

**From:** James Williams PC 46011187  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 11:10  
**To:** Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Kings Head Support

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Lorraine,

I have attached emails.

Regards,

James

*James Williams*

**Police Constable 11187**  
**Maidstone Licensing Officer**



**From:** Geoff Atkinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 11:03  
**To:** James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL - Kings Head Grafty Green - The Sweet Family

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Morning Sir,

I have been asked to contact you to let you know that I have known the above for over 8 years, as they are a customer ( I work in the drinks industry ) and they have become friends.

I cannot say I have ever heard a bad word said against them, and have always found them honest and supportive.

Regards

--  
Geoff Atkinson  
**Area Sales Manager - Kent**  
Majestic Wine



>> From: Paul Basham [REDACTED]

>> Sent: 22 February 2023 16:44

>> To: James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]

>> Subject: EXTERNAL - Kings Head Grafty Green

>>

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>>

>>

>> Dear James

>>

>> I have only been a resident of Grafty Green for a short period of time. Just 19 months. However, during this period I have got to know the patrons of the kings head, my local pub fairly well. I'm aware that their good character has been bought into question. I can only speak for myself, but feel it only right that I speak up for them. They have been nothing but welcoming to myself and my family since we moved there, and are honestly some of the nicest, genuine and kindest people I have ever met.

>>

>> Kr

>>

>> Paul Basham

>>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 22 February 2023 20:01  
To: [REDACTED] James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: EXTERNAL - Re: IN SUPPORT OF Ken, Bev and all at TheKings Head, Grafty Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

May I reiterate MY STRONG SUPPORT  
For Bev, Ken and the whole Family at  
The Kings Head at Grafty Green

Grahame

Sent from my iPhone

> On 22 Feb 2023, at 17:22, [REDACTED] wrote:  
>  
> Please register my PERSONAL Character Reference and Support for the whole Family at The Kings  
Head, Grafty Green  
>  
> Grahame Godding  
> [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED]  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Polly Soper [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 09:19  
**To:** James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL - Character ref: Sweet Family, Kings Head, Grafty Green

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Polly Soper and [REDACTED] The King's Head, Grafty Green.

For over 30 years the Sweet family have warmly welcomed patrons into The Kings Head, their home. In all of these years there has never been any incident, cause or reason to doubt their integrity or call into question the unblemished reputations of Ken, Eve or Beverley.

This family are kind, honest, exceptional people who are beloved by the community. They are the linchpin of the village and as such are held in high regard and hugely respected following decades of loyalty and the expert running of The Kings Head, Grafty Green.

This is a true and honest character reference based on my own personal opinions and experiences.

Kind regards

Mrs Polly Soper

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** Ron Sorrell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 February 2023 16:52  
**To:** James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL - The Kings Head. Grafty Green

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Williams, it has come to my attention that there has been some police interest in the Kings Head Pub in Grafty Green. I have no idea what this is about, but I would like to take the opportunity to support the family that run the pub, and state that it's beyond my belief that they could be responsible for any improper behaviour. I have known the family for almost twenty years, and during that time I have found them to be people of the highest moral standards, and integrity. They are hard workers, and have managed to maintain a respectable, reputable and successful business at a time when many others have failed. They have done this because they are a special breed, that is unfortunately rare these days. They can only be victims of malicious rumours, and I can't imagine why. I hope this situation can be resolved without any harm coming to such a great family. I would be happy to speak on their behalf in whatever circumstances. Kind regards, Ron Sorrell. Previously Bank of England Manager.

From: steve warburton [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 6:16:11 PM

To: James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]

Subject: EXTERNAL - King's Head Grafty Green

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James

We are regular customers of the Kings Head in Grafty Green.

I am not sure what has been going on but the owners are wonderful people and are the heart of the village. They adapted the pub so we could get my son's wheelchair in.

I can't say enough good things about them.

Regards

Steve Warburton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 12:27  
**To:** Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: EXTERNAL - Please see attached letter re The Kings Head

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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

**From:** Nadine Lamont-Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 12:13  
**To:** James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL - Please see attached letter re The Kings Head

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kind regards,

Nadine Lamont-Brown

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
23/02/2023

Dear Mr Williams,

**The Kings Head**

We are writing in support of the licensees of The Kings Head because we understand that you are considering the status of their licence in view of recent events. Although we are aware that the events may be considered serious we would like to appeal to you to give this matter your most compassionate consideration on the following grounds:

[REDACTED] the Kings Head and can totally vouch for the fact that it is a perfect village pub. We are older people (57 and 71 years old) and we are regulars, visiting the pub at least once a week if not more. It is a warm and welcoming place for older people, never any hint of trouble, and very popular with all of the villagers. We have never noticed anything untoward and have always felt totally comfortable there. We were therefore saddened to hear of the current issues, as are all of the Grafty Green community, and wish to add our support to that you have no doubt already received from the local people.

We wish to vouch for the Sweet family, who have always been exemplary landlords and the kindest most genuine people you could ever meet. My husband and I are both professional people, (I am a Tax Adviser and he is a TV and Radio presenter) and we are more than happy to give character references for Beverley and Ken if that will assist them in any way. We are horrified to hear that Ken and Eve may lose their home after 30 years, and at their age.

My husband, James Whale, [REDACTED] and I cannot express how grateful I am to the entire family at the Kings Head for the kindness and support they have shown us during James's illness. They have driven James to appointments that I have been unable to attend, looked after our dogs when we have had to spend days at the hospital, and always welcomed us with open arms into the pub even when James is very sick and probably likely to put other customers off. There is often a disabled young man in a wheelchair in the pub on a Sunday afternoon too and it is just heartwarming to see how welcome they make him. They do not discriminate and are just the epitome of the perfect traditional pub landlords.

Please take into consideration the above facts when you are making any decisions that you are required to, and if we can be of any further assistance in this matter please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Nadine Lamont-Brown and James Whale

From: James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 February 2023 12:43  
To: Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>  
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL - Kings Head Grafty Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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

From: leonie field [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 February 2023 12:42  
To: James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
Subject: EXTERNAL - Kings Head Grafty Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We recently moved to Grafty Green & found the family run pub, Kings Head very welcoming. It is the hub of the village where all the local people meet for convivial conversation , a glass of beer & of course yummy fish 'n chips on a Friday night!  
Leonie & John Hunter

Sent from my iPhone

From: James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 February 2023 13:28  
To: Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>  
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL - Re kings head, Grafty Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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

From: Fae Kennedy [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 February 2023 13:22  
To: James Williams PC 46011187  
Subject: EXTERNAL - Re kings head, Grafty Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

Please accept this email as a character reference for Ken & Eve.

They are a huge part of our community. We join them Most Friday evenings, mainly for our daughter to see Ken and give him a cuddle and tell Ken about what she has done at school. I've never met such a lovely couple. I would hate to see Ken, Eve and the pub not be in the village. It would not be the same anymore.

Best wishes,

Fae Rushton  
[REDACTED]

Representation withdrawn



Representation withdrawn



**From:** Richard Thompson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 22:58  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Character Reference: Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AN

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs,

I am attaching a reference in relation to the Section 51 Review of Licensing notice that is being held upon Kings Head in Grafty Green.

Understanding the importance of this notice, I felt it important to offer a local perspective of the establishment and put on record what we have observed and felt while visiting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone [REDACTED] and I will be happy to assist.

Kind regards

Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson

Licensing Partnership  
P.O Box 182  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1GP

**Re: Kings Head Public House, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green**

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this statement as a character reference for the Kings Head Public House, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green and the members of the staff and family that run the establishment. I have been a patron of the establishment for a number of years, since moving locally in April 2016, however becoming more frequent in the last year since the easing of COVID 19 lockdown restrictions.

My family and I have never considered ourselves a local of a pub up until recently, historically this is because it was hard to find an establishment that the whole family could feel safe and part of a community as we have now found at the Kings Head.

Even before we became more regular at the establishment, my children (M - boy aged 7 and S – Boy aged 15) enjoyed coming down as catered for both their needs. M, enjoyed playing in the garden with the play equipment and S, enjoyed playing pool. They always felt welcomed and relaxed and had many good times spending time as a family and meeting friends.

About 18 months ago, or just over, one of our neighbours invited us down for a birthday drink, it was at this time we started to really feel part of the community. This was a post COVID world where meeting people still felt a little strange, but something we longed for as the loss of local community spirit over the lockdown period had an impact on all of us and was a refreshing change. It was at this time that we really started to engage with Beverly “Bev” and her family and felt a home away from home.

We found ourselves popping in often to see everyone down there, chat with local neighbours, make new friends and engage with the owners and family. If stress was high from work or felt like we just needed some relaxation, we would pop down and immediately feel better in a warm friendly atmosphere.

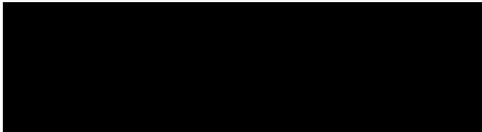
M, is a typical child that seems to only be interested in playing on gadgets and can be a little over excited at times. It is sometimes hard living outside of a town to strike a balance between entertaining him in a creative

way and not letting him play on a games console. But he loves going to the Kings Head, a gadget free zone where he can meet his friends (with their parents) and play and engage. At times, he and his friends can become a little over excited and forget the rules, they have to be reminded. This is where I have a lot of admiration for Bev, she notices that we as parents might be getting agitated with our children's restlessness and engages with them in the most patient and kind manner. An example of this was near Christmas, the kids were excited and a little bit fractious wanting to run about, Bev approached us and the kids with a "new" game (Shut the Box), taught them how to play and spent 5-10 minutes playing it with them, gave them a little pep talk and calmed them down before returning. They had a great, and much quieter time, playing and have asked about it since.

S, is currently sitting GCSE exams and is feeling the pressure of them, plus having a slightly annoying little brother a bit of respite is needed from time to time. When asked he often suggests popping down to the Kings Head for some down time, a soft drink and maybe a game of pool. He also likes taking our new puppy down to engaging with other locals which is so important for his social skills.

In conclusion, we as a family find the Kings Head to be a vital community space that is warm and welcoming, a meeting place for family, friend and neighbours. We ultimately feel safe and cared for by the owners and the family who have always been kind, engaging, interested in us and offer great customer service.

Yours Faithfully,



Richard & Hannah Thompson



**From:** Grahame Godding [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 24 February 2023 06:46

**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** IN SUPPORT of The Kings Head, Grafty Green: Ref. Notice to Review License by MBC served by The Kent Police (James Williams Copied in)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

FAO The Licensing Partnership. PO Box 182 Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP

Date as email

Dear Sirs

Please find enclosed a letter of strong support for Bev, Ken, Evie the Staff & ALL the Extremely satisfied and SAFE Customers of The Kings Head, Grafty Green

Yours Faithfully

Grahame Godding

[REDACTED]

By email to [licensing@severoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@severoaks.gov.uk)  
AND in the post.

Grahame Godding

Licensing Partnership  
P.O. Box 182  
Severoaks  
Kent TN13 1GP

24th February 2023

Re: The Kings Head Public House, Headcorn Rd,  
Griffy Green

Dear Sirs

The purpose of this letter is to make an absolute statement of support and endorse the positive character of both the KHP and all the Family (Ben, Ken, Eric & Co) plus staff.

This is a Community of like minded people who thoroughly agree that this Public House is amongst the very best to be found

I have read the letter of Local Family The Thompson's and wholly endorse every word.

Whatever the root cause(s) of the "Notice" served by Maidstone Borough Council the 'Application to Renew a Premises License' must be refuted at every opportunity

Yours faithfully

Mr. Grahame L. Godding

For and on behalf of All the Family Godding

**From:** val king [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 24 February 2023 11:10

**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Notice of Application to Review a Premises Licence - Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AN

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

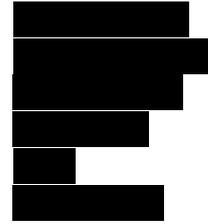
Dear Sirs,

Please find attached a letter in respect of the above application.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Val King



Licensing Partnership  
P O Box 182  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 1GP

24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Sirs,

Re: Notice of Application to Review a Premises Licence – Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, Kent ME17 2AN

This letter is to register support for Ken & Eve Sweet and Beverly Simpson-Sweet.

We moved to Grafty Green almost six years ago. On our first full day in our new home we took a break from unpacking etc. and went into the Kings Head to say hello and introduce ourselves. The welcome we received from Ken, Eve and Bev was so warm and friendly we felt as if we had lived in the village for years. On the second day in our new home our parents came to visit but had difficulty finding our property. Mum went into the pub to ask if someone could help with our location. Ken immediately walked her over the road to show her where we lived.

Occasionally our family join us in the pub, including two grandchildren aged 8 and 4. Even though they don't live in Grafty Green and are not regular visitors to the pub, they are always made to feel very welcome. On one occasion Bev spotted our grandchild attempting to climb onto the pool table. She very calmly and quietly spoke to him to explain how dangerous it was for him to be climbing on the table, no fuss, no bother, he came away a happy chap.

The writer of this letter was a member of the ladies darts team at the pub for several years and for every home match, Eve and Bev provided a lovely supper for both teams. Sadly the darts league disbanded due to Covid but a few of us still meet most Thursdays to have a friendly game of darts and a catch up with each other.

During lockdown we were allowed to order takeaway fish and chips, which we did most Fridays. To this day we still have takeaway fish and chips most Fridays, sometimes eating in the pub.

Bev was the driving force behind arranging a very successful day in the village to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee last year. Everyone who attended had a fantastic time enjoying entertainment during the afternoon and into the evening.

One of the grounds for the review is Protection of Public Nuisance. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Kings Head and in the six years we have lived here we have not experienced any nuisance from the premises i.e no excessive noise etc. In fact, there is more nuisance caused by one of our neighbours livestock (cockerel and geese) and yapping dogs.

Ken, Eve and Bev have always shown a strong work ethic and are always so warm, friendly and welcoming. We have never seen or heard of anything happening that would cause us, or our family, any concern at being in the premises. As we work for most of the week we are sure that, without the pub, we would not have met and made friends with so many lovely people.

The Kings Head is a brilliant asset to Grafty Green where everyone, villagers and strangers, are always made to feel very welcome. The pub is a place in the village where people can meet up in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Yours faithfully

V. King  
[REDACTED]

This letter is being sent via e-mail and post

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 February 2023 20:37  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Kings Head - Application to review license

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom to my concern.

I'm writing to make a representation on the above, because I am shocked and stunned that this is necessary, and would like to give my personal experiences with the Ken, Eve and Bev.

[REDACTED] the pub and pub garden, my parents moved to Grafty Green when I was 16, (I am now 62) and the pub has been a pivotal venue for many for our family celebrations and events. There isn't a year that we don't go on Christmas morning for a toast to the season, it's our family tradition. When my father was alive he visited most evenings for a night cap until he became too ill. This connection with the pub was strengthened when Ken and Eve took over and remained unchanged when Bev joined them.

In all this time I have not witnessed anything that gets close to the grounds on the notice. On the contrary, all my kids and grandchildren have enjoyed many events in the pub and my 16 year granddaughter is very fond of Ken and Eve. The pub garden often has children playing, weather permitting and there is a kids room for them. I've never seen anything that would put them at risk or in danger.

My late father had a lot of respect for how the pub was run and as a family we always feel safe and comfortable when visiting. They go out of their way to cater for everyone in the community. For example, my father and I have organised many fundraising events over the years, Ken, Eve and Bev always supported these events and go above and beyond to help make these successful and safe for everyone in the village.

With respect to the public nuisance, I have never suffered any disturbances or noise issues in all the years I've been living here. When there is a special event I can hear music, but it's never too loud or goes on unreasonably late. Additionally, I've never witnessed or heard any trouble at these events.

From my own very personal perspective, they were extremely supportive when my father was ill and after he died they provided me emotional support which I was so grateful for. I know that they do this for other people in the village too, not only providing a venue for wakes but also becoming good listeners when people are going through the grieving process.

It would be extremely sad if they were not able to continue in the pub, there would be a gaping hole in our whole community without them. I've not requested additional details of the grounds because I'm sure I don't need the details to make this representation, as I have not experienced or witnessed anything that would justify this licensing review.

If you require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me as I would be happy to help Ken, Eve, Bev and family anyway I can.

Kind regards

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 27 February 2023 11:17  
To: Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Kings Head, Grafty Green, Maidstone

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Further to your review of the licence of the above I would like to make a few comments on there behalf.

I have been a customer of the Kings Head for some 10 years and in that time I have experienced a very professionally run establishment always extremely friendly and courteous. Furthermore in that time I have never experienced any disquiet or problems of any description. The licensee and family are also very supportive of the local community.

I hope these comments will help in support of your enquiry.

Graham Dowse