

## Notice of Representation

Members of the public can submit representations in objection to or in support of the premises licence applications, within the 28 day consultation period.

Please be aware that for any objections to be considered relevant, they should be submitted before the end of the consultation period and they should address the four licensing objectives in relation to the licensing activity.

The licensing objectives are the prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm.

Please be aware that where representations are considered relevant copies of the representation will be provided to the applicant and the Licensing Sub Committee.

**Please note: Objections will only be considered where a name and address are supplied.**

Name: Richard Dobson

Address: 7 Ashdale, Ponteland, NE20 9DR

Licensing Objective:

Prevention of crime and disorder, Prevention of public nuisance and Public safety

Premises: Rialto, 1Main Street, Ponteland NE20 9NH

Reason for Representation:

*(continue on separate sheet if necessary)*

I write to make a representation opposing the grant of a new premises licence for Rialto, 1 Main Street, Ponteland.

The proposed application is alien to the current village environment and threatens to destroy the current amenity enjoyed by residents of Ponteland. The village centre has one main road running through it and enjoys a peaceful atmosphere. The village green and parish church are immediately adjacent to this application.

The application shows seating for more than 240 persons. However, the Applicant does not offer any condition requiring persons to be seated when eating or drinking in the area. The capacity of the external area is therefore several hundred persons. When considering the potential capacity, the toilet provision seems wholly inadequate. As a result, I have very real concerns that this will lead to considerable nuisance and anti social behaviour in the village.

I have equally serious concerns about highly intoxicated persons leaving the site at the end of the evening and causing nuisance, crime and disorder in the locality. At a recent Pub Watch meeting, it was explained that with the scale of police cover in Ponteland when this type of problem arises, there may be a need to call Hexham for police resources. This would necessitate a considerable delay in summoning that

response, which serves only to considerably amplify my concern, given the sheer size of this venture and the potential volume of highly intoxicated people.

In this instance, I note that the Applicant has made no firm proposals (by means of condition) to employ properly trained door supervisors to monitor and control the area which will trade from 11.00 until the late evening throughout the week. In this regard, it does seem to me the application is drafted in such a way that makes the intended hours somewhat opaque.

The Applicant does not indicate in their application that they wish to provide live or recorded music. However, if the application is approved, live and recorded music would be permissible in this area between 11.00 – 23.00 to an audience of up to 500 persons. Although the Applicant's intentions are unclear, they could potentially allow DJs and amplified live music throughout the day for hours at a time, this could be especially popular at weekends. An outdoor venue of such a scale and size will dramatically change the intrinsic village amenity enjoyed by residents, with noise levels presenting a unjustifiable nuisance to residents.

The application shows access to the proposed facility will be via the narrow existing exit from the roundabout on the A696. It then shows a one way road with egress via an existing exit which traffic from the Severn Stars Public House use. Apart from these current narrow ingress and egress roads, which themselves are wide enough for only one car, no road exists to connect them. In plain terms, no such one way road exists. The existing ingress and egress road serving the Rialto is from the roundabout on main A696 running through Ponteland. There are already frequent instances of taxis stopping at the roundabout to pick up/drop off customers to the current Rialto restaurant; and of people collecting takeaways from the restaurant parking fully on the pavement. This causes nuisance to residents trying to drive through the village; safety concerns for pedestrians trying to walk through the village; and road safety concerns as cars attempt to rejoin the A689.

It appears also that the proposed development removes the existing parking for cars visiting the Rialto. Taken together, both these issues only exacerbate my concerns over public nuisance and safety.

I note that there have been no application for Planning permission for this project. Notwithstanding my objection to the granting of the licence sought, it seems to me that, given the latter concerns I have raised, any licence application is also completely premature.

Signed Richard Dobson

Date 12 July 2021