

Mark Weaver (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: Richard Osborne ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Sent: 28 June 2018 10:03
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: Old Mill Bar license review

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in regard to the Licencing review of the Old Mill Bar in Llanidloes. I am a resident of the town having moved there three and a half years ago with my family and i would like to put my view forward in support of the bar retaining it's licence.

I run a business that brings people to the town from all over the world to learn to make acoustic guitars. My 9-10 students per year (average age around 55 years) spend one month in the town and of course over this time use all the facilities the town has to offer. The Old Mill offers something utterly unique to the town and in mine and many others' opinions is much needed in a rural community where arts venues are few and far between. I would go as far as to say that the place is integral to the good functioning of my own business as it provides a focus in the evenings that the majority of my customers appreciate, significantly enhancing their month's experience. The original owners saw a niche where others could not and got the angle of the business just right which is so difficult in an area like this. Now the new owners have donned the mantle and are running what i can only see is a well managed business with as much consideration as possible for their neighbours including late exits out the back door, no congregating and smoking signs at the main entrance and soundproofing on the doors and windows nearest to the residential properties.

There will always be those who cannot live with the noise and hubbub that goes with living in a town centre and while bars of course need to stick to their licence agreement, one has to accept a certain level of disturbance as fulfilling the needs of the many. I lived close to the Stag pub for two years with my wife and two young children and heard the music and beer garden every weekend and was happy to accept it as part of what goes on. Alas it seems that one household in this case is the driver of the review and it is regrettable that the needs of the the few here should outweigh those of the many.

I was in the Mill the afternoon a noise disturbance complaint came in whilst a Hen Do sat down to lunch. There were around fifteen women - mainly 30 - 60 years in age talking gently with no revelry, drunkenness, shouting etc. I do believe a door was open a little as it was hot but Sharon the owner took me outside to get my opinion. It was hardly audible and certainly much less than any noise that would come from the other cafes and pub gardens at that time of the day in the rest of the town. It is only one example but i hope gives some idea of the nature of the complaints.

I do hope you will consider my points and look favourably upon the Old Mill when deciding whether to continue licensing the business. It is such an important part of the town now.

Yours Sincerely,

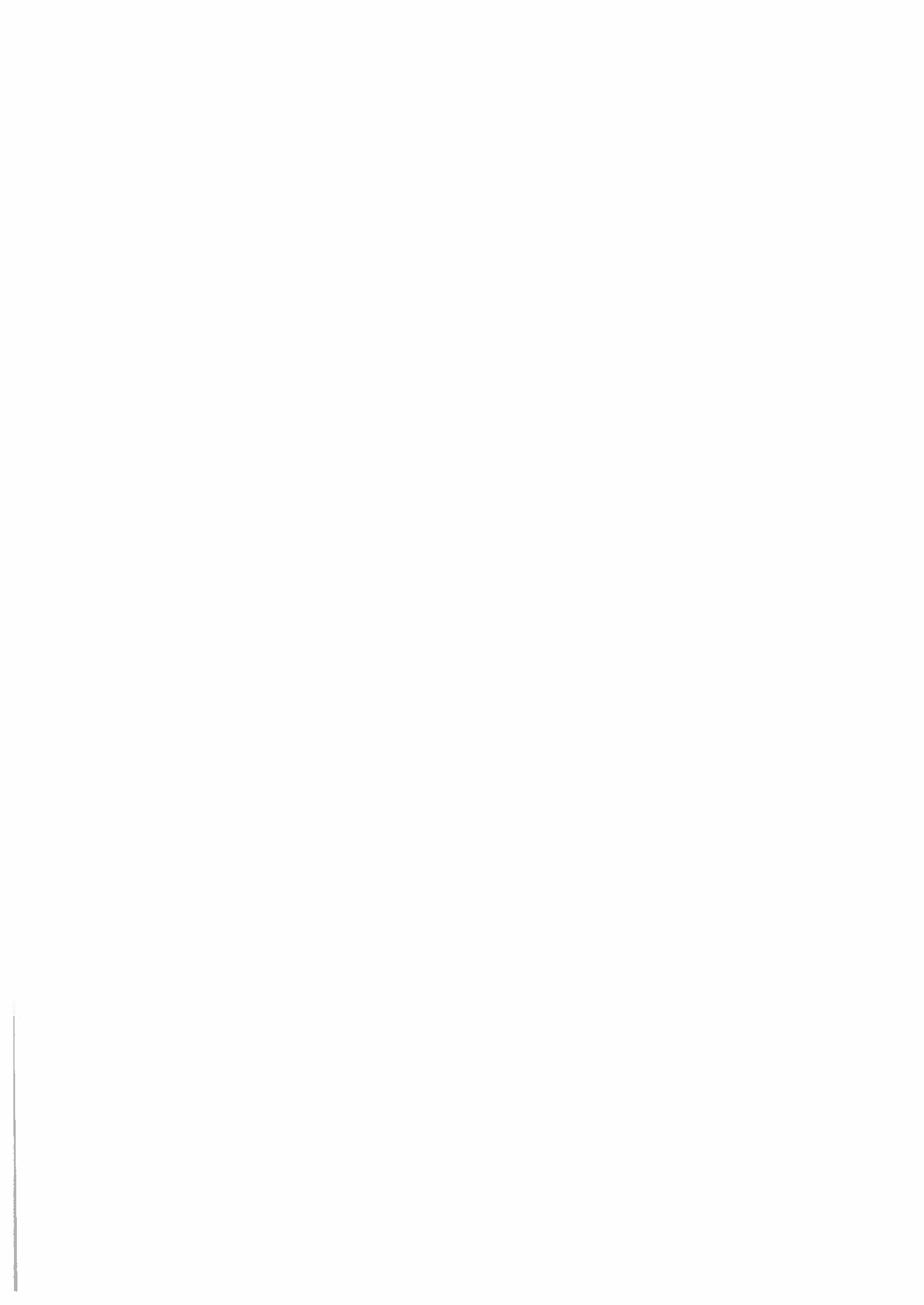
Richard Osborne

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Richard Osborne
Osborne Guitars and Mandolins

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

www.osborneguitars.co.uk



5 Glyn Cottages
Llanidloes
Powys
SY18 6NF

26/06/18

Re: The Old Mill licensing review



To The Licensing Officer,

My name is Denis McTurk and I am 66 years old. I have lived in Llanidloes and area since 1976, except for four years when I trained as an osteopath, from which profession I have recently retired.

I first attended the United Services Club (now The Old Mill) in 1979, both as a customer and also to DJ there on occasions. It was a thriving venue then, often with bands playing too and both the United Services Club and the Community Centre were well used, with up to 500 people attending bands playing at the Community Centre. With that many people the poor accoustics of the Community Centre didn't matter! The United Services Club was and is a much more useful sized venue for our community, suitable for both medium and smaller events. I believe that the thriving nature of these two venues reflected the healthy state of our community back then.

I have noticed that with living in such a healthy community, the people of Llanidloes have usually been able to sort their problems out without having to resort to help from outside. It saddens me that on this occasion a dispute has needed action of this sort.

Since the beginning of this year, the new landlords have made an immense effort to communicate and find a way through ongoing problems with the neighbours involved in this dispute. This appears to have not been reciprocated.

The previous landlords eventually fitted soundproofing to the areas of the building that were most obviously not soundproofed. Also, I am informed that when the upstairs has been converted this will further contain any sound leaking from the building.

The new landlords have also realised that sound systems being brought into the venue were causing higher decibel readings. Therefore they have banned these and are just using the in house sound system, which they can obviously fully control.

I can only request that both sides come together and resolve this situation for the good of our community. The change from the United Services Club to The Old Mill has enabled this venue to thrive again, with a great cross section of activities for our community, which are not being served by any other venue. It is also a family venue and certainly not any kind of dive! I have never seen any anti social behaviour on the many occasions I have attended or taken part in music events at The Old Mill. It is a particularly safe and friendly venue and I urge those bringing this action to pop in and see for themselves.

Yours faithfully,

Denis McTurk

A large, dense scribble in black and blue ink, likely representing a signature or a redacted area. The scribble is composed of many overlapping, chaotic lines and loops, completely obscuring any text that might have been underneath.

Mark Weaver (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: Benjamin Smith ~~benjamin.smith@llanidloes.com~~
Sent: 28 June 2018 12:43
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: Old Mill, Llanidloes

5 Tan y Bryn

nidloes,

18 6YR

6/2018

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continuation of current licensing arrangements for The Old Mill in Llanidloes.

My interest in this matter is as both a customer of and performer at the venue.

Upon moving to Llanidloes four years ago, I was soon directed to The Old Mill where, I was assured, the creative life of the town was centred. Right enough, I found it to be a welcoming place where local people and visitors could enjoy good food, professional music and artwork. It was clearly the social hub for Llanidloes's sizeable artistic community. I found many friends there of all ages and was struck by the inclusive nature of events held at the venue. Old, young and in between mix happily at the Mill within an atmosphere of positive community spirit. It is always the first place I bring visitors as it typifies the ethos of my adopted home town, where creative endeavours, often charitable in nature, are wholeheartedly supported by the residents.

I don't think that the importance of occasional late night events at the Mill can be overestimated. We are fifteen miles from the nearest sizeable town here and the transport difficulties arising from this mean that a local venue where people can celebrate together is therefore invaluable. The Mill is safe space for the community to gather and I have never seen a hint of trouble on these joyful and gentle occasions.

I am a professional musician of thirty years standing and have performed at the Mill many times. It has always been stressed to me by the management that there is a strict volume level which must be observed. The management often go outside the venue to sample noise levels during the performer's soundcheck. I don't think I've known a venue be as punctilious about this in all the years I have been performing. For a performer, the Mill is a lovely venue because the audience is quiet and respectful. World class performers (The Coal Porters and Julie Murphy spring to mind) have visited the Mill and been delighted by the engaged, well behaved audience they find there.

The Mill represents what makes Llanidloes special. It is a crucial part of life here and a destination venue for visitors. The responsible, community-minded management ensure that everyone's needs are addressed and I strongly believe that any curtailment of this institution's endeavours would be to the detriment of the town.

Yours faithfully,

Ben Smith

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

8 Tan Hinon
Old Hall
Llanidloes
SY186PR
25/6/2018

Dear sirs

Re The Old Mill Llanidloes Powys

Following a recent visit to the above, one of our favourite venues in Llanidloes, we were told that a complaint had been made and a review of the license is to be held. We feel the need to share our view of this venue.

In all of the five years we have been visiting The Old Mill we have seen no scenes of disturbance or problems with any of the clientele or the friendly staff. We take our young families there quite regularly and would recommend the venue to anyone.

In particular the new licensee has made vast improvements to the venue ensuring that the public area and public conveniences are spotlessly clean.

This is the view of many regular visitors to the Old Mill

Kind regards



Lynne and Brian Entwistle

28 JUN 2018

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Brynglas, St Harmon,

Rhayader, Powys

LD65LY

25/6/2018

To.

The Licensing officer, Powys County Council

Neuadd Maldwyn, Severn Road

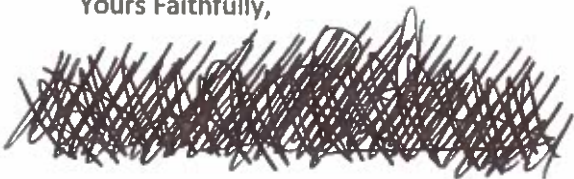
Welshpool, SY21 7AS

Dear Sir,

It was with some dismay and surprise that I learned of the possibility that the venue known as "the Old Mill" might be in danger of losing its license, since discovering it some five years ago I have regularly frequented this establishment, not only does it possess a refreshingly different character to many other pubs/restaurants, but I have always found the manager and staff to be thoughtful, responsible and above all professional in the way that they conduct both themselves and their business.

If "the Old Mill" were to lose its license Llanidloes would lose an important venue for music, comedy, and socialising, and I for one would find the town less interesting, and hence would be far less likely to visit.

Yours Faithfully,



David. C. Poulton BSc (Hons) CChem. MRSC. Retired

(Previous Chairman St. Harmon community council)

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
SHIRE

29 JUN 2018

10
LICENSING SECTION

Llwyn Celyn

Llanwnnog

Caersws

Powys

SY175JG

Tel.No ~~01678972347~~

29/06/18

Dear Sir/Madam

After hearing about the licensing review regarding The Old Mill in Llanidloes, i wanted to write a letter of support.

The Old Mill i know is a complete contradiction to the venue implied in the complaints.

It is an eclectic & cultural establishment offering unique & often community based events, The owners & staff are courteous, friendly & professional, it's a welcoming & safe environment with a demographic of mature professional people, it offers an inclusive environment which many of us travel some distance to frequent. I've never encountered drunk customers or inappropriate behaviour of any sort, its a place i feel comfortable bringing my children, at any time of day or to any event, & there are places in the town that i would not. Ive never witnessed drugs or anybody under the influence of drugs, my partner who suffers from anxiety issues feels comfortable & is able to go out & enjoy a social life after being introduced to the Mill.

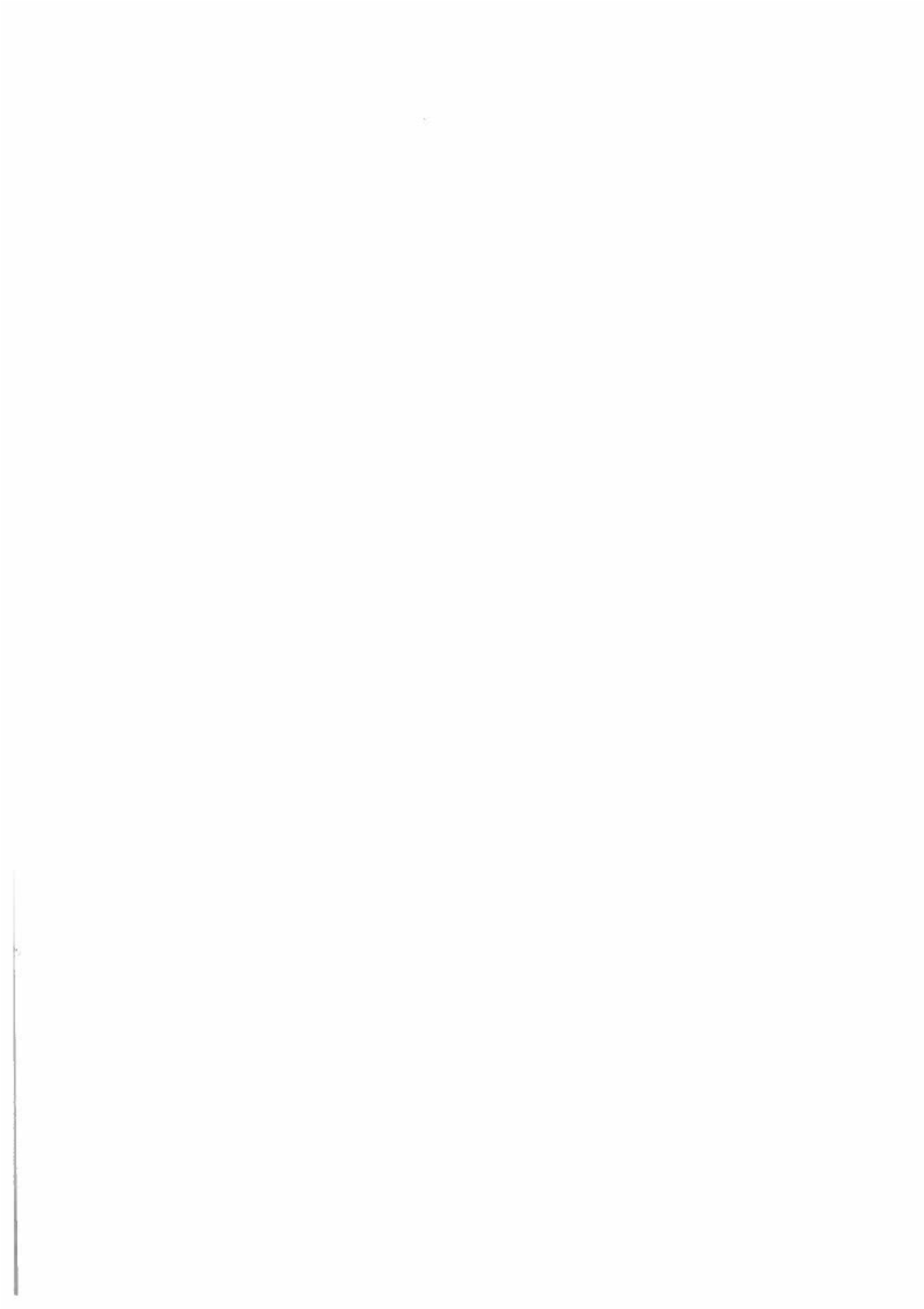
The events offered there are often community or charity based & we have been to many, Ive noticed the lengths the owners & staff go to consider the local residents including filtering customers out through alternate exits so as not to disturb people late at night, closing windows & doors near the houses, making sure musicians are in an area away from open doors, one small example was the folk club were asked to play at the other end of the building, there are signs up informing people of the designated smoking area well away from the houses & signs requesting customers be considerate regarding noise as they leave, all of which i've seen adhered to. Ive never witnessed nuisance behaviour or antisocial behaviour of any sort.

The Old Mill is a wonderfully welcoming & safe environment filled with open minded, friendly professional & retired people, it's a safe space where diversity & inclusion thrive.

There is nowhere else like it in the area

King Regards

Elizabeth Blanche



40 Brynglass Ave

Barnfield

Newtown

Powys

29/6/18

Dear Licensing officer

Im writing in support of The Old Mill, i'm aware of complaints & now a license review.

I wanted to make you aware of my experience, having suffered from depression & anxiety, i never went out or socialised until recently when i was introduced to the Mill, my anxiey of antisocial behaviour, drunk & aggressive people, nuisance & intimidation stopped me going to pubs for years.

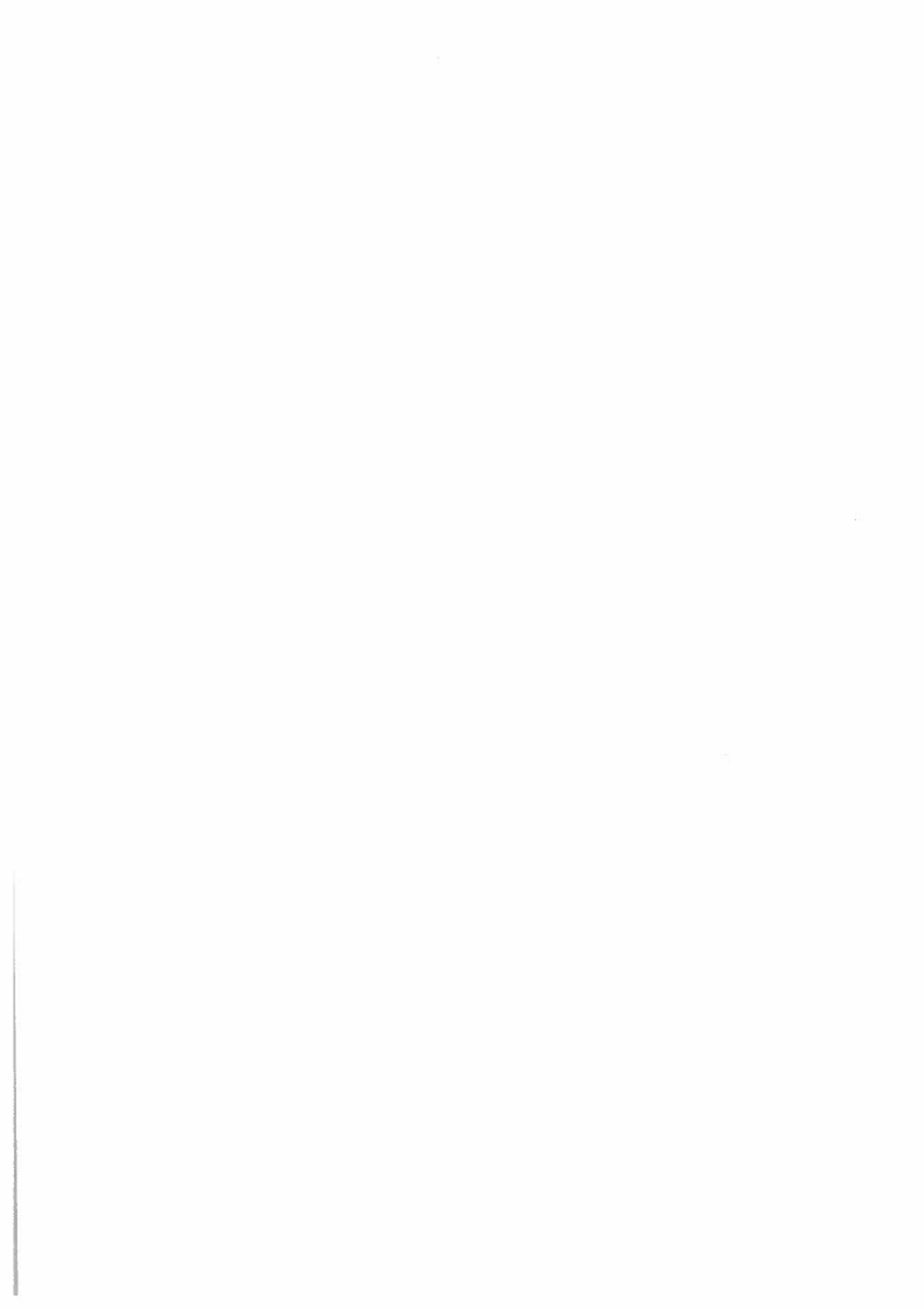
Since being introduced to the Mill i now have a social life i'm able to go out with friends & on my own for the first time in 20 years, It has provided me with a safe space in which to meet people, & socialise. i've never encountered drunk or intimidating people or antisocial behaviour of any kind. It's a wonderful community asset

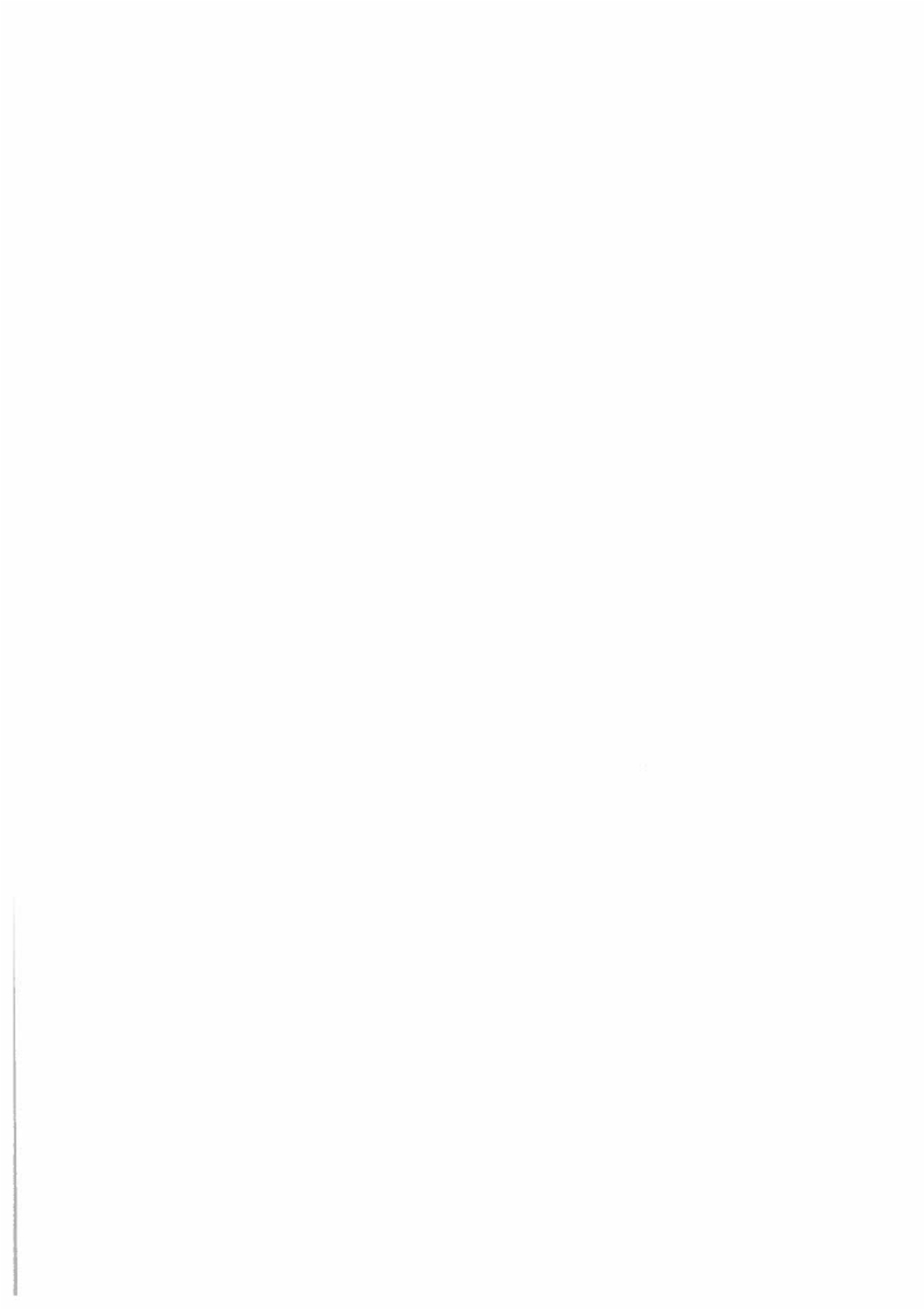
Ive only ever seen the staff & owners be considerate & diligent in the managing of the proximity of the local houses.

I would suggest a visit to see the lengths everybody has gone to, to address any concerns raised by the individuals making complains.

Yours Sincerly

William T Jones





Natalie Jones (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: Isobel J ~~Isobel Jolazza~~
Sent: 29 June 2018 17:17
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: Application for review of licence - The Old Mill Llanidloes

I am writing as a Llanidloes resident and member of Llanidloes BIBS (breastfeeding peer support group) regarding the application for review of The Old Mill's licence. Llanidloes BIBS has met regularly in The Old Mill since the venue opened in 2013. Mothers and babies have been made welcome, and our group has been supported and accommodated there. For many years, we had free use of 'the family room' for our meetings, including space to house our book and toy collection .

I have not experienced problems with smoking or noise during weekly BIBS sessions, or when attending events at The Old Mill in the evening with my family. Nor have I witnessed any criminal behaviour. I consider The Old Mill to be a family-friendly, community-oriented venue. It is much more than just a bar. It was a wonderful addition to our town when it opened, and has contributed hugely to the life of Llanidloes. It would be a severe blow to our community if The Old Mill had it's licence revoked and was forced to close.

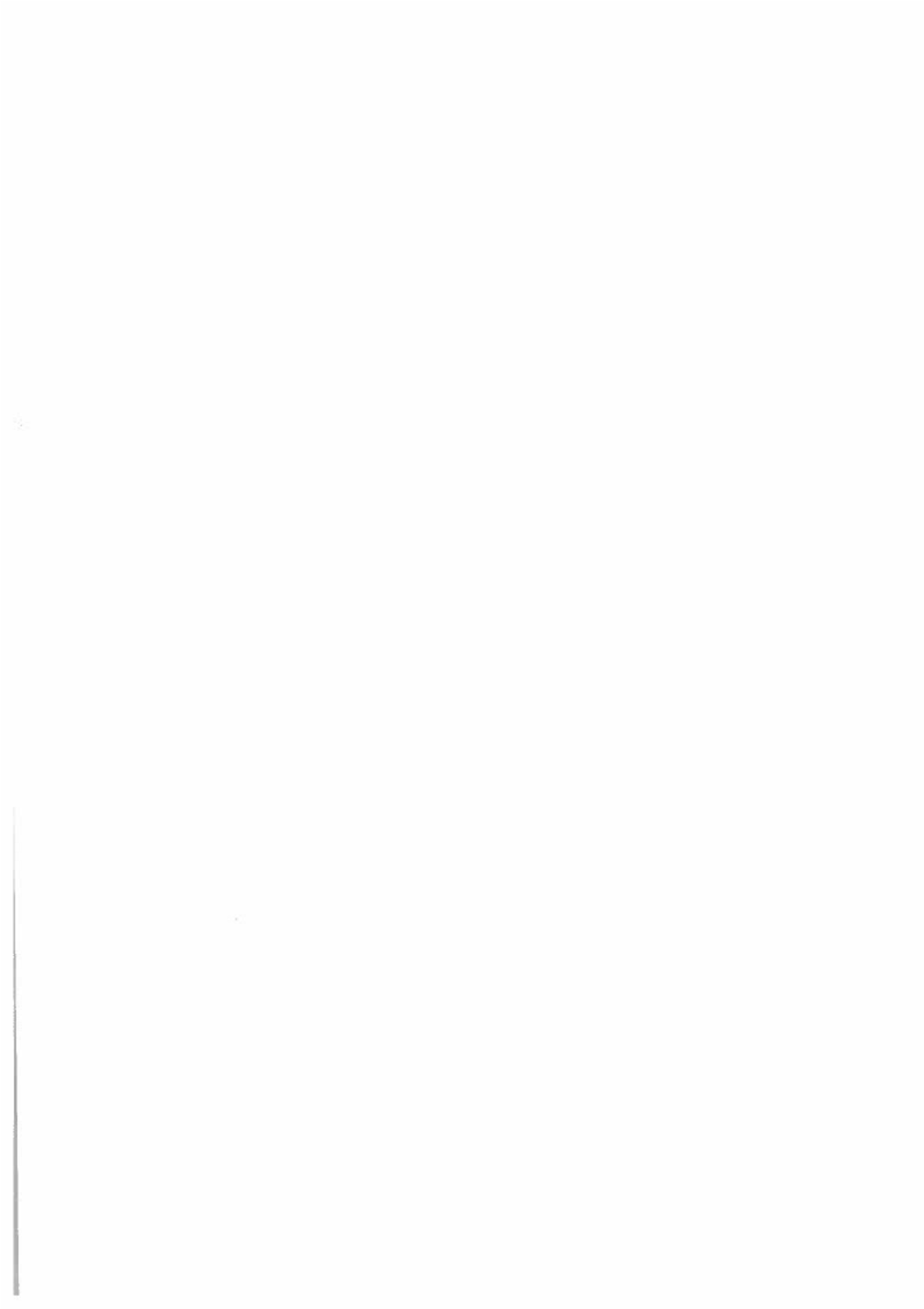
Isobel Jolazza

Rosedene

Woodlands Rd

Llanidloes

SY186HU



Wednesday 27th June 2018

For the attention of the Licencing Department at Powys County Council.

Before we begin, we must mention that an awful lot of the content of this letter is not relevant to the issues in hand, and should you decide to dis-regard many of Mr Challands' Comments then we certainly will not be offended if ours are treated in the same way. But we do believe we have the right to defend ourselves.

Firstly We must point out that we actually owned the building which the Old Mill lies in prior to Mr and Mrs Challands purchasing 42 High Street. At which point it was a licenced premises albeit a Club licence, but licenced all the same and therefore open to the disturbances one would associate with living in such close proximity to a licenced premises. Furthermore the fact that 42 High street actually lies with-in a triangular of 3 licenced premises and in a town centre position we believe that the Challands' should have expected late night disturbances as an absolute. Perhaps as this property obviously stole the hearts of the Challands', Then maybe their first priority should have been to install a secondary glazing to all windows in the property. No licensee in the town of Llanidloes can control how their customers behave once off their premises and certainly have no control over the route they take when heading home.

The Old Mill building has, as the licencing department are aware, continuously been a licenced premises for many decades, the application made in 2013 was a change of licence from a 'club licence' to a 'Full licence'.

How we make money and choose to operate the Old Mill building and the grounds around it that we own should be of little interest to others, yet Mr and Mrs Challands have gone out of their way time and again to make it their business and to dispute anything we have tried todo to this property.

The Bar area and the Function room were always run as single entity under the previous owners, Unfortunately, when we first decided to Lease the Bar area the original tenants weren't interested in the Function room, and as it had always been such an integral part of the social scene in Llanidloes and with the community Centre struggling at the time, we decided we should give it a makeover and open it up, and it has been wonderful to see it used for so many uses just like it once was. from Fitness classes, Yoga, Martial Arts, Funeral Teas, Wedding Receptions, Christenings, General Family Gatherings, Fundraising Events and Socials, As well as the occasional Live Music Events. The current Licence held by the Old Mill also covers the Function Room as although we run the hiring of it, It is the Old Mill Licensee's who run the Bar area, and therefore the Old Mill retaining its current licencing hours is absolutely crucial to the Function Room remaining open and able to offer such a vital service to the town, at a time when Nearly all the church rooms have now closed and the choice of venue is very limited.

The grassed area which lies between The Old Mill building and 42 High street which Mr Challands has referred to many times in his letter at ' The Courtyard', as per our deeds is actually owned by ourselves and allows Mr and Mrs Challands a right of access to their rear door. Unfortunately we are currently in a legal dispute with Mr and Mrs Challands regarding this area and therefore we feel it would be wise not to discuss this area any further.

we would like to point out that we are quite private people, especially when it comes to business, and the Tenants of the Old Mill were actually only made aware of this dispute when they informed us of this review.

As for when we may have received any solicitors letters issued on behalf of Mr and Mrs Challands on this subject, Unfortunately we are a very small business and therefore do not keep a post record book, so we could not possibly confirm or deny any dates.

The opening of Doors and windows which Mr Challands seems to feel was instigated by our receiving of the above mentioned letter, Actually co-incided with a particularly warm spell and therefore was almost certainly done to make the tenants of both the Old Mill and the 1st floor flat more comfortable, rather than to appease ourselves as Mr Challands worded so kindly in his letter.

As correctly pointed out by Mr Challands and as you are aware there was a change in the Licences at the premises earlier this year. Mr McCready we know visited Mr Challands as one of his first priorities, to introduce himself and made it quite clear he was always welcome to contact them should he have any queries with regards to the Old Mill, Unfortunately Mr Challands has declined this gesture.

Mr Challands has made reference to a meeting held at the Old Mill on the 23rd April, we are confident that Mr Weaver and Mr Bufton are fully aware of who was in attendance.

With reference to Mr Challands remarks on his issues with Crime and Disorder and public Nuisance, we feel that this is strongly without evidence, as the issues commented on could have been carried out by absolutely any person residing or visiting the town of Llanidloes, and whether they have sampled and alcoholic beverage at the Old Mill or not. Although knowing the Clientele of The Old Mill from previous visits we have made there ourselves we find it highly unlikely that such acts would be carried out by Old Mill Customers. As you are aware there is a pathway through our property which links Mount Lane Car park with High Street and unfortunately we cannot control who uses this pathway. Surely the broken window which Mr Challands speaks of should be an issue raised with the police rather than licencing.

Hi comments regarding noise from the bar area, which we are sure are sometimes a disturbance to the Challands' what with living in such close proximity, but to be picking on events such as Sunday evening Acoustic Folk sessions is to be honest almost laughable. We ourselves are sometimes disturbed by Musical festivals held near our home. Do we feel the need to complain and therefore risk the potential of such events being taken to another town, to reap the rewards, No we don't.

We feel very strongly that many of these complaints are unfounded and to a degree unfair. Both Mr McCready Senior and Junior appear to be having to live with the consequences of times gone by. And we feel they should be allowed the opportunity to prove that they are in control of the events which take place at the Old Mill Bar.

We currently have a planning application in place to convert part of the building which the Old Mill lies in to Residential property, and part of the application is to sound-proof the building, and we are currently in communication with Sound-proofing specialists on this matter.

Kind Regards

Mr Ioan and Mrs Sharon Evans

Park Dairies Limited

Natalie Jones (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: Anna Jenkins ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Sent: 29 June 2018 21:46
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: Representation re the Old Mill Bar, Llanidloes' Review of Premises License

Dear Natalie

The Old Mill Bar, Llanidloes

Please accept this as a representation for the licensing review.

I am a local resident who highly values the Old Mill Bar and adjoining Function Room as a cafe, bar and venue. The Old Mill has become a very central part of the community since its opening. It attracts the widest range of clientele I have seen at any Llanidloes venue, whether bar, hall or cafe. I have lived in Llanidloes for 19 years.

It is a very safe and friendly place to go to alone at any time of day and suitable to bring people of any age to (including children during the day and those with disabilities with access needs. It is equally appealing to teenagers and people in their 70s and beyond alike.

There is a wonderful range of activities that go on there, from the obvious music nights of all genres (both live music and DJs), quiz nights and food nights to the much less obvious meetings of local green groups (LLES), a breast-feeding club and a Christmas fair. In all cases the combination of the bar, its gallery room (great for small meetings or a dressing room from gig nights) with the larger Function Room when needed, mean that there is a warm and welcoming atmosphere and possibility of a large amount of space. It has the best aspects of a great cosy cafe bar (which alone would usually be restricted in use possibilities because of small size) combined with a community hall (usually a bit cold and uninviting), making for a great venue and community space.

I have personally used the Old Mill Bar to organise a workshop on Non Violent Communication, a meeting on the local woodlands and two Planet Idloes events (I am treasurer of the community events group Planet Idloes). I have attended countless varied other events and have never witnessed any trouble of a crime and disorder nature or public nuisance whatsoever, neither within the premises or in the immediate vicinity.

There are signs directing people away from outside the main entrance into the beer garden at the side if they wish to smoke and there is a strict leave by the Function Room door later in the evening (approx. 11pm I believe) when the main entrance door is locked. I am aware that bar staff keep abreast of noise levels and ask DJs to turn down music if necessary.

A potentially easy way to further mitigate any noise of people leaving would be to lock the side gate as well as the main entrance door at 11pm. This would funnel people through the car park, away from houses, as they dispersed and left.

I sincerely hope that Old Mill Bar will be allowed to retain its license, including the provision of several later nights a year, as it is an invaluable community resource. I believe that it represents the future for bars and venues in small communities, with so many pubs finding it difficult to make ends meet, it is a model that welcomes the widest cross section of people with the possibility of hosting the widest number and type of events, therefore giving it the highest change of remaining sustainable and succeeding to continue to serve the community and help keep Llanidloes vibrant and alive.

Yours sincerely

Anna Jenkins
Tryfan
Woodlands Rd
Llanidloes
Powys
SY18 6HU

Tel 01547 52511
Mobile 0797 348 878

On 8 Jun 2018, at 16:09, Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic) <licensing.mont@powys.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi Anna

~~With regard to the information it's normally to do with personal information concerning an individual. In the case of the attached and in the bulk of the other referred to information, it was relevant to the review. We need to be clear with licensing issues so there are other compliance issues that affect it and it's not the review simply redact it as it is not relevant to this case.~~

Kind Regards

Natalie

From: Anna Jenkins [<mailto:anna.jenkins@powys.gov.uk>]
Sent: 08 June 2018 15:49
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: Re: Old Mill Llanidloes Review of Premises License

Hi Natalie

~~With regard to the information it's normally to do with personal information concerning an individual. In the case of the attached and in the bulk of the other referred to information, it was relevant to the review. We need to be clear with licensing issues so there are other compliance issues that affect it and it's not the review simply redact it as it is not relevant to this case.~~

Kind Regards

Anna

On 8 Jun 2018, at 14:26, Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic) <licensing.mont@powys.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi Anna

~~With regard to the information it's normally to do with personal information concerning an individual. In the case of the attached and in the bulk of the other referred to information, it was relevant to the review. We need to be clear with licensing issues so there are other compliance issues that affect it and it's not the review simply redact it as it is not relevant to this case.~~

Kind Regards

Natalie

Natalie Jones (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: Scott Bennett <~~scott.bennett@oldmill.com~~>
Sent: 30 June 2018 08:16
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: The Old Mill Licence Review

Whom this may concern,

It has recently come to my attention that there is to be a review of the Old Mill's Licence due to complaints from a neighbour. These complaints seem to relate to apparent excessive noise and also to reputed anti-social and criminal behaviour.

The Old Mill is an important community focussed hub in Llanidloes. More than any other licenced premises, the Old Mill seeks to put community at the heart of its day -to-day running. This seems to have increased with the new owners of the lease.

The new owners made a clear effort to clean up the appearance of both inside and outside of the premises, which i think was highly commendable. They seem to have been very strict in relation to drug use and dealing and have barred to known anti-social/drug dealing individuals and spoke to me on a number of occasions about their strong desire and intention to ensure that anti-social and drug using individuals did not frequent Old Mill. I thought that this was very reassuring and much more pro-active than a number of the other public houses in Llanidloes where I have witnessed far greater levels of anti-social and criminal behaviour. I believe that the person who runs the Old Mill, Peter McReady was himself in the police force some years ago so I am filled with confidence.

During two music events that I attended in the last two months, I have seen the bar manager monitoring sound levels with a decibel measuring device. This is not something that I have seen at any other music event at any other licenced premises in Llanidloes.

I am involved in a local charitable trust, where we receive many dozens of residential visitors from all over the world each year, who come to learn land-based skills and experience traditional rural-welsh lifestyles. These visitors often speak little English and have spent little time in the UK. Time and time again our visitors cite the Old Mill as the safest and friendliest and most welcoming venue in Llanidloes. The eclectic and cosmopolitan mix of music events put on by The Old Mill provide a unique draw to our visitors and leave a strong and positive image of Llanidloes when they leave. More so than any other venue or drinking establishment in the town. These visitors are bringing spending power to the town's economy and at least a dozen of these visitors has subsequently moved to Llanidloes to live and set up enterprises. The eclectic image of the town which is contributed to in no small part by The Old Mill, plays an important role in the positive feedback that people give about the town when they visit.

In a town that is struggling economically, I think that the Old Mill plays a vital role. Llanidloes has got to offer interesting opportunities to both locals and visitors. Many of the drinking establishments in the town offer the same sort of experience that you mind get in one of thousands of pubs in Wales, yet the Old Mill is unique for its music events and the way it offers a friendly space for community groups. I really hope that the Licencing review will lead to restrictions on the music events etc that the Old Mill currently puts on. This will most likely result in the eventual closure of a safe and lovely place to eat and socialise.

What is common knowledge in Llanidloes is that fact that the individuals who are making the complaints are doing so primarily because they are having a dispute with the owners of the property that the Old Mill is in and who mistakenly believe that the current proprietors of the Old Mill are involved.

I am sure that the local authority is used to dealing with such reviews and will see through the malcious nature of the complaints, but as the Old Mill plays such an important role in the community and directly into

encouraging visitors to stay at the charitable trust with which, I am involved, I feel motivated offer my insight into the situation. Please make a commonsense decision that puts the interest of the community and local economy before the interests of disgruntled individuals who seem to be motivated by an unrelated grievance about use of a garden

Kind Regards,

Scott Bennett

(Banhadlog Hall, Tylwch, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6JR)

Natalie Jones (CSP - Commercial and Food)

From: ros and tudor <~~rosandtudor@bt.com~~>
Sent: 30 June 2018 12:06
To: Licensing Mont (CSP - Generic)
Subject: Review of Premises License for The Old Mill

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing regarding the following -

APPLICATION FOR A REVIEW OF THE PREMISE LICENCE

Grounds of the application for review -

- (a) Public nuisance
- (b) Crime and disorder

My husband and I have visited The Old Mill in Llandidloes on a number of occasions in the last year since we moved to the area. We are both in our fifties and not in general pub users but we went to one of their special menu occasions and decided that The Old Mill would be a happy place for us to socialise and get to know people. There are several reasons for this.

Firstly - the friendliness and competence of the people who run the bar.

Secondly - the music - it is not too loud. The bar is quite small and we originally thought that any live music or disco would make it impossible to hear each other but were very pleased to find that we were wrong and we have noticed that it is quiet enough that when we are leaving to go home, it is hardly possible to hear that music is playing inside. Nor have we seen any patrons being a public nuisance, disorderly or criminal for that matter.

Thirdly - we see the Old Mill as a community resource with all the groups that can meet and use the various rooms. I particularly enjoyed the life drawing.

There is no way that we would patronise The Old Mill if we thought or saw any evidence of it being a public nuisance or crime and disorder. In fact we feel that it is the opposite with the pub being well run, the clientele mostly middle aged and far from criminal!

We simply do not understand how such charges can have been brought against the place. In fact we see and hear more rowdiness coming from some of the other pubs around, especially at the weekend.

We hope this letter aids in keeping The Old Mill open as a going concern, with its lovely music evenings and friendly proprietors, it is a happy resource for the community.

Yours faithfully

Roslyn and Tudor Brodie-Griffiths
20 Smithfield St

Llanidloes
SY18 6EJ

Dol-Ilys Cottage,
Trefeglwys Road
Llanidloes,
Powys.
SY18 6JD
Date 29 Jun 2018

The Licensing Officer,
Powys county Council,
Neuadd Maldwyn
Severn road,
Welshpool,
Powys.
SY21 7AS

Re Application for Review of a Premise Licence for The Old Mill Llanidloes.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been a regular customer of the Old Mill since it opened, visiting there 3 or 4 nights a week and also Saturday and occasional Fridays for lunch, with elderly parents and young nieces. I have never written a letter such as this before, but my Llanidlosian sense of fair play and live and let live attitude, has been outraged by Mr Challands rant against the Old mill. I simply don't recognise the business he describes.

Mr Challands main grounds for requesting a licence review are..

A Crime and Disorder issues .

I have never witnessed any criminal damage or activity, never seen anybody congregating near his house, urinating or not.

B Nuisance – Noise Issues.

Since the very first days of The Old Mill, (as opposed to its former incarnation as The United Services Club), the licencees have been careful to minimise the noise levels, initially by keeping all the windows and doors closed, locking the front door at 11 o'clock, so that customers exit via the Function Room entrance, (with the kind permission of the Owners), reminding customers not to smoke outside the front door, but use the Beer garden some 30-40yards from Mr Challands back door, (not a matter of feet).

When the tirade of complaints continued, a crowd funding campaign installed new sound insulating Doors to the Bar area and double glazing and blinds to the window and the customers redoubled effort to minimise noise, to the extent that in the current spell of very hot evenings, when every other pub in town has all its doors wedged open, the loyal customers of the Old mill are sat sweltering in a room with all the doors and windows shut, (Strangely the Challands' upstairs windows seems to remain "flung open" during this period)!

Mr Challands questions the suitability of the Premises as a Pub due to its proximity to residential property, however it is probably the most isolated from its neighbour in town, most of them are attached to domestic dwellings on one or both sides, (the exception being the Mount which has a narrow passage between them and their neighbour). Many of the other pubs have guest staying upstairs, they seem to cope with the normal noise levels of a pub. He also claims that the noise was less under the United Services Club Regime, but he wasn't living there then, I remember weekly discos that were very popular with teenagers and twenty somethings and very "lively" events until at least 1am. If his claims that the "at least one retired Police Sergeant" wanted the place closed has any truth, I suspect it relates to this era, not the present one.

Mr Challands talks about noise and setting levels not to “exceed intrusive noise levels of above 36dbs after 9pm” and reports that he managed to measure “rhythmic peaks of 61dbs” and estimates that 61 dbs is about 5 times 36 dbs, this is very misleading. 5 times a very small number is still a small number, as I type in a very quiet room my Iphone app is measuring 34dbs from an almost silent laptop and rises to 41 dbs if I actually tap a key. In a room with the television at a modest level 65-70 dbs is measured.

If he wants to achieve 36dbs, he had better switch off all TVs, fridges, clocks etc and ensure no bees are trapped in the room. The Challands seem to have allowed noise to become an obsession, to the extent of once ringing up to complain about the Disco, before it was switched on! I wonder why they choose to buy a house on the High Street of a bustling Market town, with a Pub across the Street, another one 50metres or so to the left and a premises behind the house, that they were, (by the vendor), would likely re open as a Bar again. (The united Services Club was not in full use at the time).

Mr Challands says that “customer been encouraged to walk across the courtyard and use the emergency door”, apart from the fact that the land belongs to the Old Mill and Function room, and thus surely entitled to do so, nothing could be further from the truth. Again to placate the Challands, customers are told not to use that route and to emphasise that, a wooden fence was erected to guide new customers to the correct entrance. I did recently witness some Dutch visitors mistake the emergency exit for the normal exit and walk across the courtyard, they got nearly all the way across, before most rudely sent back to the correct route. The Challands now have at rotary washing line permanently sited immediately outside the emergency exit!

Mr Challands also claims that “from time to time the Bar’s customers have engaged in criminal activity, and several incident have been reported to the Police”. As I said earlier, I have never witnessed any criminal or anti social behaviour from customers of the Old Mill, nor have I even heard of any. I wonder if any of these alleged incidents have been proven to be caused by customers of the Old Mill, this sounds like pure supposition to me. He also claims his neighbours are in “mute support”, but I doubt this is really the case, I suspect they are adopting a live and let live attitude and just trying to placate the Challands. I know one of them has been approached several time to join Mr Challands campaign, but has refused because “he has no problem whatsoever with the Mill”, (despite living closer to the smoking area).

The Old Mill is a useful addition to the amenities and social life of a Town that has lost much over my lifetime, (the Railway, the Flannel, leather and Mechanical Engineering factories and several pubs), we cannot afford to lose this unique asset.

If Mr Challands letter was presented in a court of law, it would be thrown out, I respectfully suggest the Licencing authority does the same and ban any further applications from No 42 High Street.

Yours faithfully,



Mark Jervis.