

From: Kevin Wood [mailto:]
Sent: 30 October 2015 14:18
To: Licensing; Timothy Gough
Subject: Bredhurst Village Hall Licence

Reference: MAID0185/LPRM1525

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing to say that I am in favour of licence for Bredhurst Village Hall. There is a group against the license that doesn't represent the views of the people in the village. Right minded people understand that this is an event based situation not a second Pub.

Thank you,
Kevin Wood

Sent from my Sony Xperia™ smartphone

Lorraine Neale

From: Licensing [licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk]
Sent: 02 November 2015 09:25
To: Licensing (MBC)
Subject: FW: Bredhurst Village Hall

Morning ladies,

Please see the attached e-mail in support of the above licence application.

Kind regards,

Janet.

Janet Lockie

Licensing Administration Officer for Sevenoaks District Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Maidstone Borough Council

Sevenoaks District Council | Council Offices | Argyle Road | Sevenoaks | Kent | TN13 1HG

Tel: 01732 227004

Email: janet.lockie@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Online: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

From: David [mailto:]
Sent: 01 November 2015 17:27
To: Licensing
Subject:

From - MRS JUNE COX
Sent - 17.00hrs 01/11/15
Subject - Application Reference MAID0185/LPRM/1525

Dear Sirs

With reference to the Licensing Application above, I have been the main organiser of many fundraising events in the village of Bredhurst, over the past twenty years, including HM Queens' Golden and Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Every event I have organised has been held in Bredhurst Village Hall and I therefore hope that I can offer valuable insight into the benefits of granting a licence to the Village Hall.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the meeting last Wednesday, but I am aware of the issues raised in objection to the granting of a licence.

With regard to the hours of the licence, as a previous trustee of the village hall, I am well aware of how much regular hall hirers on weekdays are valued, and treated with respect, and that they would never be turned away for the consideration of higher financial gain. It is also blatantly obvious to all concerned that Mr Gough only intends using the licensing hours for weddings and special occasions, and for anyone to imply otherwise only goes to show their lack of knowledge of how the village hall is used, on a weekly basis, year on year.

In respect of people using the childrens play area and the possibility of problems caused by the depositing of glass in this area, this has always been a consideration whether the gate to that area is open or not. There has never been anything to stop people from going out the front of the hall and then walking round to the play area. It requires a responsible attitude from whoever is hiring the hall, to try and prevent anyone from doing so, and also to check at the end of any hiring that there is nothing left there to cause harm.

In all the years that I have held events there, I never once received a complaint of this nature, and never found anything littered there to cause harm. The worry of anything of this nature occurring

would be completely alleviated if a licence was in place. There would then be no bottles, no glasses and a licensee on the premises.

I have been aware on occasions of people holding parties in the hall where they bring and consume their own alcohol and then litter the road outside the hall with bottles upon leaving. Once again, it would be infinitely preferable to have a licence in place, so there would no longer be the need for people to bring their own alcohol. They would also be far less likely to drink to excess and this could be controlled by the licensee.

I wish to offer my full support to the granting of this licence which I know will be of enormous benefit to the village for all future fundraising events.

Unfortunately, because the parish councillors and other residents who are objecting, do not support or attend any of these events, they are unaware of what happens, of the efforts made to control them and just how very much we would all benefit from the granting of a licence.

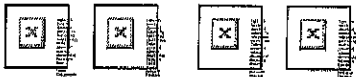
Mr Gough is a responsible and reliable young man, who is totally committed to trying to improve life in the village. This has been shown by the enormous amount of good work he has done in the village hall, and his involvement over many years with helping to raise funds for not only the hall but also the village church and primary school. All he is trying to do in obtaining the licence is to continue to improve life here in the village.

I respectfully ask that the views contained here in may be taken into account within the considerations as to whether a licence is granted to Bredhurst Village Hall.

Thankyou

Mrs June Cox
2 Providence Cottages
Dunn Street
Bredhurst
Kent
ME7 3NB

Tel - [REDACTED]



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From: Alan Rose [mailto:]
Sent: 02 November 2015 17:50
To: Licensing
Subject: Application Ref: MAID0185/LPRM/1525

Dear Sirs

As a supporter of the good work that the current trustees of the Bredhurst Village Hall have undertaken and achieved, I attended the Bredhurst Parish Council meeting, where the application for a full alcohol license was to be discussed. I left the meeting feeling it was more of an inquisition than a fact finding mission and I felt that BPC already had in mind what the outcome would be. Their decision: they could not support the application in its present form and would inform MBC licensing accordingly.

1) BPC raised a concern that as a weekday license 11 am to 11 pm was included in the application the hall may be staffed and used for casual drinking in competition to the Bell. Also current hirers would be pushed aside should a more lucrative mid-week hirer appear.

a) As I understood the response from the trustees of the hall, there is no such intention, the bar would be staffed at specific functions and only during the hours of those functions.

b) The trustees explained, that the hall is let regularly on weekdays and has been for years to various local groups and these groups that benefit from this improving facility would not be prejudiced by other single hirers who wished to hire the hall at times already allotted to them.

c) It was further explained that the license for weekdays was a consideration in the event of village activities, such as street parties and national celebrations that may happen to fall on a weekday.

2) Concern was also expressed that increased bookings where a full license was available would unduly affect the local residents living nearby as the number of private hirers may increase.

a) Among those living closest to the hall are three trustees whose gardens are adjacent to the hall, they do not currently have issues with hirers and do not expect that to change if additional lettings are made.

b) Mrs Bull attended the meeting with Mrs Bournier. Mrs Bull lives next door to the hall, **the closest resident**, and Mrs Bournier's house backs onto the field that incorporates the hall, neither are trustees but support the application for the good of the community as a whole, both live as close or closer than those who voiced their opposition to BPC.

c) Against the proposal was one resident who has chosen to live mid-way between the local pub and the village hall, a distance of less than 200 metres and another that lives opposite the hall but not as close as Mrs Bull.

3) One attendee complained about fireworks, I have heard them on one or two occasions over the years, this is not a regular occurrence and it is not allowed in the T&C that hirers accept in writing.

a) When the bar is manned by Tim or someone appointed by him the possibility of hirers doing this, if ever they did, would be less.

for private functions. Failure to raise sufficient funds would in my opinion eventually lead to the demise of this wonderful facility, a position it was close to just a short while ago before Tim and others who care, gave their time to make the difference that can be seen and appreciated today by all that use the hall. Interestingly, BPC moved the venue for their meetings from the hall some while ago and now convene at the village school.

I have not been privilege to the minutes of the meeting yet, nor their submission to you. I fully support the good intentions of the trustees of the village hall and sincerely hope that others who disagree with BPC's decision do the same in good time so that full consideration can be given to both sides.

It is truly a shame that in a village of less than 400 souls BPC found they could not support the good work and intent of The Village Hall and its trustees, who are really making a difference here. I believe that Mrs Bull and Mrs Bournier are making their own positive submissions and I now have their permission to name them in mine.

Sincerley

Alan J Rose
11 Fir Tree Grove
Bredhurst
Gillingham
ME7 3LB

Tel: [REDACTED]

Comments for Licensing Application 15/03263/LAPRE

Application Summary

Application Number: 15/03263/LAPRE

Address: Bredhurst Village Hall Hurstwood Road Bredhurst Gillingham Kent ME7 3JZ

Proposal: Premises Licence

Case Officer: Louise Davis

Customer Details

Name: Mr Alan Tuff

Address: 6 Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, Kent ME7 3JZ

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Licensing Application

Comment Reasons:

- No Objection

Comment: 1:07 PM on 03 Nov 2015 Comments by Mrs G Bull of 8 Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, sent by Alan Tuff at my request as I have no internet access.

I, being the house owner living closest to the Village Hall, feel that I'm well qualified to make comment about this Application.

In the past when outside bars were used I have had empty beer bottles and glasses thrown into my rear garden, black sacks full of rubbish dumped on my front lawn and had to tolerate noise from the unlimited sound recordings as well as from the hirers departing.

I am sure the Villagers who have read the Village Hall News Letter must be very thankful that we now have a new young Chairman full of energy and ideas and very keen to make the Hall one of the nicest in the area.

Since the bar and the sound limiter equipment have been installed and the Chairman in full control of the bar I have noted a considerable difference b to the way the hirers are using and leaving the Hall. No noise, no rubbish and no loutish behaviour.

15/03263/LAPRE

S\$F

Bolanle Morafa

From: June [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 November 2015 18:57
To: Licensing
Subject: Application for Full Alcohol Licence Bredhurst Village Hall

Application for Full Alcohol Licence Bredhurst Village Hall

Dear Sirs

I would like to show my support for the Chairman and Trustees of Bredhurst Village Hall in their application for a Full Alcohol Licence.

The Chairman, Tim Gough and Trustee Alan Tuff have worked so hard to improve the hall, making it an attractive place for our village events and also for would-be hirers. I feel that the bar is a welcome added amenity and a benefit to the hall's funds.

My house backs onto the field, quite close to the Village Hall and I have lived here for 48 years. I have no complaints about noise.

I have heard fireworks on the field sometimes over the years, but they had nothing to do with the Hall. People come onto the field to let a few fireworks off especially around November 5th and New Years Eve.

Perhaps Bredhurst Parish Council should be monitoring that.

The people who raised objections to this application bought their houses knowing there was a pub, a village hall and a school very close to them which all generate traffic etc. One particular complainer was allowed to voice her opinions during the closed part of the Parish Council Meeting-----She was not stopped!

I conclude with the observation that neither the complainers nor members of the Parish Council are ever seen supporting Village Hall functions.

I hope that our Village Hall continues to thrive but it can only do this by being THE place to hire, and that is happening with Tim Gough and the Trustees working so hard.

I fully support the application for a Full Alcohol Licence for Bredhurst Village Hall.

June Bournier
3 Fir Tree Grove
Bredhurst
Kent
ME7 3LB

15/03263/LAPRE

S8F

From: Mrs. P.A. Merryweather,
13 Fir Tree Grove,
Bredhurst,
ME7 3LB

Re Licensing Application Reference MAID0185/LPRM/1525 – Application for variation of premises licence at Bredhurst Village Hall, Bredhurst, ME7 3JZ

Although a long-term trustee of Bredhurst Village Hall, I write more as a village resident for 51 years in support of the above application. In the years since it was built the hall has proved to be not only a much-valued asset to the village, but an increasingly popular venue to reach for those who live just the other side of the M2 motorway, for club meetings and other activities which wouldn't exist without their support.

Although much has already been acknowledged about the considerable cost of the maintenance and continuing improvements to the hall, to be dealt with only when needed or desired, what must be met is the annual ground rent to Rochester diocese of at least £2,000, the insurance and entertainment licence. Although the hall chairman and committee work hard to organise and support fund raising events, it really is necessary to increase the income for the hall through weekend lettings such as wedding receptions, anniversary celebrations etc. where a bar would be an (optional) attraction to the hirer. In fact, where any objections are concerned, far from increasing the consumption of alcohol, it is those events where the tickets stipulate Bring your own Bottle that consumption might be more.

Finally, I must express my concern at the conduct of the recent meeting held by Bredhurst Parish Council, which does not support the village's only community hall, held in the school when the application was rejected. Although the hall committee chairman, Tim Gough, had gone to the considerable trouble of preparing and delivering to every house in the village a letter explaining in detail the reason for the application, most of the answers to the questions and comments put by residents, parish councillors and the chairman in the open session would all have been found in the letter, had they troubled to read it. Of particular concern was the way in which one resident who had already had her say was allowed to interrupt the closed session to make further comments, including an unacceptable condemnation aimed at the hall trustees, a clear breach by the BPC chairman of the parish council's own rules regarding the closed sessions at meetings.

I hope all the above will be taken into consideration when considering the above application.

Pamela Merryweather

(F)

Comments for Licensing Application 15/03263/LAPRE

Application Summary

Application Number: 15/03263/LAPRE

Address: Bredhurst Village Hall Hurstwood Road Bredhurst Gillingham Kent ME7 3JZ

Proposal: Premises Licence

Case Officer: Louise Davis

Customer Details

Name: Mrs mary gough

Address: 9 Kemsley Street Road, Bredhurst, Kent ME7 3LR

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Licensing Application

Comment Reasons:

- No Objection

Comment: 12:31 PM on 05 Nov 2015 As a village resident, Hall trustee, the Halls cleaner and regular hirer of Bredhurst Village Hall, I am fully in agreement with the license variation application and favour the benefits.

Having this variation in place will ensure control over the retail of alcohol, where currently hirers are able to consume alcohol on the premise without any supervision. Therefore, if the hall is granted such variation, the clear set of guidelines and licence objectives will be embraced.

As a hirer of Bredhurst Village Hall, I myself conduct a risk assessment of the interior, exterior and when needed the play area before each hire, and have procedures in place. I am pleased to record this has always been to my satisfaction. With the proposed variation I am confident this will continue.

Over many years I have attended and very much enjoyed the social events laid on by the Hall committee, I feel the variation of license will help events to continue to enhance our community spirit.

(F)

From: Alan Tuff [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: 06 November 2015 17:01
To: Licensing
Cc: Planning Comments
Subject: ApplicationMAID0185/LPRM/1525

I attach my support for this application.

Alan Tuff.



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(F)

Dear Sir,

I write as a local resident living adjacent to the Hall and also as a Trustee of the Bredhurst Village Hall (BVH). Whilst I wish to acquaint you with my personal views I am not writing on behalf of the remaining Hall Trustees.

I attended the Bredhurst Parish Council (BPC) meeting on 18/10/15 which was arranged specifically to consider the Licensing Application submitted on behalf of the Hall. In anticipation of this the BVH Chairman, Tim Gough, had previously issued the attached newsletter to virtually all Bredhurst residents and businesses in order to provide background information both concerning developments in the Hall and the purpose behind the Licence Application.

I was surprised to note the degree of animosity towards the Hall operations at the meeting and the lack of knowledge apparent from the questions. Clearly our letter had not been read as this contained the answers to most of the queries raised.

The Hall provides what I believe to be an essential community function and service and is run solely to serve the community. The stated aim of the Charity is the provision and maintenance of a village hall for use without distinction of political, religious or other opinions including use for meeting, lectures and classes and for other form of recreation and leisure-time occupation and with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of Bredhurst Village.

Currently week days are fully booked with only one weekly hire period available. These hirers comprise entirely community based groups serving the interests of the Village and Villagers including the Women's Institute, Evergreen OAP group, Garden Club, Whist groups, art clubs, wood turners group, a bowls club and a children's play group. As can be seen these are non-profit making hirers providing a valuable community role and our hire rates need to reflect this. Without the Hall there would be no suitable venue in the Village for any of these activities.

I have always been anxious to seek to ensure a good relationship between the Hall, the hirers and the local residents since the facilities provided are for the benefit of all.

I was therefore surprised and disappointed to note the degree of animosity shown towards the Hall and its representatives at the meeting both by the BPC representatives and some of the Villagers present.

Tim Gough took pains to explain to the Meeting how the purpose of the Licence Application was to ease arrangements as recommended to him by a representative of the Licensing Authority and that it was not envisaged that the week day hirers would require such facilities other than under exceptional circumstances. Tim explained again as detailed in the newsletter that there was no intention of creating a public bar in the Hall open all hours. The licence sought is intended for the benefit of the weekend hirers and for the exceptional needs of the local community organisations at other times.

Tim went on to explain the actions and steps previously and currently being taken to ensure that weekend Hall hirers would be prevented from creating a disturbance and nuisance both during and after the event and applying to all users, not just those providing alcohol.

Such measures include the noise limiter within the Hall which has operated for many years now, moving the smoking area to the rear enclosed garden and requiring the premises to be vacated by specific times, all as detailed within the hire conditions. Breach of these conditions renders the deposit forfeit.

As both a neighbour and Trustee of the Hall I am very conscious of the potential nuisance problems which can arise and am satisfied the steps previously and currently being taken have been effective in minimising any such disturbance. I am keen to ensure that this remains the case and the Hall Committee is always considering ways in which to improve the controls and restraints in place upon hirers.

After these opening remarks Tim was subjected to what can only be described as an Inquisition by BPC and his attempts to provide a reasoned response were either ignored or treated with derision.

I was therefore disappointed but not surprised that BPC voted unanimously against the Application.

However, I was surprised to read the content of the letter subsequently issued by BPC to you

There are various issues and I will address these in turn.

Firstly, weekend bookings are of a different nature to those during weekdays. These are for non-regular events such as wedding fairs, charity events, parties, quizzes, christenings, religious meetings, educational events and a whole variety of different activities including Church fairs and fetes, the Village Show, Rural Touring Applause performances and such like.

The week day rates are deliberately kept low so as not to cause financial to the local clubs and activity groups. The income from the weekday bookings does not provide sufficient income to properly operate and maintain the Hall and all of its facilities.

It is the income from the weekend hirers that provides the financial means with which to enable the operation of the Hall to continue.

The event usage of halls is a competitive business and the Hall needs to be seen as worthwhile venue with all necessary services reasonably priced.

Weekend custom is therefore vital to the financial survival of the Hall.

Great steps have been taken recently under the current Chairman to improve the condition, appearance and facilities of the Hall and indeed this was remarked upon by one BPC Councillor at this meeting.

I do anticipate that there will be more weekend bookings but not all being evening ones. I do not believe that there will be a significant increase in events where alcohol is sold. This is simply not a requirement of most of the weekend hirers.

The provision of a bar service to hirers within the Hall creates a responsibility upon the Trustees to ensure that its operation is lawful and does not lead to issues of criminality, disorder, safety or nuisance. These issues have been foremost within the previous and current considerations of the

Trustee Committee in its management of the Hall's operations, during the week as well at weekends.

We are fortunate to have Tim Gough as our Chairman as well as the bar provider through his business as this means that the Trustees have direct control over the operation to ensure this.