

31 Church Drive  
Quedgeley  
Gloucester  
GL2 4UW

05.10.10

Gloucester City Council  
Environmental Health  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Herbert Warehouse  
The Docks  
Gloucester  
GL1 2EQ

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: application 1002054GLCPV for Quedgeley Social Club in Quedgeley Community Centre

We wish to strongly object to the above application allowing the licence and premises opening hours extension, as well as the licence to cover the courtyard area.

We feel there are enough public houses, all within walking distance of the Quedgeley Social Club, that are already able to cater for the Quedgeley residents needs. If an extension was allowed it would encourage customers away from places such as The Haywain, Harvester, or Orchard, which are located on main roads, to a club which is in a dead end road within a residential area. We believe this would cause residents to experience an increase in anti-social behaviour and public nuisance especially during unsocial hours.

The community centre is located in the centre of a residential area so it is not acceptable for us to be subjected to this extended period of noise disturbance. We share a boundary and our house is less than 50 metres away so we already suffer a high level of noise disturbance where the club has their fire doors into the courtyard open every day, usually from opening time until 9.30 pm. This noise increases as members exit via the fire doors so that they can smoke in the courtyard. There is no incentive for them to return inside quickly to their alcoholic beverage as they have even taken it outside with them. This was especially evident during the football and rugby World Cup in June and July of this year, and increased even more on the days that there were barbeques in the courtyard. Recently the addition of new specially provided benched tables in the courtyard has led to an increase of noise due to members now being able to comfortably sit outside with alcoholic drinks for longer periods. The restriction of closing these fire doors and windows, along with all members going inside at 9.30 pm, was brought in to appease the neighbours because we had complained on a substantial number of occasions. The issue of noise disturbance had been dealt with in previous years by PC Dominic Everiss, who arranged for previous benched tables to be removed from the courtyard, and the Magistrates Court, who we were led to believe had even imposed certain restrictions upon the licence for a period of time.




Due to the building lay out the courtyard area, which is what they wish to use, is surrounded on 3 sides so that any noise generated is amplified similar to an amphitheatre effect and pushed into the surrounding car park area and bordering properties. A screen outside the fire doors, which the club is actually calling entry doors on their application form, will only result in the noise being pushed upwards and then outwards into the surrounding neighbouring area. The noise generated from the club, courtyard and car park already has a detrimental effect especially when families are trying to enjoy their own property or even sleep. Notices requesting people to leave the premises at night so as not to disturb nearby residents are frequently ignored, and have previously been neglected so that they are actually illegible. The current usage already inflicts noise upon us from the activities such as singing, laughing, cheering, shouting, and arguments that are generated in the club and outside courtyard area whose design amplifies all noise. We do not want to be unable to sit in our own garden in the weekday evenings or afternoons/evenings at the weekend, especially during the summer months and should not be forced to retire indoors with our double glazed windows and doors shut to reduce the disturbance. The noise generated can actually travel into our house and reverberate in our rooms. This has happened in the past and resulted in us having to complain to the club and the Parish Council on countless occasions. Gloucester City Council Environmental Health were made aware of the problem as well as Quedgeley Police Station. A petition, signed by over 25 nearby residents, about the disturbances from the centre and car park area was even sent to Quedgeley Parish Council but we are still suffering almost a decade later.

The noise disturbance is especially unacceptable as it already continues after 11.30 pm as people are staying in the courtyard or car park and not exiting the premises. An extension to the licensing hours and allowing of the premises to be open for up to an hour after the terminal hour would mean that we face the prospect of this noise disturbance and further sleep deprivation until almost 1am every day of the week and even longer over the Christmas and New Year period. This may be acceptable in the town centre where there is a regular police presence to enforce any problems that arise from disturbances, but we Quedgeley residents do not have this luxury. If we are disturbed our only course of action on the night is to report it to the police and/or environmental health, but to still suffer the disturbance as we do not have any other form of recourse. We **do not** want to return to complaining every week about the anti social-behaviour of the social club members and visitors.

We have enclosed photographs which show the courtyard layout and benched tables, along with the proximity of our house to the Social Club. **We strongly believe this application would further infringe our right to peaceful enjoyment of our property under the Human Rights Act 1998 and respectfully request that it is refused.**

Yours faithfully

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right. They appear to be the names of the signatories, Andrew and Elaine Hunt.

Andrew and Elaine Hunt



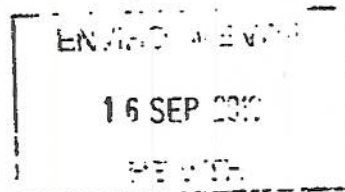








32 Church Drive  
Quedgeley  
Gloucester GL2 5UW



14<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

The Licensing Team  
Gloucester City Council  
Herbert Warehouse  
The Docks  
Gloucester GL1

Dear Sirs

**Re: Application to increase licensing hours  
At the Social Club, Quedgeley Community Centre  
School Lane, Quedgeley.**

Further to my previous letter I have now obtained further details of the above application and would like to object to the Club using the outside area (actually part of the entrance courtyard to the Community Centre) as an outside drinking/smoking area. The club members for the last 2 weekends have already used this area to drink in. During the weekend 11/12 September, during the afternoons, members could be seen drinking, eating and smoking in the outside area, (using the benches/seat already installed), although they do not have the required licence to do so.

As explained in my previous letter, the entrance courtyard amplified the sound – if sound insulating barriers were erected this would not prevent the sounds penetrating our house – its approx 50 metres from this area, and sounds in the courtyard can clearly be heard in the upstairs rooms. The area will not have any sound reducing measures on the open roof to the courtyard area.

Several years ago the club used to use the courtyard area for outside drinking purposes, and the noise was awful and it was only the intervention of the community police officer which made this activity cease. The club members also agreed to close the outside door to the courtyard at 9.00pm, but this is not a formal arrangement, just a courtesy. However, should the licensing hours increase and permission given to use this area again there is no formal binding obligation on the members to close any doors, nor any incentive to do so.

Although the members may be told to reduce noise because of the close proximity of the neighbours, this is not enforced. We have on many occasions telephone the club to ask them to reduce the noise, or close the doors. To date they have complied but it is a constant hassle to keep doing this.

We have the right to enjoy our own property, however, the close proximity of the social club means that this is not always possible.

Yours sincerely

  
Mr & Mrs R Flower