

Thornberry Cottages

25 The Gravel

Mere Brook

Tarleton

Preston

PR46JX

3.11.16

Sir/Madame.

To allow the proposed hour  
of extension of the Legh Arms.

The Gravel, Mere Brook from  
11.30 to 1.30 is unacceptable,

& being as you say, close  
neighbours to the same Legh Arm

The playing of live music, dance  
which would include drunkens  
noise, plus mess etc, & all the  
difficulties which will accompany  
the same,

To those of you who would  
endorse approval to the above, not one  
of you would like it in their own back yard  
P.P.S.

So I say emphatically No!

Pear Tree Farm  
33 The Gravel  
Mere Brow  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR4 6JX

18<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Dear Sir/s

Re: Variation of Premises Licence. The Legh Arms. Mere Brow.  
Premises Licence Number LN/000000672

I wish to register my objections to the above application. Like several others, my property is within close proximity to the above premises.

The Legh Arms is a 19<sup>th</sup> century building with relatively small public rooms and with no provision for containing amplified music. I understand that under The Live Music Act 2012, amplified music can only be played until 11pm.

Unfortunately, the new licensee has chosen to implement this and much of the sound is clearly audible at the boundary and on occasions, inside of some rooms in my home, so I would reasonably expect that it is so for my neighbours too. The applicant states that all doors and windows will be closed during the playing of live music. As the front doors of the premises are permanently open, it would be extremely difficult for adequate noise containment to occur. Closing of all doors and windows in the summer months would presumably necessitate the provision of an air conditioning unit.

Will that unit be sited at a point where the constant operational noise does not disturb neighbours?

The variation also requests dance be permitted to take place until 01.00am but also states that there will be no amplified music beyond 23.30. It can be reasonably assumed therefore that the music will stop but the dance goes on!!!! Is the applicant considering acoustic screening to prevent sound leakage?

The applicant seeks to extend the hours for the supply of alcohol both "inside and outside" of the premises until 01.00 on Friday and Saturday

nights. As the premises do not currently have a safe enclosed area for outside drinking other than immediately alongside a neighbouring garden, may we know just where this activity will be sited? This would surely constitute neighbour nuisance if permitted. In the application form the applicant fails to state where the provision of late night refreshments between the hours of 11pm and 1am will take place. This presumably needs clarification.

The applicant is seeking an extension to opening hours to allow increased service to customers. As close neighbours of the premises, does the applicant consider a 1-30 a.m finish, with the ensuing stragglers bidding the whole world "goodnight", slamming car doors etc, to be neighbour friendly? This practise may be acceptable in a town or city centre where there are few neighbours to disturb, but Mere Brow is neither of these. A very small village where the residents have lived with our "Community Friendly" public house for over a century.

The applicant's reference to The Legh Arms as a community pub is presently fairly accurate but I question the applicants interpretation of "Community" How far is the intended customer draw. Is it to encourage those drinkers whose regular pub closes at a "reasonable hour" to spend the early hours drinking and dancing then "QUIETLY" departing within earshot of nearby residences?

If the hours and live music variation is granted, may we ask who, as in similar town and city situations, will police the protection of neighbour amenity by supervising those late nighters as they leave the premises and to ensure that the request for an 11.30pm cut off for live music is observed?

As a footnote may I add that submitting this objection gives me absolutely no pleasure as for my 27 years as resident here I have considered the Legh Arms as a good neighbour. This application rides roughshod over any neighbour nuisance consideration and its impact on the quality of life currently enjoyed in this village.


Mike Evans

## Jordan, Samantha

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**From:** Berwick, Thomas  
**Sent:** 03 December 2014 09:07  
**To:** Jordan, Samantha  
**Subject:** FW: Objections to extension of hours for Legh Arms, Mere Brow

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**From:** Justin & Ang [mailto:  
**Sent:** 02 December 2014 20:16  
**To:** Licensing Enquiries  
**Subject:** Objections to extension of hours for Legh Arms, Mere Brow

We have a number objections and concerns over the Legh Arms' proposed extension of its hours.

1. Noise nuisance. The pub is in a residential area with houses close by. Local residents have already been affected by music and noise which will only get worse if this application is permitted. We already have a problem during the late evening of drunk and noisy pedestrians using Tabby Nook as a short-cut from the Legh Arms to Leisure Lakes, disturbing our sleep. If the pub is going to be open until 12.30 or 1.30 am people leaving at this late hour will inevitably disturb local residents night after night even more than they are already being disturbed. I have spoken to a number of residents and they are constantly disturbed by people who smoke outside swearing and being very noisy. The music is also currently audible outside and disturbs local residents.

2. Littering and anti-social behaviour. There is already a problem on The Gravel and in Tabby Nook with broken glass and glass bottles and cans left on the pavement and in the road which local residents are being left to clear up. Also, local residents have to cope with drunk pub-goers urinating and throwing up in their gardens.

3. We have visited the Legh Arms and are not anti-pub and know of the connection with the Hop Vine. We are aware that the Hop Vine has a late-opening policy, but Burscough is a very different environment to Mere Brow as the vicinity of the pub there consists mainly of commercial premises whereas in Mere Brow the pub is in a wholly residential area consisting largely of older people. This extension of the licence will not benefit the local community, and will only have a detrimental impact on the village. It is a peaceful village and people are concerned that the pub will change this if it does not stick to reasonable opening hours. It currently has a lot of good will from local residents who use the pub and are glad to see the pub reopen in the village but that good will could go quickly if the pub puts profit before the welfare of the local community and blights the village.

Yours sincerely

Justin Cantor and Angela Page  
27 Tabby Nook, Mere Brow

Cottage

Horseshoe

78 The Gravel  
Mere Brow  
Lancashire  
PR4 6JX  
04/12/2014

Re License Variation Application for The Legh Arms, Mere Brow  
Premises Licence Number LN/000000672

With reference to the attached letter, regarding the above variation application, to include live music dancing and extended hours, I would like to make representation on the following grounds.

I feel that the proposed changes would have a detrimental affect on the life of the village for the following reasons, in line with licensing objectives.

It appears that the owners/management want to turn the premises into a nightclub bypassing the controlling legislation that goes with that.

#### 1. Crime and Disorder.

The current licensing arrangement already produce an unsavoury element to the village. The new management of the premises show no regard or respect to the local residents. With regular drunken behaviour around the premises both in trading hours and beyond. Behaviour including, shouting, arguing, fighting, obscene language, vomiting and urinating in public. The management currently show no responsibility for their clients behaviour outside of the premises.

I have been monitoring the situation and have already called the police twice in the last few months once with regard to theft and most recently, Monday 1/12/2014 at 18:30 I was verbally threatened when remonstrating with three drunks, one of whom was vomiting against my wall.

#### 2. Public Safety.

The proposal for increased hours will lead to an exodus onto the street at some time after 01:30 on a saturday and sunday morning. The village has no poilce presence, the village does not have any public transport after about 5pm so the only course for the exiting customers will be to drive, ~~use the illegal car park~~ or Taxi as the only reason for doing this application is I presume to increase customer numbers and or increase the ammount of time they can drink then this could result in many taxis vieing for custom. Any town with a Taxi rank will attest to the potential trouble that drinking and waiting for taxis can arouse, let alone a small previously quiet village. The position of the premises on a bend would add to the danger, cars leaving the car park, cars leaving the illegal car park at the rear, cars parked on the bend. This alone would necessitate a road safety survey by the highways dept.

#### 3. Public Nuisance.

Currently the situation on the evenings of Friday, Saturday and Sunday are intolerable with regards to public nuisance, Crowd Noise late into the night and early morning. Noise including raised voices, swearing, arguing. People taking drink into the street during opening hours and when requiring to leave the premises to smoke. The

front door seems to be the gathering point for this. Parking illegally at the rear and side of the premises, leading to unsocial behaviour by drinkers on the way to their cars, urinating against the wall with little regard for modesty, I have had to bring my young granddaughter in when this happened around 6oclock on at least two occassions.

#### 4. Child Protection.

The current management seem to have no regard for child protection. Already mentioned the urinating in public view early evening. But on 16/11/ 2014 I was awoken at 23:30 by a commotion in the street. A family of people (assumed) their were two young people (20-30) and older lady (60-70) and two minors (5-7) the grandmother (assumed) was holding the hands of the two children while the young couple were grappling in the street, the guy trying to get the woman onto his shoulders and her screaming she didnt want to, the guy managed to wrest the woman onto his shoulders and marched off down the centre of the road. Shouting with the woman still screaming. This is in direct disregard of the current Premises Licence requireing children to vacate the premises by 8pm.

The village of Mere Brow has always had a public house, but this application appears to be turning that into a nightclub, dancing, late night drinking, live music (amplified or not). Has any thought been given by the applicants to policing, traffic implications, safety of the general public and customers?

Their application offers the following voluntary conditions...

#### A notice asking people to leave quietly....

I would have thought that was absolutely necessary in any pub in a residential area. But even though the customer base is already very rowdy there is no notice to this effect in place. I would also question the effectiveness of 'a notice'

#### Keeping the doors and windows closed apart from access and egress...

I am not an expert on noise nuisance but I would imagine it is more of a nuisance when delivered piecemeal as people come and go or pop outside for a cigarette, my guess is that it would be open more often than closed. I am also not an expert on human behaviour but what about summertime or when particularly busy and the clients are sweltering inside will the windows not be opened. Or will adequate air conditioning be installed, with regard to the noise pollution that would create. They have already had two nights of music and the noise was horrendous, I will be monitoring the situation whether this application is successful or not. It appears that the owners/management want to turn the premises into a nightclub bypassing the controlling legislation that goes with that.

AN OFFER TO ABIDE BY THE RULES ....re training staff to challenge 21 policing under age drinking, isnt this something responsible owners of licenced premises should do as a matter of course.

NO AMPLIFIED MUSIC AFTER 23:30.....

Amplified or not music can be very loud, I have heard brass bands from miles away, so this offer from the application is irrelevant. The proximity to housing would make the important thing the level of noise pollution not what was generating the noise, the louder the music the louder the customers to counter it when chatting so amplification of the music is not the issue. Measures to prevent that total noise from being a nuisance, is the important factor.

Changes to existing licence...

Dance.. is there a dance floor? Or area that could be used as one.. It does not appear there is when I was last in the pub..

Music recorded or live every night? Is this necessary in the application. I understand they may never wish to exercise that clause but once granted they could do this every evening if they wished.

Items G and H in their application have no further detail of what they are requesting. Particularly the anything of a similar description section, almost requesting carte blanche anything they deem is similar. Would ask they are specific on these items.

J. they are specifically asking for on premises and off premises drinking late into the night, why do they require off premises drinking?

L. The extension to the hours and the already listed current nuisance level

M. Their claim that the nature of the changes and increasing customer services and introducing conditions to address concerns about public nuisance have no substance. Nothing is suggested. No mention about current levels of nuisance. The pub retaining its character and having a strong food offering has no relevance as that would continue without this application being approved but can only be speculated as to continuing if this is approved. Can they guarantee that the local element will be maintained. The offer to train their staff to become challenge 21 educated suggests the clientèle they are proposing to attract is not the family out for a meal and a quiet drink. Will the village suffer from this change in emphasis of the business.. I believe it would.

Then they claim that any increase in the current conditions would be disproportionate given the nature of the premises and business. This application is disproportionate to the level of disruption one small village could expect from a business that has co existed within the village since 1859.

This proposal will not benefit the village in any way, the only changes to village life will be negative and break all of the 4 licensing objectives in one way or another. The level of awareness and respect the management currently show does not give rise to confidence that they will be any better neighbours with this in place.

The need for late drinking and dancing is more than satisfied by local urbanisation i.e. Southport, Ormskirk etc. and would be more suitable in towns like Burscough where traffic management and policing arrangements are better managed/managable

EXTRACT FROM CURRENT LICENCING POLICY DOCUMENT



4.8 Accordingly, the Authority is seeking to provide an attractive Borough. By engaging and consulting with the community, the Authority is seeking to:

- ⌚ Improve the quality of life for all in the Borough;
- ⌚ Reduce the levels of crime and disorder in the Borough;
- ⌚ Promote a strong and sustainable economy;
- ⌚ Aim to reduce levels of poverty and social exclusion in the Borough by developing a more inclusive community;
- ⌚ Help to improve the health and well being of the Borough's residents.

Clearly the situation is currently not meeting at least three of the points.

With respect to the current licence..

I believe the current situation would be improved if the following conditions/actions were applied..

- Adherence to current licence conditions
- Yellow Lines on bend, both sides
- CCTV installed, covering the premises and up to 50 yards of road in either direction
- Traffic survey from a point of view to existing increase in late night traffic and potential danger to road users.
- Noise contained within building, noise from customers and music
- No streetside drinking, i.e. at the front door
- Adequate and enforced smoking area again not the front door
- No parking at side or rear of premises, dangerous bend and anti social behaviour issues
- Adequate policing during busy hours/late finishes

Respect for neighbours

From a personal point of view I work weekends and the disruption to sleep and the nuisance that currently happens is causing me severe distress and affecting my health. The thought that this will or could get worse is even more stressful. My house is the closest to the premises being separated only by a drive. approx 10m from pub

John Bennett  
Local Resident

THE LEGH ARMS. The Gravel. Mere Brow

Dear Resident.

DWF LLP Solicitors, acting for Meridian Developments S.P. Ltd. have lodged an application with WLBC to extend the hours for the playing of live music and dance until 11.30pm and to extend the hours of opening until 1.30am at the above premises. As close neighbours of the premises you are entitled to make representation on this application. To express your opinion please write to the address below quoting the premises licence number before the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

Re: Licence Variation Application for The Legh Arms. Mere Brow. Premises Licence Number LN/000000672

To: WLDC Licensing Service.  
Robert Hodge Centre  
Stanley Way  
Skelmersdale  
West Lancashire.  
WN8 6EE