

Appendix II

Copies of all relevant representation made by responsible authorities and interested parties

Nuala Clark

From: Terry Crossman
Sent: 11 March 2015 19:24
To: Licensing
Subject: THE VILLA COTTIS LANE EPPING CM16 4BL

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have lived in Epping for 6-years.

In that time we have noted that the behaviour of revellers leaving the Cottis Lane area in the early hours has decidedly got worse.

We live adjacent to Twankhams Alley and are subjected to screaming, shouting, glass bottle being broken and vomit.

We hear the sirens of police cars and sadly ambulances when there has been a major incident which, as we all know there have been far to many of.

We have three young grandchildren who often stay at weekends and have been scared by the din that is made by revellers leaving the clubs.

We try to assure them that the people making the noise are just having some fun but we do wonder if another poor soul has been stabbed or worse.

To be honest we wish the clubs were NOT there as we believe premises that are licences to beyond 4.00am should NOT be within high residential areas and belong in industrial or commercial areas.

At the very least we would like all the licenced premises in Epping to close before the last train leave Epping station.

Kind regards

Mr & Mrs T Crossman

Epping Forest District Council Licensing Unit
Civic Offices, High Street
Epping Essex CM16 4BZ

Mrs Amanda Theodorou
Tower Road, Epping

09 MAR 2015

5th March 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

09 MAR 2015

09 MAR 2015

Re: Review of Licence - The Villa, Cottis Lane, Epping, Essex, CM16 4BL

I understand that a review of the licence for the business noted above has been requested by Essex Police.

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the growing number of violent and antisocial incidents which have occurred in our High Street over the past few years including a near fatal stabbing last September.

On Sunday morning, I left St. John's church after our service to do some shopping with my children and we had to step over broken glass (this has become quite commonplace) and a trail of blood as we made our way to the shops. I don't need to explain to you why as an individual, let alone a mother of two young boys, this is upsetting and shocking.

The sad fact of the matter is that I wasn't surprised. As a family we have seen the High Street in this state on many a Sunday morning. I'm sure that you will recall the incident last September which led to our street to be closed off for some time whilst Essex Police investigated the stabbing. I found myself wondering how to explain this to my children so that they wouldn't be worried about being on the High Street. I have recently allowed my eldest son to visit the shops and café's without adult supervision as he grows in age and independence, but I have to admit to having concerns for his safety after seeing what violence can take place on the streets which I had considered to be so safe.

My children have also become quite used to seeing the paraphernalia of drug use scattered near the clubs (particularly in the area behind the clubs/rear car parks). My eldest son's school took steps to provide information to the children and parents about such drugs as a direct result. Are we to turn a blind eye or condone this?

I have lived in Epping for 15 years. I love the area and the community spirit. My husband and I have become actively engaged in the community; I've been a governor of Epping Primary school for 6 years, my husband runs Epping Beavers, Cubs and assists with Scouts all based at Stonard's Hill and we are choristers with St. John's Church. It has all the ingredients to be a wonderful place to bring up a family, but there is a caveat and that this the ongoing public and disorder, not to mention safety issues we are facing which are caused by the clubs/bars in the High Street.

Someone recently argued in the local newspaper that these clubs create revenue, jobs and bring people into our town. I would argue that the people being attracted are clearly not the sort of people we want to welcome. As for jobs and revenue, I feel that you need to balance any positive element of the clubs against the, albeit rather more difficult to measure in a monetary sense, feelings of worry, concern and fear amongst the population whom have to live with the aftermath of a Saturday night.

I do feel somewhat let down by the authorities whom manage the licencing and management of the issues I have noted above. As I said when I spoke to the Council Licencing department earlier this week, I wonder how severe the violence needs to be before something is done to put a stop to such incidents which are frankly becoming all too frequent. Do we need a fatal stabbing? More serious mass brawls involving hundreds of people, rather than just 20 or 30?

Our churches in Epping are currently investigating the idea of putting Street Pastors in Epping at the weekend. We've had a representative from Harlow meet with us to give us an idea of what the role entails. He advised us that we should wear a stab vest. I have to say that based on, yet another, incident of this type, I would not consider volunteering and would advise my friends and family not to do so – it simply isn't safe enough. As David King, owner of the 195 Club himself said in a comment on the Epping Guardian website said, "It was very, very, nasty and it got out of control - people throwing bottles and lumps of wood at each other. I had to bring my security staff back in, it was too dangerous for them."

Goodness help us poor individuals then.

I would implore you to review the current situation and consider the people of Epping, particularly the young people and families.

Yours Sincerely

Amanda Theodorou BA (Hons) FCCA

Representation regarding Licensing Consultation

The Villa Cottis Lane Epping Essex CM16 4BL

We are writing to make a representation on the grounds of :

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

We own and run a local business in Epping located close to The Villa and we are making a representation against this application on the following grounds:

On two occasions in the last couple of years, we have arrived at work on a Saturday morning to find the entire area around our business premises cordoned off to allow the police to investigate a serious assault. My understanding is that the crimes related to members of the public attending the Villa and the neighbouring night club. On both occasions, access to our premises was severely restricted resulting in a significant loss of business. On one occasion there was no public access to our premises, resulting in the loss of an entire day's business.

Every week, we find bottles and glasses discarded in the access area behind our business premises. To prevent injury to any persons or vehicles accessing this area, which is used both for parking and as a fire exit, the broken glass and discarded alcohol has to be regularly cleared away. Broken glass and discarded bottles containing alcohol are also left outside the front of the premises on a regular basis, and these have to be cleared away before the business can open, to avoid injury to the public and to our staff.

As independent business owners, we are keen to encourage other independent businesses in Epping. Therefore, we do not make this representation lightly. However, we feel that there is a significant risk to public safety of both adults and children from patrons visiting the nightclub, leading to public nuisance, crime and disorder.

Tim and Polly Dulley

High Street
Epping
Essex

Nuala Clark

From: Steve
Sent: 12 March 2015 20:40
To: Licensing
Subject: RE: Notification of Consultation letter of 5th March with respect to The Villa, Cottis Lane

Dear Licensing Manager,

Having received your Notification of Consultation letter of 5th March with respect to The Villa, Cottis Lane, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. John the Baptist Church, St. John's Road, have considered it and how we should respond.

Due to the very short timescales, we were unable to take a wider view from our congregation, and have instead taken and compiled the views of the members of the PCC, which are as follows.

- There have been a number of violent incidents in recent years, including one incident last year that was so serious, the High Street was closed for much of the following 2-days.
- Because people are being hurt, we certainly agree that the licence should be reviewed.
- Although none of our PCC members have been affected directly, we know anecdotally that people living near the club are disturbed by late night noise. We know that stabbings have occurred, tying up local police resources, and it seems that people are drinking to excess, which almost certainly fuels the fighting.
- The very late night licence affects a number of aspects of our town, including visitors to Epping, and makes a the area around these premises a virtual no-go area at times.

We believe that the above points are issues under the areas of:

1. Prevention of Crime & Disorder
2. Public Safety
3. Prevention of public nuisance

We therefore fully support the application by Essex Police for you to review the License for this premises.

Regards,

Steve Carter

Churchwarden, St. John's Church
St. John's Road, Epping CM16 5DN

Tel: _____

Mobile: _____



EPPING TOWN COUNCIL

EPPING HALL, ST JOHNS RD, EPPING, ESSEX CM16 5JU

Kim Tuckey
Licensing Officer
Epping Forest District Council
323 High Street
Epping
CM16 7BZ

Our Ref:
Your Ref:
e-mail: info@eppingtowncouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 01992 579444
Date: 17th March 2015

Dear Mrs Tuckey,

Licensing Act 2003

Review of Premises Licence, 'Villa Epping', Cottis Lane, Epping.

At the Town Council's Ordinary meeting held on 10th March 2015, members discussed the recent disorder in Epping High Street and the subsequent decision of the District Council's Licensing Committee to suspend the premises licence of the above premises and to conduct a review.

The Town Council recognises that Essex Police and the District Council responded quickly in the wake of the incident and supports the prompt action that was taken to suspend the Licence.

As an 'interested party', the Town Council does not have any direct evidence to offer in relation to this review. Whilst the Council has received a number of complaints concerning the operation of late night premises in the town, these are not specific to a particular premises. The fact that there are two nightclubs in the same small alleyway makes it difficult to be specific about anti-social behaviour without access to CCTV footage or eyewitnesses. If we do receive any more specific information we will encourage people to report it to you.

Council is reminded of the suspension of the licence of Club 195 in 2009 when there were similar issues of anti-social behaviour and disorder. It appears to be the case that the additional conditions that were placed on the licence of that premises has had the desired effect, i.e. problems that premises was experiencing have been largely resolved. It seems obvious therefore, that conditions at least as onerous as those placed on Club 195 at that time should be imposed before Club Villa is permitted to open again.

Alan Shaw, Town Clerk



Whilst a number of residents who attended the Council's Annual Meeting on Friday 13th March 2015 were calling for the premises to be closed down entirely, the Town Council does not share this view. We recognise that the night-time economy is important to the town and that people who visit the town for one leisure activity are likely to visit for others, to the overall benefit of our local economy.

It is very easy to see why some residents have formed this view, however, when there are stabbing incidents and near-riots taking place, not to mention the on-going low level incidents of petty vandalism, littering, broken glass etc. which plague the town at weekends.

However, If the premises is not willing to accept additional conditions including better identification and vetting of customers, security, CCTV and a reduction in operating hours then the Town Council would call on the District Council to revoke the licence.

We would also call on the District Council to ask for better Policing of the town at weekends, particularly at times when late-night premises are closing. The Town Council understands that there was no Police presence at all in the town when the most recent incident took place. We fully intend to make the case for better and more visible policing in Epping at weekends.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Shaw
Town Clerk

c.c. Derek MacNab, Director of Neighbourhoods

Nuala Clark

From: 11 March 2015 10:51
Sent: Licensing
To: licensing
Subject:

Mr. K. Tuckey
Licensing Manager
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices
High Street
Epping

St. John's Road
Epping

11th March 2015

Dear Mr. Tuckey,

We vare responding to your letter of 5th March regarding a review of the licensing of The Villa, Cottis Lane, Epping, and strongly recommend permanent closure because of the continuing instances of crime and disorder. Specifically, we were roused by a lot of noise in the early hours of Sunday 7th September last. Because of the stabbing in the High Street the previous night, the street was closed and a lot of young people gathered in our part of St. John's Road where taxis were plying for hire. At one point five or six of them came on to our property and we were fearful of what might happen next. Consequently we rang 999 for assistance and, as a result, prompt action by the Police prevented any further trouble. There was no question of sleep for nearly one and a half hours!

Public safety is an important issue and we have found from personal experience that walking along High Street in the vicinity of Cottis Lane late at night to be very unnerving because of the behaviour of young people in the area.

We hope that these and other issues raised by local inhabitants and business people will help to avoid any future serious troubles.

Yours sincerely,

Peter and Anne Double (aged 82 and 77 respectively)

Copy: Epping Society



Epping Forest District Council
Licensing Unit Civic Offices
High Street
Epping
Essex
CM16 4BZ

St Johns Road
Epping
Essex

10th March, 2015

Dear Sirs,

RE: The Villa, Cottis Lane, Epping, Essex, CM16 4BL

On behalf of the Epping Society and our members, whom I had an opportunity to speak with members at the AGM on 9th March, I am writing to you in connection with the licence for the captioned premises.

We have seen in the press that following the recent incident near the night clubs in Epping the Villa has had its licence suspended.

We support this action as apparent customers of the club have been involved in altercations a number of times over the last 2 years particularly since the extension of its opening hours to 4.30am.

We are concerned about this establishment on a number of levels as follows:

- It is a danger to public safety as it attracts people to the local area who appear to be involved in illegal activity
- The club creates a public nuisance and a not inconsiderable burden on local policing especially around closing time of the club
- It creates crime and disorder in the town as evidenced by Essex Police's evidence to the licensing Unit has already ably demonstrated
- The negative reporting of the incidents diminishes the reputation of Epping as a whole giving the impression that it is unsafe to visit in the evenings

Whilst we applaud the decision to suspend the clubs licence we are concerned that the club will be given back its licence and that the issues detailed above will start again.

If the club is to have its licence reinstated we would ask that you consider the following:

- Restrict its licensing hours so that it closes much earlier than the existing 4.30am
- Ensure that the club employs sufficient security staff to deal with any problems which arise whether they be public order, drug or other criminal activities
- Charge the club for extra policing needed to keep the public and law abiding clients safe so as to not add to the tax payers council tax bill

I look forward to hearing from you in due course

Yours Sincerely

Adam Long,
Vice Chairman Epping Society

Licensing Authority
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices, High Street
Epping, Essex
CM16 4BZ

Our Ref: dd/lb/KIN2-1

Your Ref:

17th March 2015

Dear Sirs,

Re: Premises Licence Number: LN/210001103 – The Villa, Cottis Lane, Rear of 195-199 High Street, Epping, CM16 4BL

We write with reference to the above and confirm we act on behalf of TDS Entertainment Limited, Club 195, 195 Cottis Lane, Epping, Essex, CM16 4BL.

Having read the application for Summary Review, our client supports the Police's application for review.

Our clients are concerned that the above premises attracts customers who cause issues and disturbance (including serious violence and disorder).

It is not uncommon for persons who are refused entry to our client's premises being admitted to The Villa notwithstanding we are of the opinion that they are pre-intoxicated and/or not suitable for admission.

There are insufficient Security Industry Authority door supervisors and furthermore our client has seen groups of men just entering the premises refusing to be searched, even though they were asked.

There appears to be a total lack of control of the venue; control of the door and persons leaving with bottles. Our client is concerned that there is serious crime and disorder and public safety concerns in relation to this premises and asks that the hours of the premises either be dramatically reduced or the licence revoked.

We enclose a brochure which our client believes is being circulated within the trade, seeking investment for the premises seeking to expand its operation to a four day week, clearly showing the direction of travel for this venue.

Dadds Solicitors

Crescent House, 51 High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9AX
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Our client reserves the right to amplify the aforementioned representation and will forward in due course a list of conditions which they believe are appropriate and proportionate to promote the licensing objectives.

Yours faithfully

DADDS LLP