

From: Phil Fraser [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 March 2023 17:51
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Kings Head, Grafty Green

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Re The Kings Head Pub, Headcorn Rd, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AN

Dear Sirs,

Please accept this email as a reference of character for Beverly, Ken and Eve of the Kings Head, Grafty Green.

My family, children and myself have been using the pub on a regular basis since we moved to the area in 2008. Since that time we have always found the pub to be exceptionally well run, friendly and an important part of community life for all of us. Living in Platts Heath, which has no pub, it has become an important meeting point for local families, who are all made to feel most welcome. During my time as school Governor at Platts Heath Primary School, Ken, Eve and Bev were incredibly supportive of our school and PTA. They regularly supported us with donations for our Christmas raffle and also allowed us to host some of our events in their garden.

I have never found the pub to be anything but a well run, friendly place. I have never witnessed trouble of any sort there and believe that it is an incredibly important part of the community and has been made so by its excellent management.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind Regards

Phil

Phil Fraser
[REDACTED]

received 3rd March 2023



27TH February 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Licensing Review: Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone.

We write to give our full support in renewing the above premises licence.

We have lived in the village for forty years  and have got to know the family very well, ever since they started running this public house.

The family has become a key factor within the community of the village and we have never seen or heard any thing but good things regarding this family.

We were flabbergasted when the recent police raid was made on the premises of the 80+ year old couple and their daughter, and which we understand was only based on hearsay.

Mr Ken Sweet was also a keen member on the local clay pigeon shoot, who since the police action, has also disposed of his guns.

It is ridiculous that this licence should be questioned and hope that good sense will prevail in this matter, we can only repeat again that the Kings Head is a family friendly public house under the present licence owner, and we will happily be taking our grandchildren over there again.

Yours faithfully



Peter & Lesley West



From: Paul McDonnell [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 March 2023 17:08
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Kings Head at Grafty Green

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I feel compelled to write to you after seeing the notice posted at the Kings Head, Graftey Green, Maidstone, Kent

Me17 2an and give you an honest opinion of the establishment and on Mr Ken Sweet and family.

I have frequented the Kings Head with my family since around 2000 and have witnessed nothing but a trouble free, family run public house right up to currently.

I took my daughter in their regularly in her school years and was always met with a warm welcome and a safe environment both inside and out. Ken and his daughter Beverly are great local people and are a huge part of the community. They even opened the pub specially following my father's recent funeral to allow us to toast him at his local pub, where he also drank well into his eighties and was always in a safe environment, despite him suffering with [REDACTED]

My mother, brother and I were always comfortable with him going there and sharing stories with Ken and the locals about "the old days" and there is no way I would of permitted him to go there if it wasn't such a great, safe family run establishment.

As a family we have attended many local events at the Kings Head, spent many hours in the garden and never ever had a negative experience or seen any wrong doing. Ken is seen as a father figure by myself and many of my peer group, who have grown up in the local area and his advice has been responsible, firm, fun and fare.

In summary the Kings Head of Graftey Green is a fantastic local, safe community pub run by a wonderful family and I cannot understand why this would be in question by yourselves unless someone has supplied you with false information. I truly hope that through this process you get a true reflection of this family and how much they add to the community in a great old fashion local pub.

Yours sincerely

Paul McDonnell and family.

Paul McDonnell [REDACTED]

Mr Michael P J Chivers



3rd March 2023

Dear Sir/madam

I am writing as a concerned member of the public and a frequenter of The Kings Head Public House, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone. ME17 2AN.

I understand that the Licence for the establishment is under review after malicious claims against its tenants for several issues stated on the review notice attached to the front door.

I call these malicious as I have frequented the establishment for a number of years. I moved to the area after retiring, having served 30 years as a Police Officer in London. My thoughts are one of dismay as I am unaware of any occasions when the establishment has been visited by Police or Licensing Officers for any offences, disturbances or public nuisances as described in the notice.

I for one, would not be happy socialising in any establishment or indeed take my wife, family or friends into any such premises if I believed that to be the case. On the contrary, I find the friendly atmosphere and hospitality shown by the Licensee and staff exemplary and warming, which is what I would expect and have never witnessed anything untoward during my visits.

The family run business has been in good hands for over 30 years and respectfully ask that the Sweet family be afforded the right to continue the service which has been faultless.

Yours faithfully



Michael P J Chivers

Representation withdrawn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 March 2023 17:50
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: The Kings Head Grafty Green

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find my letter attached.

Regards

Gary Bourne

Sevenoaks Licencing Dept



3rd March 2023

Re: The Kings Head Public House Grafty Green

To whom it may concern:

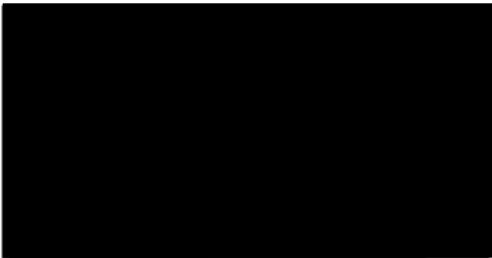
With reference to the Kings Head public house in Grafty Green, I have been along with my partner, patrons of this public house for a number of years now and was some what shocked to hear of the recent development regarding Kent Police.

I am a current Fire Arms and Shot Gun Licence holder and have been for many years, My reference for my Fire Arms application came from the Royal Armouries. I am the chairman of a local archery club and marshal of a medieval living history group that celebrates its 60th year this year, so I know my way around a variety of lethal weapons. I also hold an enhanced CRB check.

In all my time spent in the Kings Head I have never felt in anyway threatened or in any danger from those working there or from any customer. I have never witnessed any threatening behaviour towards any one; on the contrary everyone is made welcomed. There is always a warm and friendly welcome for everyone.

 Ken and the whole family have given me great support since then and continue to do so. My partner Hilary has worked behind the bar for Beverley when she has needed help.

I have always found the whole family, Ken, Eve, Beverley, and their grand children the most welcoming. They run one of the friendliest public houses in the area. They are and continue to be a great asset to the village and along with their family would be greatly missed if they lose their licence.



Gary Bourne

A concerned Kings Head customer.

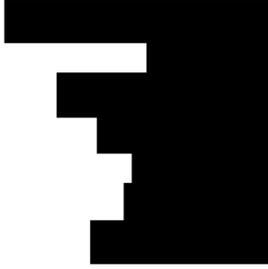
From: John Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2023 12:59
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Kings Head, Grafty Green

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As per my telephone conversation with you this morning, please find attached my response to the Notice of Application to Review a Premises Licence at the Kings Head, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AN.

Kind regards,

John Moore
[REDACTED]



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

Sent by email to licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

20 March 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Response to Notice of Application to Review a Premises Licence at Kings Head,
Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME172AN**

This emailed letter follows a brief conversation with your office this morning after reading the full details of the police report on Kentonline published yesterday morning Sunday 19th March.

I am sure you have received many letters from people in the local community of Grafty Green in support of the Kings Head. I came to Kent in 1984 to work at KCC as Principal Adviser for Special Educational Needs and retired some 15 years ago as Head of the Schools Advisory Service. My wife and I chose to purchase a house in Grafty Green because it was central to the whole area I needed to Visit (this was when Kent and Medway were one authority) and close enough to my office at Maidstone Council House.

Having lived here some 38 years, we were here when the King's Head was taken over by Ken and Eve some thirty years ago and have never in that time experienced any difficulties with the pub in the community. Quite the contrary, as a member of Headcorn Morris for 28 years and a Folk musician, Ken and Eve and indeed in later years their daughter Beverley have always been very welcoming. Headcorn Morris (until its sad demise last year) practiced on Thursday evenings at Grafty Green Village hall and enjoyed being welcomed into the Kings Head afterwards. We were always welcome to dance there on May Day and Boxing Day, with very happy memories. For a while we were also welcomed on the last Sunday in the month to play and sing folk, which the local people enjoyed and given we were acoustic not at all disturbing to the locality.

Our son and daughter are now 36 and 38 years old this year. How anyone could say that children need to be protected from harm at the KH I don't know. Our children were made most welcome and enjoyed the Children's room and the outdoor play facility, which were both very safe areas. They both have very happy memories of being there. The Kings Head has always played a significant role in village activities, making the Village Hall, Village Green and Pub feel like a combined happy place for all villagers to enjoy.

Now to the police allegations. As regards the guns. Four shot guns were licensed, three correctly stored and one found on the stair landing. It should be made clear that there is no public access to the upstairs accommodation from the bar area. In all my time here I have never been upstairs, this would mean going through the kitchen at the far corner to reach the stairs, which certainly could not be done accidentally. Given that the pub prides itself as the place haunted by Dover Bill the Highwayman (the building is 16th century), it should not be surprising that there might be two imitation firearms dating back to that period.

The drugs are more difficult to explain. It does not seem likely that they are the result of any trafficking of drugs but some individual's personal supply. In all our time in Grafty Green, let alone the Kings Head, we have never come across even the mention of drugs. Certainly Ken, Eve and now their daughter Beverley have never given the slightest indication that they take drugs. Whatever the reasons for what the police found upstairs I do not believe Ken and immediate family were involved in this. Someone or persons have abused their hospitality without their knowledge and made them innocent victims of crime.

Should they lose the license as proposed by the police, this will result in a tragic loss to the whole community.

Yours Faithfully,

John and Veronica Moore



Kings Head Grafty Green

I WRITE THIS LETTER AS A PRIVATE PERSON AND NOT AS
A BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCILOR.

Members of the Licensing committee,

I have been a regular user of the Kings Head public house since I moved to the area 38 years ago. I have seen three licensees in that time with Mr K Sweet being the longest serving one by far. With Mr Sweets advancing years his daughter Beverly has taken on more of the work of running the public house.

In all the years I have used the Kings Head (once or twice a week) I have never seen or heard of anything to do with the possession or sale of any thing other than the products the Kings Head is licensed to sell. The regular evening customer base is in the main far from the first spring of youth.

To add further, I have never seen or heard a problem with any unpleasant behavior by the staff or customers, not even a raised word and have always felt completely at ease.

Unless a starting pistol is of one particular make then it is perfectly legal to own one without a license like wise provided the muzzle velocity is below the legal limit for an air powered device then that again is perfectly legal to own.

None of the devices mentioned on the police notice have ever been seen by myself in all the years I have used the Kings Head.

Mrs and Mrs sweet are of advanced years and both are 

Without their daughters help it might not be possible that they could continue to remain in what is also their home.

I would ask you all to not to revoke the license or to have their daughter Beverly removed from the position she holds and to allow her to continue to run the Kings Head in conjunction with her father.

Yours sincerely



B.Adams

From: hilary parren [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 March 2023 21:01
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Kings Head Public House

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir,

Please find copy of attached letter.

Regards

Hilary Parren

Sevenoaks Licencing Dept



11.03.2023.

Dear Sirs,

Re: The Kings Head Public House Grafty Green

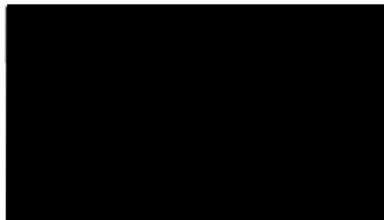
I have been the proprietress of a riding stables near Canterbury since the early 1970's. For many years I was horse adviser to the Royal Armouries, both in their museum in Leeds Yorkshire and at the Tower of London. I supplied horses for film work, for jousting and for archery demonstrations which culminated with my introduction to the late Queen Elizabeth II.

For some time now my partner and I regardless of the considerable distance from our homes have thought of the Kings Head as our local pub. We have also been in the mind to move to the village of Grafty Green to be close to and so part of this wonderful community which revolves around this hostelry. This pub embodies all that is so special about this place and its welcoming family of Ken, Eve and Beverley.

These allegations in no way represent the caring, loving feeling that ensues from this popular pub that envelopes you into its fold.

I can categorically state that I and I'm sure many of my fellow patrons will not cross the threshold with another publican installed.

Yours faithfully



Ms Hilary Parren

From: Robert Skinner [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 March 2023 09:17
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Kings Head premise licence review

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: The Licensing Partnership, Sevenoaks, Kent

A submission in support of the licensee.

We all live locally and have been regular patrons of the Kings Head for ten or more years. Our reasons why we think the present licensee should be allowed to continue with her current premise license.

We love the atmosphere created by the family (Eve, Ken and Bev), friendly, accommodating a hub for locals, full of conversation, laughter, warmth in the winter, beer garden full of families in the summer. The archetypal country pub.

The licensee and staff have always insisted on civil standards of behaviour within the premise and are prepared to enforce if necessary, as with any well managed organisation rarely needed.

At no time when we have been in the pub drug use dealing or offensive weapons of any sort or heard that this takes place. We want to make it clear that we are against any illegal drug dealing or use and those responsible should suffer the appropriate punishment. The other offensives would appear to hinge on the circumstances of which we know nothing.

A plea for leniency.

Good traditionally run pubs are a dying breed, if it's possible please don't kill another one. We appreciate there are legitimate issues too be addressed and it is your duty to properly deal with these issues, clearly changes need to be made. If there any way you can deal with these offences in a just manner without rescinding the premise license, we plead with you to find it.

Robert Skinner, [REDACTED]

Peter & Maria Mackelden, [REDACTED]

Terence Parnell, [REDACTED]

Nicolas Bates, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: Guy Aldridge [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 March 2023 02:13
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Review of premises license Kings Head, Grafty Green ME17 2AN

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear reviewing committee,

I would like to show my strong support to Beverley Simpson Sweet and Kenneth Sweet in respect of their management of the Kings Head public house in Grafty Green.

I have been a regular visitor to the pub for over 30 years and regard it as one of the best in Kent. I used to bring my children with me and would now have no hesitation in taking my grandchildren there - I would have absolutely no problem in worrying about their safety inside or outside of the pub.

The pub is a mainstay of the village, and surrounding areas and I am always happy to recommend it to friends and neighbours and tourists and all of them have thanked me for it.

I am obviously not aware of what has happened to launch this investigation but would hope that the decades of running a fantastic pub and local amenity will be taken into account when making any decisions.

Yours faithfully
Guy Aldridge

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] from my iPhone

From: publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk <publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 March 2023 12:05
To: Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 23/00670/REVIEW

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 18/03/2023 12:05 PM from Mr Ken Parish.

Application Summary

Address: Kings Head Headcorn Road Grafty Green Maidstone Kent ME17 2/

Proposal: Review of licence

Case Officer: Lorraine Neale

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name: Mr Ken Parish

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

- Supporter of Licence Application/Holder

Comments:

18/03/2023 12:05 PM I moved into the area in 1985 and have been a frequent customer of the Kings Head. During this time, I have always regarded it as a well-managed and family friendly pub.

I am not aware of any incidents or cause for concern prior to the current referral for a review. The current landlord has been in residence for 30 years and has continued to maintain the high standards expected of an establishment that relies on local community support. The provision of equipment in the pub garden reinforces the family centric approach. Combined with the support for local activities the licensee has established the Kings Head as a key element for Grafty Green and the surrounding villages.

We have already lost the four public houses within a three-mile radius, as well as the village shop and post office. This again reaffirms the importance for this house to remain a viable business and community hub.

Regarding the reasons for the review being requested , they appear to be minor issues based on information received and subsequent police investigation.

My understanding is that a BB type plastic gun which was found broken in the pub garden and stored under the counter as lost property pending possible reclaiming by the owner.

The small amount of cannabis for personal use and a prescribed drug [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This is a personal matter and has no bearing on the ethos or activities within the pub.

None of the above pose any threat to public safety or suggest that any crime or disorder is foreseeable in the future.

There have been no reports of public nuisance

The facilities provided by the licensee are regular checked and provided in a safe enclosed environment for families with children to enjoy a family outing to the village. There has not been any demonstratable harm to children

I would therefore like to add my support for the continuation of the licence for the current landlord

Kind regards

From: Steve Farley [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 March 2023 10:39
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: License review Kings Head Grafty Green.

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Steve Farley [REDACTED]
Date: 19 March 2023 at 10:06:28 GMT
To: james.williams@kent.police.uk
Subject: License review Kings Head Grafty Green.

Dear Sir

I have been a resident of Platts Heath for 27 years and have enjoyed many hours over the past 10 years relaxing with family and friends at the Kings Head.

I was until recently MD of my own very well established company and would think of myself level headed and observant.

I have in all of the past 10 years never witnessed anything that could be considered as inappropriate or harmful to any patrons or staff, the atmosphere is always friendly.

As I know you are aware so many village Pubs are closing and communities are being split as a result but it's not just the physical presence of the village Pub, it's the quality of the people that run them.

I would ask that your review reflects on the comments of the local community and the history of the past 30 years of the Kings Head.

Yours Faithfully
Mr SC Farley.

Sent from my iPhone

From: publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk <publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 March 2023 15:11
To: Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 23/00670/REVIEW

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 19/03/2023 3:11 PM from Mr Gavin Clay.

Application Summary

Address: Kings Head Headcorn Road Grafty Green Maidstone Kent ME17 2/

Proposal: Review of licence

Case Officer: Lorraine Neale

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name: Mr Gavin Clay

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

- Supporter of Licence Application/Holder

Comments:

19/03/2023 3:11 PM Having visited this family establishment for many years, this family run pub is honestly one of the best pubs to have gone to. The licensees are wonderful people, so friendly, genuine, and always engage with their customers. They are active in ensuring the wellbeing of the locals, and always encourage the return of newcomers. Everyone is always having a laugh, and the licensees are such amazing people, with their customer service being to an exceptional standard. When having a drink, we are often provided with free snacks, which is a perfect topping to our outings. It is such a welcoming environment, and they make you feel like they are your family. You can tell that this is one whole community when visiting, and I do not believe there is another pub that has the ability to rope so many people in, and keep them as returning customers. This place holds an extreme uniqueness, and it is a fresh taste of what the pubs in all those fanciful movies are like. It is a pity that there are not many places like this! This pub is a warm place that reminds you of home, as soon as you walk through the door. I've never known a place with such great hospitality, and it truly is a rare find. This place honestly has the ability to make each individual that steps through the door like they are the only one in the room, and it makes us truly feel special, leaving a lasting impression; which is exactly what a customer wants in any business

Kind regards

From: kelvin hitchcock [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 March 2023 20:07
To: Licencing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>; st@stephenthomaslaw.co.uk
Subject: Representation in support of the Kings Head

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir

I have worked at the Kings Head for 18 months as a cleaner. I have done bar work on and off for over 20 years. I also drink at the Kings Head occasionally myself and sit with people I know. I am married with 3 children.

I am shocked at the allegations. I have never seen anything untoward. The people who frequent the pub are mostly middle aged or retired locals, occasionally at the weekend's young families. It is a very friendly, safe pub.

I have never found any evidence of drug use when cleaning the premises or the toilets and would have flagged it up straightaway if I had.

I know the location of the lost property locker and have occasionally put left behind clothing like cardigans in there.

Donna Hitchcock

From: christine preston-bird [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 March 2023 21:34
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Representation in support of the Kings Head

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir

I have worked at the Kings Head for about 3 years. I work mainly on Sundays. It is a local pub with a nice atmosphere where locals go for a drink that attracts families. I have never seen anything untoward involving Kenneth Sweet or Beverley Simpson-Sweet the licence holders. I would describe Beverley as a fabulous landlady.

Christine Tomlinson

Licensing Partnership.

Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1GP.



15th, March, 2023

Licence Review- Kings Head,
Headcorn Road,
Grafty Green,
Maidstone, Kent
ME17 2AN.

Dear Sirs,

It is with shock and disbelief that I learn of the review of the license of "The Kings Head" Grafty Green. I have known Ken and Eve Sweet for over 30 years and it has been a privilege and a delight to have done so. They have been at the centre of community life in and around Grafty Green being a family run public house for families. Their generosity and support for local groups and individuals has been a hallmark of their trading ethic.

As a "mine host" warmly welcoming strangers and locals alike, they have been exemplary in how to run a popular pub and the congenial, jovial atmosphere they have created is obvious to all.

I ran a folk music club on the last Sunday of every month at "The Kings Head" for many years which attracted attenders from all parts of the county. It's popularity was very much down to the generosity and kindness of the landlord and his wife. Snacks were provided free of charge during our breaks and their support and encouragement ensured that folk music including Morris Dancing could be found there on many occasions.

Clearly, there has been some kind of mistake with this review. Ken and Eve's whole philosophy of life does not and would not include criminal activity of any kind. Someone or persons have abused their hospitality and premises without their knowledge and made them innocent victims of crime.

I trust this miscarriage of justice can be simply resolved leaving Ken and Eve completely exonerated from any involvement so we can have them back behind the bar as the brilliant publicans they are.

Yours faithfully,



Roy Gill

From: amy chivers [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2023 07:56
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Representation in support of the Kings Head

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir

I work in the office of a children's nursery Monday to Friday. I am DBS checked. I have been working on Friday nights at the Kings Head from 6.30 to 10 pm for about 3 years. I don't need to do this job, I do it for social reasons.

I am shocked at the allegations and would never have considered working there if I had had any concerns. When we first moved here, we found it a good place to meet local people. It is a family friendly pub, everyone gets on well, it is like one big happy family. It was my dad who came across it. He popped in and had such a lovely welcome that he recommended it to us. My dad is a retired policeman and would never have suggested we go there or tolerate me working there if he thought there was anything wrong.

The premises are safe for children, there is a children's play area and games for children to play indoors. I have only ever seen kids' toys and random bits of jewellery in the lost property locker, but I don't look in there much. People do leave items on the bar sometimes. A chap recently left his phone there and another lost his glasses and that's where they were found.

Kind regards

Amy McNeill

Sent from my iPhone

From: Robert Eastwood [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2023 09:07
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: 23/00670/REVIEW

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I comment on the licence review for The Kings Head, Grafty Green 23/00670/REVIEW For 22 years I was subpostmaster at Grafty Green Post Office and owned and ran the village shop. During this time I felt the Sweets at the pub and we all worked for the good and welfare of the community. I am aware of many acts of kindness done by them especially for more frail members of the community.

I do not condone any illegalities as regards the licence but do believe the Sweets in the future will conform and that because of their personalities and abilities the community will be a more vibrant and safer place through their presence.

Robert Eastwood
[REDACTED]

From: Eddie Brooke [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2023 12:49
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: The Kings Head

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have known Mr Ken Sweet and his own family for over 30 years and helped behind the bar on many occasions. They are an honest, hard working group of individuals who put 100% in to the running of the Kings Head Public house. It is the heart of a respectable village and attract people and families from near and far. Many of the clientele have known Ken Eve and Beverley for as long as I have. Lots have had their own families grow up in and around the King's Head. Parents are still regular customers and families ow frequently visit, I know it is often the children asking their parents to cone and see Beverley and Ken.

There has never been any serious or dangerous incident at the premises and I have never witnessed anything suspicious or unlawful going on. There is no public disorder ever, no crime or nuisance as the review notice suggests and it is ludicrous and completely ridiculous to suggest children need to be protected There. They could not be safer as their parents will confirm. For a family that has always been professional and lawfully running their pub for so many years, it is a credit to them and one that they should be immensely proud of as are their customers and neighbours.

Signed Mr Edward Brooke

From: Felicity Nichols [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2023 16:52
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green. ME17 2AN

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our names are Felicity and Gary and we have known the landlord and landlady of the Kings Head since 2019.

We started using the pub shortly after the Covid lockdown rules were lifted in the summer of 2019 as the pub has an outside play area for children. We have two young children and from the moment we arrived as a family, we have been made to feel so welcome.

Our two children adore the landlord and landlady and vice versa. They make all families feel very welcome and cannot do enough for them. From what we have witnessed our children and others are in a safe and caring environment and are all very happy when visiting the pub.

Also, the landlord and landlady raise money for the Lennox Childrens Charity on a monthly basis, therefore the grounds for review, particularly on the 'Protection of Children from harm' seems utterly outrageous and a malicious vendetta. They only have caring and good intentions for all their customers.

We understand the seriousness of the matter but sincerely hope that the licensing authority will show some leniency as these people are good, honest, caring and hard working. They have been running a successful business for the past 30 years and are valuable members of the community.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Cordrey and Felicity Nichols

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ronald Borowski [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 March 2023 08:19
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Cc: Jackie Borowski [REDACTED]
Subject: The Kings Head - Grafty Green

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Before we moved to Germany my family and I were regular customers in the Kings Head in Grafty Green. Friday's Fish and Chips meal was especially enjoyed by everyone in the family and the atmosphere has always been very friendly and inviting. We always had the impression that the pub was well established and played a vital role not only in the village community but also attracted customers from other parts of Kent because of its good food and drinks.

After our move to Berlin we continued to pass by and stop for food and drink on our numerous visits to England. Even our children, who were very small when we first met the Landlord and Landlady and are now adults themselves, always make a point of visiting the Kings Head on their regular visits to England. In all that time we have experienced great hospitality from the Landlord and Landladies and enjoyed the warm and welcoming atmosphere they created. We have always had the impression that they are upstanding citizens who actively play a role in the local community, encouraging youngsters to stay out of trouble and providing a pleasant meeting place for people of all ages. They were very conscious of keeping an orderly house, and had a knack for foreseeing and nipping any disorderly conduct in the bud in a firm but friendly way, thus ensuring that situations did not escalate and the pleasant atmosphere was not marred in any way. They run their business professionally, with integrity and understand the meaning of hospitality. We have always had the impression that they take their responsibilities as Landlords very seriously.

The Kings Head provides a meeting place for many people, old and young, in an area which offers very little in the way of recreation for the local citizens. It is a focal point in the village, bringing people together and would be sorely missed by many. We would therefore like to express our support of Kenneth and Eve Sweet and their daughter Beverley and sincerely hope that we will be able to visit them in this wonderful British village pub many more times in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Ronald Borowski and family

From: Vickie Ford <boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com>

Sent: 21 March 2023 12:30

To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>

Subject: Ref 23/00670/REVIEW

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

At a meeting held on 6th March 2023, Boughton Malherbe Parish Council resolved to submit the following comment with regard to the review of the licence at the Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 2AN:

“So far as the Parish Council has seen, the establishment is meeting the licensing objectives: keeping people safe, not a source of crime, not a place in which people feel unsafe, has a good relationship with neighbouring properties.”

Regards,

Vickie Ford

Clerk to Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

<http://www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk>

From: Rosemary Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 March 2023 15:27
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Kings Head Public House, Grafty Green

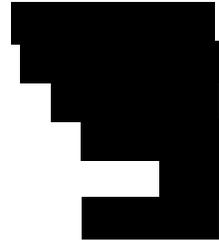
EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find attached copy of letter with reference to Kings Head Public House, Grafty Green. Original sent in the post on 21 March 2023.

Regards

R Smith

Copy of Letter Sent by Post 21.3.23



21 March 2023

Licensing Partnership
PO Box 182
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1GP

To Whom It May Concern

Re: The Kings Head Public House, Grafty Green

We have lived [REDACTED] since 1980 (other family members since 1901). Ken and Eve Sweet and their daughter Beverley, have been the lovely landlords for the past 31 years.

They are hardworking, honest, kind and helpful, providing a friendly warm welcome to all their customer, in a safe pleasant environment.

The pub is popular and under Ken's management, rowdiness and fighting are not tolerated, ever. The family is an asset to the village, and we would like them to stay.

The Kings Head is the heart of Grafty Green but more importantly is their home.

We offer Ken, Eve and Beverley our full support in their bid to keep/renew their licences.

Yours faithfully

M S Smith and R Smith

From: Nicholas Eastwood [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 March 2023 15:50
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: REF: 23/00670 / REVIEW

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to attend and speak at Maidstone Borough Council's review reference 23/00670/REVIEW into the licence held by the King's Head Pub in Grafty Green. Please inform me as to how I can achieve this.

Also please consider the following comments in regards to the same.

The pub under its current management family has a more than 30-year history of providing good service to the village and, whilst doing so, keeping on excellent relationships with the surrounding properties of which I occupy one. This is the situation that the licensing regime seeks to protect in its objective of preventing public nuisance although not achieving in many parts of the borough. It would therefore be counterproductive to end that without sufficient basis.

I am confident that you need no persuasion of the acute isolation that is often felt in rural communities regarding crime. Grafty Green lies in far closer proximity to areas where the police fear to tread than it does to a police station. Whilst I do not expect condoning of the precautions taken, I hope they are viewed as understandable and not indicative of a threat to public safety. I can vouch for the contrary in this case. The King's Head has an exemplary history of managing the challenges that face a rural pub in these circumstances in a reasonable and lawful manner.

The police appear to be insinuating that the premises was used for drug dealing which is presumably why they have requested such a ruinous response. I refute this absolutely. I have been both a neighbour and customer of the pub for over twenty years and have in that time had no occasion to believe any such activity to be emanating from there. Neither would it seem, have the police. It would appear that, having concluded that they do not have sufficient evidence for prosecution, they seek to achieve punishment for unsolved crimes through mere suggestion that they relate to the licence. This defies paragraph 11.24 of the Secretary of State's guidance and the MBC licensing policy which, in referring to matters outside the scope of the licence, "would expect those authorities to use their powers and duties within their statutory roles to control such matters."

I encourage you to consider that the licence revocation requested is both disproportionate and contrary to the public interest. It would be detrimental to the licensing objectives and damaging both to the community and residents of Grafty Green.

Regards,
Nicholas Eastwood

From: Andrew Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 March 2023 19:51
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Kings Head, Grafty Green

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs

With regards to the Kings Head licensing review, we would just like to say that we have always found the proprietors and bar staff to be very welcoming and friendly and over the years we have enjoyed our family gatherings there on many occasions. It is very much an old traditional village pub with a warm and friendly atmosphere where we have never experienced any antisocial behaviour or any wrong doings.

Andrew & Judith Phillips

To the licensing authority.

20th March 2013

Dear Sirs,

Re - The revoking of the license for the Kings Head Public House

I write as a member of the public and am not representing the Parish Council or any other authority.

I have been a regular user of the King's Head since before Mr and Mrs Sweet took over as landlords and I have known them and Beverley as honourable and trustworthy members of our community. I believe that proper investigation will reveal that if some illegal activity might be provable on the premises it was certainly without their knowledge or approval.

I understand that the Police raid took place just after Mr and Mrs Sweet returned from holiday and this should be taken into account.

Having just returned from several weeks abroad I am shocked to learn of the news but with time running out I am unable to say more as my knowledge is limited to the notice on the door of the pub.

Mr and Mrs Sweet and Beverley have been model landlords in my experience and any revocation of the license would devastate our community for which the pub is the central hub.

[REDACTED]
R Galton,
[REDACTED]

