

21st October 2016

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Dear Mrs Price

I am writing to you regarding the public notice posted in Calne Town Centre and following our conversation today to make representation about the application for the provision of regulated entertainment.

From the address listed above, you will see that I live in the centre of the Town and this area is used as a main thoroughfare. I live at the end of a private track which is an uncharacteristically secluded area for the Town Centre. At times when the Town is populated by a large number of people such as The Calne Bike Meet, Summer and Winter Fair, people use this area to urinate. I have spoken to a number of these individuals and more often than not, they smell of alcohol and appear intoxicated. I have been physically assaulted by people attempting to use my property for these purposes at these and other times.

I have written previously to the local police sergeant and have enclosed a copy of his letter. In it he writes the following:

*I completely share your frustration around the policing of local events (such as the Calne bike meet) and the knock on effect of possible anti social behaviour in the town. Please rest assured that this frustration is shared by myself and the team. The reality is that owing to significant cuts to the police service and loss of staff, we have had to make tough decisions around how and where we deploy resources, and shift a lot of responsibility onto other agencies and businesses. Local events are a good example- we do not have the capability to allocate staff to police local events and to deploy extra staff for any surrounding area.*

I would suggest that this indicates that not enough staff are present to manage the current numbers of people invited to the Town and that to increase that number still further would only exacerbate the problems articulated by the Sergeant with which they find it impossible to deal. I understand that he has now left and this year when I reported similar incidents, the police were unable to respond. Having faced aggressive confrontation in the past, I took a different approach this year and offered those trying to urinate outside my house, the opportunity to use my toilet. This was preferable to the physical assaults I have received when challenging others trying to do the same thing in the past. However, the gentlemen concerned, albeit polite and grateful, didn't remove their motorcycle boots and I was left to clear up the mess they trampled into my house.

As discussed previously, there should be a long list of incidents logged at my address which I believe you can access; I understand that you will be able to verify these via the Wiltshire Police Licensing Team. The incidents range from urinating outside my property (which I understand is now regarded as no more than a littering offence by the police), to Criminal Damage and physical assault. I understand that these would relate to 3 out of the 4 the licensing objectives (to prevent public nuisance, to prevent crime and disorder, and public safety).

I understand the well-meaning intention behind the events that are organised in the Town and the aspiration to generate social cohesion and business for local firms. However, there is a cost that is being born by local residents and these events are being organised without consulting those residents. For example, I understand that public toilet facilities was an issue that was raised after the 2015 Bike Fest but, when I asked the men wanting to urinate outside my house this year, they said there were no facilities in the Town. I understand that Bike Fest is the largest gathering in Europe bringing over 13,000 people to the Town. I believe that events such as these should make proper provision for the corresponding basic needs for such a large group of people. This would include, but not be limited to, toilets and policing/marshalls to prevent this kind of ASB towards local residents. It would seem fair to ask those organisations and firms benefitting from the events should fund the cost of this provision.

At these events, there is usually the additional provision of alcoholic beverages. As with the event at the Kings Arms in 2015, I have been told by local representatives of the Town Council, that as it happened after the Bike Fest, the problem could not be attributed to the event. I believe it is disingenuous not to associate the increased provision of alcohol at the event during the day with the the ensuing alcohol related violent conduct and disorder afterwards in the Town.

The application for this particular license would provide for a comparable number of people to that for the Bike Fest and so it is reasonable to assume that there will be corresponding difficulties at an event of a similar size. These problems occur event after event without a review of what worked and didn't work and then the appropriate measures being put in place. The difficulties generated are then repeatedly born by the local residents such as myself. Where additional people are attracted to the Town to an event where alcohol is widely available over and above that which is offered by the permanent license holders, I would suggest that there needs to be effective management of the Town after the event has finished until the other licensed premises have closed. With the fun fair not closing until 10pm and the local NPT officers going of duty before midnight, there is then a long period where there is no presence in the Town to discourage anti-social behaviour.

I would ask that before this License is granted, the organisers demonstrate that they can provide toilet facilities for those 9,999 additional people they want to bring in to the Town and that these facilities are well sign-posted; that adequate policing and/or marshalls will be provided to prevent ASB and Criminal Damage during and **after** the event; and that litter and rubbish left by such events is cleared up immediately afterward so that it is not permitted to collect in the private properties of residents such as myself. I would ask that these provisions be monitored by the Licensing Section to assess their suitability at the events themselves and that the license is only continued to be granted so long as suitable provision is made.

Yours

Jon Jones