

Personal Impact Statement

Regarding Live Lounge

September 2022

My name is Kate Nicholson I live at 13 Ynysderw Road. I bought the house in 2003 and moved in in 2004. My elderly parents also live here with me, they are both in their eighties and we also have a young woman living with us who is a Ukrainian refugee.

When we first lived here the Live Lounge was just a pub, with no extraordinary impact on us. As you would expect when living next to a pub; there was the occasional disturbance of people leaving, or a minor fight. This is what we accept living in this location, we know what to expect. We have lived near pubs before; on the high street in Llandovery and prior to that we lived on the High Street in Pontardawe next to pubs, we know what it is like, and we are willing to accept it.

The problem we have living by the Live Lounge is that the last 10 years or so, slowly the music has got louder and louder and louder. There used to be music on the occasional weekend, but now almost every weekend there is live music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Our house is situated approximately 20 metres from the pub. When music is being played; in particular; live music, the volume of music in our house and garden is unbearable.

If the weather is nice it means once the bands start up I can't sit in the garden, we have to shut the windows and doors so we can't have any air flow. Even when we shut the doors and windows; we are still able to hear the music in our home. My parents like to sleep with their window open but they are unable to. They usually go to bed about 10pm, but they either have to lie awake, or wait to go to bed when the band has stopped. My father has vascular dementia and so he finds this distressing. My mother is suffering from sight loss, and she cares for my father. When the music is playing it makes it much harder to care for him, and she is unable to go to bed to rest and relax.

We have had a patio fitted so that we can eat our meals outside when the weather is good, most week days we are able to, but at weekends it is too unpleasant to do this, and so we don't. This is very upsetting, we feel this is an unreasonable impact on our lives.

This summer has been extraordinarily hot and we have had to keep the windows and doors closed when the music is on. We can still hear the music with the doors and windows closed, and even with the television on.

My family members become agitated and very, very frustrated as they can't relax in our home, and feel the volume of the music is just too loud. My guest; the Ukrainian woman, is shocked at how loud the music is.

The nature of the pub has changed, I bought the house knowing what to expect with living by a pub, but it is not just a pub, it is now a live music venue, which is not suitable for a residential street.

The impact this pub has on our lives is very stressful. For example; On a bank holiday weekend 2 years ago there was a live music event on at the pub, and the street was full of the cars of customers at the pub. They do not have a car park anymore, as they have a marquis on their car park where they have benches, a tv, and an area for bands to play. There was nowhere for me to park. We have a dropped kerb and a ramp to allow my mother access in her wheelchair. I couldn't get my mother out of the car, into the wheelchair and into the house. As there was the event on at the pub, and lots of cars I didn't recognise. I approached the owner, as he was stood outside the pub, to ask if he

would put a call out over the mic to ask the person parked over our dropped kerb, outside of our house, if they could move their car, but his attitude was very disappointing: he just looked at me and said: it's not my problem. I tried to explain about my mother and the wheelchair etc. but he just repeated: it's not my problem. This is why I haven't tried to communicate and negotiate with them since. They have made it clear they are not interested in the issues the wider community have. My other neighbours have been over to discuss the noise with them, and it has not been received well.

In the past when the music was played, I would often sit outside and listen; if it was music I liked, but now; the music is so loud it is unpleasant and not enjoyable, and so I stay inside with the doors and windows closed, even on a warm evening, which makes me very annoyed. If the weather raining there doesn't seem to be as much disturbance, and so sometimes I find myself hoping that the weather will change and start raining by about 8pm; just to make life more peaceful.

During the festival; there is no control whatsoever. The street was packed with cars, I could not turn the car round. I don't know how an emergency vehicle would get through. I organise events and I know that when you organise them, you must have these matters addressed. I am going to raise this with the relevant persons as I extremely concerned that something could go horribly wrong.

This year there was a women who went beside my caravan and urinated. I know my other neighbours have also complained about persons urinating against their fence. The facilities are not provided for toilets and parking, for an event of this scale.

The music was unbearably loud from all directions, inside our house it was awful. We have to stay in and endure it. Apparently I am supposed to go away so that the pubs can carry on as they please.

I am aware that there is a petition with hundreds people putting their names forward. It is stated that we are trying to stop music; but we are NOT trying to do that. What we want is for it to be controlled and so it doesn't have the effect on my family, as I have described. I don't want to see the pub shut, I just want them to be good neighbours; which I don't think is an unreasonable request .

We have put up with it for 10 years, and it seems that if they are given an inch; they take a mile. I simply don't understand why it has to be so loud. I haven't been inside, because I find it too loud outside so I envisage that it would be unbearable inside.

There are number of people on Social Media that say we should go away for the weekend if we don't like the noise; then I would be away every weekend. I have my mother who is wheelchair bound and suffering sight loss, my father has dementia and I have a Ukrainian refugee, all those factors would mean I would need 3 rooms, it would be unreasonable for me to do this, I am not in a financial position to afford this weekend after weekend, instead of living in my own house.