

Sent via e-mail – 12 October 2023. From EP to Licensing.

The Environmental Protection Team have received noise complaints in the past alleging loud noise at the premises whilst in operation. Noise investigations indicated that there was an issue with noise being emitted from outside on the footpath, it was believed that this noise was being caused by people gathering outside the premises.

A review of the premises licence was called in by the Local Fire Authority in 2019. The Environmental Protection Team attended this hearing. Additional conditions were applied to the licence as a result of the hearing.

Following the hearing, there had been reports the micro pub had installed a sound system and this could not be investigated at the time due to the current lockdown restrictions as all public houses were meant to be closed. The alleged covid breaches were reported to the Licencing department who reported it to the police to carry out monitoring of the premises during lockdown.

When covid restrictions eased, an unannounced visit was carried out with a Licensing Enforcement Officer. I asked the licence holder if a sound system was being used. There were two speakers located in the corners of the wall and a tv in the corner by the entrance. The licence holder agreed a sound system should not be used and said he was not to blame because someone connected to the system via Bluetooth. I explained the system should not have been made available and the playing of music and football matches on a TV should not have occurred due to previous noise complaints associated with the micro pub. It was agreed the sound system was to be removed and the TV would only be playing in the background for the last of the Euro cup matches. The Licensing Enforcement Officer requested CCTV footage during this visit to investigate reports of unacceptable behaviour from the licence holder. This was not given at the time. Based on what was agreed at the licence review in 2019, CCTV must be provided to any member of a responsible authority upon request and without undue delay. Reports suggested there was loud music playing on certain nights. The licence holder allegedly was singing, shouting, and encouraging his patrons to sing and shout. In addition to this the licence holder was also letting patrons leave the door open when exiting the premises allowing music to be heard.

We support this review that is being undertaken as we have had consistent complaints in relation to the running and operation of this micro pub. It would appear the licence holder has a blatant disregard to the neighbours and surrounding area, as well as the disregard towards authorised officers at the Local Authority, making no effort to maintain standards year after year.