

317- 30/07/14

Objections to the application for a premises licence for the ground floor of 8-10 High Street by Carole Warburton of 12 High Street, Melbourne, Derbyshire DE73 8GJ

I am employed by Northgate Public Services to work for South Derbyshire District Council as its Communications Officer. Before being outsourced to Northgate, I was employed by South Derbyshire District Council from February 2002 as its Public Relations Officer before being made the Council's Communications Officer.

Objections on the grounds of prevention of crime and disorder

- There would be a lack of proper supervision of the premises as the applicant has a full time job which involves travelling around the country. There is no designated premises supervisor on the application, in spite of the applicant confirming that she has a consent form from the DPS.
- Customers would be able to buy strong real ale to continue drinking in the heart of Melbourne after 22:30 as an application for off sales has been included.
- As a CAMRA pub, this alehouse would be a "destination pub" for real ale drinkers in surrounding counties. With such limited space in the alehouse, customers are likely to spill out into the centre of Melbourne, inebriated by the higher strength beer.

Objections on the grounds of public nuisance

- Already residents have had to complain regularly to the Council's Environmental Health Officers about the noise, foul language and loud music coming from The Lamb Inn which is only four doors away from the proposed alehouse. With the greater strength real ale to be sold, families will be surrounded on both sides by the noise of drunkenness.
- There is nowhere for customers to smoke in the alehouse as the adjoining courtyards are owned by local people. Customers are likely to congregate on the 4ft footpath outside the alehouse or outside the public toilets or in the Market Place which is already a noisy haunt of youngsters from many local schools. These young people may be provided with off sales by customers of the alehouse.
- It is likely that customers will decide to sit and smoke on the window ledge of the elderly couple's house at 6 High Street.
- The external vault listed in the planning application no longer exists and so there is nowhere for the applicant to store bottles, casks and waste other than outside the front of the premises.
- Access for supplies is only through the front door which would block the 4ft wide pavement on a very dangerous bend into the centre of the town.
- There is only one lavatory in the premises, although the licensing application shows two. Already men urinate outside the public toilets when they are locked at 8:30pm. This disgusting behaviour could increase, especially as the only outside CCTV camera in the application focuses on the street entrance and not the adjacent public areas where customers will go.

- In a possibly unique situation, the meeting room is below my sitting room as I have a flying freehold. This meeting room can be reserved by local groups and individuals which might entail loud late drinking and noise. There is no fire control in this meeting room. Any fire would easily spread to the adjacent terraced properties.
- The layout of the alehouse includes a table which looks out on to the garden and washing line of the elderly couple who live at 6 High Street. This is a gross invasion of their privacy. They are tenants of the owner of the former bank, Mr John Blunt.

Objections on the grounds of public safety

- The layout shows an alternative emergency evacuation route. This uses the narrow courtyards of 12, 10 and 8 High Street and a long unlit 3ft wide passageway between 10 and 8 which must be unacceptable on the grounds of public safety.
- Currently there is no former bank vault as shown in the diagram. If the vault wall were to be rebuilt, the 5ft courtyard owned by 12 High Street would not be a means of escape as it is occupied by garden chairs, a work bench, planters and a clothes drier.
- Customers of the alehouse might not even be able to open the back door and so would be trapped with no means of escape. The back door has not yet been added to the building. Customers in wheelchairs would not be able to use this route in any circumstances.
- The single emergency exit would be at the front, down two narrow steps measuring less than 3½ft. The layout shows the word "door" at the front of the building but unfortunately an arrow showing a fire extinguisher covers up the word "false".
- With off sales on the premises, there could be a very large number of customers in the alehouse at any time.
- Traffic and pedestrian accidents could increase as with unrestricted parking after 6pm, vehicles would block the High Street, which is already a bottleneck. Pedestrians using mobility vehicles and families with pushchairs would not be able to access the lowered kerb to cross the road which exists outside 12 High Street.

Objections on the grounds of protection of children from harm

- Off sales from the alehouse could be offered to young people congregating at the Market Place by irresponsible and drunken customers. There is underage drinking already in the village shown by the comment in the April 2014 edition of the Village Voice where PC Victoria Bell reported that "four cars have been damaged in an incident in the Lamb car park the previous weekend. Underage drinking is thought to be the background reason for the incidents."

In terms of equality, people in wheelchairs cannot access the pub

The pavement outside the alehouse is only 4ft wide. The entrance is up two steps which are less than 3½ft wide. A ramp could not be used to enable wheelchairs to enter the pub without blocking the pavement. Mobility vehicles parked outside the alehouse would also force pedestrians out into the dangerous bend in the High Street where customers' cars would be parked after 6pm.