

Applicants' Note

We have become very aware that our proposal is being, deliberately we think, misrepresented and that this has caused concern in the village.

We would like to take this opportunity to address some of the misleading claims that are circulating.

Firstly, the suggestion that we would intend accommodating up to 800 customers is entirely false. We calculate that our maximum capacity would be around 350 and we would be happy to adopt a condition restricting us to that number. In reality, however, we anticipate trading well below that number.

There has been much criticism of the conditions that we have submitted with our Application. They were provided to us by the Police and we were happy to agree with them (hence the reference to "Agreed Conditions"). We have been in discussion with the Police, the Local Authority, the Town Council and the Fire Service over many months, and we have met with them to explain our proposal. As a consequence, we have had no objection from the Police, Environmental Health, the Fire Service or the Licensing Authority.

We have absolutely no desire to operate a "Stack" type premises catering for stags and hens as is being suggested. Nor do we have any interest in building a "festival" site. The external area will be called The Orchard and we have taken our inspiration from Altringham Market in Cheshire. We have been saddened that so many of our local businesses have been taken over by large companies from outside the area. Our proposal would create facilities for small local independent businesses and provide them with the chance to establish themselves. We propose that the food stores will be occupied by a bakery, a coffee shop, a vintage sweet retailer and a small artisan craft business (or similar businesses) , as well as there being food providers. We are very aware that we are in a conservation area and we would like to create an old fashioned but modern market square which can accommodate fayres, whether they be craft or farmer style markets and a Christmas fayre.

We have applied for live music as a licensable activity but would not be hosting bands. Live music outdoors will end at 8.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and will comprise of street type entertainment. Any provision of music would be, however, subject to the inaudibility condition suggested to us by the Police. Mention has been made in several objections of us applying for recorded music until midnight. Whilst this is correct in relation to indoors only, Rialto's existing Premises Licence currently allows the provision of recorded music to any time so, we could, should we have wished, already provide recorded music beyond midnight. In reality, we are not applying for something that we can't already do in terms of indoors and recorded music.

Bearing the above in mind, and what we actually intend doing, we do not anticipate the huge influx of vehicular traffic that is feared. The majority of our patrons will be locals and will arrive by foot, meaning also that we do not need extensive parking provisions. Whilst we have described an area on our plan as a taxi rank that would probably have been better described as a drop off point, meaning that cars won't, as they do now in any event, pull up on the road.

Both Suny and his family, and myself have traded in the village for 35 years and have absolutely no desire to do anything that wouldn't be of benefit to our community. We think that what we propose will be an enormous asset and will provide opportunities for new local businesses to establish themselves, and for there to be a new focus for residents to socialise in a relaxed and family friendly atmosphere.