

APPENDIX B

MALTINGS ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX, Stowmarket IP14 1RQ Section 17 Application for the GRANT of a NEW premises licence

1. Cllr Barry Humphreys (for Pickerel Court occupiers)

From: Barry Humphreys
Sent: 31 December 2014 12:47
To: Licensing

Subject: 20141231_Carbon Night Club Stowmarket_Licence comment_BHU

Dear Sir or Madam,

Reference

Section 17 New Premise Licence Application. Premises: Malting's Entertainment Complex Ltd. Applicant: Malting's Entertainment Ltd

In the capacity of a Town and District Councillor I have been asked to represent the concerns and views of the members of the Pickerel Court Residents Association in relation to the Carbon Night Club licence application. The Pickerel Court complex is approximately 30m adjacent to the car park area of the night club concerned.

Under the Licensing Act 2003 I am aware that I may comment directly to the Licensing Team about an application in progress and to be considered relevant that representation must be relevant to promotion of one or more of 4 licensing objectives, which are:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm

INFORMATION

The residents fully understand and support the need for a night club and the importance of the night time economy for Stowmarket but have been suffering from increased noise related issues caused by the large number of people dispersing from the club in the early hours. The local Police have assisted after a request was made to ensure that the waiting taxis no longer park on the corner of the residential complex and this has made a difference.

However the main focus of complaint relates directly to burger van that operates from the clubs car park. The positioning and facility offered by this van acts as a

catalyst for individual and groups to congregate especially at closing time. This results in increased noise that continues from the opening of the burger van to around 4:00am in the morning (weekends). This activity adversely effects sleep patterns especially for those that have to work the next day and ultimately and importantly the wellbeing of all the residents that live on the side of the complex that is nearest to the Carbon Club; some whom are senior citizens.

Recently and for a short period of time the burger van did not operate. The absence of this facilitator for gathering small crowds made a significant difference in terms of noise levels and dispersion time from the club car park and was consequently a most welcome break for the local residents.

COMMENT REGARDING LICENSING

The following forms the main complaint from the local residents

Prevention of Public Nuisance. There is a real concern over the detrimental effect on the wellbeing and sleep patterns of the local residents occupying the Pickerel Court residential complex that lies within 30m of the Carbon nightclub car park. This is due to the increased levels of noise generated by groups and individuals who congregate around the burger van within the car park.

It is the opinion of the residents and myself that at such early hours of the morning the subsequent rise in noise and activity constitutes a public nuisance.

The residents would like to see the removal of the burger van from site or a change in operating hours (perhaps up to 2330?). This should not impede the needs of customers at the club who wish to eat, as it is understood, that food is available within the premises.

SUMMARY

The residents of the Pickerel Court complex have tolerated this situation for some time and have patiently and amicably waited for the licencing application date so that they could state their concerns formally. The issue of the increased noise levels due to the attraction and facilities of the burger van at such early hours is wholly unacceptable within what is after all, an established residential area of the town.

These are the concerns explained to me by the Residents Association of the Pickerel Court who have given permission for me to represent them as their Councillor. Their views are also shared and supported by me, as a resident of the town.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Humphreys MBE

Councillor Barry Humphreys MBE
Stowmarket (North Ward)

2. 'Aggrieved residents' – anonymous representation

From: Quiet Stowmarket
Sent: 31 December 2014 21:29
To: Licensing
Subject: Maltings Entertainment Ltd - Licensing Application

We would like to comment on the licensing application submitted by Maltings Entertainment Ltd. Ever since Carbon nightclub opened at the Maltings complex in August we have been subjected to an unacceptable level of noise from both the club itself, and its patrons as they make their way home.

For the first few weeks we complained directly to the club in an effort to get them to reduce the volume, however our requests fell on deaf ears. We then raised the issue with both Stowmarket Town Council (Barry Humphreys, Nigel Rozier, Lesley Mayes) and Mid Suffolk District Council (Helen Cufley). We live approx 160m from the nightclub, however almost every time they open we can hear the thumping bass from the music in the background while we're trying to watch tv with the windows and doors shut. If we're really (un)lucky we can lie in bed and name individual songs that are being played, and sometimes hear the DJ speaking on the microphone. Based on how far from the club we live, we shouldn't even be able to hear anything in our garden, let alone indoors with everything shut.

The owner has even gone so far as to lie in the local press, claiming that the noise isn't coming from his establishment. A short walk down Gipping Way would soon disprove that.

Generally the noise just amounts to a dull thumping (not loud enough to warrant doing anything about it according to the Environmental Health department) however it's making our lives a misery.

We don't want to stop the club from opening, or even restrict their opening hours (unless the noise issue isn't sorted) - we just want peace and quiet. If the noise problem isn't resolved, then opening until 3:30am is way too late, and additional nights (especially Sundays) should be restricted..

We noticed on your website that our details have to be made public if a comment on the licensing is made, however we are worried about the possibility of retribution from either the owners or their patrons (drunk people can do some pretty stupid things). My girlfriend's parents had their house firebombed a few years back after a dispute with a neighbour, so to say that we're worried about something similar happening is an understatement.

We have been reliably informed that the layout of the club is now significantly different to its previous incarnation, with the speakers now much closer to the fire doors near the river. These doors are the main source of the problem, as the noise just floods out (with the doors shut). Perhaps if they were made to rethink their layout as part of the licensing agreement it would solve our problem.

Also it needs to be taken into consideration that new flats have now been built very close to the club, with more on the way, so it's a very different kettle of fish to when the previous club was there.

We'd be most grateful if our comments could be taken on board when a decision on the license is made.

Kind regards

Aggrieved residents