village. It would change the character of the village completely if there were nowhere for people to meet and socialise – booking the village hall is not an alternative for this.</p> <p>Clapcotts is very family oriented and there have been several steps taken to ensure the safety of customers (guard around the log burner, emergency lighting etc). Most, if not all of the local children who come with their parents know each other and look out for each other and are familiar with the fields surrounding the farm – a far better environment than being in front of a screen! This is building a community. The bar area is always manned and is kept very clean.</p> <p>I am aware that CCTV has been installed to deter crime which can occur in a rural community. I have observed Shaun ensuring that the terms of his current license are adhered to and have no doubt that he will continue to do so. This is not an establishment that attracts “trouble” however Shaun would not countenance any disruptive behaviour as it goes against the ethos of Clapcotts which is to provide a service to the community and without which the village will slowly be reduced to a dormitory where, due to the geography of the village, residents would rarely see or meet each other – who would want to live there!</p>
8	<p>I write in full support of Mr Hannam’s licence application “ Open application052070-Clapcotts Farm, Spetisbury.</p> <p>Not many years ago the village of Spetisbury had a filling station, village shop and two public houses, all of which have closed down.</p> <p>Mr Hannam is a very respected upstanding member of the village community, a licence for his establishment would certainly help the prevention of public nuisance. At Clapcotts farm there is plenty of off-road parking, the building is on the very edge of the village and would not be of a disturbance to anyone.</p>
9	<p>I fully support the above application as I sincerely believe that if not granted Spetisbury will suffer as a result.</p> <p>I am a retired Dorset Police Officer who lives in Blandford Forum and have witnessed that ‘The Shack’ is well run by Shaun and Marcia.</p> <p>One could even argue that if granted, they would be making a contribution towards preventing drink-driving for the following reasons:-</p> <p>There is no bus service in Spetisbury in either direction after 2000hrs and the nearest taxi is based in Blandford.</p> <p>From my experience there will always be those who are prepared to run the risk of drink-driving.</p> <p>This will mean anyone so inclined will drive either to Charlton Marshall or Sturminster Marshall if the opportunity to drink locally is not available.</p> <p>I would suggest that this complies with the following two licensing objectives:-</p> <p>1) Prevention of crime and disorder (Drink-driving is deemed a crime)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&</p> <p>2) Public Safety (Drink-driving is a major contributory to road traffic accidents)</p> <p>With respect to licensing objective Protection of children from harm, ‘The Shack’ is invariably frequented by locals and on the occasions that I have witnessed children on the premises, they have been well supervised and controlled by their parents/guardians and it has not given me any cause for concern.</p> <p>Finally I would ask that when considering any objections please consider whether they are valid or just the views of Nimbys.</p>

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10	<p>I refer to "Prevention of a public nuisance" for this application Spetisbury is a long village on the A350 which limits day to day contact It has suffered the usual reduction in services in that it used to have a shop, a garage and a pub. All these held the village together socially However we are lucky to have a small start up of a shop and a pub which once more allows the village people to meet in congenial circumstances It is off the main road and has ample parking and also serves the walking groups that use the foot paths Its location means a vastly reduced potential for public nuisance and it is a well run and responsible addition to our lives</p>
11	<p>Good morning please find my email letter of support the application.</p> <p>Shaun and Marcia are looking to run a business, which provides local amenities which are not serviced by any other businesses.</p> <p>They do this in a friendly inclusive manner to all in a family environment which welcomes children and the more senior alike. They are welcoming of dogs, walkers and even visitors on horseback.</p> <p>Events held are well attended but safely hosted well mannered - for example the local charity fireworks.</p> <p>I support the license application as they are diligent in their application of the rules, provide a safe facility for all to enjoy and without a licensed premises the village loses its focal point which impacts all of us from a community perspective.</p> <p>I look forward to this matter being resolved.</p>
12	<p>I write in support of the above Variation Application for Clapcotts Farm, Spetisbury.</p> <p>As a resident of Spetisbury for the last 30+ years I have very real concerns for the future of our community with the demise of the Woodpecker pub, which shows no signs of reopening. Our village as you know is very linear, stretched out along the A350 and sandwiched between the river and the old railway line; this means it is sadly common for residents not to see each other at all without going to a meeting point such as the Village Hall or a pub. The community hub provided by the Hannams' excellent farm shop, café, and bar is invaluable for the village and the licence extension would allow even more of the community to get together to socialise, as well as providing a meeting place for local groups (such as our Book Club) in the evenings.</p> <p>That being said, I understand that generic letters of support are not particularly effective without addressing certain objectives and I will do my best to speak to a couple of these.</p> <p>With respect to public safety and prevention of crime, the bar area is professionally staffed and supervised as any other responsibly run licensed premises, and Shaun and his staff are always on top of glass collecting and spillages, even during busier days. I have certainly never seen anyone underage being served alcohol, nor do I have any reasons to believe Shaun would ever allow this to happen as he takes his responsibilities as licensee very seriously. The café/bar area is used by those of all ages, including older people as well as families with young children, and is comfortable and safe for all. The log burner has a protective barrier installed to prevent accidental contact. There are signs requesting dogs are kept on leads and also stating that smoking, including vapes, is not permitted. The bar and seating area and new toilets are always kept clean, tidy, and clear of obstacles, and all the tables, chairs, and other fixtures are maintained in excellent condition, giving no cause for concern. Indeed, the cleanliness and tidiness of the café/bar and shop is clearly a point of some pride for Shaun and Marcia, and the customer's comfort and safety are evidently a top priority.</p> <p>In relation to prevention of public nuisance, Shaun and Marcia have spent some significant time and money meeting noise control requirements to ensure the impact of noise from the bar on surrounding neighbours is mitigated as far as possible. This includes various forms of soundproofing including double doors and insulation, and installation of a noise meter. This work has been undertaken in response to objections based on ad hoc events which included live outdoor music; the measures are not necessary for the normal day-to-day operation of the premises which only plays background music to allow people to chat. Hopefully, however, now they are in place everybody can accept that everything that can be done, has been done in this regard and we can move on.</p>

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	<p>We in the community strongly support this application and hope that the end is in sight, as Shaun and Marcia have worked extremely hard to meet the requirements and restrictions placed on them. Lack of a licenced premises in a village can often be the end of a community, and we do hope that all their efforts will be rewarded.</p> <p>I hope this is helpful.</p>
13	<p>Please accept this email as my way of showing my support for the Licence application for Clapcotts farm bar "The Shack". Although this is a personal submission, i have been a parish councillor for many years and have lived in the village since 1966.</p> <p>We had seen a village with several pubs, 2 garages/petrol stations, post office and a greengrocers stripped of all its amenities by development until all we have left is The Shack.</p> <p>Refusal of this application would make the viability of The Shack harder, as the existing licence is not enough.</p> <p>The Shack has hosted New Years fireworks events, literary events, private partys & even Radio Play presentations and has become an important venue serving both Spetisbury & Charlton Marshall.</p> <p>This is our last amenity, and so i fully support the Open application 052070 – Clapcotts Farm, Spetisbury, DT11 9DF.</p>
14	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I fully support this application which has been far too long in the process.</p> <p>Whilst I understand the planning office has now fully approved the discharge of the condition relating to this application, it is as the result of the applicants having fulfilled, and in some cases exceeded, all the planning requirements put forward by the planning office, to the expected and communicated standards and again in some cases beyond the planning office expectations.</p> <p>The applicants have invested a lot of time and money to meet all the requested requirements and have paid out for a number of professionals and professional services to meet ALL the requirements laid out by the planning office so there cannot be any reasons for not approving this application to allow the applicants to exercise their human rights, to make a living and to continue to prove the successful diversification of the farm and to continue to provide and expand a vital asset which benefits the community.</p> <p>This asset not only benefits Spetisbury but also Charlton Marshall and the surrounding hamlets, but provides employment too.</p> <p>The application area in question has already become a great community venue for the villages.</p> <p>I believe the requirements from the planning office which, as stated, have been implemented and exceeded plus the addition of a CCTV system go beyond meeting and addressing the four key objectives of the licensing authority to approve this license application.</p>
15	<p>I write in SUPPORT of the above application and as I believe applications are considered under 4 main criteria I will cover each of these in order</p> <p>The proposed venue is very much a community establishment with almost exclusively local patronage so is unlikely to lead to any increase in crime or disorder - indeed the provision of a convenient meeting place for locals to come together to discuss local matters is likely to enhance local security and would quickly be able to defuse any disorder and/or spread awareness of any issues in the village.</p> <p>The venue is quietly tucked away in a semi rural location and has been the subject of noise assessments as part of the application which have clearly established no increase in noise nor nuisance. Arguably the provision of local facilities reduces the need for residents to go further afield and therefore reduces the overall traffic footprint in the area. Indeed a journey to Sturminster Marshall or Charlton Marshall would have to be made by car whereas a visit to Clapcott Farm can be made on foot for most potential customers and is therefore supportable in terms of reduced overall noise/traffic and is consistent with an environmentally sustainable approach</p>

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	<p>In terms of public safety this venue represents a much safer proposition than the public house (Woodpecker) that previously used to operate in the village. This venue has more off street car parking and access from both the trailway and paved footways within the village. (Access to the previous pub from the Poole end of the village required walking on non paved parts of the busy A350)</p> <p>In terms of protection of children I can only say that in my visits here during the existing constrained opening hours I have never seen any underage drinking and because of the "local" nature of the customers I consider it would be the last place a village under age drinker would approach for alcohol as they would be instantly recognised and declined.</p> <p>In summary I support the application because it provides a much needed community hub to fill the gap left by the closure of the Woodpecker pub in the village and offers rare local employment opportunities in a village environment</p>
16	<p>We write with reference to the above application for a premises license at Clapcotts Farm as regular customers of Shaun & Marcia, for both the farm shop and 'The Shack' cafe/bar.</p> <p>We fully support the application and would like to see the extended licensing hours in place and, like many, are frustrated by the time the planning and license process has taken so far.</p> <p>In relation to public safety and prevention of crime and disorder: we have seen first hand that the bar is operated in a professional manner and causes us no concerns as to the safety of clients, their children and the community as a whole. The bar is kept clean, tidy and free from spills and is always has staff in attendance. We have witnessed the installation of fire safety and lighting equipment from a well known and accredited local contractor.</p> <p>We recognise that some locals have objected on public nuisance grounds to the planning applications related to one-off events that are not relevant to this application. Noise and music in the bar is well contained and we have seen that Shaun has introduced additional (and probably unnecessary) noise prevention measures recently. Music and noise is very low key and quiet bar conversation is the order of the day for the local patrons!</p> <p>We also have no concerns regarding protection of children from harm. There is a log burner on the premises but this is well protected and children are only allowed under adult supervision. Visitors are generally from the local community and everyone plays a part in keeping the kids safe and well behaved. We have never seen an underage person being served and know that Shaun is rigid on sticking to such requirements.</p> <p>The community is in dire need of a local licensed premises since the demise of The Woodpecker and as an alternative to the in the nearby Charlton Inn which we no longer patronise due to the unfriendly attitude of the licensees. Shaun and Marcia understand the local community and very well thought of and respected. We commend their efforts and fully support for this application.</p>
17	<p>I write with reference to the ongoing Variation Application for a Premises Licence at Clapcotts Farm, Spetisbury, DT11 9DF.</p> <p>As a very regular customer of 'The Shack' operating at Clapcotts Farm, since its inception, I was dismayed to learn that, once again, the application for a license to sell alcohol until 11pm between Monday and Sunday has effectively been put back to square one. Mr and Mrs Hannam have thus far clearly made an enormous amount of effort in complying with the conditions imposed by Dorset Council in support of their application and, putting aside pure customer bias on my part, I really do sympathise with their plight from a business point of view. Their efforts to grow the business and meet standards over the past year have been nothing short of exemplary.</p> <p>What concerns me today is that whatever Mr and Mrs Hannam do in order to fulfill the Council's wishes in support of their application, it is simply never enough, and the Council makes further requests for change, including things which could have easily been highlighted and addressed months ago. The number of times the Council has seemingly 'moved the goal posts' in respect of this application frankly beggars belief. Mr and Mrs Hannam have, at great expense, made additions and alterations to the premises in accordance with the Council's wishes and have also been fulfilling their obligations where operating policy is concerned, in readiness for an extended license.. However, it would seem that every time Mr and Mrs Hannam respond to the Council's wishes and increase their investment in the</p>

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business, the Council opts to focus on minor matters of detail, actively seeking to highlight petty flaws rather than take into consideration and embrace the good qualities of the business and the great service it already provides to the communities of Spetisbury and Charlton Marshall. Additional signage and a new porch have recently been added and a sound meter has been installed, all as per the Council's wishes.

The Woodpecker public house in Spetisbury, which interestingly was positioned at the heart of a residential area and was never required to have a sound meter, was once a place for the local community to meet and socialise but has now been closed and unoccupied for many months. I firmly believe that Mr and Mrs Hannam, given that they already operated a successful store and cafe at Clapcotts Farm, identified an opportunity to provide such a place for the community to socialise in again and make it a success. I firmly believe that it has been a success and continues to be so. I believe their application has been hindered by what amounts to vendetta-like opposition which has exaggerated its claims and concerns in order to obstruct the extension of the operating hours of what is already a well-used community asset. It is a warm, welcoming, safe, friendly and trouble-free environment, regularly frequented by parents who choose to bring their children. There is also signage in the entrance to the car park advising drivers to exercise caution and drive 'dead slow', making them aware that children may be present. Parents would simply not bring their children (or dogs at that matter) if they felt it was not safe. Where the woodburner is concerned, children would be more likely to put their hands on a woodburner or in an open fire at home than at Clapcotts Farm. A home woodburner is far less safe given the absence of railing. Nobody wants to see what is akin to scaffold piping in their living room after all. To claim that the woodburner is dangerous is a truly preposterous thing, especially in a rural area where they are commonplace in our homes due to an abundance of logs in the area!

For many months now Clapcotts Farm has been considered fit and has been licensed to sell alcoholic drinks from Monday to Sunday until 6PM. Many of the Clapcotts clientele are former customers of the Woodpecker. The Woodpecker did not have a reputation for antisocial behaviour at any time, and certainly not between the hours of 6PM and 11PM, and for anybody living in the vicinity to claim that the clientele of Clapcotts Farm would behave any differently between these hours would be an opinion without evidence. We are still the same community who treat each other and our neighbours with respect. Impact on traffic would be negligible at worst and many people walk to the farm anyway, especially between April and October.

Many Charlton Marshall residents attend Clapcotts Farm (myself included) during their currently limited licensed hours and they do this because they simply prefer Clapcotts. Not everyone in Charlton Marshall likes to visit the Charlton Inn for their own personal reasons and not everybody would choose to solely attend the Woodpecker if it were ever to open again. People enjoy and exercise their right to choose and, where business is concerned, competition is healthy, especially when a business offers something entirely different from another.

It is my understanding that a small handful of individuals have tirelessly sought to complicate and delay Mr and Mrs Hannam's application process, and while I appreciate and love the fact that we live in a country where democracy and structured planning serve to protect the interests of all, it would appear, given the extraordinary length of time and seemingly endless 'obstacles' this process has encountered thus far, there is more to this application than meets the eye. Not everybody agreed with the general election result, but the majority spoke and they respect that.. I fail to see how this process is any different and this application has been hindered time and time again by very few people indeed. Support for Clapcotts Farm far outweighs opposition. The Hannams have ticked every single box they have been asked to tick to date, and yet a fresh obstacle is placed in their way at every turn. I and many other people in the community would very much like to see the day where we can once again socialise in Spetisbury without the constraints of having to return home or go elsewhere at 6PM, and for Mr and Mrs Hannam to be able to conduct their responsible and respectful business until 11PM.

While I am aware that a great many people in Spetisbury and Charlton Marshall share my opinions, the opinions expressed in this email are mine alone and I would be more than happy to discuss them at greater length with any Council representative.

I fully support Mr and Mrs Hannam's application.