

Chris.Boyle

From:
Sent: 09 July 2020 20:01
To: Licensing
Subject: Representation against the licensing application of the Frog and Nightgown Pub RH12 4SS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write this email correspondence to express my considerable concern regarding the variation of premise license application being made by Mr R Gatt of the Frog and Nightgown Public house, Wimland Road Faygate.

I deem the aforementioned application as deeply concerning on the grounds of both ***Public Safety and Public nuisance.***

The Frog and Nightgown is situated on a single track semi rural lane, the traffic that frequents the lane for the purposes of visiting the Frog and Nightgown is already excessive for the size of the thoroughfare which has no passing bays. The fact that it has no passing bays means that in order for vehicles to pass one another they are forced to use the private driveways of the residents, which have I hasten to add have to be maintained at a cost by the owner. Failing that any vehicles that don't use a residents drive will use the verge instead causing the blockage of the lane side ditches, something which I personally have had to clear including the complete blockage of a culvert running beneath the lane. Make no mistake this lane is not designed for the flow of traffic this Public house already attracts, the idea of extending the hours of the licence will only prove to further exacerbate the problems. The vast majority of patrons that visit the establishment drive the lane in a respectful manner, but then there is at least 10% that don't! These individuals choose to drive the lane (no doubt with at least one alcoholic beverage inside them) at a speed that is wholly unacceptable on the grounds of public safety - firstly, this lane is frequently used by families out for a rural walk and there are no footpaths for people to seek safety, and second I have lost count of the number of times I have heard near misses when a car has had to screech to a halt as to avoid a collision.

Continuing with the vehicular issues. I make an educated guess that the very small car park the establishment has can park no more than 22 vehicles, as such the lane is strewn with parked cars already. What are his plans for accommodating the additional traffic, other than more parking on the verges of the narrow country lane?

The idea of not only extending the hours but to possibly grant approval to play music both live and recorded between 09:00-23:00 7 days a week is in my opinion absurd and shows a distinct lack of respect to the local residents. This establishment is a 'Country Pub and tearoom' not a trendy bar or nightclub. Don't get me wrong I'm all for owners trying to improve their businesses but if his current plans are the direction he wants to take, then I respectfully suggest that he chooses an appropriate location in which to do so.

I'll conclude my correspondence by questioning why Mr R Gatt chose to apply for this application without making any attempt to seek prior consultation with the residents? Maybe an invite to a socially distanced meeting in his beer garden to add some clarity as to exactly what his what his plans are, allay any concerns, or answer questions the residents may have?

Why did he choose not to enter into discussion? Because he knew the resistance he would face? Well it is my opinion that the very fact that he chose to go ahead without doing so speaks volumes in itself! But I guess it's up to you to pass judgement as to what you think his reasons were?

Finally please don't consider that the arrival of my representation so close to the deadline in some way hints at my lack of concern. I am extremely busy at present so the fact that I have taken time out of my schedule to write this proves the exact opposite.

Yours faithfully

Sent from my iPhone

Chris.Boyle

From:
Sent: 08 July 2020 18:55
To: Licensing
Subject: Licensing Application for Full Variation of Premises Licence for The Frog and Nightgown, Faygate, RH12 4SS

From:

To:
Public Health and Licensing Department
Horsham District Council

8 July 2020

Dear Sir

**LICENSING APPLICATION FOR FULL VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE
THE FROG & NIGHTGOWN WIMLAND ROAD FAYGATE HORSHAM WEST SUSSEX RH12
4SS**

We are writing in response to your invitation to make representations in relation to the application made by Mr R Gatt for a Full Variation of the premises licence for The Frog & Nightgown pub.

We understand that the application includes the following:

- **A huge increase in opening hours to 14 hours a day (09.00 to 23.00), 7 days a week, 365 days a year.**
- **An enormous increase in permitted hours for the sale and supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises, again to 14 hours a day (09.00 to 23.00), 7 days a week, 365 days a year.**
- **The extension of the licence to introduce for the first time the sale and supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises. Again the application is to allow this for 14 hours a day (09.00 to 23.00), 7 days a week, 365 days a year.**
- **Live Music indoors and outdoors for 14 hours a day (09.00 to 23.00), 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Outdoor Live Music is limited to 3 times a month (ie effectively all day 3 out of every 4 weekends or 36 times a year).**
- **Recorded Music, both indoors and outdoors, to be permitted 14 hours a day (09.00 to 23.00), 7 days a week, 365 days a year.**
- **The expansion of the licensable area from just the pub to the entire site.**

We have lived for 30 years at [redacted] and, given our location so close to the premises and the prevailing wind direction south westerly from the pub to our home, are the immediate neighbours who would suffer most severely should this application be granted consent.

Having not had a single issue with the previous Landlord of the Frog & Nightgown over a period of more than two decades, since the current licensee took over the premises we have experienced years of

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION: 2

harrowing disturbance including an extended period of unlicensed live music and other events, which have made our lives a misery at times. We were, therefore, horrified to learn of this licensing application as we know from bitter experience the devastating impact that this proposal would have on us.

We strongly object to the application on the following grounds:

PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

Noise

We understand that the existing licence permits live music indoors until 11pm. This already causes us major disturbance as any form of amplification from microphones or speakers inside the pub results in the sound travelling to our home and is clearly audible inside our house even with all the windows and the double glazing shut and is offensively loud outside in our garden. This is compounded by the pub door frequently being left open meaning that on occasions such as "open mic nights", not only can we not escape the throbbing bass reverberating through our house but it is impossible to shut out of our heads every word of every song. Sitting outside in our garden is rendered unendurable. (This is well documented in exchanges of correspondence with HDC over the last three years incl e-mails dated 21/5/18, 12/5/19, 20/5/19, 21/7/19, 24/7/19 and 27/8/19.)

The licence application's proposal to add recorded music indoors and to extend permitted hours for live music indoors to 14 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year would mean that our home would suffer unremitting noise nuisance every waking hour.

As regards music outside the pub, this makes our house and garden almost uninhabitable. For the first year or so of the pub's operation under the new licensee, a continuous stream of outside music events were held (without any licence approval) and they made life at a nightmare with inescapable and incredibly loud amplified music blasted at us for hour after hour, weekend after weekend, particularly during the summer months (when we most wanted to sit in our garden). Subsequent TEN approved events with outside music or from within a marquee, although thankfully much less frequent, have also been a nightmare for us resulting in our counting the minutes until the noise stopped.

Against that background, the application's proposal to allow the playing of recorded music outside 14 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year fills us with dread. The further proposal to allow Live Music outside for 14 hours a day 3 times a month (effectively 3 out of every 4 weekends) horrifies us.

We understand that external noise monitoring would be carried out by a "Designated Premises Supervisor", presumably the licensee (who would be marking his own homework). That and bland promises to the effect that noise would be "barely audible" in the nearest noise sensitive property give us no confidence at all that we would be protected from unrelenting noise pollution given the history under this licensee's watch.

is our home and workplace and, unlike the licensee who can retreat to his home a comfortable distance away, we have no escape from this torture.

Disturbance

Under the terms of the existing licence, we already have regular problems accessing or exiting our property due to pub customers blocking our driveway and Wimland Road and frequently have to "run the gauntlet" of squeezing through customers, bikes, coaches and horses and cars spilling out of the pub across the road at busy periods. Extending opening hours and permitting a takeaway, off licence facility would without doubt compound this. The small size of the pub's car park results in customer cars frequently blocking Wimland Road, a narrow country lane, and while we appreciate that this is principally a County Councils Highways issue, the Licensing Sub Committee should bear in mind that these problems would be significantly exacerbated should the licence application be approved.

Other disturbance from which we already suffer is noise from pub customers turning round in our drive, playing loud music in their cars, revving up cars and motorbikes, slamming car doors, shouting and hooting horns, often late at night. All these disturbances would be extended and aggravated by the extra hours of opening and the widening of the licence proposed.

Smells

The proposal to increase hours and allow off sales of food and drink would inevitably lead to an increase in the number of days when pop-up kitchens such as Ginger Rookies or Kwans Thai Kitchen, etc are busy selling their wares in the pub garden. The unpleasant frying smell permeates our garden carried by the prevailing south westerly wind. Correspondence with HDC on this (e-mail dated 23/9/18) indicated that nothing could be done. We are very fearful that extending the pub opening hours as proposed in the application would result in the cooking and serving of food outside for greatly extended hours meaning that we would potentially have disagreeable smells pervading our house and garden all day, every day.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Even under the existing licence arrangements, traffic generated by The Frog & Nightgown Pub along Wimland Road, a narrow country lane with no pavement, and customers parking their cars along it already regularly cause major problems. While it is appreciated that roads are principally the responsibility of the County Council Highways Department, the Licensing Sub Committee must appreciate that approving this application would compound these issues exponentially.

Safety issues include overflowing pub car parking on both sides of the road, often on dangerous corners and opposite entrances, preventing any chance of emergency vehicles such as fire engines or ambulances getting past as well as causing major difficulties to lorries, farm vehicles, refuse carts and any other vehicle bigger than a small car. The quantity of traffic generated by the pub inevitably puts at considerable hazard other users of the lane which include not only cars driving past but dog walkers, cyclists, horse riders and hikers. After a few drinks, a number of pub customers become particularly insensitive driving away roaring up the road at speed which is extremely intimidating and dangerous.

These are regular problems but they are much worse when events are laid on by the pub. Particular horrors were the 2018 Bonfire Night Event and the Classic Car Event on 24/7/19.

Other public safety aspects cover Environmental Health Issues. The pub has used the ditch on our side of the road opposite the pub as a convenient depositary for dog messes collected from the pub garden. We have also witnessed cooking oil used by the pop up kitchens being poured into the ditch. Given the existence of a public footpath indirectly opposite the pub garden, a number of customers go through the gate into our field to relieve themselves rather than using the pub's toilet facilities. All these practices are clearly extremely unhygienic.

Should the licence variation application be approved, all these Public Safety issues would undoubtedly worsen.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

It is a well known fact that alcohol is often a factor in crime. In addition to departing customers regularly racing up the lane endangering other road users, we have had first hand experience of this with a pub regular and close friend of the applicant's son (who is the de facto manager of the pub) crashing his souped up BMW through our well established beech hedge into our garden, thereby causing criminal damage in the destruction of the hedge. To achieve this from a standing start outside the pub just 40 yards away, the driver must have been comprehensively drunk. That this was allowed to happen does not reflect well on the arrangements for preventing excessive drinking on the premises.

The other issue to raise under Crime and Disorder is litter. There being no Council funded litter picking service for this narrow rural lane, we pick up the litter on our daily walk and run up Wimland Road. The increase in the amount of rubbish thrown out of vehicles since the lockdown was ended and pub re-opened (100% increase) is witness to the fact that pub customers are responsible for a very large proportion of this.

The proposal to increase the pub's hours and to extend the licence to include the sale of takeaway alcohol and food would be very likely to result in after hours drinking outside the pub with all the attendant risks of disorder and disturbance to local residents. It would also inevitably lead to an exponential increase in littering along Wimland Road.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

The publican regularly permits customers who have drunk too much to stay overnight in the pub. First thing in the morning we habitually witness such customers sitting comatose in their cars, the engine often running for warmth in the winter, sometimes for up to an hour. This is disturbing for parents who may well feel nervous allowing their children to wait in the road for the school bus or walk the dog before school. Such incidents would almost certainly increase in frequency should the proposed increase in licensing hours be permitted.

Wimland Road is regularly used by pedestrians and cyclists as a route from the bail hostel in Faygate Lane to Horsham. The proposal to allow the sale of alcohol off the premises may encourage the use of the lane by more people from the hostel. This could change the character of the lane and render it less suitable for children on their bikes. This is against the background of Wimland Road being a designated cycle route.

CONCLUSION

We lived harmoniously as immediate neighbours to The Frog & Nightgown for nearly 25 years. The problems began as soon the current licensee took over since when unrelenting attempts have been made to change its character from a country pub on a quiet country lane into a highly disruptive event venue heavily advertised on social media to attract the maximum numbers possible. The fact that the pub's location and small site make it entirely unsuitable for such a transformation has been completely ignored as has the devastating impact of its activities on local residents. This radical Licence Variation Application is part of this and its acceptance would turn into a nightmare the lives of those living nearby.

We are concerned that the Licence Sub Committee will be advised by the Council's Environmental Health Officer and Licensing Officer, no doubt with perfectly sound motivation to arrive at a compromise, to accept a slightly diluted form of the variation application. For the reasons set out fully above with the existing licence position already causing local residents considerable upset, we would urge the Committee to reject the application in its entirety.

The Licence Sub Committee's decision on this is of huge importance to us as approval of the requested variation would give the licensee carte blanche to blight our and other local residents' lives at will for 14 hours a day every day of the year. Whatever sympathies we all share for the hospitality sector given the short term difficulties experienced during the coronavirus lockdown, this decision is for a permanent licence arrangement and the wrong decision would have devastating long term consequences for The Frog & Nightgown's neighbours.

Yours sincerely

Chris.Boyle

From:
Sent: 19 June 2020 23:58
To: Licensing
Subject: Representation Against the Change of Licensing Request for the Frog & Nightgown, Wimland Road, RH12 4SS

This is my representation against the grant of the premises licence

headed against the 4 licensing objectives:

To our dismay as local residents we see that R Gatt and son Lewis Gatt Publicans have requested extended hours and both internal and external live music 09:00am – 23:00 - 7 days a week, which is completely inappropriate for the rural setting and would seriously undermine the amenity to the local residents.

- **The prevention of crime and disorder**

Local residents reported multiple incidents as recently as **25th November 2019** to the Licensing Officers (Samantha Ritchie) related to people sleeping in their cars (inebriated from the night before) directly outside the Frog & Nightgown. This is an alarming sight in a rural area, especially when walking past with small children. I am sure that Licensees are not meant to facilitate people being so drunk that they sleep in their car and imagine this is a licensing violation as the Publican's should not be serving alcohol to people to that level. If I see this ever again I will report them instantly to the police as when these customers drive home they must be still over the limit in the morning and putting everyone at risk, especially local residents and our children and pets.

on **24th November 2019** we reported to Licensing (Chris Boyle) a public disorder and dangerous driving incident (skidding stones up in our driveway) from a Customer leaving the Pub. We were redirected to report the driver to the Police (Operation Crackdown) which I did. The particular incident was distressing to my family Lewis witnessed the driver, his client, drive past the junction of Bensons Lane and Wimland Road, come to an abrupt halt, skid as he reversed his vehicle, a blue BMW, into Bensons Lane, and skid again as he accelerated forward scattering stones towards us and our dog (yards away). Lewis Gatt lied as he denied the customer had driven dangerously.

- **Public safety**

The abandoning of cars has been a regular occurrence especially after recent Open MIC nights (granted TENs for Halloween, Firework Night, Bank Holidays) I have reported to Highways and the Council but if the cars are taxed/MOT been told nothing can be done. Abandoning a car sometimes for days until can return is not a crime but on a rural single track lane sometimes on verges / corners is a major safety concern.

5th November 2018 – Firework Night – This event was so badly managed that was reported to Licensing and the SAG for consideration and logging of any future Tens or Licensing – Prevented 2019 Firework Night!

Sent: 14 November 2018 To: Chris.Boyle Subject: URGENT COMPLAINT: Frog and Nightgown Pub, Wimland Road, Faygate RH12 4SS - Bonfire Night

I rarely complain but on this occasion am forced to write. I am a local resident () and was probably closest to the Bonfire Night held at the Frog & Nightgown Public House. The number of people attending was excessive and far exceeded the allowable limit for a Pub of its size and location. The landlord demonstrated a blatant disregard to local residents and even their customers with regard to Health & Safety as the event descended into utter traffic chaos. I would like you to question the Landlord's planning for first aid, traffic control and adhering to all aspects of holding a firework display (contravening their license).

Sent: 09 November 2018 To Chris Boyle; Samantha Ritchie :

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION: 3

: I am writing further to my previous correspondence with you in relation to the nuisance caused to local residents by events taking place at the Frog and Nightgown pub. The parking issues that took place on November 5th were a direct result from the extraordinary large number of people that responded to the irresponsible advertising by the landlord/owners Lewis Gatt, Coral Gatt and Richie Gatt. Wimland Road was completely impassable to traffic for a couple of hours from 6.30 pm to 8.30pm on 5th November as a result of all the cars coming to the fireworks at the Frog. When I drove home from Horsham at 4.30pm, 5th November, I was amazed to see all the verges on the right hand side of Wimland Road 'roped off' with poles and flags. These were in front of the properties number 2 and 4 Wimland Road, Bensons Farm and Bailiffs Cottage and part of the Frog Pub. These were, I presumed, to prevent parking in front of our neighbours houses, perhaps requested by our neighbours, and provided by the pub. The same ropes were on the verges either side of the entrance of Bensons Lane.

There was a huge response to the advertising (880 likes on facebook acknowledging desire to attend) and I understand the road was at a standstill while hundreds of cars sought to park their cars and attend the firework display. Cars were abandoned, and parked on verges of the single track road, from the A264 to beyond Warren Wood on the right hand side of Wimland Road. I am told cars were even parked on the verges of the A264. Apparently there were around 300 cars, and the pub was attempting to cater for around 1000 customers, including children, that had come to see the firework display. The Landlords were well-aware of the huge number of customers that had responded to their advertising, and the chaos that had ensued. They were seen and heard talking to frustrated customers trying to park on verges at Brook House, and Brook Barn and Sunnybrook Farm.

Should there have been an accident at this firework display, or a fire, there is no way service vehicles would have been able to get through an entire mile of Wimland Road that was adversely affected by this inappropriate management of the public house. I have brought this to your attention, and would like it logged, as I believe we should not wait for an accident/fatality before necessary action is taken.

The owners have displayed scant regard for local residents and clients and this was again displayed at the event on 5th November. I have no doubt that they viewed the event as a commercial success. A person at the event said the landlord was heard saying they might consider a ticket sale next year, not the conversation for someone regretting their miscalculation. The premises and facilities are limited in size and the commercial return that the landlords require is disproportionate. Overcrowding brings its own risks, besides lack of facilities.

- **The prevention of public nuisance**

Complaint of More Broadcasting of electronic music from Frog and Nightgown pub **Bank Holiday Monday 26th August 2019** under a TEN Agreement. All the local residents wrote to Licensing Officers to complain about the loud volume and disturbance caused by Music being played up to and beyond the 23:00 agreed hours. If when the Licensee is violating even the straight-forward demands of the TEN agreement then expanding the license can only add to the nuisance caused to local residents and the wider Public. Neither Lewis Gatt nor his father Ritchie Gatt have demonstrated proper accountability or behaved responsibly to date showing scant concern for disturbing the local community.

Complaint of Live Music event from Marquee from Frog & Nightgown reported to Licensing (Samantha Ritchie) **Saturday 20th July 2019** which violated any TEN or agreements in place as continued on to 23:30. This was a particularly awful afternoon, evening and night for all the local residents who wanted the amenity of their own farms and premises. The volume was intolerable proving again the Gatt's complete disregard for the local community and neighbours. After reported, The Licensing Officer, Mr Chris Boyle and the Environmental Health Officer, Mr Marc Rankin were aware of the issues concerned with the event on 20th July and arranged a meeting with the management (Lewis & Ritchie Gatt) to discuss concerns. Samantha Ritchie also stated that she could assure the local residents no more Temporary Event Licences had been granted for the premises going forward. Samantha Ritchie although sympathetic with our requests for a noise abatement hotline but stated there were no current facilities for an out of hours support line for noise nuisance.

This was our complaint letter at the time that caused the EHO and Licensing Officers to make a home visit. **Please note the agreed TEN violated the hours and continued to 01:30am**

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION: 3

Dear Mr Boyle and Ms Ritchie

I wish to register my complaint about the level of noise I had to endure that came from the event at the Frog and Nightgown Public House on Saturday 20th July 2019, from 7.30pm to 11.30pm. The recorded music played at this event reverberated throughout my house. A marquee had been erected in the garden to the West of the their tea room/restaurant/café the previous day in preparation for the event.

Our house is from the pub. I have double glazing in every window as well as venetian blinds, but these did not reduce the excessive noise coming from the amplified music. I could hear every word of every line of every song. The base was so loud it resonated through me. There were clearly lots of people at the pub as I could hear them shouting and shrieking over and above the non-stop music. The intensity of this loud reverberating music was all pervasive. For the entire time I was unable to relax, it was as though a loudspeaker had been erected in my garden pointing at my house. I felt invaded, it was so intrusive. I switched the volume up on my TV but this was not comfortable. My pets were too frightened to go outside. Excessive noise in the countryside travels further. I would normally retire at about 10pm, but this was impossible. In fact, I did not attempt to go to bed until 1.30am because I was still aware of activity and saw the lights were still on at the pub as it was still wrapping up.

I understand the Frog and Nightgown were in possession of a Temporary Event Notice for this event and I am very concerned that there may be other requests in place for future events. I have looked at the many entries on their website and they appear to be advertising their facilities for group /party bookings. There are also dates set aside, starting in September, for 'open mike nights', the second Thursday of every month. Are there more Temporary Events planned for the Summer that have been submitted and/or approved?

If so, please could you take into account the concerns of local residents and reconsider grants of any temporary events notifications to Lewis Gatt, the landlord of the Frog and Nightgown.

- **The protection of children from harm**

Children and families are regularly in attendance at the Pub with families walking often with pushchairs and pets from Roffey. The risk to children is from the mix of drivers and pedestrians along the country road with 3 sets of blind bends between the Pub and the A264 Dual-Carriageway. Invariably, with extended hours and marked increases in Live Music and other events there will be more drivers who have been drinking with impaired judgement threatening the safety of the young families. The chaos of the previous stated firework night put the children at terrible risk and believe there was an incident (No emergency access as roads blocked(SAG consultations, Reported to Highways and HDC Licensing).

With increased Music Events (and to date with extremely loud volume levels), the risks for children grow exponentially. Children are often left unattended to play in groups in the Beer Garden which lacks proper security and surveillance with all too easy access to Wimland Road and gaps in the hedge to our shared driveway. As far I'm aware there's no CCTV installed to ensure children's security.

Kind Regards,

Tel:

Chris.Boyle

From:
Sent: 18 June 2020 15:35
To: Licensing
Subject: Representation against the grant of the premises Licensing for Frog and Nightgown Pub RH124SS

This is a representation against the grant of the premises licence.

The prevention of crime and disorder :

The proposed hours of business, 09.00 to 2300 hours seven days a week means alcohol can be consumed 14 hours a day, inside the pub and in the beer garden. Under the current hours of business some customers are unable to drive their vehicles home and will sleep in their cars all night in the car park, or on the layby. This is disconcerting to locals walking their dogs along Wimland Road the following morning. This extension of hours would increase the consumption of alcohol. Users of Wimland Road will be subjected to the risk of meeting customers from the Frog and Nightgown that have consumed alcohol at any time of day, afternoon or evening, either on foot or driving a vehicle. I was subjected to such an incident by a customer leaving the pub last year, who had pulled away from the pub, causing a wheel spin, he had then stopped and reversed into Bensons Lane, where I was walking, stopped again and performed another wheel spin back to the pub. He called out to the manager Lewis Gatt who was watching him from the door of the pub. I protested about his driving and was roundly told off by Lewis Gatt, who denied the car was doing wheel spins and defended the man who he appeared to know. The driver said nothing. I took the licence plate number of the car and reported him. Clearly there was no point reporting this dangerous driving to the manager of the pub.

When the pub runs out of parking spaces, impatient customers tire of parking along the verges on blind bends, and drive up and down doing three point turns, eventually parking in dangerous places. This parking is dangerous for them and leaves insufficient room for emergency vehicles. The owners of the pub make little or no effort to find a solution to this, and customers can be very rude if asked by a resident to park in a safer place.

Over the years we have asked the staff at the pub to ask clients to move their cars when these have been parked on Bensons Lane. On one occasion the car in question actually belonged to Mr R Gatt, although my son and I did not know this. We went into the busy pub and asked Lewis and Ritchie Gatt to find the customer who owned the car to move it to give us access without having to go on the grass. They both looked at the car and simply said there was plenty of room to pass. We went in again and asked them to find the owner to which Mrs Gatt shouted at us to leave the pub, and physically pushed me out of the door, much to the amusement of her customers. This car had actually been parked by her earlier in the evening. It was a neighbour that owned Bensons Lane who kindly put up signs prohibiting cars from parking on the Lane, when he heard about what had happened.

Public safety:

The garden, the bar and the dining room are relatively small. The parking, including the layby on Wimland Road can accommodate 25 cars or so. The pub welcomes dogs and children. The play area for children is between the tables. The numbers of clients already frequently exceeds the facilities. The 14 hour days will not spread the clients evenly over this period, it is more likely to attract from a wider catchment at all hours of the day and evening. Lots of children shouting as they play, dogs barking, extended hours of business in cramped facilities is not a safe environment . There are no pavements for customers that choose to leave their car behind and come on foot, sometimes with pushchairs and children on bicycles. Wimland Road is a single track road with blind bends. These customers have to cross the busy A264 dual carriageway to get to and from Roffey/Horsham.

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION: 4

The prevention of public nuisance :

The proposed recorded music from 9.00 to 2300 hours, 14 hours a day 7 days a week indoors and outside will be a public nuisance for local residents, walkers on Wimland Road and local footpaths. The proposed live music from 9.00 to 2300 hours 14 hours a day 7 days a week limited to 3 days a calendar month indoors and outdoors will be a public nuisance to residents, walkers on Wimland Road and local footpaths. The rural setting of the Frog and Nightgown means that sound carries a long way. This makes it intrusive for those wishing to enjoy their time in the country in their own gardens or taking walks along quiet lanes and footpaths. The proposed hours of 14 hours a day, 7 days a week is excessive and would totally change the peaceful rural setting. It is inappropriate.

The Frog and Nightgown hold many events. When they first introduced recorded and live music to their venues neighbours were driven to ask them to turn the volume down and/or close the doors of the pub. This was not received well by Lewis Gatt, nor his father Ritchie Gatt, they were rude and disrespectful. This, combined with the excessive parking, and the irritated clients looking for safe parking led to the pub limiting some of their venues, and after neighbours complained to the Council. Another example of miss-management by the Frog and Nightgown was Bonfire night. The last bonfire night, in 2018, attracted more than 300 cars parked along Wimland Road. The road was blocked, impassable for emergency access. It was advertised on line and attracted hundreds of supporters. The numbers attending, 500+, were grouped into a small garden and paddock where fireworks were lit by a member of staff. Residents a mile away were complaining of cars abandoned on their lawns. Again, the manager was reported to the Council by neighbours. The fireworks were so loud my windows rattled. Ritchie and Lewis Gatt were asked by neighbours to get the cars removed off lawns and verges during the event. They were unable to do anything.

The protection of children from harm:

The proposed opening hours, 14 hours per day 7 days a week, means that alcohol can be consumed at any hour of the day or evening, with or without food. Meeting up with friends with or without children will extend drinking times. The pub welcomes children and dogs and they play in the beer garden although space can be very limited when it is crowded. There is a footpath that starts beside the beer garden of the Frog and Nightgown Pub, it goes across several paddocks. Children that play in the pub garden often use the paddock behind the pub where they are unsupervised. Children that have brought their bicycles ride these along Bensons Lane and Wimland Road, unsupervised. It is quite dangerous to walk with children, some in pushchairs and some on bicycles, to and from the Frog and Nightgown pub as it has no pavements and is a single track lane with blind bends. Most of the traffic on Wimland Road is from the Frog and Nightgown, and this will increase with the proposed hours 14 hours a day 7 days a week. The drivers of these vehicles will be unchecked with regard to excess alcohol and/or recreational drugs. There are residents with young children that live on Wimland Road that will be subjected this additional traffic.

Chris.Boyle

From:
Sent: 23 June 2020 19:14
To: Licensing
Subject: The Frog and Nightgown

Dear Sirs

As near neighbours to the Frog and Nightgown pub, we would like to support their application to vary their license.

We have lived near, and attended the pub for the entire time that Lewis Gatt has been in charge. We have always found that both Lewis and his staff have always been considerate to us and others when they have had events at the pub.

Public safety has always been prioritised at the pub.

We have always taken our young family to the pub and have been very impressed with the standards shown by Lewis and his staff.

For these reasons, and the importance of the pub to the road and its residents we support the application.

Sent from my iPhone