COC090 Appendix 17 - REDACTED

DAVID THOMAS STATEMENT, 08.09.22

At a planning meeting on May 19th 2022 I read a statement that made it very clear to Ledbury Town Council what I was having to put up with since The Barn opened as a venue in 2018.

Councillor Morris was Chair of that meeting. He informed me that there was nothing he could do, and he couldn't guarantee that anything would ever get done. At no point did he offer any kind of support, despite the Council saying at a planning meeting in 2019.

'Whilst Ledbury Town Council see The Barn as an asset to the town, they can not support the disturbance and breach of licence'.

Councillor Morris also advised me to write to the Chief Executive of Herefordshire Council, Mr Paul Walker, to bring the issues to his attention for further consideration.

I did this and I was told that I would be contacted by **REDACTED**. Despite numerous complaints to my MP Mr Bill Wiggin and to Mr Paul Walker, I am yet to hear from **REDACTED**. Nearly four months have passed and I haven't heard a word from him. This is diabolical.

Sadly, when dealing with Herefordshire Council, this is something that I have become well accustomed to.

I am perplexed as to why Ledbury Town Council are unwilling to support me. I have been informed by a member of Ledbury Town Council that in relation to The Barn some Council members clearly have their own agenda. I have also been shown an email that was sent from the Town Clerk to all Councillors clearly stating that Ledbury Town Council are not interested in my situation and that I should complain to Herefordshire Council instead.

What do you think I have been doing for the last four years?

By not supporting me you are supporting The Barn. In doing so you are supporting a venue that has no planning permission and no music licence. You are supporting unacceptable levels of noise and breach of licence. You are supporting a 'public nuisance' You are supporting the actions of irresponsible business owners who simply couldn't care less about the impact this has had on my life.

It has made me ill. I'll say this again – it has made me ill.

You are supporting a venue that has proved to be very unpopular with the residents of Ledbury. The owners are merely using it to entertain their friends.

Despite my complaints to Herefordshire Council, The Barn continue to hold private parties and live music events right outside my home. I work six days a week and I look after my Mother who has Vascular Dementia and I come home to this. (photographs)

I have been advised to take photographs by Herefordshire Council in order to document all disturbances outside of my home. The owner of The Barn **REDACTED**

regards this as intimidation. I am still being pointed out by him to customers of The Barn as the person making complaints. This is intimidation.

As I have said before, this land (photograph) does not belong to The Barn. The consumption of alcohol is not permitted in this area. I would like to know who gave The Barn permission to install the seating that is being used by their customers. I am now having to suffer anti-social behaviour from people gathering here at night – very late and very loud. This is yet more disturbance that I have to put up with as do the older residents of The Alms Houses nearby.

Judging by the level of noise coming from outside of The Barn on Bank Holiday Monday (Ledbury Carnival Day) I can only assume that despite my complaints, the owners were granted a Temporary Events Notice. This event was witnessed by the Town Clerk who agreed that the level of noise was unacceptable. She reported this to the police.

This week I was contacted by PC Ransome-Williams. On September 5th she informed me that **REDACTED** had reported me for verbally abusing **REDACTED** on Bank Holiday Monday and for chasing him down the street (?) during the Carnival procession.This did not happen. It is complete nonsense. Someone is lying about me to the police.

As I have said before, I have lived in Ledbury for nearly fifty years. A lot longer than most members of the Council. Some members of the Council don't even live in Ledbury, yet the Council seem to think that they have the right to tell me that The Barn is a great asset to the town and that there is nothing I can do about it.

You have clearly ignored every word of my statement. You seem unable to understand the very first line of The Barn's licence agreement which states in plain English.

'Noise and vibration shall not emanate from the premises so as to cause a nuisance'

Ledbury Town Council is turning a blind eye to what is happening outside of my home and blatantly ignoring my basic human rights.

I would like to know why you are not supporting me?

I will end by asking you all a question. A question that I have asked you before.

Would you want all of this disturbance outside of your home every week?

David Thomas