

Natalie Jones (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: Ian McCall <~~ianmccall@btinternet.com~~>
Sent: 13 June 2018 11:21
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: The Old Mill Llanidloes

Ian McCall,
21, Llysnant,
Llanidloes,
SY186BD
Tel.: 07766771891

13th June 2018.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing concerning an historic issue at the Old Mill bar in Llanidloes.

I moved into town from the rural surround in 2013 and was taken into the Old Mill by an elderly neighbour who had known it as the United Services Club. He was not a fan of the local ales served but liked the pub: it was quiet and friendly and we went in regularly for a pint.

It became my 'local': it didn't seem quite like a pub in the usual sense, a bit like a local and a bit like something you might find in France or Spain.

I soon realized it was important to leave by the back door at night as there was an issue with the neighbours, or one house in particular.

Here is a precis of my thoughts:

Firstly, as pubs go in Llanidloes, the Mill is generally quiet and decent. In many ways it is exceptional in its decent behaviour or lack of aggressive types. It has busy nights but compared to three other pubs, which I have heard from my flat, some distance away, sometimes at 3.30 a.m., it is one of the better ones.

Incidentally, I moved to town from Greenwood near Bronheulwen, and if you are in town, you need a little 'live and let live'; not too much, but some.

Locals have told me of the history of the United Services Club and the discos, teenagers on alcoholic rites of passage and the associated sickness etc. Generally though it was quiet from what I have heard, despite rowdy discos and events.

Legal searches. If you move to a house over the road from The Angel and near to The Stag you might expect some little noise. In addition, if the complainants moved -in before the 'Mill was open, would a legal search not have revealed something. Sureley?

Michael and Tenitia, previous tennants of the Old Mill, always locked the front entrance by the archway, and customers were required to leave through The Function Room to reduce noise outside. This was not a choice.

They were clearly stressed by the issue, Michael more obviously so.

The new licensees continue the closing of the front door later in the night

Clientele: like any pub, people turn up sometimes who appear out of place. But that has been rare. The Old Mill is not quite a pub in the normal sense, they did and still do have food nights with a cultural or national theme. This attracts people who are not just looking for drinking sessions.

Discos are driven by genre music with sometimes elderly djs. In fact they are usually elderly. All this attracts a varied clientele of all ages, many older than my 53 years. Many young people too, which hopefully we all want and need in Llanidloes. I certainly do. I expect I was noisier as a young person as many of us were, and often forget.

I have lived in Liverpool, Germany, Austria, Nantwich, Cambridgeshire, and London areas. I cannot say I have ever seen a pub as friendly as the Old Mill: you can go in to drink alcohol, or herb tea or coffee and will usually find pleasant, friendly and intelligent company. My yoga class is in the Old Mill too. In a room next to the bar.

I cannot of course speak for the complainants. I cannot say what their noise level is. But if you compare it to surrounding pubs, one in particular, it seems at best strange that noise from the Mill has always been such an issue. Noise on the streets is here in Llanidloes, late at night and I can hear it from my living room and bedroom sometimes. Not frequently though. What is the solution? A curfew? That would make things quieter? Do I know where these people are from? Newtown, Rhayader, the caravan site? Are they local? Hard to tell sometimes. But it isn't a problem usually. I certainly cannot tell which pub/s they have been to. I can guess.

Chances are it wasn't the Old Mill because it isn't one people normally go to get "Mullered".

I sing in several pubs in Llanidloes, on folk and sing around sessions (non amplified at the Mill). I have sung in the Stag, Red Lion, and the Old Mill. No complaints to my face yet. And no complaints from neighbours. Amplified music though at the Mill, is monitored. It is not in my opinion, excessive. Quieter dance nights would lose their appeal to me. I have heard bass from pubs local to me in the early morning in summer but it was not loud enough to keep me awake. The issue of amplification and decibel level is clearly not of the same concern at other pubs, nor would I wish it to be unless it was excessive for those of us living nearby in town.

Violence and aggression. I once saw a large local young man asked to leave for trying to eat a tropical fish from the tank. And a local Armed Forces veteran with mental health issues asked to leave when he became aggressive. No doubt there have also been aggressive and violent types stumbling upon the Mill. But it is not their home. Compare this to other pubs in town, where fights are not uncommon.

Finally, the new licensees. Conscientious types I believe. The pub is looking cleaner and better with a bit of money thrown at it. It attracts locals and people from all over the country and afar. They are continuing with the Comedy nights and attracting people who are on National Radio (Radio 4 for instance). Themed food nights continue and are very good. I often joke about "lovies" or artistic and theatrical types drawn into Llanidloes, but we need to develop the economy in a pleasant and sustainable way. We need money coming in to Llanidloes if we want work for young people and oldies too. We need to support business, if it can be communal and reasonably harmonious. We need traditional drinking and social pubs but we also need need pubs that offer something more for people.

The Mill has seen clientele of all ages dancing together; women are comfortable to go in on their own.

I hope you will consider carefully the various points I have made.

Kind thoughts,
Ian McCall.

Natalie Jones (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: Adrian Roberts <~~adrian@oldmill.com~~>
Sent: 13 June 2018 21:48
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: The Old Mill Bar, Llanidloes

Regarding The Old Mill, Llanidloes 13 June 2018

To whom it may concern

I live across the road from the former United Services Club. The first we heard of it reopening was from a piece of paper through our letter box. On it was a photograph of the licence application . The text said " Do you want this in your neighborhood" followed by the address to send letters of opposition. A few days later we received a letter from Michael Cordingley, Trisha Johnson ,and Andy and Leanne Wright outlining their plan to create a cafe / bar but also a community venture to offer a place where groups of all kinds could meet. Fortunately for Llanidloes their plan worked and the town now has a unique venue where all kinds and ages of locals and visitors can come together. The Mill is a place where people who don't normally go to pubs feel at ease. It offers something different . The New Management who took over in February have upgraded the facilities and continued to make the place as welcoming as ever. This is a vendetta. The complaints against The Old Mill are not about the details cited . The complainants do not want it there. A lot of money has been spent to placate them. Enhanced fire security was installed and a crowd funded soundproofing was carried out.

The Old Mill is an asset to the town not a detractor. High Streets everywhere are struggling, the Old Mill brings people into the town who also support other businesses. In these times of austerity, where people are encouraged to be part of the big society, it is ironic that a venture that is filling some of the voids left by the shortage of funds for community events is under threat.

I have not witnessed any criminal or disorderly behaviour. I find it difficult to recognise the establishment described in the complaint as the Old Mill. If it was as described I would not be a customer. I don't know what vandalism has been reported. I have refitted my neighbours downpipe outlet a couple of times, it is loose and unclipped. It could have been knocked off by someone walking home from a pub, any pub but could equally have been knocked by a pram, a disability scooter, skateboarder. When we lived at The Court House in High Street (prior to the Old Mill opening) we had our living room window broken. These things sometimes happen when you live in a town centre.

Smokers are asked to use the garden which is accessed through the function room or via a path around the side of the building - not a tortuous route. After 11pm customers always leave through the function room. Customers do not use the Emergency Exit to enter or leave the premises and

are definitely not encouraged to do so. A fence was erected to funnel people to the entrance soon after The Old Mill opened. People are asked to respect the neighbours . There is certainly no attempt to annoy them. The Mill wants to remain open and to be on good terms with their neighbours. If windows were open, flung or gently, it was because the weather was hot, not to intimidate anyone. I have not complained about the Mill because there is no reason to complain, not because I lack the necessary education. The complainant has made several attempts to imply fault such as,"without seeking listed building consent", "the cleaner/helper's partner who works elsewhere." In my opinion these complaints are without substance or sincerity. The constant complaints are an attempt to close the place. I hope their efforts are in vain.

Adrian Roberts, 33 High Street, Llanidloes

Natalie Jones (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: Emma Richer - ~~emma.richer@powys.gov.uk~~
Sent: 14 June 2018 20:55
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: The Old Mill, Llanidloes

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my surprise and sadness to hear that the Old Mill in Llanidloes is being threatened with closure.

I live in Bristol and regularly visit friends in Newtown. We often go to the Old Mill for functions and music evenings. Whenever I have been there it has always been the best of atmospheres, where people from Llanidloes and the surrounding areas congregate with other like-minded people who value and respect one another, to listen to music they enjoy. It is also used for special events; the most recent event I attended was a 50th birthday party which attracted people from far and wide.

Whilst the events are based around sharing music and being with friends, there are obviously times when people may need to go outside to smoke. There is a restricted smoking area and if someone is not in the correct place they are politely asked to move to the designated area. Whenever I have been outside I have never heard any unnecessary loud noise from either the music or the people. In fact, the last time I went, we were talking in hushed tones outside. I have always found the people who frequent the Old Mill to be sensible and respectful when putting on events as they value the late licence enormously. They wouldn't do anything to jeopardise that.

Coming from a city I have found that the people who frequent the Old Mill are much more respectful of the local residents and aware of the noise levels than most of the places here. The owners of the Old Mill are particularly wary of noise pollution and will monitor and adjust noise levels carefully, inside and out.

The Old Mill is such an important part of the community and is so very welcoming that I find it really hard to believe that anyone could have issue with it. The venue is essential as a place for social cohesion, which is especially important in this day and age. Having a venue that people from all walks of life feel that they can go to without fear of judgement or exclusion is fundamental to a balanced and happy community. The flexibility of the venue use is another key asset: It is large enough to accommodate big groups of people, but also small enough to hold an intimate gathering. It is perfect for a variety of differing events for people of all ages.

I have spoken to a few regulars who would be devastated if the place was closed and/or the late licence rescinded. They don't know of any other place in the area that is quite so accepting and inclusive. It is a hub of vibrant, colourful, artistic, kind and wonderful people. I would beg you to consider the huge value the Old Mill has to so many people in and beyond Powys.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours faithfully

Emma Richer

Natalie Jones (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: Edward O'Brien <~~Edward.O'Brien@CSP.gov.uk~~>
Sent: 15 June 2018 18:32
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: The old mill Llanidloes

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you regarding the Old Mill in Llanidloes, as a resident and a musician. The Old Mill has become a fantastic hub for the community and a much needed one too. With the nights they put on and the local and national musicians and comedians they support, it has become the focal point for people getting together. I am a musician in the band Radiohead and the old mill reminds me of the type of venues we played when we started out in Oxford.. these places really are the lifeblood of towns like Llanidloes... it really needs it. With this in mind please allow its license to continue in order for these fantastic evenings to continue. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions..

Best wishes

Edward O'Brien

The Licensing Officer
Powys County Council
Neuadd Maldwyn
Severn Road
Welshpool
SY21 7AS



Luke Aldridge
9 Brook Street
Llanidloes
SY18 6AX

14. 6 18

Dear Sirs,

Re: License Review of the Old Mill Llanidloes

I would like to show my support for Mr. Peter Mccready in his license review meeting and to illustrate just how much care he takes to address any concerns from neighbours.

I was one of the DJ's who played on the night of 12th May 2018. When it was my turn to play, I took over the decks from the previous DJ and had only played for a very short time when Alex Mccready, Peter's son, came over and asked me to turn the volume down as it was creeping up towards the upper end of the legal scale. This I did immediately and kept it down throughout the rest of the night. The music was monitored all night on the decibel meter in the bar.

When we left at the end of the event, we all left via the Function Room entrance so as not to disturb any of the neighbours.

I would also like to mention the no smoking signs at the entrance to the Old Mill. There are more than one, and one is particularly large. These signs ask anyone wishing to smoke to do so in the garden at the back, and I did not see anyone smoking anywhere other than in the garden. I also did not, and never have seen anyone urinating around the building or it's grounds and did not and never have seen anyone causing damage to neighbouring properties.

Mr Mccready is one of the most careful, considerate and conscientious licensees I have ever come across in my experiences of DJ-ing events such as this and I sincerely hope that he succeeds in keeping his license and is permitted to carry on holding music events. Llanidloes needs the Old Mill.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Luke Aldridge', written over a large, dense scribble of black ink.

Luke Aldridge



Mill Cottage
Cwm Belan
Llanidloes
Powys
SY18 6RF
13th June, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re : The Old Mill, Llanidloes

It has been brought to my attention that there has been an application to revoke the license and close the Old Mill. I am writing to you as a 54-year-old transgender, transitioning between male and female. I have found the Old Mill to be the most accepting and welcoming of all the town's establishments, both from the staff who run it and the clientele who patronize it. I have been frequenting this bar since the beginning of Trisha Johnson's time as manager, until the present management of the McCready family, and have been to all the major community and fund-raising events, as well as all of the folk nights. I have read the tirade of accusations laid at the door of the Old Mill and the picture that is falsely painted of it, starting with the "semi-acoustic" folk nights: a flagrant untruth, as the folk nights are completely acoustic, as there has never been any form of amplification whatsoever. That leads me on to the insults aimed at its clientele, and their drunken unruly behaviour. I can tell you now that I have never been witness to any such happenings. The so-called "lads" urinating at the door? The average age of the people that attend the Mill is probably mid 50s. I have two sons aged 18 and 21, and neither of them would be seen dead in the Old Mill, deeming it an old fogies' pub!

As for broken windows, which I understand were at the front of the accuser's house on the High Street, was anyone brought to justice? Was the Old Mill directly linked?

I fear not. These are tenuous accusations at the very least. I feel that the accusers are grasping at straws.

When it comes to noise issues, ie dances and bands playing, I know that in the past there was a problem with sound leakage; indeed, there were fund-raising events, in which I was a donator, to improve sound insulation. I know that steps were taken; this in itself proves conciliatory measures in sound mitigation were implemented by the Old Mill. Whether they were successful or not I can not tell, because I would have been inside enjoying myself with everyone else and not standing outside with a sound meter. For the very fact is I have life.

I also own a house in town opposite the Whistling Badger (formerly the King's). I have an alleyway beside my property, and yes, people regularly urinate in it. Do I complain to you and blame the pub opposite? No, I don't. I shrug my shoulders, sweep it up and say dirty little sods. When I hear music played and the sound of laughter and frivolity do I ask for the pub to be closed. No, I don't, for the simple reason I know the sound of happiness means that tills in this town are ringing, making for a content town. When owning a property in town, whether it be Shortbridge St, Longbridge St, Great Oak St or indeed the High St you should understand it is in the core of the town and accept what goes on within it. This beckons the question: why move into town? If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen.

Although I do not even know the people who bring these complaints to you, some people are malcontents, misanthropes if you like. This very much sounds like the story of the Princess and the pea! If the Mill is closed where will these people vent their anger next? You will be the first to know, for some people are born to complain.

I am very happy to attend any meeting regarding this and swear my words under oath if necessary.

Yours faithfully,



Robin Hobbs, Llanidloes Market Manager

The Licensing Officer

Powys County Council

Deudob Maldwyn

Severn Road

Welshpool

SY21 7AS

276, Tamworth Road,

Two Gates,

Tamworth

Staffs

B77 1BZ



June 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Licence - Mr Peter McCready

The Old Mill, High Street, Handloes.

I feel that I must write, in support, of the new licence, Mr Peter McCready against allegations/complaint of "Crime & Disorder" and public safety.

In my strongest possible terms, and upon being a visitor to the above establishment, when visiting Handloes, I can confirm that I have not seen or witnessed any criminal activity and/or public safety.

Indeed being a single person, this is one establishment that I have always felt safe in. After being a visitor, I have noticed that since being under new tenancy, that the place has a clean, bright and crisp atmosphere. Whilst the licence is a friendly and comfortable space to socialise, there is a zero tolerance to any unduly behaviour, a reflection on my time there being a happy one.

Indeed, there has been an increase in custom, particularly from the local caravan site, offering much needed revenue within the town and supporting jobs.

I do hope that this letter will be duly considered.

Yours faithfully

Mrs. J. Hollis

Natalie Jones (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: Kelvin Jenkins ~~kelvin.jenkins@oldmillllanidloes.co.uk~~
Sent: 18 June 2018 14:48
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: Old Mill, Llanidloes. Licencing review.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in connection with the proposed review of the licence for the Old Mill, Llanidloes. I am 75 years old and a native, resident and business owner in Machynlleth. I have in the past been chair of the Machynlleth Chamber of Trade and the Machynlleth Civic Society.

I have attended musical events at the Old Mill on many occasions over the years and have always enjoyed them, not least because of the unusual mix of age groups that usually attend. I have never seen any bad, aggressive or anti-social behaviour at any of them, unlike what I have witnessed at other venues in the area. My wife, who very rarely attends musical events has several times accompanied me to the Old Mill as she feels comfortable with the atmosphere and company there.

I am aware that complaints have been made which have led to this review. I would like to say emphatically that they do not match my own experience. During my last two visits I was asked emphatically to make sure all doors leading outside were kept closed to avoid disturbing neighbours, and I saw staff repeatedly checking that this was being observed. The attendees were in any case as far removed from the archetype of drunken troublemaker as it was possible to be! I got the definite impression that every effort was being made by management to attend to the needs of their clientele while minimising disturbance to others.

There is a distinct shortage of pleasant music venues in Powys and Ceredigion. I hope that the Old Mill can continue to fill that gap for many years to come. I for one would miss them very much if they were forced to close. I might add that their restaurant is also excellent in terms both of quality and price, but without the events licence I understand that this might be hard to sustain.

Yours sincerely,

Kelvin Jenkins

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Kelvin Jenkins
Welsh Gold specialist since 1985
Arbennigwr Aur Cymru ers 1985
<http://www.kelvinjenkins.co.uk/>
Tel: 01654 703718

Sue Holmes 2 Penygreen Llawryglyn Powys SY17 5RL ~~01497 430783~~

Licensing Officer
Powys County Council
Neuadd Maldwyn
Severn Road
Welshpool
SY21 7AS

Dear Sir or Madam

Licence Review, Old Mill Bar Llanidloes

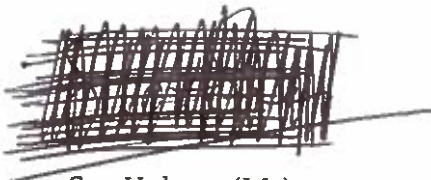
With reference to the forthcoming review I am writing to say that I have often attended the bar since it opened, for lunches or evening live music entertainment. The clientele tends to be weighted to middle aged or over, and I never seen any hard drinking. (I have been to music gigs in other pubs in town, which were much more 'lively'). I am a single woman and have never felt any qualms about going to the bar on my own.

I have heard allegations of criminal activity, and so called at Llanidloes Police station to make enquiries. They were helpful, but only able to find two instances of police involvement; on both occasions the police were called by the bar staff themselves – requests for assistance with a truculent drunk. Any place which sells alcohol could be visited on occasions by unruly persons, who need to be removed and 'barred'.

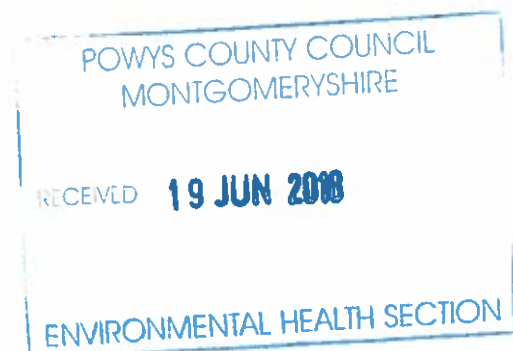
There was, I remember, some disruption when the United Services Club held discos in the function room, as young people can be unpractised about holding their drink and the alley leading to Mill could be a bit sordid! I think maybe the Club had closed down when the sole complainants moved from their village to the house next door?

There are several pubs in Llanidloes with a late licence – the music from one pub in Gt Oak Street can be heard several streets away; I myself was a bit deaf after a memorable Blues gig there! Yet this pub has houses and flats adjacent. I understand that the Mill Bar will not be viable if its late licence is not restored. It would be a crying shame to see this civilised and friendly venue close.

Yours faithfully



Sue Holmes (Ms)



The Licensing Officer
Powys County Council
Neuadd Maldwyn
Severn Road
Welshpool
SY21 7AS

Min Clywedog
Westgate Street
Llanidloes
SY18 6HA

13th June 2018

Dear Sir,

License Review of The Old Mill, Llanidloes.

We were shocked to see the license for the Old Mill is up for review due to complaints from neighbours.

We have been customers of the Old Mill for some 30 years, more recently customers of Peter MccReady, and have attended events held there as well eating there at lunchtimes during weekends.

A more well run pub would be difficult to find and Mr. MccReady has done everything he can possibly do to ensure that his customers, as well as the bar itself, does not impact on his neighbours. When we have attended music nights - folk nights, blues nights as well as comedy nights, the noise levels are always monitored to make sure that they are well within the legal requirements and they are always adhered to.

When we have been there, lunchtimes as well as evenings, the fire door has been shut, except one Sunday lunchtime in May when the temperature was in excess of 24 degrees and the place was like an oven.

Outside of the entrance are several notices, one of which is very large, with no smoking signs and directions for customers to smoke in the garden at the rear. It would be impossible not to see them. We have never seen anyone smoking in the doorway nor the enclosed passage which leads to the road and neither have we ever seen anyone urinating by the building or it's surroundings . We have also never seen or heard of anyone vandalising the houses opposite.

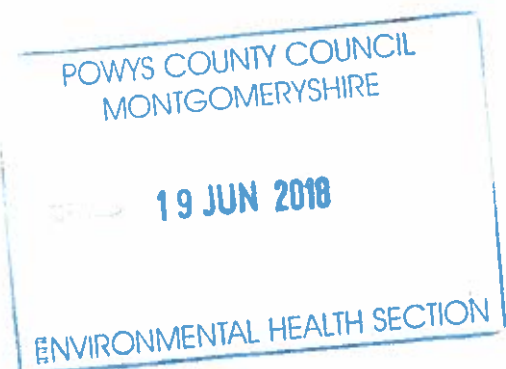
The average age of the customers who use the Old Mill is 55 years plus, who enjoy good food and good music and is the only place in Llanidloes to offer varied, 'grown up' social events.

If the Old Mill were to close it would have a devastating impact on a town already struggling to survive, as is the way of many small towns across Britain. Food is purchased from local businesses, B&Bs accommodate friends and relatives who visit Llanidloes for the events held in The Old Mill, and those of us who prefer not to visit pubs with loud juke boxes, pool tables and karaoke, and who live fairly remotely, would have nowhere else to socialise

We fervently hope that Mr. MccReady keeps his license and that the extensions to his license will be re-instated.

Yours faithfully


Bob & Heather Aldridge



Susan Brunt

18 Smithfield Street

Llanidloes

SY18 6EJ

9.6.2018

In support of the Old Mill Bar Llanidloes:

The Old Mill is such an important venue for Llanidloes with so many community based events for the town. Peter and Sharon McCready took over the running of the Mill 4th of February 2018 and have a caring and very professional approach to their duties.

Clean and comfortable surroundings make it a special place to enjoy their excellent food and drinks – but so much more.

Special events include food nights, comedy, quiz night, film night, life drawing, Christmas fayre , pilates and yoga, and live music with talented singer/song writers both local and national.

The gallery space is used not only for local artists to display their work but also for local groups to meet. Photography, music and arts, welsh speaking, toddlers/breast feeding are just a few.

Many activities are fund raising for good causes close to home and around the world.

An excellent venue to plan personal celebrations – birthdays, anniversaries. In the past I have used this for my own personal celebrations and fully expect to continue in the future.

We are so lucky to have this venue in Llanidloes with its warm, friendly community spirit.

Peter, Sharon, Alex and their supporting staff always make you feel valued, welcome and above all SAFE.

I can say that in the time the present owners have run the mill, I have not personally experienced anything that could be described as public nuisance and definitely not criminal activities- they would not allow it.

At this time there is a plea for everyone to keep Llanidloes alive and thriving- directly from the mayor. To actually close down anything that brings so much positive activity to the town would be sheer madness!

Yours Faithfully

Sue Brunt



Richard & Veronica Barker
'Clifton'
Long Bridge Street
Llanidloes
Powys
SY18 6EE

18th June 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

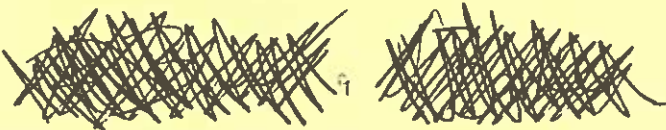
My wife and I relocated to Llanidloes in November 2017. Since we have lived here we have been regular visitors to 'The Old Mill'. We were surprised, therefore, to hear the complaints of crime, disorder, noise and nuisance levelled against it.

In all our many visits there we have witnessed none of the above. By it's very nature there would, obviously be a certain level of noise which, I am assured, is monitored carefully by the licensee. The area at the front of the premises, adjacent to the houses, was deemed out of bounds to smokers, etc. who were asked to use the far side of the building adjacent to the car park. When the premises was closed the front door was locked and customers exited from the rear of the building.

'The Old Mill' is an important Llanidloes social landmark. My wife and I have had several visits from family and friends during our time here. We've taken most of them to 'the Old Mill'. Some return and specifically ask to visit again. We have also talked to customers in the bar who have made special trips to visit the place and people who have been holidaying in the area who have heard about it and dropped in.

In short, It would be a great loss to the wellbeing of the town to have it's use restricted or, in the extreme, closed. In our opinion this establishment is run by responsible people who are aware of their obligations to there neighbours and will try their best to accommodate them.

Yours faithfully,



Richard & Veronica Barker

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
MONTGOMERYSHIRE

RECEIVED 20 JUN 2018

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

and we are grateful to the following people for their assistance in the collection of data: Robert G. Hays, Jr., University of Illinois at Chicago; Robert M. Hays, University of Illinois at Chicago; and Robert M. Hays, University of Illinois at Chicago.

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