

I James Kemp being the licensee for The Bramley Apple Public House would like to submit the following supporting information in response to the allegations made by a group of local residents.

I was appointed the NEW licensee on September 5th following a meeting between local residents and the pubs management where issues were raised regarding the compliance of the 'Licensing Act 2003'. It was recognised by the management that the previous licensee/DPS was not as involved as needed and swift action was needed to ensure the local residents were happy with how the pub was managed showing respect for the nearby properties. I was upset to learn that only 5 days later this review was submitted as I was under the belief that 4 weeks had been agreed at the meeting on Aug 25th to rectify any concerns and the residents had not complied with this agreement.

However, it is important to us that the local residents are happy and measures have now been implemented to assist with their concerns such as removal of external seating at the front of the pub so we don't have passer bys using the seating late at night and causing a disturbance. I think it's important to note that all 3 pubs on Church Street have patrons who come and go and cause a nuisance however the finger of blame is always pointed at The Bramley Apple. We feel we should be responsible for the whole streets late night comings and goings as we know the blame will land on our doorstep and in fact I have witnessed Jonathan Rice (Manager) on many occasions risk his own safety to help drunken people who have fallen over and disperse large groups of lads further up the road just to keep the peace.

I believe that should a grace period be given to allow myself and the pubs management to fix any issues that may arise from our pubs patrons we can work together to create a safer and much quieter Church Street. The answer is not to damage a local business and increase unemployment but to identify and fix issues before reviews such as this are submitted. I know that all pubs on Church Street contribute to noise etc. and we should consider beginning a local group where all businesses and residents can discuss and share best practice and allow the Bramley Apple pub to be part of the solution and not the scape goat.

The review contains a lot of allegations and libellous comments that can not be substantiated or proved and I would suggest these are disregarded in this review, these are;

- ° Excessive noise level - define excessive? Tony Dennis has confirmed that no complaints of noise have been made to him.
- ° Unmanageable drinking outside - All outside drinking is monitored via CCTV inside the pub, not having a physical presence does not mean unmanageable.
- ° Cars parked on double yellows - these drivers cannot be connected to our pub, please provide proof that the car owners were our patrons?
- ° Underage drinking is a very serious allegation and unsubstantiated. We operate a strict challenge 25 policy and this is adhered to. If the residents are aware of any underage drinking please provide proof?
- ° No crime and disorder has been reported to the local Police relating to the Bramley Apple. However we are aware that they have been called to another pub on Church Street.

The late license is a necessary part of the business and allows the pub a unique selling point and generates approx 40% of our weekly takings. Without these hours the pub will have no choice but to reduce staffing costs and could cause the business to fold.

We recognise the pub has become a destination for some late night drinkers who wouldn't normally frequent the pub. A lot of our late night trade is other bar workers from the towns pubs and enter sober and have a few drinks to wind down, we also have some local care workers who come after their late shift to unwind after a very stressful shift in this current covid climate.

To be able to filter out the drinkers who come from the Hearty Goodfellow pub, The Coach House and the towns pubs we have introduced an exclusive membership club where as cards are given to our regular well behaved patrons, bar staff from other pubs and care workers allowing a retreat that is for them only and doors will be closed to everyone else and over a period of time once this is marketed we expect this to reduce the footfall considerably that come to the pub late. We intend to close our doors to all at 11pm unless they are an exclusive member. We believe this will fix any historic issues whilst maintaining sales and staffing hours.

I would suggest that this review is based mainly on speculation, unproven allegations and defamation. We as a business would like to build our relationship with the local residents and believe we have provided a solution to their concerns whilst maintaining and protecting possibly the most iconic public house in the town.

Best regards

James Kemp