

Councillor Andy Bellamy

Chesterfield Borough Council

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself, I have lived and worked in Brimington for over 35 years, my family have grown up in the area, and attended schools in Brimington, we feel very much a part of the community, and have been very happy to live in the area, until recently that is, where we feel our lives have been transformed in to a living nightmare.

We have live across from the Ark Tavern for the past 16 years, and until the last year, there have not really been any issues, having lived so long in the centre of Brimington, we understand that there can be some rowdiness on occasions, people come to the local pubs to enjoy themselves, relax and meet friends, we get that, and we ourselves have many friends in the area and enjoy the socialising in the local bars and restaurants, it is a very important part of the community, we understand that and want it to carry on.

That said, the Ark Tavern has undergone some changes in how it operates over this last year, and what it offers to its customers, with the introduction of live bands and jamming sessions, initially this was not a problem, as myself and my wife like to listen to music in its many forms, but this is now having a serious negative impact on our lives, the music sessions seem to happen 4 days a week more on bank holidays. The difficulty for us is that these sessions have gone on long after midnight, which I would consider to be unreasonable in the week, as I and my wife are up for work at 6am on a daily basis.

The music is so loud now, with the vibrations as well as sound being heard and felt by most of the residents on our close and surrounding area, but during the summer time it gets much, much worse, in fact it is unbearable at times, as the Taverns windows and doors are left open allowing the sound to travel further, the noise is bad enough when they are closed. Also on Bank holidays and weekends there can be numerous bands, playing, which can be playing throughout the day, well into the night, on many occasions midnight or later. I live so close to the Tavern, this stops me enjoying my hobbies of gardening, or even spending time outside with family and friends, as the music can be overpowering. We cannot even take refuge in our house as the music can still be heard inside, and at night time, two of our bedrooms face the Ark Tavern and bear the brunt of this onslaught.

As if the endless music sessions are not enough, we have to tolerate people from the pub leaving their cars outside our and other resident's houses, parking is very limited for the people who already live there, so this just adds insult to injury. The haphazard parking is also a serious concern to all the residents, as it poses a potential danger, should the unthinkable happen and the emergency services need access to any of the properties, this would be almost impossible to do on one of the jam and music session nights or Bank holiday weekends.

Therefore the proposed extending of the music licence to midnight, fills us with dismay and despair, currently the music licence is to 11pm, which often carries on after this time, then they have to breakdown the equipment and remove to various vehicles, this can take some time to do, which increases the external noise, and adds to the inconvenience to the nearby community, so if this was to happen until midnight, the noise would carry on well into the early hours of the morning, which I would consider to be beyond unreasonable. The Ark Tavern was never designed as Live Music Venue, no Sound proofing, no Air Conditioning, inadequate parking, in Conservation Area with residential housing all way round it.

I would welcome at your earliest convenience, the opportunity to speak to you further on this, any advice you could give, would be greatly appreciated, as we would dearly love to resolve this contentious issue.

Yours gratefully