

1

Dear Sirs

I write to confirm my support for the review of the music licence for the above public house.

The music has had a detrimental effect on my quality of life in my home [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I have had to endure a level of noise that has required raised voices to communicate in my back garden as well as interfere with watching the TV indoors with all doors and windows shut.

I have also had to put up with foul and abusive language from departing attendees to some of these events along with part filled beer glasses left in plant pots and on wheelie bins.

This has been a continuing issue with the pub and needs to be reviewed due to its detrimental effect on residents and the area.

The reduction and sometimes closing of their car park has caused issues of parking in the local area in an already restricted space!

I support a complete rescinding of the licence for the well being of the local community

2

I understand that a Licence Review Application has been submitted for this premises.

I wish to add my support to this application.

The outdoor music events in the pub garden create a public nuisance over a wide area.

They are clearly audible both outside and inside my house in French Mill Lane which is around half a kilometre from the pub.

These events are completely inappropriate in what is otherwise a quiet residential setting, and I agree with the application to have the premises licence reviewed accordingly. Ideally I would like to see these events forbidden altogether.

3

Dear Team B

We are writing in support of the complaint made by Patrick Riley et al against this pub. We live [REDACTED] [REDACTED] down the valley in French Mill Ln and have been shocked and upset at the noise levels emanating from it for hours at a time. Often we cannot shut the noise out despite closed windows and double glazing... and the distance. Being in the garden is impossible as it is so intrusive, being able to make out the lyrics. We thought that being that far from the pub we wouldn't be bothered. We are.

We came from the centre of a larger town and never heard the like from pubs there, even a live music venue 200yds away, perhaps because it was indoors in a room specially adapted. This is outside and the sound is funneled downhill, reflected from the hillside too. It's like being at a festival - without a choice or the festivity!

If it were on occasion only it may be tolerable but it is a regular feature, often several sessions over the w/e. Ths BH w/e it was 3 consecutive pms and eves. We are driven out of our home to seek peace elsewhere in the pms and early eves.

The type of pub being operated seems wholly inappropriate for a quiet, residential area bordering the countryside, suiting the centre of a larger town or a remote location. On driving past I have seen the police there and a more threatening atmosphere seems to prevail.

Shaftesbury is a tourist town because of its quaintness and 'old country' atmosphere, particularly the famed Gold Hill. This pub is imposing a large town atmosphere instead. It's just wrong for the town's character, in that environ particularly. Will this drive tourists away who are seeking a countryside vibe, thus affecting other businesses?

The Proprietors aren't out to provide a service to Shaftesbury but to make money. Those who oppose it don't post on Shaftesbury FB Group for fear of the invective so I'd be wary of basing public opinion on posts there. How many are nearby residents?

I would imagine, and know, that the noise levels are a health hazard to those living close by; long term residents who have contributed to the life of Shaftesbury for years. Certainly to mental health, tho the noise levels for hours may be damaging to hearing for neighbours and audience. Noise pollution is as real an issue as any other pollution. It is invasive.

The parking in St James St has become difficult for residents too I understand as the pub car park is now a festival site.

Please withhold a license or put strenuous limits on it - indoors in an adapted room with no outdoor speakers and one 2 hr session a fortnight or acoustic only as would be appropriate.

Thank you.

4

Dear Sirs

I'm emailing you as a resident of Shaftesbury for over 30 years who has friends who live in St James Street and the surrounding area. This is in connection with the application for a review of a premises licence.

The Two Brewers has, in my time in Shaftesbury, been a fairly quiet pub where you could have a drink and a meal. The quality has varied over the years but it has never been a, regular, music venue.

The pub is situated in a peaceful residential area of the town with many houses close to it. The geographical features alluded to means that, as with lots of Shaftesbury, noise travels. Knowing some of the residents and having visited them I'm aware of the problems that they are facing which is limiting the reasonable quiet enjoyment of their property which is a standard right of occupation. On many afternoons it has been impossible for them to enjoy their gardens or to hear conversations inside. My wife and I went away for the weekend of the Fringe with two residents in part to get them away from what, as billed, would be four days of, virtually, endless 'entertainment' in the pub and garden. I am aware that several residents are finding the changed atmosphere, since the current landlords took over and their current belligerent tone to anyone who has the temerity to challenge them (as seen on social media), stressful. They feel robbed of homes that they've lived in for many years in harmony with the pub. They also feel trapped; the nature of the pub has changed & the value of their homes decreased.

In addition the pub, as noted, is in residential area with, in the main, only on street parking available. The congestion, and lack of parking, in St James Street is often severe. The current tenants have virtually removed the pub car park causing this problem to only get worse.

The current landlords portray those who question them as being relics of another age. Of being 'weekenders'. Of buying houses close to a pub and then complaining about the pub. Of course some of those who live in the area are weekenders but I know enough that are long standing members of the Shaftesbury community who bought their homes happy to live close to a village pub that served, and respected, that community. The current landlords neither serve or respect that community.

Just because something is popular doesn't make it right. It may be popular to drive at 50 mph but if you do it down a residential street it isn't right. It may be popular to have a pub with loud music & a raucous clientele but to have it in the midst of a residential area isn't right.

I support the application for a review of the license.

5

We write in support of the review of the above license which we understand you are considering. The loud amplified music and other noise from the pub, particularly over summer weekends has made the peaceful enjoyment of our house and garden impossible on these occasions - we know that in the past the pub has run very successfully serving good home cooked food and great beer and could do so again. The activities of the current publicans are just not appropriate this area.

6

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my views concerning the License review that is currently under consideration for The Two Brewers Pub, St James Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

My family have lived [REDACTED] pub for 40 years. I grew up there and still live in Shaftesbury. I am very regularly in the house and garden of my parents house. Throughout my years growing up and living next door to the pub, there has never been an issue with noise and bands that have performed there. You can hear the barrels being changed through the walls and it has never been a problem with customers in the garden. Over the years there have been bands that have played either out in the garden or in the skittle alley and sometimes in the pub. This has usually happened a number of times throughout the year. The music hasn't been too loud or offensive, and as it's not been all the time, it hasn't been a problem. The music was always finished at a reasonable hour. The pub in the past, has been a very successful one which has been family friendly and serving good food with a lovely atmosphere. However, this has all changed since the arrival of the current proprietors. Since the lifting of lockdown they have planned a series of musical events and other entertainment for virtually every weekend (and sometimes these events have been over Friday, Saturday and Sunday) especially over the summer. These events have taken place in the garden of the pub. When I have been in my parents house the music has been so loud it permeates all rooms of the house. It has made it impossible to use their garden as a family. The ultimate moment came recently at the Drag event that was held at the pub. Not only was it loud, it was held in the pub garden and the language that was being used was broadcast down the microphone and could be clearly heard. It was utterly foul and offensive. Quite often the events haven't finished at 10pm as stated in a recent interview with one of the proprietors, but quite a bit later. The Drag event finished at 3 am. Some of the events have begun in the afternoon and continued into late night. The pub sits on the edge of a natural amphitheatre so any loud music/ entertainment is heard across the valley as well as down St James street. The people who attend the entertainment make the choice to go there. They can choose what they want to see/listen to. They can also choose to leave when they want to. Residents don't have that option. So to constantly play loud music/entertainment on a weekly basis (and sometimes up to three times in that week) in a built up residential area is not appropriate at all. I know my parents have politely asked a number of times if it was possible to turn the volume down. I know people have stated that going to live events after such a long lockdown is good for mental health, but what about the mental health of the people who are continually forced to listen to the entertainment every weekend? I am very aware of how it has affected my parents and the stress that it's caused them. As I mentioned earlier, there has never been a problem living next door to a pub until recently. It has always been a really lovely country pub and one that we used to go to fairly regularly as a family to eat and enjoy. Unfortunately the kind of pub that the proprietors are trying to run is inappropriate for a fairly quiet, country, residential area.

7

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing in support of the review of the licence for Ye Olde Two Brewers, St James, Shaftesbury.

As a resident of the St James area I have been negatively impacted by the recent developments at the pub.

My particular concerns are:

Outdoor live music is held too often. It used to be just occasional.

On occasions the music is too loud and goes on too late (Drag night in particular).

The reduction in size of the parking area has made the already terrible parking situation in St James even worse.

The change from family, food pub to entertainment venue appears to have led to an increase in anti social behaviour, damage to vehicles, fighting etc. in the area.

I feel that the owners have got a great business model but are executing it in the wrong place i.e. a residential area.

8

Hi, I'd like to add my voice about this issue as a resident of Gold Hill, Shaftesbury. The pub is a little over 100m away and I have mixed feelings about it. I don't object to it being a pub or hosting live music but it's the behaviour following such events or even an ordinary weekend night that I have issue with. This summer I have witnessed many people peeing in the street, excessive shouting, car wing mirrors being punched and glass smashed on the pavement and road. It is this that I would like to see change and not necessarily the events that the pub puts on.

9

11th October 2021

Ye Old Two Brewers, Shaftesbury : Noise complaint relating to Review of Licence.

Dear Sir

My wife and I have been in St James Street for twenty-three years [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Up to the present time we have never complained about noise or anti-social behaviour coming from the pub.

In previous years the number of outdoor musical events has been limited to a handful a year and have been usually linked to the Gold Hill Fair and Shaftesbury Fringe weekends.

However, this summer the frequency of outdoor musical events being staged in the pub garden has grown dramatically and the amplification level of the music has also increased.

We have been unable to have a conversation with friends in our garden while the musical activities have taken place. Even indoors the base sounds of the music have been impossible to ignore.

We have also had an instance when beer thrown by a departing customer has drenched our front door.

As the pub is in the middle of a residential area, we feel we have the right to peaceful enjoyment of our house and garden.

Some of our neighbours have young children and it has been difficult for them to sleep due to noise levels.

We therefore wish you to restrict the number of outdoor musical events the pub is allowed to conduct and place a lower limit on the maximum amplification level to prevent public nuisance and protect the children within the local community.

As the second applicant on the request to have the license of Ye Olde Two Brewers in St James' St, Shaftesbury reviewed, I felt I should clarify the issues that are affecting my wife and I emanating from the pub.

Ye Olde Two Brewers has been a pub for >100 years serving the local community. It is situated in an historic and quiet residential area. We have [REDACTED] pub since 1982 and have not had any significant problems with its operation until the arrival of the current landlords. From their arrival in 2020 they have stated that their business plan is to run the pub as a 'wet' pub with regular entertainment events; and it is the 'entertainment events' that is causing all the problems for us and for our neighbours. We want to have the peace and quiet of the area restored.

Once the lockdown restrictions were lifted earlier in the summer frequent music events were staged in the outside area at a volume that was intrusive and unwelcome. These events prevent us from enjoying our own garden and have meant that we are unable to invite friends and family into our house when these events are in progress. The sound levels are such that even inside our house the noise is heard throughout the house. Also the clientele that attends these events includes an element whose behaviour is rowdy and antisocial. The numbers of antisocial clients may be in the minority but their effect is disproportionate.

The business model the landlords are following is totally inappropriate for the pub's location. Because the pub is in the middle of a quiet residential area and also because St James' is at the end of a valley that acts much like an amphitheatre any noise is transmitted around the whole area meaning that residents for a considerable distance have their peace and quiet disturbed. Residents in Kingsmans Lane, Layton Lane, and Frenchmill Lane have all complained of being disturbed by the noise. There are even residents in Breach Lane, at the mouth of the valley, who have complained.

Approaches have been made to the landlords to try and resolve the issue but as yet there has been no positive response from them. The landlords have conducted a social media campaign that has generated a lot of unpleasant responses and misrepresentations. We have refrained from entering into any sort of trial by social media, especially as many of those making comments do not live anywhere near the pub. The situation is affecting my wife's mental health and she has been in tears with all the stress. It cannot be acceptable that local residents who have lived amicably with the pub for many years are denied the enjoyment of their homes and local area by people who move into an area and conduct their business in an antisocial manner.

Contrary to comments by some people, we are not asking for the pub to be closed. We simply want to have the entertainment events restricted in number and noise level. We accept that for cultural events, such as the Shaftesbury Fringe, the pub should be allowed to put on entertainment events but that outside of those times live entertainment, especially in the garden should not be permitted. If music or similar is performed inside the pub then a restriction on the level of the bass must be in place. The bass comes through the walls into our house very easily, although the higher registers usually do not intrude in our home. If restrictions are not put into place then the likelihood is that every year as soon as the weather allows outside events will resume and DCC will receive another round of complaints and calls for another license review.

The matter has been discussed by Shaftesbury Town Council planning committee who have passed a resolution asking for a way to be found to address the issue of noise from Ye Olde Two Brewers. They are aware that the problem is generating a lot of ill feeling not only in the St James'

area but in the locality in general and so we feel that action needs to be taken to prevent feelings escalating.

We ask the committee to consider the welfare of local residents and apply restrictions on the pub's activities that will restore the traditional ambience of the St James' area.

To the Licensing Authority

I would like to make some representations regarding the review of the License for Ye Olde Two Brewers Inn in St James Street, Shaftesbury.

We purchased our cottage in St James Street in November 2017. One of its attractions was the proximity of a local, family pub which had a pleasant interior, beer garden, playground and carpark. The pub was always busy, therefore we expected there would be some noise generated by customers leaving the pub at night time and understood that occasionally (maybe two or three times in the summer) a band would play in the back garden. The pub served good quality food and beer and was full of local residents and their families. When we heard the pub had 'changed hands' last year we went on the first night and were immediately put off by the attitude of the new Licensees and what they were offering. We haven't been back since. We heard the pub was going to become a 'nightclub' which seemed completely inappropriate to the quiet residential area of St James.

I therefore wish to support a review of the License to prevent a public nuisance.

In particular:

- 1 Ye Olde Two Brewers under the current Licensees does not attract the clientele it used to; it is now 'geared up' for customers to listen to loud, amplified, music and other entertainment (including the outdoor projection of sporting fixtures). The playground in the rear garden (still shown on the pub's website) has now gone to make more room for the outside venue;
- 2 Instead of occasional outside music over the summer, the residents have been subjected to approx. 25 events since May most of them outside (or under canvas) at the time of year when they wish to enjoy their own back gardens. For example, on Saturday 4 September, the noise was so loud it was still audible (and unacceptably loud) in Breach Lane at the other end of St James. The amplified language of the performers also leaves a lot to be desired.
- 3 The pub has now reduced the size of its car park to extend the entertainment area which means that, as the majority of customers now come from away, parking becomes impossible for residents. On the Drag Night on Saturday 18 September which was an all ticket event, the pub announced the event was a sellout but that the pub car park was closed (presumably to accommodate the numbers attending) which meant even more pressure on parking. The more elderly residents of St James need to have their cars nearby and I am not the only one who has avoided going out before an event in order not to lose my space.
- 4 The parking by customers of the pub on the street also means that at the end of the music events the street is very noisy with people returning to their cars, and the language often appalling, creating a threatening atmosphere.

All these issues point to an unacceptable public nuisance. The pub was not originally opened to attract a clientele from afar who want to listen to loud music and attend 'nightclub' events. Based on its size and the size of its car park (which is now even smaller), it was a 'local' built for the residents – the current Licensees say they cannot make it pay unless they put on loud music events but the pub has succeeded in the past by providing good beer, good food and a convivial atmosphere.

12

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to register my support for the licence review at the pub located [REDACTED] away from my home in St James Street, Shaftesbury.

There have been numerous loud live music events over the months since the current landlords took over (in excess of 15 separate events, I believe). The volume is so loud that it can be heard indoors (with doors and windows closed) and above the volume of my TV/radio. My enjoyment of my property has been severely diminished by this unfair and selfish intrusion. The live music sessions and resulting noise nuisance are not restricted to evenings hence it has also been impossible to relax in the peace and quiet of my own garden on fine, summer days. The volume has frequently been in excess of 60decibels and has sometimes started at midday and lasted until 10-10.30pm. On at least two of those occasions, my visiting family and I were forced indoors and had to abandon plans for a BBQ in my garden. At closing time, the pub visitors spill out onto the street, often taking some time to disperse, and generally doing so in a loud and unsociable manner, swearing and often leaving half-empty glasses littering the street. Also, the pub car park has reduced in size and resulted in an increase in on-street parking issues. The road is very narrow and with all available parking spaces often taken, navigating a path to manoeuvre if faced with an oncoming vehicle is extremely tricky (and sometimes dangerous).

Having lived here for some time I certainly have no problem living so close to a pub. Indeed, it can be very handy for an impromptu night out! However, the current landlords seem intent on continuing on with their business plan for the premises regardless of how detrimental it is for their neighbours. All I ask is that they show some consideration for the needs of the local residents in order that we can all live harmoniously in this beautiful town (as was the case with the previous landlords).

Incidentally, over the past few weeks the live music events have moved indoors at the pub and the resultant noise has reduced considerably; long may it continue!