



TROWBRIDGE CRICKET CLUB

Wiltshire County Council
Licensing Sub-Committee
Bradley Road
Trowbridge
BA14 ORD
14th December 2010

Dear Madam/Sirs,

Re- Application for Premises Licence:

Trowbridge Cricket Club, Lower Court, Trowbridge Wiltshire. BA14 8PX

In the event that members of the Sub-Committee not being fully cognisant of Trowbridge Cricket Club, may I take a little time to say who we are, what we do, and why we need this licence.

What is Trowbridge Cricket Club??

Trowbridge Cricket Club was founded in **1847** and is therefore some 163 years old.

In **1894** a cricket pavilion was built on the current site. It being only the second to be built in the UK of its style and stature. It is still there and in existence **TODAY**.

At This time it proudly became the '**County of Wiltshire**' ground, and remains so to this very day.

The home of British cricket, '**Lords**' in London of course being the first such building preceding Trowbridge and **Trent Bridge**, Nottingham the third such iconic building to be built.

Trowbridge Cricket Club pavilion is largely as it was built in 1894. But with some significant improvements to reflect current standards of 'Noise levels and other health and Safety issues' Due in no small measure to the loving care and attention given to fabric of the building and its environs by the current management team, Miss Davies and Mr Scrine. Who saved the club from almost certain bankruptcy some 9 years ago and the pavilion's possible demolition due to its poor condition at that time.

After taking over, together they set about a major restoration of the building to return it to the magnificent iconic structure it is today.

Currently we are planning a £250,000 refurbishment of our **changing rooms and toilet facilities**, and have plans to provide additional sporting facilities for disabled adults and children. Those plans are well underway and the project will be completed in December 2011.

Trowbridge Cricket Club has a wonderful history with many International cricket matches being played on its grounds up to about 15 years ago, when sadly it's changing rooms and general facilities fell far short of modern International cricketing standards. The moves above will not however return us to those happy days, cricket has moved on.

From 9 years ago when the club was at its lowest ebb to now there has been a remarkable change in its fortunes due in no small measure to the management and input of Miss Davies and Mr Scrine.

Indeed without their taking the reins and the responsibility for taking to club forward our fortunes would have very different. The result is the club now has:

Four Senior cricket teams.

Eight Youth cricket teams.

Six Junior soccer teams (until recently).

Working towards 2 female girls cricket teams.

Plus 'Cricket for the disabled'.

We were the first club in the **West Country** to be awarded the coveted '**Club Mark**' an **International** standard of excellence in, nurturing youth sports and cricket/coaching to the highest stands, and putting a lot back in to the social sports scene in Wiltshire as a whole, and our local community in particular.

We have 18 (eighteen) qualified cricket coaches.

1 (one) International cricketer to support our adult teams and help to bring along the youth teams.

This is a MAJOR and visible commitment to the youth of today, they being the adults of tomorrow. And is possibly the most massive commitment to youth sport in Wiltshire as a whole.

Wiltshire County Cricket Team.

The club is the home to The County of Wiltshire Cricket Team, and currently we have just started a major redevelopment of the changing rooms areas, and general facilities to make it fit for the 21st century and to be a credit to Trowbridge and Wiltshire well into the future.

Why do we need this licence?

Surprising though it may seem, *Trowbridge Cricket Club does NOT receive ANY monies from our local authority or the (ECB) England and Wales Cricket Board or any other external organisation.* We have to rely solely on money generated by cricketing events-social functions-such as weddings, funerals, private parties, live music evenings and the takings over the bar. WE have no other source of income. Additionally these are some of our regular guests/users.

The Women's Institute (monthly) The Lions (twice monthly) Trowbridge Flying Club (monthly)
Trowbridge Bridge Club FOUR Times (weekly) Slimmer's World (weekly) 40 Wiltshire schools ASDA
quick cricket over 2 days annually. There are quite a few others.

You may ask, how can you afford a major rebuild of our changing rooms? quite simply the trustees of the cricket ground permitted us to sell a corner section for three private houses, and to keep the proceeds **solely for this use.**

Having given you a flavour as it were of Trowbridge Cricket Club I now wish to turn to certain aspects of this application that candidly the club finds both disturbing and distasteful, and destructive.

Summation of Events in chronological order.

Conduct of Club and History prior to February 2010.

1. No known adverse behaviour or summons or refusal of any licensing applications, had no problems registered with Wiltshire Constabulary, the Wiltshire Fire Brigade, Wiltshire District Council, and now Wiltshire County Council, to our certain knowledge for close on FIFTY years.

That is UNTIL 13th May 2010 when Trowbridge Cricket Club was served with a 'Noise Abatement Notice'

This followed various discussions with environmental officers and letters passed each to the other, no physical sound monitoring had taken place by the council which we felt was odd, merely a complaint from one individual, a Mr Aldham who later turned out to be a senior council officer.

- 2.1 The club decided to closely monitor the situation, and to ask ALL the local residents to complete a very simple form asking them if the playing of live music, did interfere with the enjoyment of home and garden, as suggested by (Mr Aldham) and should the club be allowed to continue with 'Live' music.
- 2.2 The location of each house / distance from the stage in the clubhouse was duly recorded on an official Ordnance Survey map licence number 100007092 Obtained for planning permission purposes.

The results of that exercise are attached and numbered.

- Exhibit A: Map to scale of 1:1250 with locations.
- Exhibit B: Marked Evidence sheet 2NA Locations of close neighbours, and distance From Club as above. MR ALDHAMS HOUSE IS NEXT DOOR TO 21 as shown.
- Exhibit C: Marked Evidence sheet 1 and shows Mr Aldham's house from an Ariel Photograph. Please NOTE that sound has to pass through Palmer gardens And the tree line to get to him.
- Exhibit D: Copy taken from originals of peoples replies to 2.2 above.

The Cricket Club presented this information to the County Council and requested that the County Council withdraw the 'Noise 'Abatement notice.

This was not forthcoming and the club started an action against the Council to 'Appeal' said notice. This was subsequently withdrawn because of concerns for the health of Mr Poplett.

The Cricket Club, purchased sound monitoring equipment, and started to monitor all live music events. And agreed to check monitor same with the Council and their equipment.

Full records have been kept since August 2010. (Using the sound measuring equipment).

Exhibit SR: Are the sound recordings taken at the agreed points. These show sound levels Before the event in certain/specific locations, and the same during the event.
IN ALL INSTANCES LEVELS are taken outside or close to Mr Aldham's property.

We now turn to letters that Mr Aldham has put out to the residents of Lower Court, Downhayes Road, Palmer Road, and Seymour Road, Trowbridge.

They are evidenced.

AL/1 Which is clearly designed to mislead and is untruthful? (Not till 2.00am, or Every Friday And Saturday night).

AL/2 This letter has been taken by persons NOT reacting to AL/1 to seemingly come from the Council and carries a style and air of authority with it that does support the view that this has origins in the Council. IT ALSO ONCE AGAIN lies about the hours and frequency of Events.

In response to the above letters the Cricket Club, mailed out a letter (copy attached) to all the residents of Lower Court, Mailed and obtained proof of posting to all those who had complained following Mr Aldham's letters.

These are by way of explanation, and to specifically explain to people just how they had been misled. In addition our letter proposed a meeting to be held on Friday 17th December at 7.15pm at the Cricket Club to openly discuss this matter in depth, and to attempt to put right the damage that has been caused by Mr Aldham's untruthful and misleading letters.

The Cricket Club will keep the Licensing department fully informed of the results of that meeting.

The licence itself.

It is our understanding that Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Fire Brigade have no objection to the granting of this licence. **PLUS**

We have previously been informed by Environmental Services Officer **Mr Guy Sharp**, that he will not object to the granting of this licence subject to the Cricket Club agreeing to the criteria/ and monitoring procedure and equipment that we have jointly agreed to that being.

The Cricket Club confirms that we will adhere to:

1. **11.30pm** finish time for 'Live' Music on the Clubs 1st Floor level.
2. Will only have 'Live' music as above on two days per month.

3. Will closely monitor all 'Live' events, having agreed specific levels of sound with the said department. Keeping records accordingly.
4. Will purchase as agreed the Sound Limiter / traffic light equipment as agreed following the granting of the licence.

Closing comments.

The Cricket Club desires that this licence be granted for the reasons stated herein. We firmly believe that we have proved we are a responsible club and management, and do all we can to protect our many thousands of visitors a year in addition to our members. We have established a safe environment the envy of many organizations in the town, and believe our activities are supremely beneficial to the County Town of Trowbridge and County.

The granting of this licence will enable the Cricket Club to prosper and thus ensure the continuation of meaningful sports activity for all age groups. And we respectfully ask that you grant said licence.

Yours faithfully.

Christine Davies _____ Club Administrator.

Brian Scrine _____ Chairman.

14th December 2010

Enclosures : Documents as in letter above.
Letters from My Aldham.

This document set has been prepared by:
Colin G Poplett.
Vice President.



TROWBRIDGE CRICKET CLUB

Schedule of Evidence.

1. Photograph of Pavilion showing, proximity of houses in Lower Court, Crown public house, Chinese takeaway, and fish and chip shop. Palmer Gardens and stand of mature tree in same and between complainant's house and the cricket club.
2. **Copy of letter sent to residents.**
3. **Copy of replies to (2) above.**
4. Evidence Sheet 1. Summation of Residents evidence June 2010
5. Evidence Sheet 2NA Persons responding to letter, location and distance from centre stage Trowbridge cricket club- distances measured from centre of nearest elevation to centre stage cricket club.
6. **Copy of Ordnance Survey Map Licence 100007092- Scale 1:1250 of site showing all properties and numbered locations. (Note complainants home is twice the distance he claims in his statement).**
7. **Copies of Decibel Level Comparison Chart and its meanings.**
8. Copy of Decibel meter readings taken from 26th August 2010 from agreed locations
9. Copy of misleading Letter's sent out by Mr Aldham.

Please NOTE those in BLUE above are single documents.

Colin G. Poplett
Trowbridge Cricket Club
14th December 2010

Trowbridge Cricket Club
 The County Ground
 Lower Court . Trowbridge. Wiltshire.

Evidence Sheet 1



Trowbridge Cricket Club Survey of Residents.

June 2010.

The full questions for the above are:

1. On four occasions over the last ten weeks lives 'Bands' have performed at the Trowbridge Cricket Club, Lower Court. The last being Saturday 22nd May 2010 Has this last event OR any of the previous one caused you distress/interfered with your normal enjoyment and standard of life. Or caused you any problems in relation to excessive noise in any way ??

YES or NO Please CIRCLE YES if it has. Please CIRCLE NO if you have not been effected.

2. *Do you feel the cricket club should be allowed to continues with this live music which occurs 2/3 times a month on a Saturday night for around 2 hours finishing at 11.30pm at the latest.*

Summation:

Lower Court	22 Houses Posted	11 Replied	10 Positive	1 Negative (Miss gale did not understand Question One)
Downhayes Road	6 Houses Posted	3 Replied	3 Positive	Nil Negative
Palmer Road	3 Houses Posted	1 Replied	1 Positive	Nil Negative
	Total Replies =	15	14 positive	Nil Negative

Trowbridge Cricket Club

June 2010.

Evidence Sheet 2NA

Lower Court	Name	Distance from the stage In meters	Does the live music produced effect them in any way?	Should the Club Continue with live music?
	Lena & Gary Wayman	62m	NO	YES
	Jess & Sam	71m	NO	YES
	Mrs Frankham	73m	NO	YES
	Mr & Mrs Poplett	62m	NO	YES
	Mr & Mrs McEleney	60m	NO	YES
	Mr & Mrs Vowles	41m	NO	YES
	Miss Gale	37m	YES **	YES
	Mr & Mrs Kin	38m	NO	YES
	Miss Brown	37m	NO	YES
	Mrs Cheryl Brook	35m	NO	YES
	Mr & Mrs Morgan	34m	NO	YES

Downhayes Road.

Mr & Mrs Drew	147m		NO	YES
Mr & Mrs Ryanston- Stear		107m	NO	YES
Mrs Julie Holstead	98M		NO	YES

Palmer Road.

Mr & Mrs Ransome	125m		NO	YES
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YES or NO Please CIRCLE YES if it has. Please CIRCLE NO if you have not been effected.

Question. Do you feel the cricket club should be allowed to continues with this live music which occurs 2/3 times a month on a Saturday night for around 2 hours finishing at 11.30pm at the latest.

Please answer YES or NO as above by circling your answer.

Fish and Chip shop	130m	from Downhayes Road	130m from Cricket Club
Chinese takeaway	145m	from Downhayes Road	135m from Cricket Club
Crown Public house	205m	from Downhayes Road	175m from Cricket Club