

Supplement to the agenda for

Licensing sub-committee

Wednesday 26 September 2018

10.00 am

Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford

	Pages
4. APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF 'HOUSE MEADOW, WHITEHALL FARM, WHITEHALL ROAD, HAMPTON BISHOP, HEREFORD, HR1 4LB' - LICENSING ACT 2003	3 - 6

HOUSE MEADOW

There are many unfounded worries and concerns raised in the representations which seem to be based on incorrect information being relayed in the Village. We wanted to have the opportunity to explain what we are doing, why we are doing it and the reason why we have applied for the PREMISES Licence.

- We have the ability to offer the use of Farmland for events under permitted development rights. This is not an application for a planning or a licence to hold these events, which some seem to think. Whether or not this premises licence is granted, these events will continue.
- We are offering High End, Bespoke events mainly in the form of Intimate family weddings – we are not going to be hosting 18th's or 21st birthdays. The nature of the site is that it will be exclusive, we will not be rolling out events every weekend throughout the year. They will be occasional select events and we will VET couples who apply. We have already discouraged some who we feel their type of event would not suit House Meadow.
- We have applied for a premises licence so that we CAN put policies and procedures in place to monitor and control the alcohol sale, consumption and music at any event. The alternative would be to allow the wedding couple to use outside mobile bars under a TEN's or bring in their own alcohol to consume and music, which we would have no influence or control over.
- There are concerns in the representations about weddings at the church and the village being disrupted. We have had enquiries and bookings from Hampton Village residents to hold their wedding reception with us at House Meadow. The guests at House Meadow are most likely going to be these same church guests.

In response to the allegations of noise and noise complaints.

- We have only actually had two events at House Meadow.
- We have received a number of anonymous telephone calls during the early hours of the morning on dates we were not hosting events - the last one being on 27th August at 2,45am - a lady asking if we were Redbank Events, instructing us to 'turn the noise down' and when we politely informed her we were Redbank, we were not hosting any event that evening, and so any noise she could hear was not us - she replied, their partner assumed it was Redbank and without apology put the phone down. We also received phone calls of a similar nature during early hours of 14th July, again when we were not hosting events.
- We have not received any direct calls complaining of noise during events we have held at House Meadow.
- Some representations have referred to Environmental Health sending out officers to investigate noise. This has never happened, or if it has, again it was nothing to do with House Meadow. Environmental Health have written to us to confirm that there is no evidence provided to them to support any alleged noise at House Meadow.
- We are being accused for all noise without any evidence having been shown to prove that we are actually the cause. There have been a number of birthday and other celebrations held in the Village at private residences, some of which have coincided with late night phone calls to us.
- We fear that the noise complaints, issues and concerns in the representations are actually based on noise caused by others in the village or vicinity who because they are operating without a licence have no control measures.
- At a local Parish Council meeting we extended an invitation for anyone who had concerns to contact us to discuss operating hours, worries about noise and noise solutions etc. We are disappointed that no one has been in touch with us. Lobbying and a petition has taken place to halt our application based on what appears to be incorrect information if we are to go by some of the worries and concerns in the representations.
- There is support of our venue within the representations subject to certain conditions which we have already addressed and agreed with licencing and is stated within our application.

I have previously studied business at University and worked in the hospitality industry for 20 years at a managerial level and as a business owner. For 10 years I owned a busy city centre pub in Herefordshire, and built it from a 'pub' to a successful pub and restaurant business before selling it on.

I worked closely with licensing and the police service and proactively operated the banned from one banned from all principle, and had a reputation amongst young people as a 'no nonsense' licensee who strictly applied rules and tolerance levels.

I have worked in weddings and events for the past 7 years and am a personal licence holder who is acutely aware of the 4 licensing objectives which we adhere to at any wedding or event.

Our aim at House Meadow is to hold, small, intimate family weddings in a controlled environment.

I operate a challenge 25 policy.

I hold my environmental health certificate and first aid certificate.

We have systems & procedures in place, namely the following

First Aiders/Accident Log Book
Risk Assessments that are carried out on every event
Training Manuals for Staff/Fully Trained Staff
Log Book for Challenge 25

We have appropriate trade waste measures in place

To give you an idea of an Example Wedding

1500-1600 Welcome Drinks & Canapes on the grounds
1800 Wedding breakfast which can constitute a 3 course meal, sharing platter, buffet for example
It is usual to suggest half a bottle of wine per person during the course of the wedding breakfast
1900 Bar opens

We only sell single measures and do not encourage inappropriate drinking

Midnight is the cut off and we allow 30 minutes for guests to vacate the premises. At this point we have marshalls waiting for taxis for guests and operate a 'Shush' policy whereby staff wander around asking the guests to keep quiet and respect neighbours. The area is fully lit.

With reference to drugs, in the 20 years that I have worked in the industry in Hereford, I have never encountered a hypodermic needle. I would be wholly shocked should I find such an item at a small, family, intimate wedding. If I should encounter any form of drugs whilst running an event, the police would be called and I would shut the event down.

I feel these objections from local residents are largely due to misinformation and overactive imaginations whereby, residents believe we will be operating large scale, uncontrolled events for 365 days of the year for 16 hours of each day.

We would regularly monitor noise levels and have a preferred selection of entertainments who are sympathetic to our noise levels.

Any outside suppliers that we use are recommended by ourselves, for example, caterers, and we ask for evidence of their public liability insurances and hold these on record.

We held an event on 4th August and prior to this, discussed with certain residents their worries of noise levels. I was more than happy to pass on my number to them so should their worries become reality, they could call me and I would deal with this imminently. That said, on the day in question, I had staff monitor the noise levels from the far side of the field (which is 8 acres) whereby, you could hear the music slightly but it was inoffensive. I also went into Whitehall Farmhouse and checked the noise levels myself and could not hear anything. The first I had heard of any problem was from a letter alleging noise pollution from the environmental health but with no evidence. Had I been notified on the day in question (outside of already monitoring the noise and believing it to be of an appropriate level), I would have acted accordingly.

Martha Summerfield.

