

5 Spurwell Avenue,
Longhoughton
Alnwick
NE66 3FH

Objection to the application to vary and extend the Current Licensing obligations by the Longhoughton Community Centre.

To The Licensing Officer,

We are writing to object strongly to the application by the Trustees of Longhoughton Community Centre to extend and vary their current Licensing restrictions.

We feel that at least 3 of the criteria to refuse this application are viable:
Prevention of crime and disorder - there will be an increased potential for crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour to increase.

Public Safety - This is also a sports area, where in particular children's football is played, so broken bottles and litter left may present a safety hazard.

Prevention of public nuisance - the requested extension of increased hours of operation, could lead to residents nearby having to suffer regular disturbances of noise, light and potential antisocial behaviour and other issues for longer periods of time. Plus the noise nuisance if drinking is allowed outside.

We live very near the vicinity of the Community Centre and surrounding grounds. We moved here to live in a quiet rural village and as residents we are entitled to the quiet enjoyment of our homes and gardens. The noise from the Community Centre is already noticeable when they are just playing sports, this is acceptable as it is what the area is for, it is a controlled activity, does not go on for hours on end and is during the daytime. However, this year we had a Jubilee Celebration which although very welcome, the noise level in our back garden was extremely loud and overpowering. This was a family event with good behaviour but we would definitely not want this on a regular basis, such as monthly or weekly. Also the event might end up with a totally different scenario and certainly not starting in the early hours of the morning going through all day into the night.

If this extension and variation is allowed we as residents will have no control or say over the events organised, what noise level there is and other disturbances caused.

If individual events are planned by the Trustees for the community Centre, they can apply for an individual extension of licensing hours for that particular event and we as residents will still have the right to object if needed.

If this extension is granted, how will the events on this site be managed and controlled ? For example, what if they have a large event with not enough parking and they start parking in residents spaces? If outside consumption of alcohol is allowed how are they going to prevent noise and nuisance to nearby residents? How will they keep the area safe for sports activities use?

This area is supposed to be a centre for the Community and our concern is that the Trustees in their drive to raise funds and the profile of the place may turn it into a regular 'events venue' - having events causing a disturbance without consideration to nearby residents. On the Community Centre web page they state that it aims to offer a space for the community and for sports activities, so what is the need to extend their current licensing hours?

Again as stated before we feel that this application is not necessary if there is not going to be a regular occurrence. If an occasional one off event, say once a year, is planned, the Trustees can make an individual application as they occur.

Regards
Grahame Stark
Jane Charles