

Testimony and Comments re: Complaint Record Form Kevin Miles vs Royal Oak

[REDACTED]

Background:

I am a retired dental surgeon and moved to Lodmoor Hill in 2019 with my husband, a retired senior manager [REDACTED]. We would like to put our side to the submitted complaint as we are regular attendees at the musical events at the Royal Oak but are unfortunately unable to attend the Licensing Sub-Committee meeting Wednesday, 27th September 2023. Having thoroughly read through the complaint record form submitted by Mr Kevin Miles I have noticed a number of discrepancies and inaccuracies that I would like to bring to the attention of the Sub-Committee.

The Royal Oak on Dorchester Road has been transformed in the time that we have lived here to a welcoming, family friendly public house and musical venue by the hard work of the current landlord. This in itself is an achievement as many such establishments have been forced to shut following the pandemic lockdown. As we enjoy live music we have tried to attend and support many of the indoor and outdoor musical events at various venues in Weymouth. The Royal Oak is the closest venue, around a 2 minute walk from our home. We have attended most of the outdoor musical events at the Royal Oak during this summer therefore feel qualified to comment on the submitted complaint.

Comments:

1. Unless your property has single glazing, it is almost impossible to hear music from the Royal Oak beer garden with the windows shut. I have tried it, and with the windows open the music is faint even when the wind is blowing in the direction of our house.
2. Most of the outside musical events at the Royal Oak have been for 2 hours only with many of the bands taking at least a 15 minute break within that time. In all the events I have attended most of the bands have started late and I have never seen any with a 15 minute warm up.
3. The current temporary stage in the garden, as I understand, was set up in July for a retirement party and subsequently donated to the Royal Oak. It faces totally the opposite direction to Fernhill Avenue so most of the sound would be directed towards the buildings of the public house itself. Not sure how sound could be heard from Lodmoor Park. Unless it was the outdoor musical event being held at Green Hill at the same time.
4. I have observed that many of the comments in the "effect on complainant" section have been cut and pasted and that some hyperbole has been used in describing Saturday 26th August as becoming "louder than battle scenes in Pearl Harbour". I have very sensitive hearing and find it unlikely that any band could create volume to that extent.
5. Under "day and date" section please note that 28th August was Monday bank holiday and no band was playing in the beer garden at the Royal Oak.

Conclusion:

The musical events at the Royal Oak in our opinion have been a bonus to the local community living in this area of the Dorchester Road. The beer garden events have been well attended by all ages including residents of The Lawns. There has been an eclectic mix of bands which have been enjoyed by the majority and has provided an extra draw for visitors to the area. From my husband's experience working with Visit Guernsey, music events can have a major positive influence on repeat visitor numbers. Having attended many outdoor musical events around Weymouth such as the Quayside Festival, the volume of music created by the Royal Oak would be considered as minimal.