

APPENDIX C1

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

Central Bedfordshire Council

14 JUN 2016

Public Protection

12 June 2016

Dear Sirs  
*Review of Premises Licence*  
*Bar 4, 4 Church Street, Ampthill*

I am writing to you as a resident, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] to express my support for a review of the  
Premises Licence for Bar 4 in the centre of Ampthill.

I have consistently opposed late-night licences for this and other drinking establishments in the centre of Ampthill, whatever conditions may be imposed. Prevention would have been better than cure, but I am pleased that the town is now being actively supported by the Police Licensing department.

I do not know what specific breaches have been discovered by the Police, but understand they are both internal and external to the premises. If Bar 4 are unable to manage their business without breaching licence conditions, I am afraid they must be more tightly controlled.

Along with Ampthill Town Council, I strongly opposed the extension of last entry times beyond 11pm at Number 4 – and the application was turned down. I understand that despite this, entry can still be gained after that time.

Crime figures supplied by the Police in December 2015, prompted the Town Council to express concern about anti-social behaviour arising from this establishment. As a result, Ampthill Town Council has been forced to spend taxpayers' money to re-install CCTV cameras in the town centre, which had been unnecessary for a number of years.

Previously, it was only when the hours of licensed premises were restricted to midnight closing, that residents – of which there are an estimated 150 within 100 yards of the premises – could enjoy peaceful sleep for themselves and their families.

What we all fear is a return to the days – not very long ago – when Ampthill was a magnet for youths and older drinkers, simply because they knew they could engage in late-night drinking.

Despite assurances, their activities were in no way prevented by the places in which they drank, which appeared still to serve those who had already drunk too much.

The days are gone when we can expect a Police presence as a preventive measure – so of course, the damage is already done, however quickly they may respond when incidents occur.

As I have said before, the only way I can see of protecting local people from the distasteful, rowdy and damaging behaviour of late-night drinkers, is to restrict opening hours, so it is no longer an issue.

Amphill has a very successful evening economy of restaurants and public houses, enjoyed by many residents and visitors, but above all, operating perfectly peaceably and representing no threat to the rest of the community.

Yours sincerely

