

From: Jonathan Thomas

Sent: 16 July 2019 19:39

To: Licensing <licensing@herefordshire.gov.uk>; Ethelpline <ethelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk>; officeofbillwigginmp@parliament.uk; ledbury.reception@milleroptometrists.co.uk; Jonathan Thomas

Subject: Continuing noise disturbances at The Barn, Ledbury

To Hereford Licencing
Committee

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to request a review on the licencing agreement for The Barn in Ledbury.

I am in the process of completing the review form and will post it to you very shortly.

In the meantime please can you make a note of the following information.

As far as I'm aware, the owners have been approached by the Environmental Health Team advising them to adhere to the rules and regulations of the licencing agreement.

Yet again, I see no evidence that they are doing so.

During The Ledbury Fringe Festival from Thursday 4th July to Sunday 14th July, The Barn held seven events and as expected noise disturbances occurred all of that week.

On Monday 8th July the noise coming from The Barn was unbearable. I was surrounded by dozens of Silurian Morris Men right outside my flat. They might as well have been knocking their sticks together IN my flat considering the level of noise! This was followed by a music session at The Barn which commenced at approximately 9.30pm. At 11pm I had to endure an awful and extremely loud folk rendition of The Ace Of Spades by Motorhead! Have you got any idea what that sounds like? According to the rules and regulations of the licencing agreement, only low volume background music can be played after 11pm. Is this correct?

On Tuesday 9th July The Barn hosted 'Mirimakes Music' which involved five female singing acts. This event was advertised as starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 10.00pm. At 11.15pm I had to endure a very loud singalong of 'We're All Going On A Summer Holiday'. This event was very well attended, so you can imagine how much more noise was created. As I said earlier, it was advertised to finish at 10pm. However, the music finished at 11.50pm and I then had to listen to people leaving very noisily.

The owners have put up a new polite notice saying to customers 'Please leave quietly'. As I have mentioned before, any polite notice at The Barn asking people to leave quietly is meaningless and ignored.

On Thursday 11th July I had to endure and I quote from The Ledbury Fringe programme, 'A carnival of irresistible Punk n Folk n Roll'. This event was also well attended and yet again the noise was unbearable.

On Friday 12th July The Barn was open all day but the music did not start until 9pm. The music ended at 11.30pm. Again, this was not low level background music. As per usual as with any event held at The Barn, people left the premises noisily. The owners stayed on with a few other people, continuing to make a noise. Then at 1am they decided to start rolling barrels around ready I presume for the following night. Furthermore at this time a vehicle pulled up, thus adding to the noise.

I then had to listen to a drunken customer trying to get his point of view across in a very loud manner. I do not appreciate listening to terminology - and I quote 'F**k that sh*t!' so late at night right outside my window, especially knowing that I have to be up early for work in the morning. I have been advised to document disturbances including any foul language, so I am informing you.

Eventually, the owners left at 1.15am, noisily as per usual.

On Saturday 13th July the event held was advertised as a double bill featuring Anti Poet and Hedluv and Passman - a Cornish codpiece wearing rap duo. I have no idea what was going on this night but believe me it was very loud. Again it was very well attended with the audience determined to scream and shout as loud as they possibly could up until 11.50pm. Again, as people left there was more noise. The owners stayed on at the premises and eventually locked up - noisily at 1.15am

As far as my observations go, the owners are not adhering to the conditions set out in the licencing agreement. Why is this? Is this down to stupidity or arrogance? Or both? The owners do not appear to be showing any consideration to others in the vicinity. As I said before, they have been approached by The Environmental Health Team, yet there seems to be no improvement.

It is fair to say that even if the owners try to be quiet when they lock up and leave the premises, it does not matter. I can hear everything and at any time because of the close proximity between my flat and The Barn and just how quiet the area generally is, especially at night. I am unable to get to sleep until they have left locked up and left the premises.

Again I say, I am baffled as to how a late night licence was granted to The Barn, or indeed any licence for that matter when considering how close it is to neighbouring properties - and how quiet the area has always been prior to The Barn being there. I just wish somebody had visited the vicinity before the licence was given. They would have then foreseen the problems that would no doubt occur.

I have lived in the town centre in various flats all my adult life so I am accustomed to an acceptable level of noise. The situation I find myself in now is completely different and it is not about me having to adjust to change.

What is happening now is completely inconsiderate, unacceptable and unbearable and I wouldn't expect anyone else to tolerate it so why should I? I don't believe anyone would tolerate it.

I am not exaggerating when I say that these disturbances are not only making my home life miserable , but they are having a detrimental affect on me as a person. I find myself dreading going home. Surely this can't be right?

In closing, thank you again for the opportunity to ask for a review. I look forward to completing the review form for your attention.

However, I am not looking forward to this weekend's event at The Barn - yet again another 'DJ Night'!

Yours faithfully

David Thomas

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