

Representations/Objections

1. Mark Hofman

This application seeks to extend the licensed area of the premises to include a large part of the garden area at the rear of the property. The effect of such an extension would be to bring the garden area within the deregulation under the Live Music Act, and permit the playing of live and recorded music in the garden area from 8am to 11pm. This would potentially have an extremely deleterious effect on neighbouring properties, including those a hundred metres or more away, and would affect the quiet enjoyment of their properties and in particular their gardens by residents. I strongly oppose this unnecessary application. The Bull Inn is evidently perfectly successful without the need for this further extension. I would also point out that the garden area is covered by a tent, and according to guidance note 3 in the application form, this would therefore count as 'indoors'. Consequently the application to play recorded music 'indoors' until midnight every day of the week would also apply to the garden area. Again this is wholly unnecessary, potentially very disturbing for residents, and I strongly oppose it.

2. Deborah Hofman

I oppose this application because it would give the Bull Inn the right to play music outside from 8:00 am to 11:00pm every day of the year.

This is likely to have very serious impact on neighbouring properties preventing them from having quiet enjoyment of their homes and gardens particularly during the summer.

The Bull has no need for music to be played outside as the Bull has already shown itself to be very popular without this added entertainment. Moreover the licence is not necessary as its customers can already eat and drink outside in its garden.

3. Julia Ayres

The playing of music at this venue until 23.00 every day is inappropriate and unnecessary, the premises are situated in a highly built up area. We already have to endure the smell of outside cooking until late at night and this coupled with music and customer noise until 23.00 would make living in the area unpleasant and unacceptable

4. Gill Pratt

It is my understanding that the Bull Inn in Charlbury has applied for a licence to play music inside and outside every day all day. There is a tent erected over the garden which in no way mitigates the sound or smell.

As a close neighbour of the Bull I am extremely concerned about this as it would impact on my environment. When music has been played there I can clearly hear it. I also receive smell of cooking and the noise from the customers can be very intrusive. To hear music that is not to my taste in my own garden will have a detrimental impact on my life and therefore I would like to strongly object to this application.

5. Jane Fitzmaurice

The Bull is in the centre of a small, peaceful country town, not London. Their outdoor music has often been very loud and must disturb their close neighbours. Let the Bull play music, live or otherwise, but only inside, not outside and not under the tent

6. Virginia Fitzroy

I object to the new licence application from The Bull, Charlbury to play music outdoors from 8am to 11pm. This could have a very serious impact on people who live nearby and want peace in their houses and gardens.

7. Paul Honey

I live two doors up from Calum and last summer the music from the Bull garden was intolerable with it blasting out from 10 in the morning to 11 at night and sometimes later. This was particularly irksome for those working from home in the area and I think it was because of the number of complaints received that Environmental Health eventually ordered them to take down their speakers, following a period where they were unable to keep the volume to an acceptable level. On a number of occasions, the music drowned out my own TV in my living room it was so loud. I would therefore strongly object to the licence if the indirect impact of it was to allow recorded music to be played during licenced hours.

Thank you for your consideration.

8. Alex Birch

As a homeowner in Church Street The Bull is c 70 metres from my front door. Our bedrooms front onto Church Street. The license currently being applied for adds the playing of music to the license and, I believe, an extension of trading hours. These raise the likelihood of more disturbance to nearby residents which amount in my view to a public nuisance: 1.Later trading hours - more late night departures during the working week - noise from cars and people. 2.Performance of music: the licence indicates "internal" playing of recorded music .. but the configuration of the licensees premises and their approach to use of their garden space means that music played from an "internal" source is easily and effectively broadcast and heard externally. For those living in proximity to the premises such music - proposed to be allowable from 10:00 - 00:00 7 days per week - may amount to a nuisance as it reduces the quiet enjoyment of their property. It should be noted that the disturbance to such quiet enjoyment is not only from the volume of music played but from the "bass line" within the music which transmits for substantial distances as a background "thud" which is also a disturbance. For these reasons I object to the new license terms.

9. David Ouvry

I understand that a new licence application is being submitted which would allow the inn to play live and recorded music in its garden at any time from 8am to 11pm throughout the year.

Such an activity would be unwanted, intrusive and annoying to many people within earshot, and particularly to those using the Corner House for the library and arts activities as well as those wishing to have a peaceful time in their gardens.

The Bull should confine its music to the interior of the building, and if allowed to extend outside, a precedent could be set for other premises to follow in similar ways.

Many of us living in Charlbury value the relative peace and quiet of a country town, and to have what may well be constant external noise of the kind applied for by The Bull would undoubtedly change the character of a town whose present atmosphere we greatly value. I sincerely hope that this application will not be accepted.

10. Marion Speight

I live in a small development which adjoins The Bull Inn in Charlbury and wish to object to them seeking to extend their licenced hours beyond the times universally permitted. This is because I have experience of noise from patrons using the garden of The Bull disturbing me and know that it has impacted on the occupiers of other adjacent properties and feel that 23.00 is quite late enough for any outside (or from tents and awnings in the garden area) sound from music or a garden bar to be permitted.

I therefore ask, for the months when The Bull's outside area is likely to be used that their licenced hours for anything other than their internal rooms is not extended from that generally permitted.

11. Peter Durrant

I am a great supporter of The Bull and wish them every success for the future. I can entirely understand why they seek to regularise and, where possible, extend their licensing facilities.

I have only 2 comments relating to the current application:

-I can't see any definition as to what constitutes "outside areas". I would not wish this definition to include the tented area at the rear of the open garden area. Currently it is open to interpretation -- the area does have a tented covering but it is, essentially, open and it has no real sides to it. I would, therefore, like to see this included in the definition of "garden area" and so not be available for use after 2300 hours.

-I would prefer drinks to be served in the garden from 1200, not 1000 as requested. But, in extremis, could live with the application request.

12. Adam Leach

I wish to lodge an objection to the licence application: W/24/00302/PRMA | New Premises Licence

The grounds for this objection is the considerable concern about the risk of increased, persistent and uncontrolled noise and nuisance to residents in surrounding areas of the town, notably but not exclusively the elderly occupants of The Playing Close/Cognatum.

The objection relates principally to the playing of music on the premises for prolonged daily periods on the premises of the Bull Inn but which will have major impact on the surrounding area.

There is no apparent need for this application because alcohol sold inside can be served and consumed in the garden. It appears that the only reason, therefore, for the application is to be able to play music (live and/or recorded) in the garden. If this is the case, then there is need for specific undertakings that limit the times when music is played, the length of time of every occasion, the volume, frequency and all other pertinent matters in the music performed or played and that may cause noise disturbance to residents in the area. The undertaking in the application to not carry out 'regulated activity in the garden' will not apply to music permitted as a consequence of having the licence if approved.

The principal part of the application is for an extension of the premises regulated for the sale of alcohol. The current licence only permits sale inside the building. This application seeks to extend the licence to sale in the garden. Under a 2012 Act, licence holders automatically have the right to play live and recorded music in licensed premises from 0800 to 2300 every day of the year. The only restriction on that is the common law of nuisance, which is not effective in controlling noise makers. As stated above, the Bull Inn has no need to extend the licence to the garden. Drinks sold inside can be served and consumed in the garden. So it would seem that the only point of the extension is the playing of music in the garden. This is not at all evident in the application and the purpose of the application is obscured.

No guarantees of respect for local residents have been forthcoming and there is reasonable grounds for concern about noise and nuisance on account of volume levels, the pervasive nature (especially beat and pitch) of the music, and because this will not be within the control or capacity to limit on the part of residents if the licence application is approved.

Moreover, there is insufficient clarity or explanation, and considerable confusion, about details of the application and what the implications will be. The application appears to be for the playing of recorded music only indoors. However:

1. there is no definition of 'inside' or 'indoors';
2. times are stated as 1000 until 0000 Monday-Sunday.

Whilst the licence application form does not refer to playing music outdoors, it is understood that the legal effect of the licence (if approved) would be to enable the Bull Inn owners to play music in the garden area (outdoors).

It has also been stated verbally (to the Town Council Planning Committee on 15 April) by the owner that live music will be played 1600-1800 every Sunday. Assertions have also been made that the music will be “ambient” but with no definition of the meaning or implications of this term.

Confusion therefore remains about, inter alia, whether the music is recorded or live, the location of where the music will be played, for how long, nature of the music, volume level, pitch, beat and other aspects.

The basis of this application also raises concerns. It is asserted that the application as it relates to the playing of music is for the benefit of the Community; this is neither defined, who is intended to benefit or how. Furthermore, support for this assertion is explained in terms of “what customers say they want” but again no evidence has been provided for this assertion.

There is no precedent or justification for prolonged periods of playing amplified recorded or live music in Charlbury, either indoors or outdoors. There are numerous opportunities and other venues, including public houses, for playing music in Charlbury which do not cause noise or nuisance.

This application has therefore caused serious and reasonable concerns about its intended purpose. There is neither clarity in the application nor about the implications if approved. If the licence is granted, residents have no recourse or scope to limit or if necessary prevent music being played that is noisy and a nuisance.

Objection to the application is therefore lodged herewith.

13 : 4 : 2024.

Music outdoors at the Bull.

Allowing an application for playing music, live or recorded, outside on any day of the year let alone every day and all day would have a really serious impact on the lives of the citizens of Charlbury.

Everyone enjoys playing their own choice of music, indoors, but to have it imposed upon them is to create a public nuisance.

Activities requiring concentration in quiet surroundings such as workshops in the nearby Art centre in the corner House, and residents in the vicinity wanting to enjoy their gardens would be badly affected by constant sound. Even very quiet music not to one's taste can be extremely irritating, and will cause much distress and annoyance to the residents of Charlbury who are entitled to peace and quiet in their own properties.

To those not immediately affected by the sound, allowing this application could create a precedent.

This application should be rejected.

Dr. John Clark, M.R.C.P.