
From: Bill Westhead [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 April 2014 22:38
To: Licensing la2003; (Cllr) Jim Elmes
Cc: Licensing; Mark Marshall
Subject: Objection to Boars Head Preston Old Road - Application to vary license conditions

Dear Blackpool Licensing,

The premises, Boars Head Preston Old Road has made an application to vary license conditions, specifically to extend opening hours. Whilst it is accepted that the 'new' management and license owners have made an extensive effort to modernise and improve the property, fundamental breaches of the four licensing objectives have not been addressed.

Specific license conditions prohibit the use of the outside beer garden after 23:00 to avoid causing a public nuisance to the surrounding properties. This condition is not enforced by the DPS. Customers continue to use the beer garden after 23:00 and even after the premises has closed. Customers on the beer garden after 23:00 continue to consume alcohol purchased both on and off the premises. This frequently leads to outbreaks of violence and abusive behaviour. Customers also continue to use the side entrance, into the beer garden to enter and exit the premises.

Customers frequently take drinks (glasses and bottles) outside of the premises curtilage, to other properties and vehicles. They continue to consume alcohol purchased within the premises in the surrounding environs.

Notwithstanding the refurbishment and relaunching of the business, the clientèle and breaches have continued. On Saturday 26th April 2014 at 23:40, two male patrons who had purchased drinks from the premises and had friends within the premises commenced singing football chants for over half-an-hour while sat on a garden wall opposite the premises. This activity was ended by the smashing of their empty bottles in the street. Shortly afterwards two females came out of the premises and began to leave with the males. This resulted in abuse from the males and violent actions toward the females.

The premises has become known as drug tolerant which has resulted in open and blatant consumption of white powders, tablets and pastes from small ziplock bags. The new management have not restricted service to any of these customers. The most shocking result of this and the new marketing policy is that children and families (who seem tolerant of drug users) have been encouraged to frequent the property without apparent concern that children are exposed to harmful adult actions, specifically drug taking.

The applied for extension to operating hours, without direct enforcement of the current licensing conditions and preventative measures for the above customer issues will result in an increase of public nuisance and disruptive behaviour, specifically shouting and violence in the beer garden after 23:00 and in the surrounding areas after hours.

Children are at risk from the behaviour of adult patrons, specifically violence, abuse and exposure to drugs. This includes not only children of patrons, but also residents and those visiting the children's dance school opposite the premises,

Public safety is endangered by the increasing number of vehicles which are often left double-parked overnight, although it has been observed that some patrons have driven their vehicles whilst intoxicated.

Criminal behaviour, specifically drug taking, supply and distribution continues without any

recrimination or consequences. Indeed it was reported by a previous DPS of the premises that the CCTV system was inoperable or even failed to cover certain locations; a fact exploited by patrons for drug use.

If the licensing committee is minded to grant the application of the premises despite resident and other objections, then it is strongly requested that specific preventative and enforced conditions be applied in order to potentially mitigate the increased disruption that is likely to occur;

- that the current condition to cease use of the beer garden at 23:00 be enforced and patrons prevented from entering or exiting the premises from the side doors.
- that drug prevention policies be enforced. one such measure could include the installation of a UV light by the bar area which would quickly highlight any customer that may have consumed powder nasally; residual powder on people's faces would be illuminated
- that children be excluded from the premises at all times for their own protection and that an approved ID checking system (ID Scan or similar) be installed to ensure a think 25 policy is enforced
- that the premises be required to employ doorstaff from a suitably approved SIA registered contractor, so that all licensing conditions are clearly and publicly enforced

Whilst it goes beyond the remit of the licensing committee it is also requested that Lancashire Constabulary pursue a pro-active drug prevention policy with the premises and that drug distribution and sale be prevented at the premises.

Several other residents of the surrounding streets may also have made objection to the proposed application to vary premises conditions and it is hoped that the opinions and observations vented above may augment other objections presented.

Please feel free to contact me if further details are required.

Regards,

Bill Westhead

Resident [REDACTED]

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