

Since moving back home after university and visiting Leominster, a town I was not very familiar with, I was made extremely welcome by the owners of the Ducking Stool. Both Matt and Jan are wonderful people, who not only try their best to provide a safe and high standard open house but they also make everyone feel welcome. Not only do I feel comfortable in socialising with my friends here but I happily take my children to the Ducking Stool during the day times for lunch. Matt and Jan cater for all ages and occasions and in my opinion, is the best pub in Leominster.

For a short time, I worked for the Ducking Stool as a barmaid one day a weekend. My experience of this made me favour the Ducking Stool and it's owners even more. I have never felt so supported and cared for in a working position and I can confidently say the door men were very good at their job. With this, I can honestly say I did not see one fight or brawl in my whole time working there and have always had a lovely time when socialising there.

I really do hope that the Ducking Stool get reinstated with their original licence as they really do deserve it and this current situation and licence restriction is no reflection of the pub in any way and is, in my opinion, a disgrace.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]

Sent: 11 February 2015 22:20

To: Licensing

Subject: Ducking stool leominster

To whom it may concern i would just like to say, I feel it is unfair at the decision made against the duking stool i have lived in Leominster all my life so have used the pub on lots of occasions and have never felt scared or threatened, A specially now they have two bouncers, so to implement these rules i feel unfair

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 February 2015 23:13

To: Licensing

Subject: Ducking Stool Leominster

Sirs,

I am by no way a regular at The Ducking Stool in Leominster but it is one of the few pubs I go in if I am out for the evening. Whenever I have walked past, on a weekend, there has always been door staff on. I have always felt safe when I go inside and have never felt threatened (unlike many Hereford pubs I have been in). The incident that happened there recently, that led to the suspension of their license, hasn't been made public so I can't comment on it, but I showed my support when it was reinstated by taking my family in (all legal age drinkers) at the earliest opportunity. In fact the Ducking Stool will now be my pub of choice as I think they need the vote of confidence the Leominster community is showing them.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Sony Xperia™ smartphone

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 February 2015 15:56

To: Licensing

Subject: RE The Ducking Stool, Leominster

To whom it may concern.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I am sending this e-mail in relation to the decision recently made about the licensing of The Ducking Stool, South Street, Leominster.

I am a regular patron of this pub and have witnessed first hand the warm, welcoming, family friendly, atmosphere that both Jan and Matt strive to achieve. They are both personal friends of mine since moving here 5 years ago from South Wales.

I feel disappointed in the decisions taken as The Ducking Stool is one of the safest pubs I have ever spent time in, the staff and management work hard at maintaining the safety of patrons, and there is rarely any trouble.

I also feel that the restriction of their licensing terms is detrimental to Leominster town, as now young people, such as myself will now travel further afield eg, Hereford, for a night out at a weekend. This is money not being spent in our home town.

Both Jan and Matt Morris work extremely hard at providing a safe and welcoming public house, and in my opinion the actions of a minority should not have an adverse upon their livelihood.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 12 February 2015 07:32

To: Licensing

Subject: The Ducking stool Leominster

To Whom it may concern,

As a resident of Leominster and perhaps regarded as a middle aged member of the community I would like to share with you my views on the proprietors and licensing at The Ducking Stool.

Firstly I do frequent the premises on occasion and know a lot of the clientele that socialise there due to my job in customer services outside of the pub. 99% of the customers are well behaved when out but unfortunately every pub ends up having an "issue" however I have only ever witnessed one said "issue" and was extremely impressed as it was dealt with quickly and very professionally. I have to admit when I read about the Ducking Stool being regularly visited by the police I was shocked and deemed this untrue as I know that there are at least two other establishments that have been visited by the police due to unruly behaviour as much as three times on a weekend.

As far as the licensing is concerned, Leominster does have a larger group of "nightclub" goers but unfortunately we don't have one anymore and the Ducking Stool does provide a safe environment with some decent music for members to have a dance and a drink later in the evening. You would have thought having such a premises would allow people to know they don't have to fork out huge taxi fares to get to and from Hereford the nearest place with any sort of nightlife, and the security of being in their own town!

Reducing the hours at the Ducking Stool not only will destroy the owners livelihood (another business strangled by "red tape") but also I believe it will reduce the amount of people staying in Leominster for a night out therefore the knock on affect to other pubs and the takeaway businesses would be dramatic.

I also want to state that we have an 18 year old daughter who we have told if ever she is out and feels unsafe wherever she may be in town to go straight to the Ducking Stool where she knows and we know she would be safe day or night.

I hope you take my opinions and comments into consideration and reinstate the licence at the Ducking Stool.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2015 22:15
To: Licensing
Subject: ducking stool Leominster.

I write with reference to the application to suspend the premises license at the ducking stool, Leominster. I completely appreciate the reasons behind the suspension of the license and understand that they have failed to demonstrate how the licensing objectives have been met however I don't feel closing the premises down is the answer. I think the council needs to take a more proactive response to work with the licensees and show them the correct way, what measures has the licensing officer taken in the last 6 months to work with the premises? Has he visited the premises on a Friday or Saturday night? Has he spoken to the poor quality door supervisors employed or checked their status? They were employed on a cash in hand basis without any insurances and failed to carry out their jobs did the licensing officer address this with the licensee? I feel a proportion of the blame for the way the premises is currently is down to the poor support provided by the licensing officer the role should be more about educating and less about prosecuting. There are many licensed premises failing to comply with the four licensing objectives but the council are failing to recognise it until something drastic happens such as it has here and the they attempt to make an example I feel you should be ashamed with the way the licensed trade is

being managed currently and look to yourselves to find the answer I have worked up and down the country and no where have I found such a poor licensing approach as there is towards Leominster especially given the current financial hardship in this industry.

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> Kind regards

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> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 February 2015 12:38

To: Licensing

Subject: License of the ducking stool leominster

To whom this may concern,

I don't agree on the restriction of the license for the ducking stool in leominster.

Mrs Morris is a lovely lady and helps everyone that steps through her door she is the reason the people of leominster have some where that's warm and welcoming late at night to have a drink.

My self and a lot of other people are distraught that she as to now close at 12. She worked her self hard to get the license in the first place and to provide somewhere for people to go on the closure of the local nightclub.

After 12 is where Mrs Morris makes her money and can afford to keep the ducking stool open.

I hope you can re think the decision.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 February 2015 21:24

To: Licensing

Subject: Ducking stool

Dear Sirs/ Madam

With regard to the licensing of the Ducking stool in Leominster, I have worked on Taxis around Leominster for over 13 years, and even when picking up from either there or The Oak the amount of trouble has been minimal. The bouncers are very good and control it well, any

one too drunk they will ring for a cab to take them home if needed and with myself being female they will always give me the option.

Leominster no longer has a club and without somewhere to go instead of going home the kids are more likely to hang around the town causing trouble- The Ducking stool gave them somewhere to dance off excess energy.

Please reconsider your decision

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2015 12:50
To: Licensing
Subject: The Ducking Stool

To whom it may concern,

I feel that after recent events at The Ducking Stool in Leominster, I would like to voice a personal view of the pub if you will allow me.

I am sixty years old and am a resident of Leominster born and bred and can honestly say until the present licensee took over, I had never set foot over the threshold.

Having been invited into the place by a friend, I was pleasantly surprised and have been a regular customer ever since along with my husband. We were made to feel incredibly welcome by both the licensee and the clientele that use the establishment. Especially the younger customers as they know there is a standard of behaviour that is expected of them. We have never been shown anything but respect.

My husband, being a Parkinson's Disease sufferer has been supported not only in his personal life by playing darts for one of their darts teams but also in helping to fundraise for the local Parkinson's group often with Matthew acting as MC and Jan supplying refreshments. We have had very successful evenings with many of the young regulars supporting our fundraising efforts.

I have always found the security staff vigilant, polite and swift to address any trouble that may crop up occasionally. As I say, most of the customers know that the licensee has a strict policy about bad behaviour, neither will they tolerate any bad language in my experience which means that even older customers can feel comfortable. I have to admit to occasionally taking advantage of the late license and have noticed upon leaving that any high noise levels in the street are not coming from the Ducking Stool but from other establishments nearby.

I hope that when you consider the terms of their license, that you take into account the points that I have presented for you.

Thank you

[REDACTED]