

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 Lyn Turnbull

Address: Bryntirion, Winllan Road, Llansantffraid SY22 6AH

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Comment Reasons:

- Crime Objections
- Noise Disturbance
- Opening Hours
- Parking
- Traffic

Comment: 2:35 PM on 24 Oct 2015 After visiting my parents this weekend I was appalled to read the application for a change of license at the village hall. With this application my parents and grand father (98) have the potential of being disturbed each day and subjected to anti social behaviour. The many vehicles would have to pass the house twice as the road is a dead end, more noise disturbance in a quiet Kentish village! The fact that the village hall is a charity makes it strange to understand why they would need to have an all day and every day license.

We strongly object to the application!!!!

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 Andrea Winter

Address: 74 Ingle Road, Chatham ME4 5SE

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: 8:57 PM on 25 Oct 2015 I don't see why this is needed as the village has a pub for drinking so there is no need for alcohol to be sold in the village hall. I thought the village hall was used for local clubs eg Garden club, WI, BWAG etc. It will be a great shame if this goes ahead and charity's and clubs end up being unable to use it due to cost and availability. It will also cause problems for the homes in that area as it's likely to cause noise and parking problems.



White Heather Cottage
Forge Lane
Bredhurst
Kent

ME7 3JW

2nd November 2015

Application No. 15/03263/LAPRE

Dear Sirs,

I attended the Bredhurst Parish Council meeting when this application was discussed.

There were a lot of points raised, both for and against.

The main issue of contention seemed to evolve around the fact that functions had been held without the required license being in force.

This is something that cannot be tolerated for whatever the reason, but have to admit the same thing did happen when I was running a social club in Chatham.

This was not a deliberate action and after taking inside action within the committee this was rectified, so as not to happen again.

I feel that the oversight of the applicant was not deliberate.

However I feel that the hours applied for are over and above any realistic requirement.

I would be looking at the following if the application were to be accepted:

<i>Monday - Thursday</i>	<i>18.00hrs to 23.00hrs</i>
<i>Friday - Saturday</i>	<i>Noon to 23.30hrs</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>14.00hrs to 22.30hrs</i>

These hours should be suitable for hall hirers/users.

Special events ie. New Year as requested.

I hope this view is of some help.

With regards

T.R.Surridge (mr)

From: bredhurstpc@live.co.uk [mailto:bredhurstpc@live.co.uk] **On Behalf Of** Bredhurst Parish Council

Sent: 04 November 2015 11:54

To: John Littlemore

Subject: Bredhurst Village Hall Licensing

Dear Mr Littlemore

Please find attached a letter from Bredhurst Parish Council in respect of the above application.

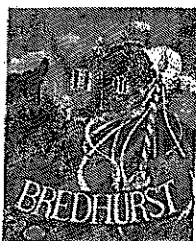
Kind regards

Wendy Kemp (Mrs)

Clerk to Bredhurst Parish Council

07789498551

<http://www.bredhurstpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>



*in Maidstone
Borough*

Bredhurst **PARISH COUNCIL**

Wendy Kemp

Bridfel, The Street, Bredhurst, Kent ME7 3LJ

Telephone: 07789 498551

Email: clerk@bredhurstpc.co.uk

BY EMAIL

John Littlemore
Head of Housing & Community Services
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone
Kent ME15 6JQ
JohnLittlemore@maidstone.gov.uk

4 November 2015

Dear Mr Littlemore

RE: 15/03263/LAPRE

Application to Vary Premises Licence at Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, Kent ME7 3JZ

Details of variation to current Premises Licence to allow the sale of alcohol 7 days a week, as follows:

Mondays – Thursdays:	11am - 11pm
Fridays – Saturdays:	11am - 11.30pm
Sundays:	11am - 10.30pm
New Year's Eve:	Extension of licence to 1am (with the Hall open until 2.30am on New Year's Day)

Decision of Bredhurst Parish Council: Unanimously Oppose the Application

Bredhurst Parish Council met on 28 October 2015 to discuss the above application. The meeting was attended by 22 residents, including representatives of Trustees of Bredhurst Village Hall Charity Committee. The two Trustees who spoke at the meeting were Tim Gough, Chairman of Bredhurst Village Hall Committee and Alan Tuff, Trustee.

Tim and Alan were asked to outline the current operation of the hall and why they are now seeking to vary their existing Premises Licence. They explained they hoped the variation will attract more hall hirers and the provision of a permanent bar will provide an income stream for the Village Hall Charity.

They confirmed that the hall is almost fully booked during week nights and, should booking enquires increase, they can only be accommodated at weekends.

Tim explained that, in addition to being the Chairman of Bredhurst Village Hall Charity, he is also the owner of 'That's The Spirit', an event organising company which currently provides a bar, catering and entertainment service to the hall and, should a variation be granted, this arrangement will continue. He was asked to clarify how bar takings currently financially benefit the Hall's charity. He stated that if the bar takes £500 in a night, he gives £50 to the charity. He retains the balance and deducts any costs from his share of the takings.

Councillors took into consideration all arguments put forward at the meeting but decided to unanimously oppose the application for reasons detailed below:

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- Alan explained to the meeting that the hall already has a licence to sell alcohol. This caused some confusion as this is the purpose of the hall's variation application. Tim corrected him and explained to Alan and the meeting that the hall does not have a liquor licence and, until now, they have provided bar services to hall hirers via Temporary Events Notices.
- The Hall's Terms and Conditions (see Annex 1) which is currently issued to hall hirers and is also publically available on the hall's website states at Item 1:

Liquor Licence – The hall has a liquor licence authorising the sale of alcohol.

This false statement was brought to the attention of MBC Licensing on 2nd November 2015 and, it is our understanding, MBC have approached Tim Gough and asked that he removes this statement. However, as of the date of typing, this statement is still visible on the hall's website.

- In correspondence, dated 14th October 2015, the Charity Commission informed Bredhurst Parish Council:
'They [Bredhurst Village Hall] have explained that on all occasions when alcohol has been sold on the premises, whether by TTS [That's the Spirit] or other bar providers, the sales were licensed based on the fact that it is the Hall which is licenced rather than the bar provider.'
This statement is not true as the hall is not licenced to sell alcohol.
- Bredhurst Parish Council had been informed that a licencing inspector had visited Bredhurst Village Hall in March 2015 which prompted the email below from Lorraine Neale to Bredhurst Parish Council. Tim stated that a visit had taken place but that no problems had been identified. However, a hall fund raising event a few days later was cancelled following the licencing inspector's visit. BPC has requested full details of this visit and other information from MBC under a FOI request.
- Bredhurst Parish Council asked if they have ever sold alcohol at an event without a licence, they said they had not. However, Bredhurst Parish Council had received an email from Lorraine Neale, MBC Senior Licencing Officer, dated 30th March 2015, (see Annex 2) in which she states:
'The Village Hall management have been advised that they cannot sell alcohol without a TEN, they have admitted that they have had a few functions without a licence'
Many residents attended the functions in question and assumed that they were legally purchasing alcohol which, it now appears, they were not. It is the understanding of Bredhurst Parish Council that it is an offence to sell alcohol without a licence.
- Bredhurst Parish Council feels that the Trustees have demonstrated that they do not fully understand the current licencing arrangements for the hall or the seriousness of selling alcohol without a licence. They have also misled the general public and the Charity Commission by stating that a licence is already in place, when clearly it is not. For these reasons, we do not feel they have demonstrated to be fit and proper to hold a full licence at this time.

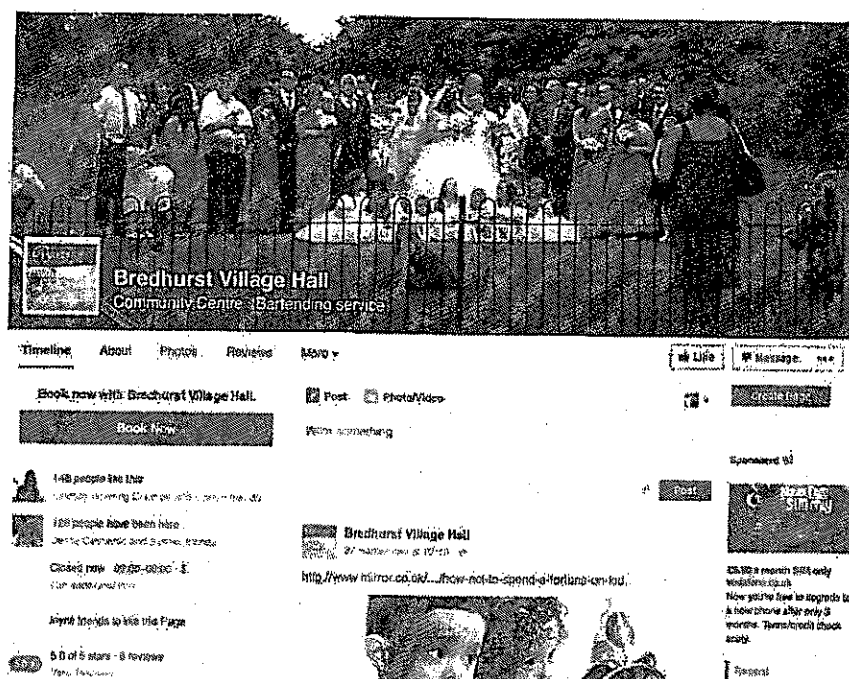
Public Safety

- If this variation is allowed, cars exiting the Village Hall via Hurstwood Road at midnight coincides with closing time at The Bell, which is located directly opposite the end of Hurstwood Road only approximately 100m from the Village Hall. Cars from both venues will attempt to join The Street, which is the main road which runs through Bredhurst.
- There is limited street lighting in The Street and Hurstwood Road and extra traffic could be a hazard for pedestrians leaving both venues at the same time.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

- Tim Gough explained that their current Premises Licence allows for the hall to be open daily during the hours of 8am to midnight and stated that the hall is mainly used currently by local clubs and charities during the week. They have normally vacated the premises by 10pm. Bredhurst Parish Council feels that should the variation be granted, it is likely that hall hirers will be vacating the premises much later at midnight potentially, **7 days a week**. This is a quiet rural area and noise generated in the early hours of the morning, caused by hall hirers leaving the premises will be alien to the area.
- Bredhurst Village Hall is situated in Hurstwood Road and is immediately opposite 6 retirement bungalows, managed by Golding Homes. Residents in these bungalows already suffer late night disturbance at weekends when the hall is hired out for wedding receptions and parties. This disturbance could increase to every day of the week if alcohol is more readily available.
- It is not acceptable to subject residents, many are of whom are elderly, to traffic movements, banging car doors and noise from guests, potentially, **7 nights a week at midnight**.
- The Hall's application form at Section D states:
~~'The Terms and Condition of the hire states that hirers must not use the gardens after 11pm'~~
However, upon checking the hall's Terms and Conditions, they make no reference whatsoever to the garden or that it must not be used after 11pm. Therefore, their statement in the application is false.
- There are no sound limiters on the rear doors to the hall which could cause problems for residents in Fir Tree Grove whose houses back onto the rear of the hall.
- The application is for the sale of alcohol both indoors and outdoors. In summer months especially, it will be difficult to confine hall users inside the hall. The availability of alcohol outdoors could see an increase in noisy behaviour **7 days a week**.
- Tim confirmed that Bredhurst Village Hall Charity has not formally consulted with residents or regular hall hirers in regard to their current application. Bredhurst Parish Council feels that a consultation should have taken place which should have included clearly stipulating the extent of the proposed licencing hours. The hall is an amenity for the whole village and the views of residents should have been taken into consideration prior to the submission of the variation application.
- Bredhurst Village Hall Committee has not considered the full implications of their request to vary the Premises Licence on current and future residents living in the immediate vicinity of the hall or the wider community. Having an alcohol licence for **7 days/7 nights a week** could, in time, change the very nature of hall. It was built in the 1960's as a community amenity and, until now, its focus has been a meeting place for local clubs and organisations. By granting a full licence, in time, it could turn into more of a social club, aimed at more lucrative hall hirers from further afield and may no longer meet the needs of Bredhurst residents.

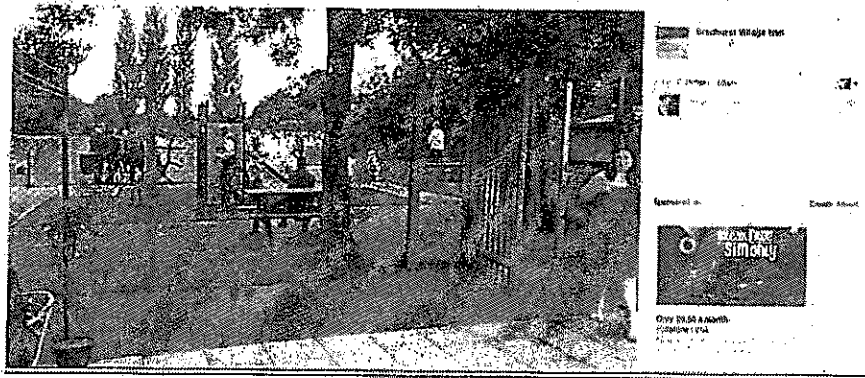
- Tim Gough stated that hall hirers are not allowed to spill out onto the Village Playing Field to the rear of the hall which is managed by Bredhurst Parish Council. However, it is not stated anywhere in the Terms and Conditions that this area is out of bounds for hall hirers. In addition, after having assured the Parish Council meeting that hirers do not use the field, he was shown a photograph of a wedding party which was taken in the field and, until 26 October, 2 days before the Parish Council meeting, the photo below (see Annex 3) was the main header photo on Bredhurst Village Hall's Facebook page. Not only does this show a wedding party in the Playing Field, the fact that the hall committee choose this as its front page photo would suggest to potential hirers that Bredhurst Village Hall actively promotes the use of the field to hirers.



- With the possibility of more party and wedding hirers, the incidents of fireworks being let off in the Village Hall Field may increase. The field is adjacent to stables, a horse paddock and houses. For these reasons Bredhurst Parish Council have asked the Village Hall Committee in the past to prevent their hirers doing this and we were verbally assured that this would be mentioned within their Terms and Conditions, albeit we now see that this item is not included.
- Bredhurst Parish Council is worried about the type of hirers a full alcohol licence at the hall will attract and it may turn from a village amenity into a social club. If more lucrative hall bookings increase during week nights, our fear is that hall hire charges will increase forcing out the local clubs such as WI, Garden Club and keep fit classes.
- There are approximately 170 houses in Bredhurst and we already have two businesses, The Bell and The Nursery Restaurant, with full alcohol licences. There are insufficient residents to warrant a 3rd outlet selling alcohol.

Protection of Children from Harm

- Immediately to the rear of the hall is Bredhurst Playing Field which is managed by Bredhurst Parish Council. It has an enclosed area with play equipment for toddlers. There is a sign on the railings stating that the play equipment is for use by children of 12 years of age and under. At the far end of the field, there is play equipment for older children. The equipment and field is used daily by unsupervised children.
- Tim confirmed that hall hirers are not permitted to access the toddler's playground. Alan confirmed that the security gate from the hall's patio area to the toddler's playground is permanently locked.
- Bredhurst Parish Council believe that the gate referred to above was originally installed to allow direct access from the hall to the toddler's playground for children who attend a nursery playgroup which is held in the hall 3 mornings a week. We understand the key to the gate is kept by Mary Gough (Tim's mother) who runs the playgroup and is also a hall Trustee.
- Bredhurst Parish Council are extremely concerned to discover on the hall's Facebook Page a photograph (see Annex 4 & 4A) showing the gate to the area open during a function and hirers sitting at a picnic table consuming alcohol. There is a half full glass of red wine on the table and a man walking through the area carrying a tray of drinks.



- In addition to the drinking taking place in the toddler's playground, an adult can clearly be seen on the top of the climbing frame.
- Bredhurst Parish Council does not feel it is appropriate to have alcohol in the vicinity of the toddlers play area and playing field which children use unsupervised on a daily basis.
- Bredhurst Parish Council feels it is unsafe to have a permanent bar set up on premises used regularly as a nursery with just a door separating the two areas.
- Increased traffic to the Village Hall car park during the day could cause a hazard for unsupervised children walking or cycling to the Village Playing Field. In addition, children attending evening clubs at the school will also be at risk.
- Higher usage of the hall will increase traffic flow in the vicinity of Bredhurst Village School which already has a major parking problem during dropping off and picking up times. Bredhurst Parish Council has recently contacted the Police to ask if there is anything that can be done to alleviate the situation. In addition, the Head Teacher frequently raises this issue with parents.

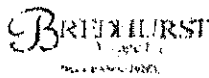
Bredhurst Parish Council respects the hard work and dedication of all Village Hall Trustees. However, their request to vary the Premises Licence so radically is excessive and may, over time and with different Trustees, change the Village Hall into a social club predominately focused on profit making. We do not consider this to be in the best interests of Bredhurst Residents.

Bredhurst Parish Council, therefore, wishes to see the application to vary Bredhurst Village Hall's Premises Licence not approved. However, should MBC Licensing Committee be minded to approve the application we suggest the following conditions be taken into consideration;

- To limit the sale of alcohol to Fridays and Saturdays only
- If a 7 day licence is awarded, we request the sale of alcohol be restricted Sundays to Thursday from 7pm to 10.30pm
- Alcohol only to be served in plastic glasses
- Alcohol not to be served in glass bottles
- Not to allow smokers to congregate to the main front entrance to the Village Hall. This path is the main access to the Village Playing Field used by children and to St Peter's Charity Shop.
- To restrict hall hirers to the confines of the hall and their patio area only
- Not to allow hall hirers to take alcohol outside of the boundary of the village hall
- Not to allow hall hirers to let off fireworks and/or Chinese lanterns
- To install sound inhibitors to rear doors leading to the patio area
- To ensure at least 2 members of the Village Hall Committee are on duty at all times when events involving the sale of alcohol are taking place
- To ensure that all members of the Village Hall Committee carry out industry recognised training regarding the sale of alcohol, dealing with difficult/drunken customers and first aid training by an approved recognised body
- To limit the sale of alcohol on New Year's Eve to 12.30am
- To ensure that the hall is vacated on New Year's Day by 1am.

Yours faithfully

W Kemp (Mrs)
Clerk to Bredhurst Parish Council



Bredhurst Village Hall

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Use Of Site

CONDITIONS OF HIRE

The Management of Bredhurst Village Hall, Registered Charity no 802686 is vested in the Hall committee, whose powers are defined in the Constitution. The Committee is empowered to make and amend rules governing the use of the hall, if necessary without prior notice. The Conditions of Hire appear below:-

1. **Liquor Licence** - The hall has a liquor licence authorising the sale of alcohol, but the following terms must be adhered to at all times.
2. **Noise Pollution** - The hall is fitted with a noise limiter. Instructions for its use are placed next to the power sockets on the stage. Amplifying equipment must be attached to these stage sockets. The hirer should note that the noise limiter will cut power to the stage sockets if the double fire doors to the car park are opened. Power can only be restored if the doors are properly closed and the red button under the control unit at the back of the hall is pressed once. There is no objection to opening these doors before 9.30pm and provided that the control unit is not in use and music is not being played; but the unit must be reset afterwards, as shown above. After 9.30pm all doors must be closed and any noise outside the hall must be reduced to an absolute minimum. Loud conversations, shouting, running outside must be avoided. Cars must leave as quietly as possible. The hirer should announce this to those using the hall. It must be remembered that the hall is in a residential area with old people's bungalows opposite. Complaints could result in the loss of the hall licence. Therefore, **ANY BREACH OF THIS CONDITION (AND ALSO, WHERE SPECIFIED HEREIN) MAY RESULT IN THE LOSS OF PART OR ALL OF THE SECURITY DEPOSIT.**
3. **Public Entertainment Licence** - This is available for inspection. The hirer is responsible for due observance of all conditions stipulated by the Licensing Authority. In particular, **ALL MUSIC AND DANCING MUST FINISH BY 11.30PM.**
4. **Safety Requirements**
 - a. The maximum room capacities specified in the Fire regulations applying to the Public Entertainment Licence and the Theatre Licence must not be exceeded. These are: closely seated audience - 200 persons; dancing - 180 persons; seated at tables - 90 persons; seating at tables and dancing combined - 110 persons; exhibitions - 60 persons.
 - b. Obstructions must not be placed in gangways or exits, nor in front of emergency exits which must be kept clear to allow free public access.
 - c. Fire fighting equipment shall be kept in its proper place and only used for its intended purpose. An extinguisher is situated in the main hall and in the kitchen area. In addition a fire blanket is provided in the kitchen. A public telephone is provided in the cloakroom.
 - d. For any large function, or any function involving children, the hirer must appoint reasonable adults to act as stewards. These should be aware of the means of evacuating the hall in an emergency, the means of summoning the emergency services and the positioning of the fire extinguishing appliances. In the event of a fire or other emergency the hirer's first duty is to ensure that the occupants leave the hall quickly and quietly and that any disabled persons receive suitable help. He/she should then summon the emergency services. If a fire can be tackled without personal risk he/she may then use the appliances provided.
5. **Hall Clearance and Security** - To enable the hirer to leave the hall in a tidy and secure condition a maximum "clear-up" time of 30 minutes is allowed at the end of a session. The hirer must ensure that the hall and car park is vacated at the end of the period. "Clearing up" includes:-
 - a) Tables wiped down and stacked in cloakroom. Chairs to be stacked on the trolleys and as few as possible left on the stage. Chairs must not project from the recesses beyond the edge of the stage. Chairs must not be dragged along the floor.
 - b) Hall and kitchen to be swept and left clean. Rubbish to be placed in plastic sacks with tops tied off. These to be placed in the wooden bin store at the side of the hall.
 - c) Heating to be switched off.
 - d) All lights, including cloakroom lights and garden lights to be switched off. The hirer may make use of the time delay switch on certain external lights.
 - e) All toilets are to be left clean and in a state in which you would expect to find them at the beginning of a hire.
 - f) **Security** - All windows must be closed and secured, gate in rear fence and shed padlocked, exterior kitchen door locked, fire exit bolts properly secured and main door locked. **THE KEY MUST THEN BE RETURNED TO THE BOOKING SECRETARY AS AGREED.**
6. **Loss or Damage to Hall Property** - Any loss or damage (during or as a result of booking) to the hall or its contents or surroundings (furniture and tear excepted) will be chargeable against the deposit, as will any contravention of the conditions relating to the cleaning and clearance of the hall relating to extra payments to the cleaner. The Committee reserve the right to make a legal claim against the hirer in the event of the cost of repair of loss or damage exceeding the amount of the deposit.
7. **Users Equipment/Car Park** - Equipment belonging to users of the hall must not be left overnight in hall. The committee cannot be responsible for loss or damage arising from this or any other cause. The hall must be left clear for cleaning in the morning. Also, the Committee cannot be responsible for any loss or damage to cars or other property parked or left in the car park. Hirers are asked to respect local residents by not parking blocking driveways or the highway.
8. **Insurance** - The Bredhurst Village Hall Committee is only insured against claims arising out of its own negligence. If the hirer considers it necessary he/she should effect insurance for third party claims made against him/her and insurance for any personal loss, damage or injury.
9. **Deposit** - The hirer is liable to lose part or all of the deposit in the event of direct financial loss to the hall funds as stated in paragraph 6 above. In addition, the hall committee in its absolute discretion may retain all or part of the deposit as a fine in the event of undue noise pollution, or nuisance of any kind to neighbouring households, or in the event of breach of paragraph 3, or in the event of the hall not being left as required, as required in paragraph 5 above.

NOTE: Where a charge is being made for admission, tickets must be purchased from the organisation hiring the hall prior to the event, not at the door. Advertising, tickets, etc. must comply with the terms of hire accepted at the time of booking particularly with regard to session time, terms of admission and Local Authority rules and by-laws.

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Consumer Agreement

Provided that the Committee is satisfied that the Conditions of Hire have been adhered to, the deposit against damage will be available for return to the hirer. Please provide a stamped addressed envelope for return of a deposit cheque, otherwise it will be destroyed. In the event of non-compliance with the Conditions of Hire the Committee may retain all or part of the deposit as stated in paragraphs 2, 6 and 9 of the Conditions of Hire. The Committee's ruling on this shall be final and it may retain the deposit for example, a breach in noise regulations, even though no financial loss had been incurred. All queries must be raised with the Booking Secretary at or before the time of paying the booking fee.

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----- Original Message -----

From: Lorraine Neale
To: vanessa@ones
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 4:40 PM
Subject: RE: Bredhurst Village Hall

Hi Vanessa

Yes the dates are the period the TEN covered.

Regards

Lorraine

postmaster@vanessa@ones.plus.com

From: vanessa@ones [mailto:vanessa@ones@vanessa@ones.plus.com]

Sent: 30 March 2015 14:58

To: Lorraine Neale

Subject: Re: Bredhurst Village Hall

Dear Lorraine

Thank you for your email. Can I just confirm that the dates shown below are for from and to dates of the TENs.

Regards

Vanessa

On 30.03.2015 14:40, Lorraine Neale wrote:

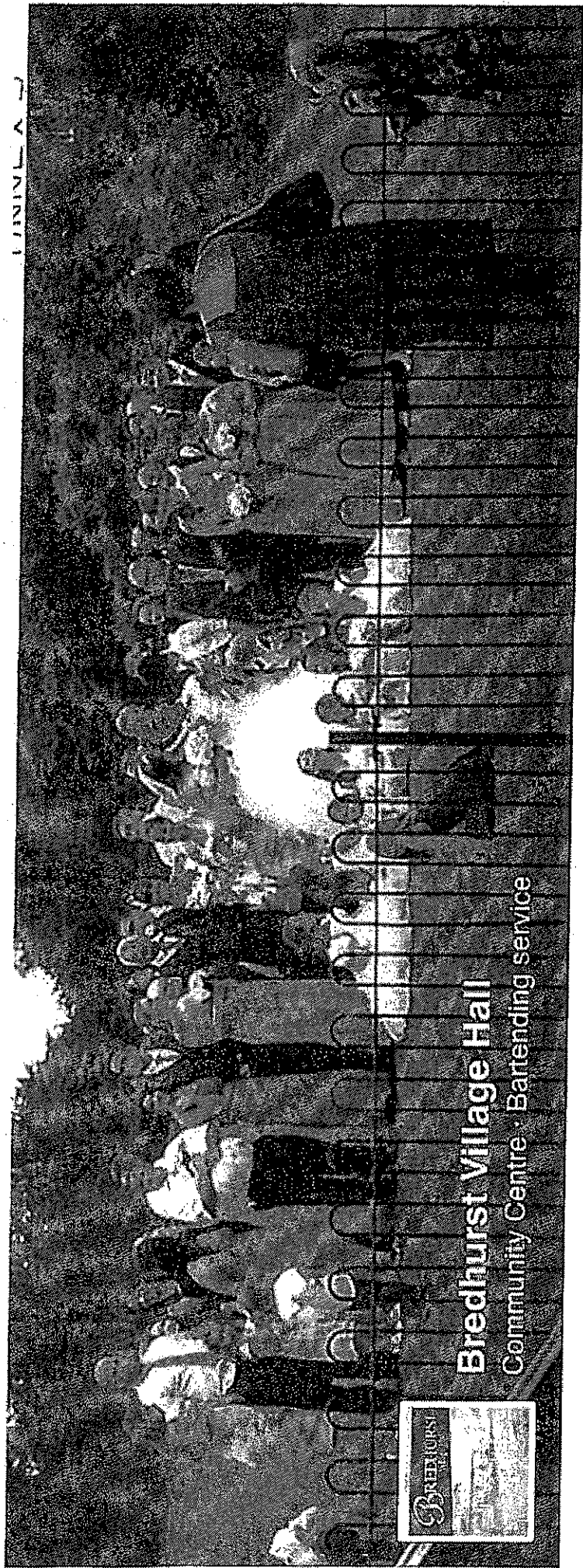
Dear Vanessa

I can confirm that the following TEN's were applied for in 2014.

Bredhurst Village Hall	Timothy Gough	23/03/14
Bredhurst Village Hall	Timothy Gough	08/11/14
Bredhurst Village Hall	Timothy Gough	07/12/14
Bredhurst Village Hall	Timothy Gough	29/11/14

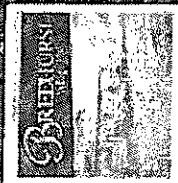
The village Hall management have been advised that they cannot sell alcohol without a TEN, they have admitted that they have had a few functions without a licence but will ensure that they are covered for any future events. My understanding is that they are going to vary the premises licence to include the sale of alcohol and in the interim period use TEN's when required.

Kind Regards



Bredhurst Village Hall

Community Centre · Bartending service



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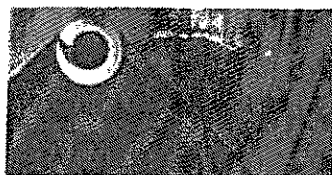




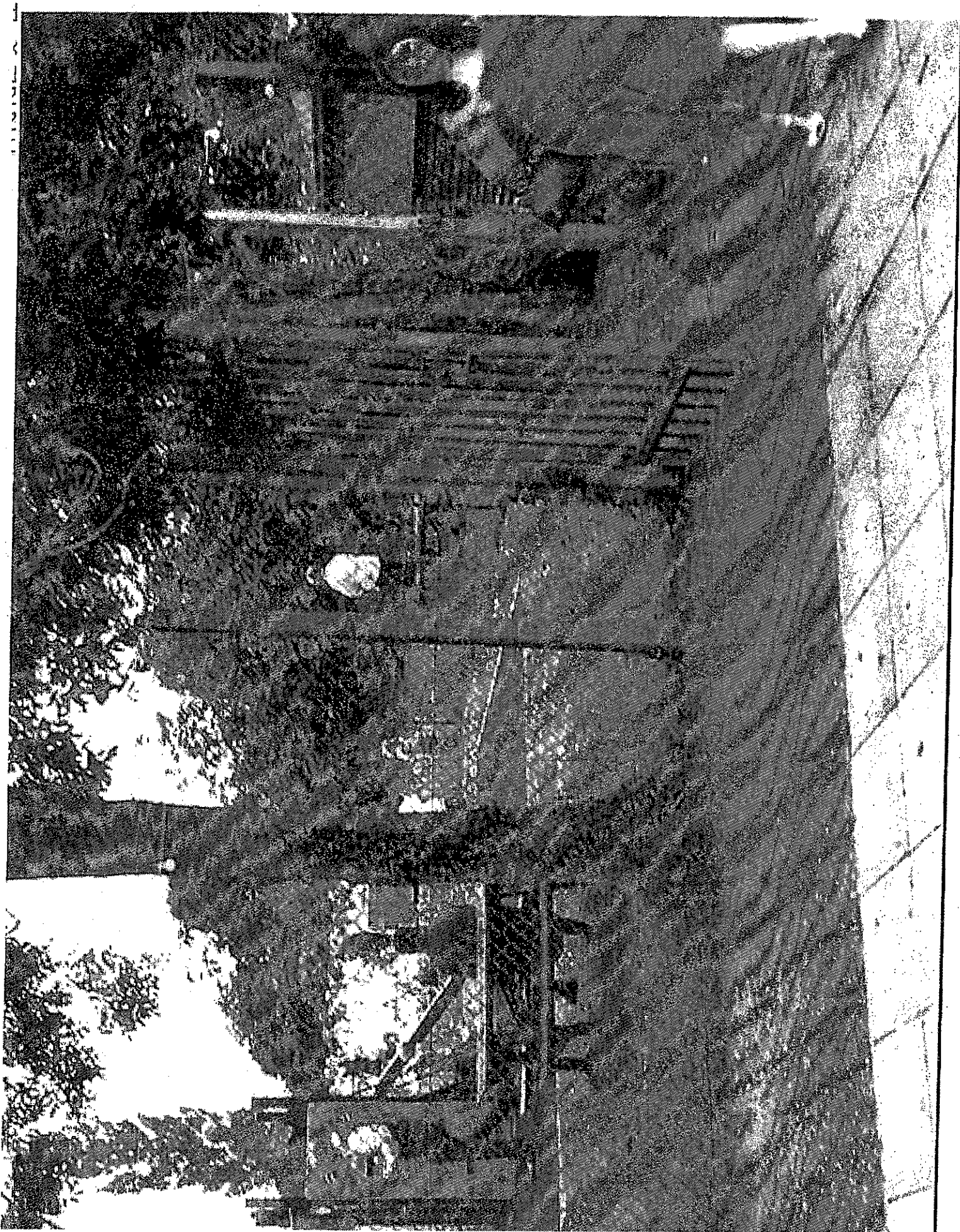
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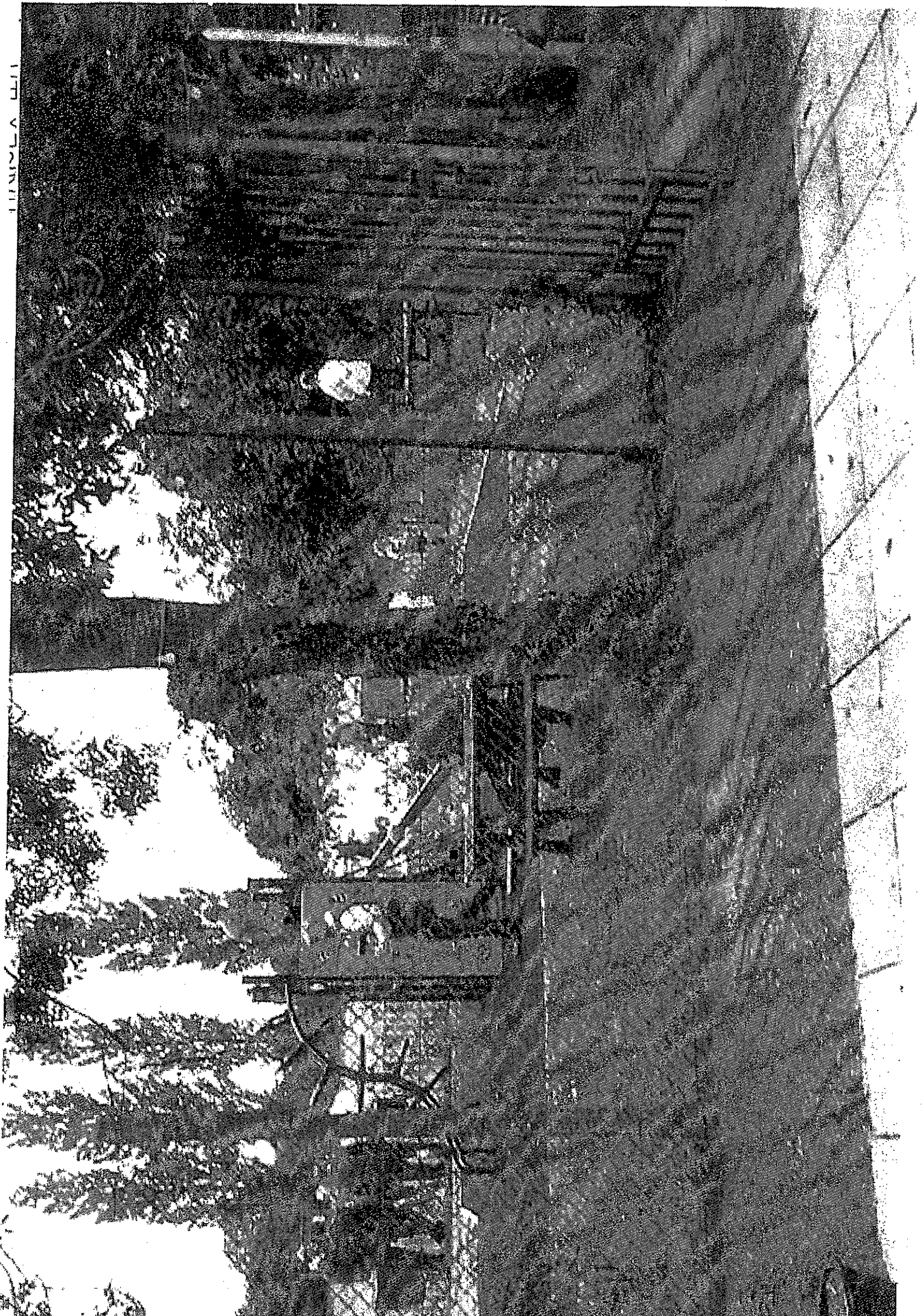


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From: jean butcher [mailto:]
Sent: 04 November 2015 17:59
To: John Littlemore
Subject: Objection to alcohol licence of Bredhurst village hall, Re: 15/03263

To Mr Littlemore,

I am writing over concern that the Bredhurst village hall will be granted a licence to sell alcohol.

I am disabled and live in the disabled bungalows opposite the village hall. I have great concern regarding the noise levels and trouble this will cause. Already without a alcohol licence we have increasing problems. For example just a couple of weeks ago there was a wedding in the community centre which ended in a fight in the car park. We have a grass verge outside the bungalows in which all the teenagers use to get drunk on when there is a party going on in the community centre and they love to play knock down ginger on our doors and as you can understand this is very upsetting as we are all mainly single women over the age of 68 up to 82.

There is also limited parking outside of the community centre for residents which is then taken up with party goers after the centre car park fills up.

I dont feel there is a need for a community centre to be selling alcohol seven days a week from 11am until 11pm, These are public house hours and this is not a public house, We have a public house less than 100 metres away.

My other concern is that I have also been informed that on New Years Eve the hours will be extended till 1am with the hall open until 2.30am

Many Thanks

Mrs Jean Butcher of 11 Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst.

From: Eve & Graham Elford-Knox [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2015 19:59
To: John Littlemore
Subject: Bredhurst Village Hall - Application to vary Premises Licence Ref: 15/03263

Tree Whispers
Hurstwood Road
Bredhurst
ME7 3JZ

Dear Mr Littlemore

Head of Housing and Community Services

Maidstone Borough Council

My husband and I attended a village hall meeting a week ago when we were appalled to hear of the application to amend the premises license terms for the village hall.

Our house is just diagonally across the road from the village hall and as elderly residents we retire early, between 21:30 and 22:00 at the very latest, normally earlier.

Mr Gough's proposal to keep a bar open until 23:30 would severely affect us.

We have lived here for 36 years and until my husband retired (in 2000) I was booking secretary for the village hall and had held that position for 18 years, during which time we were, with the approval of the village hall committee, able to monitor the situation of village hall usage and any negative impacts on residents.

We feel that granting a license to sell alcohol would result in more negative impact than any positive benefit to the community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Evelyn and Mr Graham Elford-Knox

From: Lin [mailto:]
Sent: 05 November 2015 15:51
To: John Littlemore
Subject: Bredhurst Village Hall re licence. 15/03263

We are writing to inform you that we do not agree with the proposed licensing hours at Bredhurst village Hall. We live at 20 Fir Tree Grove and we already find that the parking becomes a nightmare what with the school and the pub. People parking on the pavements outside the house and we have already had our wall knocked down twice because of people turning onto our drive.

There is not enough adequate parking at the village hall and we don't think it is necessary to have two licensed establishments so near to each other.

We hear far more noise when people leave the village hall after a function than we do with the pub.

We also notice that after functions fireworks are often set off which we certainly would not want any more of as it terrifies our dog.

There are a lot of elderly residents in Fir Tree Grove and Hurstwood and it would be unfair on them to have more disturbance caused by the additional noise of car doors slamming and engines roaring.

Please note that we are not in favour of the proposed application to vary premises licence.

Regards

L and A Saunders

Sent from my iPad

From: bredhurstpc@live.co.uk [mailto:bredhurstpc@live.co.uk] **On Behalf Of** Bredhurst Parish Council

Sent: 06 November 2015 09:22

To: John Littlemore

Subject: Bredhurst V Hall Licensing 15/03263/LAPRE

Dear Mr Littlemore

I am attaching for your attention a letter from a resident concerning the licence application for Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst. Mr Surridge has consented to his letter being forwarded to you.

Kind regards

Wendy Kemp (Mrs)
Clerk to Bredhurst Parish Council

07789498551

<http://www.bredhurstpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>



White Heather Cottage
Forge Lane
Bredhurst
Kent

ME7 3JW

November 4th 2015

*License application for Village Hall
15/03263/LAPRE*

Ladies & Gentlemen of the committee.

Having attended the special meeting last week relating to the above I would like to submit the following comments.

For some 10yrs I was secretary of a social club in Chatham, and it was the secretary's job to run the whole lot, from purchasing, staffing, entertainment and licensing.

I did inadvertently overlook the renewal of the clubs liquor license, because I was trying to take on more than I could. Once this responsibility was delegated the problem was solved.

However, this does not excuse the fact that the license in this particular case was not applied for. Was this an oversight by the chairman, who seems to be running the whole show or was it deliberate? At the same time have the entertainment/s licenses been applied for to cover the music and acts at the hall. Unless the laws have changed a license was required for recorded music and a separate one for live music.

The other point that came to light was the amount of money given to the Village Hall Fund.

I am assuming that the sum mentioned was from the net profit and not the gross takings, although it was only given as an example.

One point that did concern me, was that there was a general lack of security inside the hall when there were evening functions. When I was running my club ALL committee members were expected to take their turn to attend such functions and to make themselves known to the hirers. Preferably wearing a badge just stating committee member or similar.

Unfortunately, I feel that there is a business being run from the hall, for the benefit of possibly one person.

I do not doubt that the chairman has done a good job, but when bar profits are going to the BUSINESS (Less contribution to the Hall Fund) and I believe also that he can provide music for the functions if required, and bar staff, again the profits going to the BUSINESS.

If it was me, I would have the Village Hall being completely run on a volunteer basis. This would include the purchase of beers and spirits, as well as bar staff being members of the committee doing it on a volunteer basis. (This would also add to the security as earlier mentioned). This would also inevitably lead to more profits for the Village Hall Fund.

At the moment with the set-up as it is, or rather how the application could change the amount of pm. hirings at the weekend, then it would again be an opportunity for more profit to go to the Village Hall Fund.

Hopefully these comments/suggestions could be of some help, as I feel the BPC need to take some responsibility for how the Village Hall is run especially if the law is being flouted.

With regards,

Ray Surridge

Yo.

Mr John Littlemore

RECEIVED

- 6 NOV 2015

Bredhurst Village Hall - application to vary premises licence, Hurstwood Rd. Bredhurst Kent ME7 3J
Re:- 15/03263.

There is 'The Bell' Public House at the end of the road which is open till 11.30pm every day.

Living right opposite the hall means headlights shine directly into windows.

Possible noise from, car doors, horns, and fairwells. Should it be a big gathering, possibility of people parking on green opposite hall.

The homes across from the hall ~~is~~ are occupied by retired elderly people.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
9. Hurstwood Road.

A.