

Haslingden  
Rossendale  
Lancashire

Rossendale Borough Council  
Licensing & Enforcement Unit  
Town Centre Offices  
Rawtenstall  
Rossendale  
Lancashire  
BB4 7LZ

12<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Dear Sir/Madam



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE**

**The Green Squirrel, 148 Manchester Road, Haslingden, Rossendale, BB4 6NP**

Whilst visiting Rossendale Borough Council's 'One Stop Shop' yesterday I happened to read the displayed notice relating to the above application. As a resident in a nearby block of flats, I was intrigued to find out more about this matter and so have now read the details of the application via the Council's website.

It appears that a few local residents have complained to the Council about the level of noise emanating from the pub (and other matters) and that officers have subsequently visited the complainants and witnessed the supposed nuisance, with the consequence that The Green Squirrel's owners now face the risk of their licence either being restricted or indeed revoked.

I write to ask the Council's Licensing and Enforcement Unit to do nothing other than continue to liaise with the complainants and the owners of the public house and advise them how best to ameliorate the perceived problem.

Having lived at my current address for more than five years, I can honestly say that I have never been disturbed by either the volume of music coming from the pub or the activities of those customers who leave the premises to stand by the gable end to smoke cigarettes, the conversations between customers who have left the premises and are making their way home, or by taxis dropping off or collecting passengers at the premises. However, I can say that The Green Squirrel appears to be a welcome leisure facility in what is, in the main, a town in rapid decline.

It is not that I am hard of hearing that I have not been disturbed. In fact, when I first came to live at my current address I was initially concerned that I would be unable to sleep because of the sound of industrial processes coming from the Metso premises – at that time there was a regular night shift, a fact of which I was unaware when viewing the flat before moving in – but I became accustomed to the constant droning and was able to sleep despite the constant

background noise. Even if I had been disturbed, I would not have expected the Council to order the cessation of night working; I believe that, in general, 'live and let live' is an apposite ethos.

I am regularly disturbed by noise from the filling station - and the sudden 'hissing' when - for reasons best known to themselves - (but I suspect because they want extremely high pressures in their cars' rear tyres in order to more easily practice and execute 'handbrake turns' during the hours of darkness) drivers - invariably young men - inflate their tyres in the middle of the night, causing me to awake with a start. Similarly, when bulk tanker fuel deliveries are made to the filling station during the night, the sudden noise of heavy manhole covers being dragged across the concrete forecourt and dropped, before the tankers' engine driven pumps begin disgorging thousands of litres of fuel and the covers are eventually dragged back across the concrete and replaced in their metal frames, makes for a less than peaceful night's sleep. Again, live and let live; the filling station provides a welcome service to drivers throughout the night.

Notwithstanding, I have personally complained to the Council's Environmental Health Department about the disturbance I have suffered as a consequence of loud music being played by a neighbour where I live which, because the neighbour always has his windows open, would have been audible to many local residents, including those living adjacent to The Green Squirrel; thankfully, because of action taken by the Council's Officers, that nuisance has now abated. In that instance my neighbour was not providing a service to anyone but himself!

However, neither The Green Squirrel nor its customers have ever caused me to lose any sleep. I have never visited the premises, (I only drink alcohol with meals so do not frequent public houses) but I regularly see customers entering and leaving and it appears that the pub is serving the local community well and attracting many more customers than did the pub in its previous incarnation as 'The Little Crown'. Surely this is to be applauded and encouraged rather than curtailed.

I have read recently in the 'Rossendale Free Press' that several licensed premises in Rawtenstall have licences that permit opening until 5.00 am on several mornings each week; if The Green Squirrel was not allowed to continue in its current guise, would not that only serve to drive its customers to those Rawtenstall venues, with the consequent loss of trade to not only the pub itself but also the taxi firms which transport The Green Squirrel's customers to and from the premises and to the late night fast food outlets in Haslingden which, presumably, benefit from the trade from home-going pub customers.

In addition, having previously lived on and, for a time, also having worked as a in that town, I can only presume that the residents of Rawtenstall are more tolerant of nocturnal activities than Haslingden residents; the noise and frequent violence caused by the drinkers leaving Rawtenstall's licensed premises during the small hours does indeed constitute a nuisance. An influx of displaced Green Squirrel customers could only add to Rawtenstall's night-time disturbances (admittedly also improving the financial fortunes of that town's businesses at the cost of Haslingden's loss.)

I also lived for five years in a Waterfoot. The .. I regularly witnessed large scale and extremely noisy fights in the road outside that public house, and the 'screaming' from those waiting for taxis after the 'Club Royale' [sic] beneath the Hotel closed for the night undoubtedly would have disturbed residents for hundreds of yards around. As with Rawtenstall, that nuisance was accepted by Waterfoot residents as 'a necessary evil', the price for living there and the town having thriving businesses.

Therefore, I urge the Council's Officers and elected Councillors to consider whether complaints from a few residents, who I imagine have 'conspired' to make their complaints, are of such significance that it is necessary to place restrictions upon one of the few amenities in Haslingden that, in the face of recession, appears to be thriving by providing a service to local residents that otherwise would be lacking, and, by doing so, not only reduce revenue to Haslingden businesses but also add to the already significant advantages that Rawtenstall and other local towns enjoy, by compelling those Haslingden residents who wish to hear music and drink with their friends in the evening to leave the town in search of such.

There is no evidence that the majority of The Green Squirrel's neighbours suffer any nuisance as a consequence of the current licence and I (on behalf of that silent majority) oppose any change to it.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Sutcliffe