

6 Ynysderw Road  
Pontardawe  
SA8 4EG

Re: the live lounge@ The Other Place

I note there's a plan to review the Licence for The Other Place. As a close neighbour to the premises, I wish to register my concerns on this application.

I wish to firstly point out that despite a petition that has recently been circulated, I and no others in the area have requested that all Live music in Pontardawe be banned and stopped. Many of us have been, or currently, involved in live music and would never seek to its' removal from the Cultural history of Pontardawe.

I have lived here on Ynysderw Road for a little over 40 years and have seen several changes to the use of the premises. When I moved in the premises were run by the Royal British Legion which was more a social club for an elderly clientele. While events were held, they were more sedate and did not require amplification. There followed a period of a couple years where the building was closed following the RBL move to a new venue in Pontardawe.

After a few years of laying empty it was sold to a new owner who decided to re-open it as a Pub, but aimed at a much younger clientele. Part of this target audience he introduced a few groups to perform there.

After a couple of new licensees, Andrew Davies took over and spoke about aiming to make the pub more a family-oriented pub with food and drink. He also introduced additional groups were playing at the pub in either the main hall area or in the small front bar area.

When he applied to alter his licence for much longer opening hours, I and several other residents met with the licensing committee to highlight the impact the plan would have on us.

Following this meeting the committee agreed to some of his alterations, however they placed several restrictions on the opening hours and restrictions on both volume limits on music, live or recorded, as well that doors and windows should remain closed and where groups should play to also limit the impact on residents'.

I believed, initially, I had a good working relationship with both Andrew and his staff in. Whenever I had any complaints either noise or the behaviour of people entering or leaving the pub, I could raise it with Andrew, and he would normally act to resolve these issues. I believe that other residents had been contacting NPT and local ward Councillors to raise complaints and concerns.

However, we had a major increase in the issues residents faced during the "Ponty Summer Fest" period where several of the local public houses would hold both internal and external music stages where both bands and records would be played with excessive amplification. In fact, I'm aware that people living several miles away could hear the sound. This normal took place from lunchtime unto midnight and sometimes later.

As the Other Place used the car park as the place of holding the eternal stage and food concession vans people would use the Ynysderw Road and Francis Street as a general carpark, often blocking vehicles in their driveways or dropped footpaths for residents who were unable to walk far. On several occasions I had to report dangerous parking to the

Police on the junction of Ynysderw Rd and Francis St, as well as obstructions to the roads which prevented access for emergency vehicles and numerous keepers of vehicles had written warnings and parking tickets.

Following numerous complaints to the police, as well to NPT, eventually double yellow lines were placed on the junction of Ynysdew/Francis St. These did have a little impact on the number of vehicle parking illegally.

During the lockdown period the car park of The Other Place has placed a large, covered marquee along with "picnic benches" to allow for external drinkers. They have since built an external bar and an area for bands to play as well as a large TV to show sporting events.

Despite several reminders from the licensing Office of NPT, the Other Place continued to use this external bar, even advertising its use on Social media. After the last licensing review, it has used in reduced periods.

However, since the pub transferred to the new owners (Red Dragon Pubs,) there has been a marked deterioration in the behaviour of the Pub and its clientele (arriving and leaving) at the pub.

Previously events were held monthly, quite often on a Saturday or Sunday, though sometimes both, which were very loud. However Red Dragon now holds weekly bands on Friday and Saturday Evenings, as well as late Sunday afternoon. On the whole bands would be playing in the main hall but with window and doors open It was at excessive levels further exactified by the bass reverbing through the house. The noise levels have prevented us from sitting outside during summer months and with the temperatures in spring and summer we have been unable to open our windows to help with cooling our house.

The music can be heard inside our house even through double glazing and we are unable to enjoy or relax in our gardens because of the excessive amplification.

We have had an increase in people entering and leaving he pub, especially after closing times. People are often shouting, swearing in the area. They are also urinating against walls and in residents' gardens. This can go on till as late as 03:30 with people moving to and from other licensed premises in the area. Often there I the sound of vehicles revving engines and running for long periods.

Only during the Ponty Fest weekend there are door staff, Despite speaking to them to request that users of the pub not to be urinating off the premises. He stated he had no idea what I was referring to. This was despite me indicating 2 people standing less than 10 foot from him urinating against the wall. With the reduced parking at the Other Place users of the Pub have been parking in the area unfortunately this has been resulting issues for residents who are often unable to park on Ynysderw Road or Francis Street. Also, several of the drivers having been parking on the footpaths, completely blocking the access for people in wheelchairs or pushing buggies. This has been reported to the police. We do have n additional issue as cars may be in the Yellow Lines area, and a such the Police will not take any action as feel its an area of responsibility of NPT however enforcement officers don't cover this area and don't work after 5 or at, the weekend.

I want to reiterate that there is **no** request to ban any live music in Pontardawe, we only want to raise the issue of excessive amplified music in several Pubs. I have noticed that on the Petition that has been circulated on posts on Social Media about this it appears that residents have only started complaining about noise from the venues since August, while residents have been raising concerns for several years. Also, several people have made insulting comments about the residents, such as we should be forced out of Pontardawe, and that we should be "named and shamed" and that local businesses should stop serving

us, with one signature even stating that the residents should be burnt ("*Only Joking!*") In addition, I've noticed that of those who have signed both the petition or posting on Social Media are not neighbours that I recognise, or in fact live in the area surrounding the Other Place.

I hope the committee will take into account the very serious issues we, the residents of Ynysderw Road and Francis Street, have to face on most days and especially on the weekend and nights.

Many Thanks

Andrew Nicholson

6 Ynysderw Road

PONTARDAWE

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