

Reu'd via email

APPENDIX D

Paul Freeman
Cross Keys
Carwood Lane
Whittle-le-Woods
Chorley
Lancashire PR6 7LW

Chorley Borough Council
Licensing Authority
Civic Offices
Union Street
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 1AL

3 October 2008

THE SWAN WITH 2 NECKS

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that the above licensed premises are under threat of having their license curtailed or restricted to limit the hours that they are allowed to open at weekends, specifically on Friday and Saturday evenings.

I would like to protest at any such curtailment or restriction as I believe the SWAN WITH 2 NECKS to be a responsibly run public house that provides a valuable service to the local community.

My wife & I have been regular patrons since Nick & Denise Hogan re-opened the premises. Every effort is made by Nick & Denise to ensure that the pub has no detrimental impact on the locality even when open late at weekends. The door staff & bar staff make sure that patrons drink responsibly and they do not permit rowdy or anti-social behaviour. Rigorous checks are made to prevent any under age drinkers accessing the establishment and a strict no drugs policy is enforced.

The pub is open throughout the week providing a much needed social venue which would not be provided were it not for the revenues earned from the extended license at weekends.

Nick & Denise have made a very substantial investment in refurbishing the premises and have recently opened a bistro restaurant to provide yet more diverse amenity to the community. Regular entertainment is also funded by Nick & Denise to the undoubted cultural benefit of Chorley. This entertainment has included jazz bands, steel bands, blue grass folk & classical guitar.

APPENDIX D

Chorley Borough Council

Kevin Powell
11 Chorcliffe Hse
Hollinshead St
Chorley
PR7 7PE.

RECEIVED 23 OCT 2008

17-10-2008

THE SWAN WITH TWO NECKS PUB

It is rare that I feel compelled to write about issues, life is too short. This issue is one occasion where I make an exception.

I am not from Chorley, the address above is one of a close friend who I stay with once a week, (to where you may send any correspondence) so in such you have the valued opinion of someone new to the area and who regularly NUTS.

This letter is handwritten to personalise. I work in London and have only recently been a regular to Chorley. As a southerner I arrived with the usual ill advised "preconception" - How wrong could I be.

The "swan with two necks" is my "local", from the outset, I have warmed to Chorley since. The "majority reason" is this - this pub. Let me summarise:-

- 1 - A fantastic friendly pub where all age ranges gather in harmony. I have been literally bowled over by the friendliness, kindness and interaction between all the age groups. This place has teenagers mixing with the old and middleaged - How rare is this! Such a concept heads bottling and then spreading round the county and country.

contd →

2- An environment of Safety & wellbeing

I have enjoyed this pub midweek, Fridays and weekends. I have never come to a place where someone in their 40's can be so secure. At weekends there are exceptional doormen employed who I have seen refuse entry in a professional & diplomatic manner.

I have never witnessed any trouble of any kind. On the contrary, it was refreshing to see the youth of the town chatting & mingling with the older generation, or simply having a great time.

It is one of the few pubs I actually feel safe and comfortable staying in on a Friday evening. For me this is a priority. The pub even has installed CCTV within and this includes the toilets, a policy that the council should "enforce" on all pubs, if it is to tackle this difficult issue. (drug abuse reduction)

3- Diversity

This place actually encourages talented musicians from the locality. I have had the absolute pleasure of listening to Jazz on a Sunday afternoon, to the delight of families & a wealth of spectators. I have enjoyed exceptional guitarists, blues & country and western etc. What an advert for your town.

Now I have learned there is a licensing hearing to curtail the hours of this place because of an inability to control the pub after midnight. Where does this come from?

This is not my perception at all - In fact having toured the town on a Friday it is here I gravitate - precisely because there is no trouble. I did look at other places including night clubs nearby but the music booms out into the street and you wouldn't

even be heard if you Shouted your conversations.
In "the Swan" you go outside & the music is barely audible. when in the flat (200 - Sorry 100yds) near the pub - No noise.

This place has made me very welcome and I was actually considering moving to Chorley. I now hesitate, as I will not move to an area that blindly puts it's greatest assets out of business.

Finally, I have become a member of "Camra" next time because of this pub and the clientele I have met here. The people from "Camra" I met have expressed the same concerns over this issue with Council as I hold. They have witnessed no trouble and love the place as it's a great place to be.

Please be aware I have also heard strong rumour that the issue for license review has in part to do with the relationship the proprietor of "Apple Sacks" has with the Council.

I make no judgement, suffice to say that your role is to be impartial. Should such be anything other the Press will have a field day. and if I get a whiff of anything so-like many they will 'low job - may I politely suggest - is to work with the patrons and the landlord of this pub to constructively resolve any issues from here on.

Your job is not to remove one of the greatest assets of your community. The night club across the street (Apple Sacks) is not my scene. I have the house partition into the street. I deplore the ear splitting noise inside - Yet it serves a purpose so I hold my counsel.

→

Please stop this "licence reduction" nonsense and actually represent your town

- Follow the CCTU example on drugs (if not already) and enforce this in every pub.
- Encourage Pubs that harmonise all age groups
- Don't let (if true) relationships in business cloud your representation of your town.

If you curtail the license and the pub closes through lack of business, I will not live here. I will locate to an area that represents its community, (not its ^{own} interests. I would also encourage anyone to stay well away from Chorley as a "regressive" borough.

Please make the right decision. Leave things be and work with those involved to find an adult solution and maybe pick up some best practice.

Sincerely



P.S Kevin Powell.

- 1- can you let me know if you do (or intend) to enforce CCTU installation in all pub toilets and follow this pub's best practice in putting cash into cracking the issue
- 2- In any surveys you have done on this pub have you done the same number on all the others.

Thanks



P HILTON
22 GRIMEST
CHORLEY
PR37EW

Dear Sir I go in the Swan
Twice a week e W/ENDS to
I love the place on my mind
it is the best Pub in town
good beer. Homely feeling: like
being in a 5th Star Hotel.

The landlords are Reddy the best
that have ever been there will
be sorry to see them leave it
Thank you

Peter Hilton

RECEIVED 22 OCT 2008

RECEIVED 17 OCT 2008

Ross Hubbard
174 Water Street
Chorley PR7 1EX
Tel.266434
16 October 2008

Licensing Manager
Chorley Borough Council
Union Street, Chorley.

Dear Sir,

Swan with two necks, Hollinshead Street

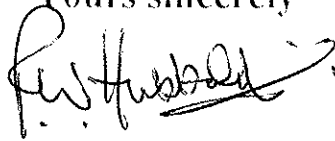
I was amazed to discover on reading a public notice of an application for the review of a premises licence, that I did not recognise the public house I have been frequenting daily since Hogan family reopened it. Here was I enjoying good cask ale in a comfortable well-run pub, but suddenly shocked to discover from the police “grounds for review” that I have been frequenting a veritable den of iniquity where incidents and crimes recorded at the premises in addition to complaints regarding entertainment provision, mean that I have been deluded into frequenting a town centre “dive” and not the place I am familiar with. Having now looked into the paperwork and files on the Swan, I am now content to write this last off as nonsense, and reminded myself how easy it is to use a tarbrush, but hard to replace a damaged reputation. I know of only one impossible –to- foresee serious incident at the pub, which was swiftly and correctly dealt with by the management. Much of the recorded “incidents” is trivial and little to do with the pub. This is NOT a youngsters pub, indeed that trade has never been sought. It is a 25s to 70s hostelry (I am 75 and wife 63) and we feel perfectly safe even at weekends late because despite the “lax” management alleged rowdiness is not tolerated and courteous and professional doormen ensure the absence of trouble.

There appears to be some hidden agenda in regard to the Swan, which has not been encouraged as an imaginative and expensively –developed business. The facilities deserve a visit by the whole Statutory Licensing Committee to inspect the range and quality and calibre unusual in a town pub. There is an allegation that the premises are being used as a nightclub, which

would be amusing though preposterous, were it not for the seriousness of the police recommendations. Apart from destroying the enjoyable ambience of a good music pub, there is a very serious aspect. If the curtailment of weekend licensing hours occurs then the Hogans might as well close the premises. The major income from late Friday and Saturday trade subsidises the quieter time and other events provided. The loss of the dancing, the music and the free enjoyment of the interior and exterior facilities will crucify this business, and lose Chorley a valuable asset as well as as some hardworking staff their jobs. This pub has been hampered by unreasonable and inequitable conditions (justify music only on Bank holidays and Sundays and only indoors !) and it seems is now the target of possibly a fatal attack by the very authorities that should encourage quality traders. It is as if there has been a confusion of the present Swan with the previous occupiers, when Chorley Parish steps and the Bottoms was a disgrace after the youngsters weekend orgies, but this present pub bears NO RESEMBLANCE WHATSOEVER.

I am

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.W. Hubbold', with a flourish at the end.

(R.W. HUBBOLD, B.Ed. (Hons.))

280 Moor Road
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 2NG

Council Enforcement Officer
Chorley Borough Council
Chorley
Lancashire

RECEIVED 22 OCT 2008

6th October 2008

Dear Sir

Re: Swan With Two Necks

I am writing to express my distress on hearing about the Council's intentions regarding the closing of the Swan With Two Necks at midnight.

Whilst this does not directly affect me, as I am an early evening customer, I believe that early closure will inevitably result in the Swan closing its doors for good, and this would be a grave injustice, for the following reasons.

I am not what could be classed as a serious drinker, probably taking a maximum of two halves of lager a day, but I do frequent the Swan on a daily basis, mainly to catch up with my friends who also go there.

We are a group of about 20 people who meet there regularly to catch up with the days events and exchange news and views, and generally enjoy spending quality time in good company for around two to three hours every evening. Usually we meet from 6pm onwards and we have generally all left the premises by nine pm at the latest.

We have our own corner which we lovingly call "Codgers Corner" because our average age is about 55, myself being 52, the youngest of our group being 38 and the oldest being 76, and for some of us, at least, visiting the Swan is the highlight of the day.

Some of us have known each other for twenty years or more, and others have only been frequenting the pub for six months or so, but we all enjoy each others company and companionship and, if not for the Swan, would have great difficulty finding anywhere else to meet that could match up to the peace and tranquillity of Codgers Corner. There simply is no other pub in town that would serve as a suitable meeting place for all of us.

A major factor is our enjoyment of the Swan is the hospitality provided by Denise and Nick Hogan who always try to take time out to sit with us, whenever they can spare a few minutes, and quite frankly this is something that you would never find in any other pub in Chorley.

My partner and myself recently visited the Swan with four friends and as it was my birthday we went for a meal in the Bistro and it was Denise who personally waited on us, and Nick Hogan provided a complimentary bottle of champagne for us. Where else in Chorley would you find such genuine hospitality?

Regarding the closure of the pub at midnight, I have, on rare occasions, been in the Swan well after midnight, and, although the pub is "lively", I have never seen any trouble, nor witnessed anyone causing problems. In the event that anyone becomes troublesome, I have always seen this dealt with efficiently by Denise, Nick, or his door staff, who would first ask the person responsible to leave, and in the rare event that this doesn't happen, I have seen the odd person forcibly ejected, but this is extremely rare and is handled with speedy professionalism. Even late at night and as a woman alone, I have never felt frightened or intimidated.

The Swan With Two Necks pub, about fifteen years ago, used to be a hard pub, with young people being rowdy and throwing bottles, and it was not a place that peaceful upstanding citizens would want to be associated with, and I can remember always thinking that it was somewhere I should avoid, but since Denise and Nick took over the place has been completely transformed and it is now somewhere that I would, and do, highly recommend to anyone who is looking for somewhere to either be entertained, or just simply visit at any time for a quiet drink.

So, when I hear the claims that the pub is not being managed properly, and that there are criminal elements, I am sorry but I think that you are talking about the wrong pub! It is simply NOT TRUE!!!

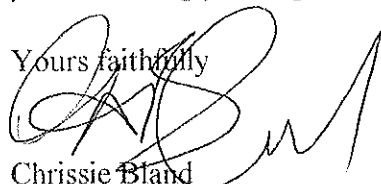
I would therefore ask you, as someone who has frequented the pub on a regular basis for the past two years, met up with old acquaintances and made many new friends there, to please reconsider your stance on this before you take any further action to sign the death knell for the Swan With Two Necks.

Come down to the Swan in the early evening and speak to the regulars in Codger's Corner. Let them tell you how much the pub means to them and how, as rate paying citizens of Chorley, they expect and require the Swan to continue to be their regular meeting place and their leisure facility for the rest of their lives and not "here today, gone tomorrow" because someone who doesn't care or even understand what the Swan really means to her regular clientele, has decided to close it at midnight.

After all, there are many far more rowdy pubs than the Swan With Two Necks on a Friday and Saturday night, and there will always be a minority of troublemakers who can't handle their drink, but why should we, the regulars from the early evening shift, have to suffer because of them?

I am available for comment and would welcome the opportunity to share my views at any public meeting you might wish to convene.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissie Bland', written over the typed name.

Chrissie Bland

Mob: 07971 047258