

Appendix 5- Interested Parties in Support of the Review

Representation 1

I am a resident of Queen Street.

I have lived with my family for the first 23 years of my life and throughout that time there were few problems from The Smouldering Boulder (Rocky's Bar).

I moved away 3 years ago. I moved back in October 2023 and have been kept awake until the early hours of the morning on a Friday and Saturday most weekends. This has been due to noise nuisance and anti- social behaviour, from patrons loitering in the street smoking, talking and often arguing right under our bedroom window. This has included violence and fighting.

I am also often kept awake by loud booming music from 8pm to 2am in the morning. My parents have spent Thousands of pounds on double glazing yet even with all their windows and doors shut we can still hear it.

I have a long and tiring job working as a matron during the week and I come home on a Saturday or earlier in the week for exeats and school holidays and most nights when I am trying to sleep I am kept awake by patrons from

I am also woken and sometimes kept up by Mr Rock's dogs that are barking at all hours of the day in the flat above the bar.

As there are often groups of young men outside of the premises as early as 9pm I don't like to go out of the direction of the Coop, despite the licence review these problems are continuing to occur for example this last Saturday there were still groups of people up until 1:30 am shouting and screaming at each other. I have access to the rear garden, but the noise means that we don't use it.

This is really affecting the quality of my life and would appreciate it if sensible licensing conditions were applied that reflect its location in the middle of a residential area.

Whilst there are sometimes door staff they don't make any attempt to diffuse any arguments or fights.

Representation 2

I have lived in Sherborne most of my life and since moving to Gillingham 6 months ago where I live to Rocky's Bar.

I have seen the police being called to come to an altercation outside of my house more than I ever saw them in Sherborne.

I have a job where I am having to get up at the early hours of the morning through the week and weekend and due to the disco's and bands, they have on a Friday I am being kept awake due to the loud noise of the bands and disco's from Rocky's bar, also from the noise and arguments and also fights that happen outside my house on a regular basis. This can be until 3 am at the latest and then even later some nights when people are lingering outside after closing.

There is also many people who are standing under our window having a fag and leaving the litter from this on the pavement. I have also witnessed around twenty people standing outside at one time.

I have also been woken up at 12 am by Mr Rocky's dogs who he takes out the back of the pub to go to the toilet. This has also happened at around 1 am and 2 am as well.

There has seemed to be Bouncers outside the doors, but they are not much help, as when fights have broken out, they don't do much to help break them up, they also don't seem to make sure that when people come outside that they keep the noise down and be respectful to the neighbours.

Appendix 6- Interested Parties Not Supporting the Review

Representation 1

I am writing to you in support of Rocky's Bar on Queen Street in Gillingham Dorset.

I live in the local area and frequently visit the bar up to 3 times per week and with my partner and my children every Sunday where we are always met with gracious staff and even more gracious Landlords.

The bar has been a revelation in the town bringing together hundreds of people with a shared interest in Sports and Music.

Since the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted this has been a central hub for many people to get together some of whom suffered through significant mental health issues during this period.

Whilst i am sympathetic of the immediate neighbours as someone who is in the bar most weekends i have never seen "significant" disruption caused by the bar itself and any action taken by a member of the public when leaving the bar cannot and should not be held against the Bar and it's staff as these very limited occasions can happen on any street in the town on any night of the week.

The bar holds Pool Teams, Darts Teams and Pub League poker tournaments alongside the numerous other events that Scott and the team put on for all ages.

We are talking about a bar who is a sponsor of Yeovil Town Football Club and Gillingham Town Football Club.

Single handed the bar contributes more to the local area than somewhere like the Red Lion and the like and i urge you to renew the licence and give the patrons of the bar somewhere to go where they feel safe and respected.

Representation 2

Scott Rock and Rocky's bar are a pillar of the local community. He has put time and money into supporting local clubs and people including sponsoring myself as a player at North Dorset Rugby Club. Scott has also sponsored the local football club and Yeovil Town FC which clearly shows the level of dedication he has towards local sport teams. The bar always has a warm and friendly atmosphere and I have never had any problems when visiting there. I am a local secondary school teacher and there are many members of staff who meet in Rocky's bar several times a week for a few drinks and a catch up as it's the perfect venue and has the most welcoming and comfortable atmosphere. As a local community we would be lost and highly disappointed if some local individuals who do not see the value this establishment has on the local community were to cause any changes to the running of it.

Representation 3

I was a resident at between June 2020 and March 2024. From my time living in Queens Court there has very rarely been any noise disturbance coming from the bar. The only time I can think of off the top of my head is an incident towards the end of last year (I don't know the time frame specifically) where a couple of people had an altercation after coming out of the bar and got into a fight resulting in blood being spread around queen street. Apart from this issue I never personally had any problems with noise or disturbance coming from the bar. Rocky's is a great asset to our town, always a lovely bunch in there especially for sporting events. It's the only place in Gillingham to watch TNT sport so I regularly go in to watch the football. I've never experienced any issues in the bar while being there either.

Representation 4

I would like to make it known regarding Rocky's bar that this place is the best thing that has happened to Gillingham in many years.

The bar put on great entertainment for all ages and is one of the only pubs anywhere I feel safe taking my children (10,9,4,2 years old) for an afternoon to watch the football and play some pool. The children love playing in the garden on the playset in the summer and it gives us as parents a cheap afternoon out with the kids, which in the current cost of living crisis helps relieve stress on me and my partner.

On rare weekends where me and my partner do manage to get a babysitter and like to have a night off, Rocky's is the only pub locally where we can enjoy a late night drink which, as parents, is occasionally needed. If Rockys bar had to close it would be a massive loss to the town and community. It is as I'm sure you're aware it is the only place in town that stays open late and would be a massive loss if it wasn't available as we won't be able to walk home.

The only other option would be to spend £30+ on a taxi home from another town, or for most people a very unsafe drive. In summary every town needs a late night pub and Rocky's is Gillingham's only option.

Closing the pub would cause more drink driving on weekends from other pubs in different towns which is firstly illegal and secondly very dangerous.

Representation 5

I am writing to you as a resident of Octave Terrace which is the row of houses directly opposite Rockys bar in Queen St.

I have read the statements given by the residents of, and although in my opinion they contain elements of incidents that have happened, they have been massively exaggerated.

Yes there have been incidents of noise in the street, but these are very few and far between, and in no way has Queen St become a place where residents are 'fearful' of stepping out of their front doors.

In my experience, whenever there has been a gathering in the street, the staff at Rockys have been quick in dispersing any groups of people away from the area or back into the bar. At it's very worst, I have chosen to simply close my window which solves the issue.

Car parking along Queen St is impossible due to the restrictions (unless you are privileged enough to own a drive) and the vast majority of vehicles that do choose to park here are visitors/contractors working on the Churchberry House renovation and not patrons of the bar as suggested.

I have never left my property to find broken glass or human waste along Queen St in general, and no damage has ever been done to my property or my vehicles.

I feel Rockys Bar is being painted in an unnecessarily bad light. I'm not a patron myself as I don't fit the demographic, but for sports fans, and indeed the 18-25 age group, this is one of the few places in Gillingham that caters for them, and in my opinion this should be allowed to continue

Representation 6

I am writing with regards to the recent complaints that have been made against Rocky's bar Gillingham Dorset. I would like to express my feelings over Scott Rock and the club as a whole. I feel that they are a community hub not just a place for parties on occasion. They put on lots of different type of event like bingo Kareoke and poker nights. My late father attended poker nights regularly towards the end of his life there. Scott and his staff were nothing but kind welcoming and I trusted them to take care of my 76 year old dad, which they did. When they learnt of his passing they didn't hesitate to hold an evening to raise money which they gave to my mum. Not only that they let us hold a small wake in his memory and to set off a rocket with his ashes in in the field behind. The black more vale covered our story and we couldn't be more grateful to Scott. People are very quick to moan about noise and music etc but we have to remember that we need a hub a place to go where people are friendly and can have a little fun. We all need that in the very unprecedented times.