

Patricia Davies

From: Dave McBain
Sent: 05 February 2013 12:58
To: Patricia Davies
Subject: FW: Application for extended hours for SEV, alcohol and entertainments licencing at 4, Church Street, Ampthill

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 February 2013 11:25
To: Dave McBain
Cc: Cllr Mike Blair; Paul Duckett; Cllr Mark Smith; Cllr James Jamieson; John Atkinson
Subject: Application for extended hours for SEV, alcohol and entertainments licencing at 4, Church Street, Ampthill

Dear Mr McBain,

Firstly, I should like to address the somewhat disturbing reports that you are erroneously ruling residents' representations inadmissible on the basis that they (I paraphrase) 'do not provide evidence of nuisance specifically related to the venue.' Before I go on to do precisely that, I should let you know that I have seen a legal advice stating this to be procedurally improper.

Quite besides the logic - how can we evidence nuisance caused by extended hours, when the hours haven't been extended yet - the Licensing Act does not specify that evidence must relate directly to the applicant premises. Furthermore, the guidance issued by the Secretary of State makes it clear that evidence relating to general problems in the locality can be taken into account. Indeed, the purported absence of such "general" problems was the basis upon which the licence was granted in the first place. You also have the power to consider "cumulative impact", and having already determined that a late licence at the White Hart was no longer appropriate, it would be irrational on that basis to replace it with one for 4, Church Street.

Hearsay evidence is not only perfectly admissible (unless vexatious or frivolous, which I can assure you our residents are not) but it tends to form the majority of the evidence in cases such as this. I would therefore ask you to stop issuing incorrect advice immediately, and to revise any decision that you may have made in respect of any submissions that you have received hitherto. Faith in the accuracy of your advice is already at rock-bottom given that you advised, in writing, that there was a right of appeal to Magistrates for any concerned persons after the grant of an SEV licence, when in fact there was not. We were grateful for the apology that the Full Council made in November for this prior error.

Turning to the substance of the application, I can inform you that there has been a marked increase in fear in the area of the town car park, and that said car park is now being routinely avoided at night during the opening hours of the club by very many people - at least four of whom I have spoken to or specifically have heard from. Residents had breathed something of sigh of relief that the small hours of the morning would no longer be punctuated by anti-social behaviour and fighting by patrons of the White Hart, and it would be gravely disappointing to introduce a direct replacement only weeks later. (This point is entirely admissible - q.v. - and I urge you to consider it most strongly, given the demonstrable strength of opposition at both recent hearings).

I hope that this assists you in your deliberations.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Arthur Street,
 Ampthill,
 Bedford,
 [REDACTED]

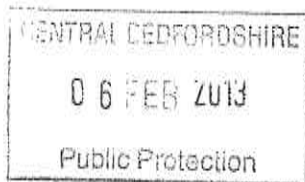
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08/02/2013

Tel 01525 402170

[REDACTED]
Claridges Lane,
Amphill,
Beds.
[REDACTED]

04/02/13



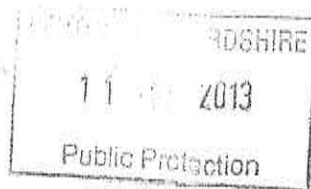
Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to object to the extension of Mr Shayler's licence for his "sex club" in the centre of Amphill to 4.00am. It is ludicrous that he was given one in the first place as it is so close to domestic accommodation. A further extension will only make the likelihood of crime and disorder even greater and will also add to the nuisance that those living in the centre of town already experience.

In our view our elected council should protect its people from such an establishment in a small town, they have already failed dismally once, I implore them not to let their people down again.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]



Park Street,
Amphill,
BEDFORDSHIRE,

licensing.section@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LF

9 February 2013

To Whom it May Concern,

Application to extend the licence obtained by the establishment "Shaylers" at 4 Church Street, Amphill

I understand that applications have been made to; (1) extend the operating hours and the provision of sexual entertainment until 4am and; (2) the supply of alcohol until 3.30am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

I would like to strongly object to these applications.

[REDACTED] which is only a short walk from Shaylers.

The granting of any such extension would undermine the 4 licensing objectives imposed by the Council which are:

- The prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from harm

The reasons are as follows:

1. Shaylers is located in the centre of Amphill which is a small historic market town which comprises a substantial amount of residential property and is a Conservation Area. Shaylers is located in an historic building in the centre of the town. It is surrounded by narrow streets.
2. As far as I know, all of the other pubs and restaurants in the centre of Amphill only have a licence until 11pm or midnight. Infact, The White Hart (which is a pub that is only 50 meters from Shaylers) has recently had its licence curtailed and now has to be closed by midnight.
3. A late licence in a small residential town creates numerous problems. The residents of central Amphill have already been subjected to:-
 - i) People screaming and shouting into the small hours of the morning causing distress and sleep deprivation to many residents including young children.
 - ii) Crime and disorder. Many fights have broken out, countless windows have been smashed, personal possessions destroyed or stolen and cars damaged. The crime statistics for the

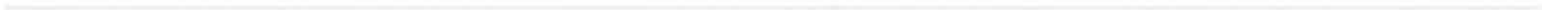
- centre of Ampthill highlight these problems and show that most crimes are committed late at night;
- iii) Anti social and drunken behaviour. People have regularly vomited and/or urinated on the street or on resident's property, rung door bells and dropped litter (often beer bottles and glasses which get broken and create a hazardous and dangerous obstacles the following morning)
 - iv) Taxis clog up the narrow streets often running their engines late into the night and car doors are slammed causing further disturbance.
 - v) The centre of the town is becoming an intimidating and no go area for many people and primarily the people who live there.
4. The above problems have been caused by late licences operated by Shaylers and The White Hart. People have no doubt frequented both establishments. The simple fact is that the longer people are allowed to drink, the more intoxicated they become and the more problems they cause. This in turn results in more misery for the residents of Ampthill and more precious resources being wasted on sorting out these problems such as increased policing, pressure on environmental health services and stress on vital hospital and ambulance services.
 5. As mentioned above the centre of Ampthill is primarily a residential area where many families reside. It is not a city centre; so how can a licence until 4am be reasonable or justified? How often are such late licences granted? As I understand the matter, it is difficult for establishments in large town centres (such as Luton) to be granted such a late licence because of the problems they create. One local business man told me that when he operated a nightclub in the centre of Luton the latest licence permitted was 2.30am.
 6. What purpose will it serve and who will it benefit? The only person who will really benefit will be the applicant. Indeed, how many local people will want to go out until 4am? Surely such a late licence will not serve the community it will just attract people from elsewhere who will then cause problems for the people in the community! How can this be fair and reasonable?
 7. How will such a late licence be policed? At present, the service operated by the Environmental Health department finishes at 1am, so any problems with noise cannot be dealt with after this time. Also, I would think that fewer police officers will be on duty and or patrol at 4am. So if the licence is extended are the community services needed to monitor it also going to be extended? I suspect not.

I understand that it has been stated by a representative of the Licensing Department that any objection put forward must be based on evidence directly attributable to the premises and cannot be based on hearsay or likelihood. This is incorrect. The Guidance issued to Licensing Authorities by the Secretary of State makes it clear that evidence relating to general problems in a locality can and should be taken into account. Furthermore, problems have occurred in the centre of Ampthill late at night since Shaylers opened and as Shaylers and The White Hart are the only establishments in the centre of Ampthill which have (or had in the case of The White Hart) a licence beyond midnight then these problems are directly attributable to the establishments having a late licence i.e. Shaylers.

Finally, some sense has prevailed in revoking the late licence held by The White Hart and it has been recognised that due to the numerous problems experienced by local residents that the centre of Ampthill is not an appropriate place for there to be establishments with late licences. Accordingly, it would be a ludicrous state of affairs for the same Licensing Department to then go and grant another establishment an even later licence! It would be absurd and a complete waste of precious public funds. If the licence is granted then there is no doubt that problems will arise which will have to be managed and policed by the environmental health and the police officers and this will then lead to a review of the licence. All this can be avoided by the applications being refused on fair and reasonable grounds.

I trust that due consideration will be given to the above points and I look forward to hearing from you. If I can be of any further assistance, then please do not hesitate to contact me. I also understand that my identity will not be passed to the applicant unless my permission is given.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature area.

Patricia Davies

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 February 2013 11:46
To: Licensing Enquiries
Subject: Opposition to Shaylers Ampthill extension of hours

To whom it may concern

I write to object to the extension of hours proposed by Shaylers Lapdancing club in Ampthill. As a resident of the town centre [REDACTED] from the entrance of the club I feel strongly that this extension will have an impact on my daily life.

Just recently we were awoken at 4am by screaming drunk teenagers making their way home after a night out and I have no doubt that if the hours of this club are extended then this will become more commonplace. The centre of Ampthill is largely residential and there shouldn't even be a late night venue in the vicinity never mind one that is serving alcohol until 3.30am. People staggering home after drinking far too much will inevitably be walking past residential properties and causing disruption. For three a nights a week at 4am this will be unbearable.

There has also been a spate of burglaries in town recently. Fuelled by alcohol I'm sure these incidents are only going to increase. Most Sunday mornings we have to remove beer bottles and food containers from outside our property which have been left by Saturday night revellers.

The residents of Ampthill have already shown that they never wanted this establishment in the first place. Please show some consideration for the residents of the town centre.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Park Street
[REDACTED] Ampthill
[REDACTED]

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11/02/2013

Patricia Davies

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 February 2013 23:28
To: Licensing Enquiries
Subject: Licence Extension Application - Shaylers, 4 Church St, Ampthill
 Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to register my strong objection to Mr John Shayler's applications to extend 1) the opening hours and 2) the alcohol licence at the sex entertainment venue at 4 Church St Ampthill to 3.30am and 4am respectively

I live on Dunstable St, close to the town centre, and my family and I have had our lives in Ampthill consistently disrupted by the late night activities that go on in the centre of town at the weekend. My objections are based on ensuring the upholding of the key licensing objectives, including the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety, but in particular the prevention of public nuisance.

Prevention of public nuisance

I have a great deal of experience of the public nuisance caused by having late licenses granted in Ampthill. Below are some of my family's experiences:

Door bell being rung in the early hours – high jinks at 11.00pm but not at 3.00am
 Shouting and screaming outside our door and under our childrens' bedroom windows
 Urination around our front door

Vomit on our doorstep and behind our railings

Bottles, glasses, cans and broken glass being discarded behind our railings

Glasses and cans being left on our window sills

Property stolen from outside our front door (plants, wreaths etc). In some cases, smashed pots have been found further up Dunstable St on the pavement and in the road.

Taxis revving loudly and blocking driveways in the centre of town into the early hours of the morning

Crime & disorder and public safety

It is a very common sight to see windows boarded up in Ampthill after a busy weekend. Only recently the empty premises that was the travel agents has had panes broken.

Drunken disputes in the centre of town have resulted in fights and serious assaults as people have left the centre of town (just two examples are the fireplace shop owner's son who had his skull fractured on Dunstable St by someone who had been harassing the victim's sister, and a fight between two men in our neighbour's side passage - a very frightening experience that resulted in a glass window being broken).

It would be extremely surprising if the police report did not show many more such incidents in the town centre, almost entirely alcohol related, a situation exacerbated by the possibility of continuing to drink into the small hours of the morning. Last year there were several incidents of vandalism to cars and properties in the centre of town.

These incidents all contribute to an deeply unpleasant atmosphere in the centre of Ampthill when late night/early morning drinking is encouraged by the granting of late licences/extension of existing licences. In addition, they stretch resources such as police & environmental health, to whom it falls to ensure any conditions of such licences are adhered to, in order to safeguard the public.

I know that other letters of objection have been refused on the grounds that they are not based on evidence specifically about 4 Church St. This is clearly a circular argument - how can evidence be produced about something that has not happened yet? Residents' concerns are appropriate and relevant given the precedents that have been set by previous late night drinking venues in the centre of town. This provides the evidence necessary to make decisions on further late licence applications, such as the one currently applied for.

Your own licensing team has just taken the steps of curtailing the hours of the White Hart pub as a result of a catalogue of evidence presented to you from local residents. I believe that all the evidence from that licensing review is directly relevant to this case and to disregard it would amount to negligence and would risk making the council look foolish. It surely cannot be logical to extend a licence to one premises having just curtailed that of another just a few metres away - any good achieved by one action will be undone by the other.

2000 plus people made their objections to Shaylers very well known in a well-publicised campaign. To

11/02/2013

extend the hours of this club would be a flagrant disregard of local opinion and show utter contempt for the public you have been elected to serve.

In summary, I would urge you to consider the impact that having a late night drinking establishment open to 4am in a mainly residential area would have. It is not necessary nor appropriate and will, based on all previous experience, lead to several of the 4 licensing objectives being contravened. Please confirm that this letter is accepted as a proper and relevant objection. I would also like to have my personal details removed from any publicised copies of this letter.

Yours sincerely



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[REDACTED] Dunstable Street
Amphill
Bedford
[REDACTED]

11 February 2013

Licensing Team
Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling House
High Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LF

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Application dated 15/01/2013 for Variation of Licence;

John Shayler of Shaylers, 4 Church Street, Amphill, Beds, MK45 2EH

We wish to object to the above application on the following grounds

1. The prevention of crime and disorder
2. Public safety
3. The prevention of public nuisance

We note that the application is dated approximately six weeks after the opening of the premises and consider it to be premature. There has been insufficient time for the applicant to demonstrate his ability to operate his licence in full accordance with the licence conditions and such a variation should not even be considered until he has fully proved this ability.

There have been problems of disorder, public safety and nuisance around the centre of Amphill for many years and these have principally been associated with late night opening of licensed premises. In particular the Prince of Wales was a notorious problem before its closure and subsequent reopening. The White Hart has also been a problem more recently, leading to the loss of its late licence. The town does not need another potential late night troublespot.

We are happy for the applicant to be made aware of these views but would wish to retain our anonymity.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Patricia Davies

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2013 11:01
To: Licensing Enquiries
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to extended hours - Shaylers, Church St, Ampthill
To the licensing team

We would like to register our strong objections to J. Shayler's application to extend the hours and alcohol licence at his sex entertainment venue at 4 Church St Ampthill.

We live [REDACTED] from Shayler's SEV and have had much experience of the persistent nuisance that is the effect of late night licensing in Ampthill:

- Drunken 'yobs' banging on our door in the early hours of the morning
- Shouting and swearing under our children's bedrooms – causing them to wake in distress
- We have had various unsavoury items posted through our letter box – including takeaway food and even items of clothing!
- We have experienced drunks fighting in the side passage between us and our neighbour's property
- Drunks urinating in the same side passage
- Vomit on our doorstep and behind our railings
- Bottles and glass left on our window sills, behind our railings and on our doorstep
- We have been accosted on our doorsteps and been intimidated as we have returned home late.

The recent decision to curtail the hours of the White Hart has made a fantastic difference to the late night situation in the town and we have felt the difference already. It would be a terrible mistake to put this calm back in jeopardy. We would implore you to think about the bigger picture and to look at the opportunities to prevent public nuisance before it happens – major public nuisance is bound to return if Ampthill has another late night licensed venue regardless of where it is or who it belongs to.

We would go further and suggest that rather than extend the license it should be curtailed and brought into line with all the other venues in Ampthill now so that no alcohol can be served after 11.30pm.

We ask that this letter of objection is given full and proper consideration as it is based on our real experience of late night licensing in Ampthill and not just on unfounded fears. We would also ask that our all personal details are removed from any public copies of this email.

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]
Dunstable St
Ampthill
[REDACTED]

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11/02/2013

The Coppins
Amphill
Beds

7th February 2013



Public Protection
Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LF

Dear Sirs

Re: Application for extension of alcohol licence in respect of Sex Entertainment Venue at 4 Church Street, Amphill

I write with regard to the application to extend the alcohol licensing hours at the above venue. Please treat this letter as a letter of objection.

An increase of the licensing hours into the early hours will enable people to drink for longer and it is a commonplace that this fuels violent incidents. This puts us as residents at risk. The nature of the venue in which alcohol could potentially be served until 3.30am is also relevant. Research carried out by Julie Bindell for Glasgow Council links the objectifying of women in sex entertainment venues with an increase in violence towards women. As a woman, and as a mother of a 19 year old girl, I find this threatening. Men will be coming out of the lap dancing club in the early hours of the morning, drunk and sexually frustrated. This threatens not only those out late, but children and residents out early the next morning. Alcohol could easily fuel sexual frustration into violence.

A report by PC Carey, Licencing Officer for Bedfordshire Police dated 24th February 2011 reported that there had 46 reported incidents of public disorder, criminal damage, violence and anti social behaviour. 18 took place between the hours of 10 p.m. and Midnight and 28 incidents took place between the hours of Midnight and 3 a.m. Most of the incidents took place at the weekends especially those in the latter time period. They all involved alcohol. They suffice to show however that crime and disorder and risk to public safety increase when the pubs are open. If the drinking hours for the lap dancing club are extended it will increase the period of time that people can continue to drink and extend drunken behaviour further into the early hours.

Recently the alcohol licence for The White Hart was restricted to 11.30pm as a result of problems encountered by late night licences. This means that if the alcohol licence for the sex club is extended until 3.30am it will be open FOUR hours after the rest of Amphill closes for the night extending late night rowdy behaviour by FOUR hours

and simply providing a different venue for late night drinking with all the attendant problems encountered at The White Hart. The restriction of the White Hart licence demonstrates that late night drinking does not work in Ampthill. It would be ridiculous and a total contradiction to grant an extremely late licence to another venue in Ampthill when all the problems caused by late night drinkers at The White Hart will be moved to Shaylers.

I can see no benefit to Ampthill or its residents by the extension of this licence. Indeed, the restriction of the White Hart licensing hours will give the police and tax payers a welcome respite. It is often the case that a heavy police presence is required in the centre of Ampthill into the early hours including the use of riot vans. It seems absurd that limited resources have to be ploughed into controlling the behaviour of a few when tighter licensing hours could control the problem much more cost effectively.

Please confirm that this letter will be read out before the Licensing Committee who will hear Mr Shayler's application and confirm when and where the Licencing hearing will take place.

Yours sincerely

A large, thick black rectangular redaction covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.