

1. Mr and Mrs Patrick Brown

My wife and I feel it's important that we show our support for the Black Bear pub and garden. We live directly opposite the venue and have never once felt that the music and general activity has had a negative effect on the local area.

We need a thriving family oriented business at the top end of the High Street to add to the town's success and the Black Bear, in its present role, certainly fills that requirement.

The building itself is now a pleasure to look at and the garden filled with families and young people enjoying themselves was the highlight of the summer.

2. John Halstead

I am writing to support the Black Bear and its management. It is important to me that it succeeds as a business, and that nothing is done by the Licensing Committee that might undermine its commercial viability. The current owners have invested heavily in restoring an old, lifeless building and the current situation is now far, far better than 2-3 years ago.

I live on [redacted], on the side facing the water meadows, and away from the Black Bear. So the pub's music is no more of an issue for us than the bells of the Abbey.

We do recognise though that some houses facing the Bear may hear things differently.

However, I would recommend that, if any changes need to be made, they should not be draconian, and just be designed to ameliorate. For example:

- standard written instructions to all performers, as part of their contracts, specifying a maximum level of decibels.
- all speakers to be oriented towards the pub, not the river.
- clear cut-off time for music, strictly implemented.

We very much hope that an agreed and sensible compromise can be reached, balancing the needs of us residents with the need for the Black Bear to be successful.

3. Sue Halstead

I am writing to support our pub, the Olde Black Bear. When we moved here four years ago it was closed down and we were delighted when it finally reopened this spring. We have watched the restoration work being carefully done to conform with the heritage status of the oldest pub in Gloucestershire, and the result is a thriving pub with a lovely riverside garden in a key position on our High Street, bringing back life to our end of the town.

I live at the back of [redacted], overlooking the Old Avon and, in the distance, the Malvern Hills. I am not really affected by noise from the pub except when walking nearby. It always stops at a reasonable time so is not a problem to me. It's been handy to have a pub nearby for a summer evening drink and will be a cosy venue for winter evenings too.

I appreciate that for some neighbours, living opposite the pub garden, the noise levels at times must be very disruptive, so maybe some compromise is necessary. Noise limiting speakers would surely help, as

would limiting the number of times per month that loud external music is allowed. Maybe four nights per month would be more reasonable?

I would hate to see this lovely old character pub forced to close and feel that the owners have worked hard to make it a thriving asset to the town for everyone to enjoy for many years to come.

I have no issues with the music noise. However the “public nuisance emanating from the pub’s activities” that needs attention urgently is the illegal dangerous parking on the Clearway that makes exiting from King John’s Court a terrifying nightmare. This is a Police matter and obviously not the pub’s fault, but to me this, not the music, is the real public nuisance.

4. Betty Ellis

I live on [redacted] and although I found the music this summer too loud at times I was pleased that it always stopped at 10.30pm. I have had far worse experiences from music at the Boathouse which is opposite my house.

The Black Bear is fully entitled to have entertainment as long as it is reasonable and I'm guessing that for the King John's Island residents, who have had a very quiet and peaceful six or more years, it has come as a bit of a shock to find that if you live opposite a public house there will be people enjoying themselves.

Live and let live I say.

5. Mr and Mrs Simmonds

Please accept this as our Letter of Support in regards to the existing License at the Black Bear, Tewkesbury.

We are the nearest neighbours and do not find any entertainment from the Black Bear intrusive or troublesome.

6. Jonathan Hale

I am a NEIGHBOR of the black bear public house (100 yards away). Since the pub has reopened The manager and his team have been fantastic, I have no issues with the music as it stops at the allotted time. And I live by a pub so you expect music.

The pub has been a breathe of fresh air for tewkesbury bringing in increased foot fall to the town and improving employment of the town with the pubs large staff intake.

The beer garden is fantastic and is extremely popular as it’s on the rivers edge and a great place for family’s with you children to relax.

The pub is great for tewkesbury and is extremely popular at the moment. Please keep this the same

7. Catherine Feltham

My name is Catherine Feltham and I am the owner of a property right opposite the Black Bear at [redacted].

I am writing to tell you that I am dismayed at the proposal to review the license of the Black Bear. I do not support any review. Instead I am writing in support of the Black Bear. Having lived at my address since 2007 I have seen the Black Bear lie empty for several years and the transformation that the new owner has completed is remarkable.

The level of noise, which is one of the reasons for review, does not disturb me at all. People having fun and a good time is not a nuisance. In addition, the owner has taken steps to ensure that noise levels are kept to a minimum and it is never late in to the night. Living on a main road and opposite a pub, I knew that there would be street noise when I bought the house. Furthermore, when considering public nuisance - are you going to review all the pubs in Tewkesbury? There has always been revellers making noise returning home along the High Street on to Bredon road even when the Black Bear was shut.

I am saddened that, so soon after opening, the owner and premises should be subject to such unnecessary scrutiny. The fabric of the building has been beautifully restored and has cleaned up that corner of Tewkesbury which was much needed after years being vacant and becoming increasingly run down in the time before that. It brings a great deal of business to the area and surely can only be a good thing for the local economy. Even more so is the wonderfully positive impact the Black Bear is having on the local community. It participates in all the Tewkesbury festivals, hosting several music events over the Tewkesbury Weekend etc. It runs a newly founded Age UK group on Wednesdays which my elderly mother loves to attend and always feels welcome. It has had the new Vicar from the Abbey come and bless it. I could go on. However, I fear that if I do I will only become more frustrated and I wish to keep this email both civil and constructive. This call for a review is so unnecessary and I for one do NOT support it. You run the danger of losing a young, aspiring business man and his flourishing business. What you will lose is much more than whatever complaint has been made.

A public house has stood there since 1308. It can't really have come as a surprise to local residents that there should be some noise from a pub opposite the house they chose to live in. But even more than that, there really isn't anything that disturbs. The music stops as it should and the landlord has invested so much in soundproofing, security and establishing a reputable business.

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this email as I am keen to ensure that my views are heard. Clearly the elected councillors (Mike Sztymiak and Philip Workman) listed on the letter I received are not representing my views. The list of possible conditions attached to their letter are unnecessary as much of what is suggested already happens. Some of the suggestions, I would go as far as to say, are ridiculous e.g. not using waste and recycling bins after 2000hrs - I, for one, would rather they continue to keep the place as spotless and tidy as they do. Life does not stop at 8pm. Should we close Tesco at 8pm? Are you looking to review the Boathouse too? Why not cancel the mop fair while you at it. Cancel it all and make Tewkesbury the dullest town in the UK. Who would want to live there.

8. Maryanne Booth

I am writing this email to show my support for the black bear. We live at [redacted] right opposite the pub in question.

Whilst the music outside can be loud this is only until a reasonable hour and always quiet after 23:00. They also make everyone aware of what is planned with the noticeboard outside. In the regards to noise I feel this a very small issue compared to what the pub offers.

I would also like to add that my 6 year daughter sleeps in the front bedroom who goes to bed at 7pm most nights she never has a problem sleeping because of any noise from the pub

There is just one of the ways the black bear is helping other businesses.

Whilst being over there we have spoken to lots of people many of whom have travelled to Tewkesbury for the events which in turn has created business for other pubs and hotels within Tewkesbury as they have booked to stay over night.

We have also found that there is very very little antisocial behaviour which cannot be said for other pubs in the town.

9. Niki Hare

Regards the licensing issues for the Black Bear I would like to let you know that I have no issues with the music, and I live directly opposite. It's 20 past 9 on a Sunday night and I can hear the music, but it's subtle and no louder than the traffic on the high street.

I see the black bear as a great asset to tewkesbury, people are coming from far and wide to come to this pub, and then whilst they are here they are appreciating the rest that tewkesbury has to offer. My house is [redacted] and literally just over the road from the black bear and I am just delighted that they are up and running. The pub has been restored beautifully at great expense and is an absolute credit to our town.

10. Stephen Barton

I am writing to you to formally register my objection to the proposed revocation of the music license at the Old Black Bear.

As a resident that lives in close proximity to the Old Black Bear, we have not witnessed any excessive noise coming from the pub. In fact, we are permanent residents on a wide beam canal boat which has far less noise insulation properties than that of a brick-built dwelling.

We are also moored at the very end of the marina closest to the Black Bear.

Since its opening, the Black Bear has become a very welcome addition to the residents of Tewkesbury & is clearly extremely popular.

I believe the town needs establishments like this to preserve its economy & the local jobs it creates.

I have seen the staff introduce several noise reduction measures recently such as relocating the performance area for bands to the High Street end & placing soundproofing inserts to the windows.

We recently visited the Black Bear & could not hear anything at all until we reached the roundabout immediately by the pub, & even then it was barely audible & you could not tell there was a band performing until entering the pub itself.

I strongly object to the revocation of their license as I honestly believe they are a valuable part of our community & are trying hard to reduce any perceived noise pollution.

11. Linda Barton

I feel compelled to register my objection to the proposed revocation of the license at the Olde Black Bear.

I am a Tewkesbury resident & I live a short walk from the pub.

I can honestly say that I have never been disturbed by any noise coming from the Olde Bear & was quite shocked & surprised to hear about the review of their license.

I think it would be a tragedy for the local community who have really embraced & supported the pub since its long awaited opening if it were to have its license revoked.

Hopefully the feelings of the majority of Tewkesbury residents that wish it to remain open in its current format will prevail over the minority who wish otherwise.

There is a great community spirit in the pub & the staff whose livelihoods depend on it are a first class group of people.

The Olde Black Bear has also brought more people to the town , which has been dying over the past few years.

If anything has to be done why not just change the license as they have done in Cheltenham. Maybe a curfew.

I strongly object to the proposed license review.

12. Matthew West

Regarding the license review of the Black Bear Tewkesbury, I would like to submit my opinion.

I live immediately opposite the Black Bear at [redacted] and am overjoyed that the premises has been renovated to such a high standard, turning the North end of town into a vibrant and desirable area.

When the premises first opened I could hear the music faintly from my living room, I didnt mind this and can hear music from the Roses Theatre in my kitchen which I also dont mind. Lately I havent been able to hear music at all.

I went into the pub on Friday and noticed that acoustic curtains have been hung in the windows. This has definitely contained the sound from the street.

I have not experienced any noise or disturbance at closing time and I think that this is because there is such a varied age group of people that use the pub.

I strongly feel that having a live music venue in Tewkesbury is vitally important to the cultural health of the town. The riverside garden venue has brought visitors from far and wide and reading your suggestion that events could be limited to 6 per year is very disappointing. After the trauma of lockdown we need, more than ever somewhere we can gather together, dance and experience live music .

People need to be able to have fun and enjoy themselves and as a local resident I have no objections to a license for music on a weekend up to 11pm.

I also read a suggestion that people should vacate the garden by 10 pm and stand on the High street if they want to smoke. I think this is very ill thought out . I think for the residents this will cause much more

disruption than keeping people in the covered terrace which is overseen by security guards. The pub is by a by a round about on a busy road so crowds of people on the High street pavement on a dark night is not a good idea.

For perspective I am a 53 year old man and I own my property. I love the energy and life that the Black Bear has brought to Tewkesbury. The venue has been very well thought out and I want to see it continue to thrive as a top music venue in my town.

13. Tim Perry

I am Tim Perry living at [redacted] within about 50 metres of the Black Bear. We can clearly hear music from the pub garden though it has always finished by 10.30pm. I do not consider it a problem.

I broadly support the licensee; they have spent an enormous amount of money doing an amazing restoration of this iconic pub and outdoor space.

To restrict the number of live music outdoor events to 6 per year seems way too few.

The concerns of other local residents are understandable, given how long the premises have been out of action, and as such I think the installation of noise limiting equipment is reasonable and should be recommended.

14. Sharon Finch

We live very close to the Black Bear and have not been, nor have ever been, affected by anything that goes on at the premises. We are never kept awake with noise. Neither do we experience antisocial behaviour because of the pub being there. I think we are very fortunate to have such a free house in our beautiful town. This is a huge part of the history of Tewkesbury, and I have enjoyed many an evening there. The refurbishment has kept the nostalgic and characteristic look on the outside while modernising the inside with momentous snippets of its history and what it was used for. The events held there attract new and old to the town brings in revenue.

Let's support our local business.

15. Maria Taylor

I'm writing to give my support to The Black Bear pub. I live on [redacted] and my family and I are so happy to have the pub back open again. It has been restored beautifully, employs a large number of young people from Tewkesbury, has reasonably priced food, excellent local musicians....the list goes on. We have enjoyed many evenings with friends at the Black Bear this year. It's fantastic to be able to enjoy live entertainment without having to spend a lot of money. It would be a real shame if this was curtailed during this time of economic hardship. I live just up the road and we have never been bothered by loud noise late at night. There are a lot of local people who would be very disappointed if this was to change.

16. Charlotte and Nick Bishop

I'm writing in connection to the licensing review of the Black Bear in Tewkesbury. I live in [redacted], a stones throw from the pub and with a family with children. We have visited the pub several time since it has opened, both with children and without, for music events and for quiet evening drinks. The venue is incredibly well run, attracts a wonderful clientele and is considerate to its surroundings.

I am disappointed and frustrated that after such a careful and costly renovation, people have taken it upon themselves to complain about the licensing of the pub. I'm shocked to have received a letter from a local councillor who lives close to me encouraging all residents to complain and even giving us a list of suggested restrictions we should ask for in our letter. This is unfair and unjust.

Music can be heard from a short distance away but it is not played late into the night and with our windows closed we can't hear it and we live very close with bedrooms on the pub side of the house. Unless you are directly facing the pub I struggle to see how you are affected by noise.

Furthermore, if parking is an issue, the clear way signs that begin before King Johns Bridge clearly indicate that parking is not allowed and so this is up to local traffic wardens to enforce not the pub's responsibility.

We never hear disturbance at closing time and we fully support the current operation and running of the premises. I implore you to support the current licensing of the pub without any reviews or restrictions added to it.

17. Kevin and Rayne Ward

We write to formally confirm our positive support for The Black Bear Public House to RETAIN its current licensed status during the imminent premises review.

Our reasons for support are as follows;

1. The premises has been licensed for centuries, we fail to understand what change can possibly enforce anything other than a concurrent licence renewal
2. Noise pollution complaints from neighbours cannot be sufficient reason for a licence revocation. It is unavoidable to acknowledge neighbouring building occupiers are given every opportunity to withdraw from their purchase / tenure before commitment, whilst they will be in the full knowledge that they will be living within the close proximity of a property, (in this case a property which has been a public house for centuries) that is, has been or has the potential to be the subject of a premises licence and any accompanying music, entertainment or patronage permissions now or in the future.
3. We are geographical neighbours of The Black Bear we support the complete approval and all associated continued permissions as we believe

Livelihoods matter

Heritage matters

The Black Bear is well run with huge passion and personal investment, a well run local business supporting local employment and local social enjoyment should be supported not suppressed, especially by our publicly funded local governing authority, we do not see this review as good use of our funds.

4. The time for due consideration of the premises licence and its allied components of entertainment was BEFORE massive personal financial investment and considerable employment commitment was made by the team at The Black Bear. This impending review leads us to question, did Tewkesbury Borough Council fail to consider and discuss with the Licensees all appertaining and influencing matters before granting the licence ?

We request that we be kept informed of all progress regarding this review.

We remain open to contact and further discussions - as close neighbours to the premises under question, we do hope that our views will be given due consideration.

18. Helen Knight

I am writing to express my views on the Black Bear review.

I live very close and have no problem with the music, in fact I think the Blackbear is a great asset to the town.

19. Pete Andrew

Hello,

I am writing to the Tewkesbury Borough Licensing Department concerning the Black Bear premises license review; I would like to add a positive stance for the oldest pub in Gloucestershire to balance some of the negative views circulating in the surrounding neighbourhood.

I live close to the Black bear and can see it from my house on the Bredon road and am able to walk to it in less than a minute so I am well aware of the concerns.

Having seen it closed for almost 6 years and then gradually watch it come back to life with the aid of skilled craftsmen to be used by the community is great for the town.

I would agree at times I am able to hear some of the music events held at the Black Bear which would indicate that the volume of the music could be classed as loud. I would not consider this to be noise or indeed a public nuisance otherwise customers listening and enjoying the music would not stay.

It would be a shame if draconian measures were put in place to stifle the growth of this great venue where friends and families gather to chat and enjoy a nice drink or meal.

The Black Bear and its staff offers something different to the other town public houses and should be congratulated on its success since opening in July.

The successful Tewkesbury Live Festival with music in the garden this summer must surely be a bonus for the town.

It would be appreciated if my letter could be used to throw some positivity into the debate with the Licensing Department. So that The Black Bear does not lose its license or have strict conditions placed in its way after all the hard work to bring the building back to life and serve the local community.

20. Rosemary Nelstrop

I am a resident who lives close by to the Black Bear and wish to make my views clear.

1. I fully support the existing license as it currently stands which was granted by Tewkesbury Planning Authority in January of this year.
2. In my opinion, the activities that have taken place on these premises have not caused any nuisance or aggravation.
3. The plain fact is, that the clientele that have enjoyed these activities have predominantly been families with young and old coming together and sharing familiar songs, music and other activities; meeting with other like-minded families and friends.
On no occasion have I experienced any discomfort from the acoustics, not even on a summer evening when my windows were open.
4. These premises have been restored during the last five years to their former splendour and function of providing hospitality and enjoyment to the community. The Black bear has provided considerable trade to the Town. Local Services (including those that provide music and food) have been used whenever possible. Visitors from outside have brought additional trade into the Town. This will stop should the terms of the existing license be curtailed.
5. Finally, It seems bizarre that Tewkesbury Environmental Health should be re- considering a license, given it benefits and already granted, when just a few hundred metres away an old and dilapidated mill with its surrounding ruins is left as an eyesore and health hazard to the many that have to pass by it.