

HEAPEY & WHEELTON



VILLAGE HALL

Charity Number 515631

Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall
West View
Wheelton
Lancashire
PR6 8HJ

19th June 2016

Dear Mr Culleton

Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall – Premises Licence Application (Revised)

Further to a meeting with Simon Clark (Head of Health, Environment and Neighbourhoods) at the Village Hall in April 2016, the Village Hall Committee has resolved to seek a revised Premises Licence. We are aware that a Premises Licence was granted in June 2015, however the conditions of that Licence are adversely affecting the viability of the Village Hall, which is totally reliant upon room hire for its income.

The principal issue is that we are losing bookings (& therefore much needed revenue) by being unable to offer hirings later than 2300h on a Friday or Saturday night. Most of these enquires are for private family celebrations – mainly weddings.

We are aware that a limited number of TENS per annum can be applied for by the Hirer themselves when they wish their event to go on for longer than 2300h, however, almost without fail, they do not wish to proceed with the booking when this is mentioned and thus look elsewhere for a suitable venue. We are thus at a considerable disadvantage compared to other similar venues in the area whose hours are not as restrictive as ours.

Although a member of the Village Hall Committee can apply for a TENS for the private hire event, that named person would then be required to be on the premises for the duration of the event. This is obviously unlikely to appeal to the Hirer. As a very small pool of key-holding volunteers (3-4), we certainly do not wish to be spending our evenings this way either.

All the Committee members live within the parishes of Heapey and Wheelton and some of us live within a few hundred yards of the Village Hall. In addition, some members have been actively involved with the Hall since the mid 1980s, when they led the fundraising efforts to buy the old school and develop it as a much-needed community facility.

We are all deeply embedded in Village life and have absolutely no desire to antagonise our neighbours/local residents through how the Village Hall is managed. Equally, we have a responsibility to generate sufficient funds to maintain the Hall and keep it available for local use into the future.

We are striving to achieve a sensible balance between keeping the Hall in active use, with sufficient income for its repair and maintenance and maintaining the peaceful village atmosphere that we all cherish.

With a very small pool of volunteers available to open up the Hall to Hirers, one-off bookings tend to be limited by our availability, so we do not envisage more than 1-2 Friday or Saturday night bookings per month & certainly no Sunday night bookings when we all have work/school the next day, as do many of our neighbours.

By applying for a revised Premises Licence (extending only Friday and Saturday night finish times to 0030h), we are seeking to reassure our neighbours and other local residents that we are a responsible Management Committee planning for, and in charge of, a very valuable community asset. We consider that the revised times will allow us to do this with minimum impact on the surrounding properties and we have taken soundings from some local residents as to what is likely to be acceptable to them before submitting this revised application.

Please let me know should you require any further information in connection with this application.

Yours sincerely

Kim Wisdom
Acting Chair
For and on behalf of Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall Committee
Registered Charity Number: 515631

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