

Introduction:

My name is Nigel Marsh and I am DPS (and Landlord) for Georges, I have applied for an extension of opening hours to enable Georges to compete with my fellow publicans as well as ensure a limitation of customers dashing from one venue to a the next with varying closing times .

The present closing times for other venues are :

- Griffin stays open to 1.30 am
- Red Lion open until 1.30 am
- The Ship opens until 1.30 am
- Weatherspoons until 1.30 am
- Cassanos open until 3.30 am

Georges closing time is 12.00 am !!!!

I am pleased to say Georges is a great commercial success story , which results in high number's of customers enjoying Georges atmosphere , Georges brings outsiders into the town and employs local staff and paying local taxes .

Background :

The present licence gives consent to play live music indoors between 11pm and 12am, we have no licence at present to offer live , amplified or background Music beyond the Midnight deadline.

I should like to explain the concept of a live entertainment evening.

The client comes into the venue stressed, wanting to relax forget their troubles and have fun . The artists Job is to de stress the customers and then build the tempo of their music over a 3 hours period to a high point at midnight. That high point should leave the customers asking for an “encore”. The artist performs “encore” in an effort to help to calm the crowd and bring an end to the evening .

The present condition means that at Midnight the Artist must stop and regardless of demand’s from the crowd to continue. To leave the crowd in this state breeds frustration and negative atmosphere.

As DPS I then have 30 minutes to remove customers from the venue, the result is to release 80 plus highly charged customers onto the street all at the same time.

It is irresponsible of me to allow 80 plus highly charged party goers onto the street at midnight; my application is to allow “Georges” to calm down the customers, by lowering the tempo of the music played over a continuation of closing down time .

Many customers who are forced at present to exit at 00.30 am go on to queue at the takeaways over the road to Georges and as they queue they sing, argue, and talk, their adrenalin is still high and are still talking at the tempo and volume they used inside Georges.

This potentially create a difficulty in managing anti social behaview and excessive noise created by a crowd .

My Proposal is to rectify this:

21.00-0000 :

The Live Artists play until midnight, allow for "encore" just after midnight;

00.30-01.00

"Georges" plays it own in house PA system directly after the band bringing the Tempo of the music down over the following 1 hour;

01.00-01.30

The tempo is lowered to back ground music (not amplified) playing tracks signifying an end to the evening.

The result of my proposal is:

A: Customers leave at lower state of excitement then they do under my present licence and therefore not as noisy;

B: Because of the more relaxed state of mind when they leave there is less likelihood of trouble;

C: Less people on the street all at once there for no difficulty for Police or Griffin to control;

D: Customers leave in small groups therefore less conflicts and trouble.

Issues to discuss :

There has been a lot of news coverage on this application and therefore I should like to focus on what we are discussing as some comments may confuse the issues.

My present licence gives licence to play live music 11pm to midnight; my application is for extension until early hours of morning to match my competitors. Any noise we create before 11pm is not relevant to this application and would only be relevant in the case of a licence review which has not been called .

The objections:

The objections need to object based on the 4 initiatives of the Licensing Act 2003.

1: The Prevention of Crime and Disorder:

The present licence leads to high management of controlling over 80 people leaving Georges a within a 30 minute period , potentially creates a risk of Crime and Disorder, my new proposals limit this risk and enhance my responsibilities of “Prevention of Crime and Disorder”

2: Public Safety:

The present licence leads to high management of controlling over 100 people leaving Georges a within 30 minute period , potentially creates a risk of to Public Safety, my new proposals limit this risk and enhances my responsibilities of “Public Safty”

3: The Protection of Children from Harm:

As a Family Friendly Bar / Restaurant, Georges has set two family friendly areas away from the direct bar and away from direct volume from the music, we encourage families to attend, as responsible behaviour is learned from our elders in the community.

We implement challenge 25, to ensure any customer looking under 25 are asked to prove their age, **“Exhibit 1”** shows proof that we undertake our responsibilities seriously.

4: Prevention of Public Nuisance:

I do not accept the application would cause a Public Nuisance; the very reason for the application is to ensure the limitation of Public Nuisance as my present licence forces us to release a mass of highly charged individuals onto the high street within a 30 min Period.

Objections:

Mr & Mrs Wilcox (Bevills Place)

Key complaint:

- Music Noise escaping from Venue, Georges proposals are to limit this alleged disturbance
- Door Propped open, Georges proposals are to limit this alleged problem

Other issues raised by this complaint are with regards to outside events between 8am and 11pm and therefore are not relevant with regards to this application however concerns and comments are still being accepted as constructive criticism for areas of improvement.

Christian Steward: (21 Bevills Place)

Does not give many details but it is believed the proposal will ensure “**Prevention of Public Nuisance**” and remove the problems the objector reports.

Kelly Haslet: (Bevills Place)

I believe the proposal will ensure “**Prevention of Public Nuisance**” and remove the problems the objector reports.

Michelle Noble: (44 Bevills Place)

I believed the proposal will ensure “**Prevention of Public Nuisance**” and remove the problems the objector reports.

Mrs Humphries (48 Bevills Place)

I believe the proposal will ensure “**Prevention of Public Nuisance**” Mrs Humphries has confirmed she approves of our proposed amendments to prevent a public Nuisance.

March Pub Watch:

Georges confirms live music will not take place in front Beer garden outside the hours of 8am and 11pm it is therefore safely assumed March Pub watch has no reason to object under the terms of **Public Nuisance** we further confirm we have never played music outside the premises after 11pm and before 8am

Rob Scudamore: (40 Bevills Place)

I believed the proposal will ensure "**Prevention of Public Nuisance**" and remove the problems the objector reports.

Toni Fox (38 Bevills Place)

Key complaint

- Reports a constant "DIN" not clearly audible words which is the definition required.
- Some of the complaint is not relevant, music being played between 8am-11pm which is outside the relevance of this application.
(17th August - Rock Jam)

The objected is not specific but it is believed the proposal will ensure "**Prevention of Public Nuisance**" and remove the problems the objector reports.

Support:

A responsible Landlord has to act and request changes based on the occupancy of its venue, this is the basis of the request for amendment to the licence with the key aim of:

1: Retaining customers inside the venue longer;

2: Winding down the atmosphere within the venue, ensuring customers leave

- Less excited;
- In smaller groups;
- Less people on street queuing at takeaways or waiting for taxis;
- Reduce pressure on other venues with large numbers of Georges Customers requesting entry at other venues.

The Police approve of our proposals and have surrendered a statement for my use: **“Exhibit 6 “** The police see it as Positive to retain customers in the venue longer and limit crowds of excited members of the public on the High Street as this would course a potential risk to:

- **The prevention of Crime and disorder:**
- **Public Safety:**
- **Public Nuisance**

Conditions :

Environmental Health does not object in principle to the extension of licence but ask for conditions on control of noise.

Environmental Health continue to relay information on their general finding with regard to complaints they have received, some of the items referred to are outside the issues of the request for extension for example:

- Live music played in the front beer Garden; I confirm I am not applying to play music in the Beer Garden in the proposed application.
- Environmental Health identify the World Health Organisation for guidance, there are many other organisations that state other statics of acceptability, Its worth understanding that the recordings that are referred to show the following issues:
 - Sharon Sheppard, a Banned Customer of Georges singing and shouting outside Georges, Sharon has learning difficulties and is a problem for the whole community of the town she has never been allowed into Georges .her voice is clearly heard signing in the street .
 - Lorries and cars going passed the residents property record at 75db some 5 to 10 db higher than other background sound alleging to come from Georges.
 - The following information has been requested but not supplied:
 - Information on whether the recording device was located within the residence property (ie on the window sill, facing the window or in the middle of the room facing the ceiling);
 - I have not been forwarded documentation of the calibration of the recording device;
 - The recordings were not undertaken independently.

The Environmental Health Team lead the complaints by almost advising them what to complain about, “**Exhibit 2**” shows and explains what complaints should state, this is wholly inappropriate as complainants should use their own words and not be lead by the Environmental Team .

The Environmental Heath Team claim shouting singing in the front beer garden, although “Georges” doesn’t acknowledge this claim, this request for licence amendment is to reduce the risk of such potential perceived nuisance.

The Environmental Heath team suggest the front beer garden be reconsidered to restrict live music between 8am and 11pm this is outside the scope of this application and should follow a different protocol based on a licensing review which this Hearing is not.

Environmental Health Recommendation:

- 1: Georges agrees to assess impact of noise activities see “**Exhibit 3**” Careful attention should be given to the collective noise of an evening as well as noise from other venues in the town centre. This is not suggested to mitigate Georges responsibility simply allows you to understand the area as a whole that forms the night life within March.
- 2: Georges has implemented a hot line which has been provided to residents and is available to contact the DPS at any time
- 3: Georges agrees that after 12 am noise emanating from Georges will not be clearly audible at the boundary of any residence, it is confirmed noise volume will be decreasing at 12 am
- 4: Georges agrees that except for access and egress all front elevation doors should remain closed after 11pm.
- 5: “Environmental Health” suggest the fount door not be used after 11pm, the internal PA system has now been amended so sound is directed toward triple glazed area instead of front door. This application is not a review and therefore our present licence allows us to use front door for access up until midnight, to tell customers to access the venue through the side door would send the inappropriate message out to customers I agree the front door should not be used to exit and signage is now being implemented.
- 6: The new triple glazing of the windows should remove the need for additional blinds; to pull blinds down at 11pm as requested would send the inappropriate message out, enticing the wrong type of clientele into March.
- 7: Polite notices have now been installed, “**Exhibit 4**”

8: The suggested are totally inappropriate whether the front beer garden is part of the premises licence or not, would not limit the drinking of alcohol within this space, "**Exhibit 5**" shows the map of proposed non smoking areas and times proposed to move clients from one area to a different area.

9: My proposal is to stop people gathering at the front of the building and is to move them to the back of the building this I think is the basis of Environmental health comment.

Supporters of the Application:

In ongoing dialog with residents from **Bevills Place** 11 residents have shown their approval to the suggested amendment to limit incidents around Georges Bar & Restaurant **“Exhibit 7”**

Letters of support have also been submitted ref the application being granted

Mo Stewart **“Exhibit 8”**

Kevin Dunham **“Exhibit 9”**

Mr Aryes **“ Exhibit 10”**

Conclusion:

This application is to enhance a prosperous business , management of high volumes of customers as well as uphold the 4 initiatives of the Licensing Act 2003 I ask you to approve the application .

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Exhibit 1 = Police Report "Challenge 25" Positive challenge from Police

Exhibit 2 = Log sheet supplied by Environments Health team to residents of Bevils place , leading the objectors what to write .

Exhibit 3 = Nigel Marsh incident report of an average Friday and Saturday night

Exhibit 4 = Shows the new polite notices being exhibited

Exhibit 5 = Shows the map of proposed amendments supplied to neighbours for their approval .

Exhibit 6 = Statement from the police with reference to their non objection to the requested amendments .

Exhibit 7= Residents of Bevills place showing their support to the amendments .

Exhibit 8 = Letter of support Mo Steward

Exhibit 9 = Letter of support Kevin Dunham

Exhibit 10 = Letter of support Mr Ayes