

3-minute presentation for the Licensing Board, South Derbyshire District Council

Tuesday 8 June 2021

1: The prevention of crime & disorder

- If Stable Ales were to be further licensed, as this application requests, it would add a third pub within 200 yards of the Church Square/Melbourne Hall/Stable Ales intersection, to attract additional people to consume additional alcohol immediately adjacent to residential areas, at Melbourne's busiest leisure spot.
 - We don't need to speculate on what Roger Lowe's clients may or may not do either while there or while arriving or leaving. As Alcohol Change UK notes:

'... by lowering inhibitions and impairing judgement alcohol can increase both aggression and the willingness to take risks.'
 - He should know that.
 - Just as for any business, if he behaves himself as a good neighbour, including with his current license, neither he nor his alcohol business should be generating crime or disorder. However, if his or Stable Ales' actions, or those of his customers bring either crime or disorder of any level to the neighbourhood, those infringements will be recorded, and the appropriate authorities can deal with them.

2: Public safety

- **Parking**
 - Over the past few weeks, since Melbourne Hall began its Wednesday food hall events, parking on those afternoons has become a serious problem. This is in addition to the normally heavy parking pressures faced by pedestrians & drivers alike in and around that intersection and its neighbouring streets.
 - Particularly on Blackwell Lane, which is a narrow, twisting, limited-vision road, cars parking on both sides of the road for Hall-based activities block the vision of both drivers & pedestrians, turning that sector into a nightmare.
 - Exiting drivers must go nearly all the way into the road before they can see if any traffic is oncoming.
 - Pedestrians on the narrow, sloping, uneven pavement there who meet others coming toward them [especially in these

Covid times] must hope they can wedge themselves between the parked cars, with enough room for any accompanying pets [a common occurrence] to escape the traffic beside them.

- The entire rest of the area is as fraught and overrun from the remaining three directions.
- That is one event on one day. And Stable Ales is already doing business there.
- Stable Ales now proposes to attract further crowds *every day*, with particular emphasis on weekends, when the area is at its busiest. Roger Lowe has stated that most of his customers will be pedestrians. That's speculation. In fact, more people would mean yet more vehicles and yet more demand for parking in overcrowded conditions, especially in unfavourable weather. Sooner or later, stuffing the streets with yet more parked cars will lead to grief, potentially a matter of life or limb. That set-up is avoidable ... and should be avoided.

- **Traffic**

- Many business people, workers, visitors, and residents from all across Melbourne and the surrounding communities, of all ages & abilities, use that entrance area to Stable Ales daily. Many walk to there, but many more drive to it, through it, and/or past it.
- Three inherently dangerous two-lane roads intersect there, bringing fast-moving traffic from the east [the narrow Blackwell Lane], effectively single-lane traffic in large part from the west [Church Street], plus the northern-side traffic that feeds to and through the curves & bends & compromised visibility of Castle Street. Adding to that is road traffic to, from, and through the Church Square parking area, going to and from the roadway and private entrances around and beyond the Pool. All four serve assorted cars, vans, trucks, buses, and coaches plus bicycles, motorcycles, push-chairs, scooters, and a variety of other wheeled vehicles in addition to pedestrians. It is a Very Busy Place.
- Now imagine adding a flow of vehicles whose drivers and passengers are either coming to party and drink at an enhanced Stable Ales, or who are leaving after having been drinking, possibly for hours if they've stayed for a music event or other activity. Imagine that impact on the already heavy traffic situation if Stable Ales were to gain the premises license that it's seeking. Where is the wisdom in that? Surely the Council doesn't want to foster further danger there.

3: Prevention of public nuisance

- **Noise**

- The noise that Stable Ales proposes to make with its music and from its additional customers were it to have a further license would not be in isolation. It would layer atop the daily noise from cargo and passenger aircraft flying very low overhead from East Midlands Airport, and from the international race track and the entertainment venue at Donington Park, both approximately two miles west of Melbourne. Those are not avoidable. Additional noise is.
- The UK provides guidance on noise nuisance:
 - **Permitted noise levels**
 - The permitted noise level using A-weighted decibels (the unit environmental noise is usually measured in) is:
 - 34 dBA (decibels adjusted) if the underlying level of noise is no more than 24 dBA
 - [or] 10 dBA above the underlying level of noise if this is more than 24 dBA

[Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise-nuisances-how-councils-deal-with-complaints>]

- Assuming that Roger Lowe is not intent on defying the UK Government it's interesting, as noted in my representation regarding his application, his declaration in its Section 10 that **live music will take place both indoors and out**'. He reiterates this in Section 11, declaring his intent to '**... play amplified recorded music to the indoor spaces & potentially to outdoor seating areas ...**

Yet in its Section 10 he states: '**we are not predicting that this will generate a nuisance or require a NMP or monitoring to take place.**'

As both of those cannot be true at the same time, he has therefore made at least one true statement and at least one false statement in his application.

Mr Lowe has made verbal promises that he will not create a public nuisance, violating the rights of his neighbours or other Melbourne citizens. But in writing, here and elsewhere, he has shown that he will say one thing in one place and another in another, as he find it convenient to do so.

Nothing here justifies either trust in Roger Lowe or any further licensing for Stable Ales. Rather, it demonstrates why any further licensing there could burst the seams that hold that area in a delicate balance, even

with 'assurances' to the contrary, and therefore should not be granted.
