

## Naomi Stacey

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**From:** Kevin Stribley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 22 December 2017 12:00  
**To:** Naomi Stacey  
**Cc:** Heather Stribley  
**Subject:** Objection to Application for New Premises Licence: Meavy Parish Hall, The Green, Meavy, Yelverton, PL20 6PJY. Sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises, Monday to Sunday from 12:00 to 23:00.

Dear Naomi,

We would like to strongly object to the application for a permanent alcohol licence for the Parish Hall in Meavy village.

The reason for our objection is that the Parish Hall is at the centre of our quiet residential village of just 27 households and the granting of this licence will inevitably bring an increased level of noise, traffic and disturbance to our small community.

We've already seen a huge increase in speeding traffic, congestion, access and parking difficulties due to the popularity of the local pub, The Royal Oak, that is open from 11am to 11pm daily just twenty feet away from the Parish Hall.

As we live only two doors away from the Parish Hall we have, in the past, along with our neighbours, experienced, excessive noise and disturbing behaviour from Hall users when it has been used for private licenced events.

Historically the Hall has been used for the local. Garden Society, History group, Morris dancing, Amateur Dramatics, Pantomime etc; activities befitting a small Dartmoor village within a conservation area of the National Park. We are fortunate that there are already plenty of licenced premises nearby, one in the village, another less than a mile away.

Due to the popularity of the village pub with visitors, bringing speeding motorists unaccustomed to sharing the road with pedestrians and no street lighting, we already have difficulties walking with our dog, our children or grandchildren along the narrow village lanes, especially in the evenings.

Just for your information it seems more than a coincidence that the chairman of the parish hall committee is also the landlord of the local pub, a non-resident, who has made no secret of the fact that the pub is not big enough for his enterprising ideas. Not only does he allocate the running of the pub to his staff, he also runs another outside bar business, Moor Bars, from the Royal Oak.

Yours faithfully

Kevin and Heather Stribley

1 Heather Cottages

Meavy

Yelverton,

PL20 6PL

## Naomi Stacey

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**From:** Richardayres [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 December 2017 11:23  
**To:** Naomi Stacey  
**Subject:** Application for license at Meavy Parish Hall

It has come to my attention that this application has been made, and as a resident of Meavy village I wish to express objections. Firstly the granting of a permanent license to sell alcohol would represent a big change to the hall and I am very unhappy that the hall committee have not discussed it with residents- especially with those of us living nearby. Secondly I absolutely do not want to see any change that would bring more cars into our tiny village. We all risk life and limb stepping out of our houses in Meavy due to vehicles driving through this shared space.

There is a lovely parish-owned pub 20 metres from the hall where alcohol is available. We already get a temporary license for the hall sometimes when needed and I do not think that we need, nor do I think that most residents want a permanently licensed hall.

As a resident I do not support this application.

Richard Ayres The Old Garden House, Meavy Sent from my iPhone

20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

The Old Garden House

Meavy

To whom it may concern,

RE: Application for a Premises Licence to be granted to Meavy Parish Hall, Meavy

I am writing to express my concern about the potential provision of a permanent licence for the sale of alcohol at my local parish hall.

My feeling is that the provision of temporary licensing, at the request of individual hirers (which often includes myself) is sufficient. A permanently licensed establishment already serves the village: the Royal Oak Inn is just opposite the parish hall building, a few steps away across the village green.

I am a local resident, living on the same lane as the hall, some five houses from the building. I am supportive of the Parish Hall and fully appreciative of the work of the Committee on its behalf. I use the hall frequently myself, for both licensed and non-licensed events. I have no problem with occasional licensing, when events serve the village or other local communities, and where they provide a positive addition to village life.

However, the village is very small, with just over twenty dwellings. Along with moorland tourism generally, the Royal Oak does very well in attracting significant numbers of visitors, and the village is already very busy. There is insufficient infrastructure in Meavy, in terms of accessible roads, parking and so on, to cater for another permanently licensed venue.

When there are events, the lanes become congested and walking through the village is perilous because most of us have houses fronting the lanes, the lanes are narrow and pot-holed, there are no pavements, and no lighting at night. I and others have, on more than one occasion, been knocked into the hedgerows by cars, during both day and evening hours.

One such occurrence resulted in an injury to my young step-daughter, who was keeping to her side of the lane but a driver misjudged the space available and knocked her from her bicycle with his wing mirror. On other occasions following events, we have found people wandering around our (private) back lane and into our garden. The noise is also sometimes disruptive, which is really only acceptable on special occasions.

While I appreciate that occasional events form an important part of village life, they can be intrusive and cause noise pollution in the valley, as well as the type of unfortunate instances outlined above, and I would be concerned about the potential for this on a more permanent basis with two licensed venues operating simultaneously in such a small space. Residents ultimately must feel safe and comfortable in their own environment, so I hope our wellbeing will be taken into account.

Many thanks for your attention,

Dr Sam Regan de Bere, Resident of Meavy

## Naomi Stacey

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**From:** Amanda Steers [redacted]  
**Sent:** 01 January 2018 19:15  
**To:** Naomi Stacey  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Strong Objection to Application for New Premises Licence: Meavy Parish Hall, The Green, Meavy, Yelverton, PL20 6PJY. Sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises, Monday to Sunday from 12:00 to 23:00.  
**Attachments:** Meavy Flooding 6.jpg; Meavy Flooding 1.jpg; Meavy Flooding 5.jpg

Dear Naomi,

I am writing to strongly object on a number of grounds to the Application for a New Premises Licence for the Sale of Alcohol on the premises of Meavy Parish Hall, Meavy Village.

On the application form it is written "*State the name and details of the individual whom you wish to specify on the licence as designated premises supervisor - Stephen Jon Earp.*" This is totally unacceptable!

### **The History of Mr Stephen Jon Earp, The Royal Oak Inn, Meavy Parish Hall and Meavy Village Residents.**

#### **The Royal Oak Inn, Meavy.**

The Royal Oak Inn, Meavy is a very unique and historic Grade II Listed pub, it has been owned by the Parish of Meavy for centuries, the village itself dates back to the Domesday Records and is a small ancient village with approx 27 properties of which 23 of those properties and structures are protected by varying degrees of listed status in a Conservation Area within the Dartmoor National Park.

The village is small, rural, quiet and compact, no street lighting, no pavements with narrow country lanes/roads approaching the village, with each building in close proximity to another. The Village resides in the bottom of a valley and so noise does carry, it goes without saying.

Some of the profits from the Royal Oak Inn are put back into the local parish community to financially assist with projects/grant funding for projects in the Parish and for the residents of the Parish to receive a rebate on their Council Tax, all of which is greatly appreciated.

Due to this very special and unique situation, Meavy Parish Hall has *never* held an alcohol license, it would be extremely damaging to the Parish community and the unique set up that has transpired for centuries. Meavy Parish Hall resides only approximately 25 feet away from the the Royal Oak Inn, it is only separated by 2 narrow roads and Meavy Village Green.

Mr Stephen Earp is the current tenant landlord of the Royal Oak Inn, Meavy.

#### **Meavy Parish Hall, Meavy.**

Meavy Parish Hall is an unlisted historical asset within Meavy Village. The original building, for which only the original walls on the North Elevation and North East Elevation survive, formed part of the original school for both Meavy and Sheepstor Parish children. It was the first school of its kind in the area at the time, it was converted into the Parish Hall we all know today back in 1928. Due to its positioning as the original school building for the children, it naturally resides in the historical heart of Meavy Village in very close proximity to neighbouring residential properties/cottages, the Grade I Listed St Peter's Church, The Royal Oak Inn and Meavy Village Green.

Meavy Parish Hall is used by local groups including Meavy Garden Society, Meavy Amateur Dramatics, local history groups for giving talks and St Peter's Church amongst others.

### **Mr Stephen Jon Earp, The Royal Oak Inn, Meavy Parish Hall and Meavy Village Residents.**

Over recent years, there have been many complaints made by Meavy Residents to West Devon Borough Council Environmental Health and Licencing, Dartmoor National Park Authority Enforcement Team, Devon County Highways, Burrator Parish Council and the Local Police concerning specifically Mr Stephen Jon Earp, and his activities involving both the Royal Oak Inn and Meavy Parish Hall.

Mr Earp is the current tenant landlord of the Royal Oak Inn (a non-resident, he lives in Postbridge) and on the Meavy Parish Hall Committee, Mr Earp also owns a separate mobile business called 'Moor Bars' which he regularly advertises on the many of his parked 'business' vehicles in the village. Mr Earp has proven himself to be a 'repeat offender' in recent years in his capacity as tenant of the Royal Oak Inn and Member of the Meavy Parish Hall Committee.

Mr Earp has over the years organised events that have proven to be too big for the small rural village of Meavy, putting not only its residents safety at risk, but also the safety of visitors who do not know the area, the events have been poorly organised with no elements of Public Safety being considered, even so far as to having live electricity cables running from the Royal Oak Inn, across the road and onto the village green, without the road being closed. Mr Earp has set up his 'Moor Bars' mobile bar right outside the Royal Oak Inn, on the cobbles, selling alcohol and BBQ food with people queuing and standing around in the road, when cars are trying to pass.

Mr Earp has organised, amongst other things, Bank Holiday Weekend 3 day Cider Festivals with loud excessive music in Meavy Parish Hall which breached the Licence of the Temporary Events Notice into the early hours of the morning, excessive unacceptable loud drunken behaviour of people on the roads and Village Green in the early hours of the morning. However, during the days, there where no roads closed, no parking areas organised, empty drinking glasses scattered about the village with some glasses broken, amongst other places, drunken behaviour, shouting, foul language, anti social behaviour with no concerns over Public Safety, Child Safety or any other safety being considered. The WDBC Officers who dealt with this are Dave Sexton and Sarah Clark.

In recent years, during the winter for example, when a Christmas event has been organised in Meavy Parish Hall with Mr Earp putting himself front and foremost, an advertisement had been put in the Local Tavistock Times Gazette. One particular noteworthy part of the advertisement relates to the "*Morris Dancers will be performing on the Village Green*". However, this did not happen, they performed in the road right outside the Parish Hall, blocking vehicles from passing and the road had not even been closed, again another evidenced and documented situation where the public where also standing in the road to watch, including children.

This situation happened again as recently as Boxing Day 2017 right outside the Royal Oak Inn, again no road was closed and the dancers were once again causing an obstruction on the highway with children and adults standing in the road watching.

All of these situations have been evidenced and documented with the Environmental Health and Licensing Team at West Devon Borough Council, Dartmoor National Park Authority Enforcement Team, Devon County Highways and the local police. The Burrator Parish Council repeatedly failed to act when repeatedly approached by very concerned Meavy Village Residents.

### **Environmental Health of Meavy Village.**

Meavy Village has a very long and well documented history of flooding, spanning decades. The flooding problems in recent years have caused such damage and concern that residents of the village have been working with the Devon County Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team in conjunction with Devon County Highways to cope with the ongoing flooding problems which have been consistently getting worse for the past 4 years, this is supported by the West Devon Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 December 2014. In response to the storms of Winter 2013-2014, the Government have also acknowledged in their amendments of the National Planning Policy Framework March 2014 that Planning Officers and Reservoir Undertakers should "*Avoid intensification of development within areas at risk of reservoir failure*". Meavy Village is 1/2 mile from Burrator Reservoir and subsequently right in the line of fire should anything untoward happen to the reservoir.

### **Flooding and Meavy Parish Hall.**

There is one particular incident that I would like to address with regard to flooding in Meavy Village and the use of Meavy Parish Hall.

On Saturday 6th February 2016, Meavy Parish Hall was being used for the Meavy Amateur Dramatics Pantomime, it was a Saturday afternoon and a matinee performance was taking place.

Over several previous days, the rain fall had been very heavy and unrelenting, the organisers of the pantomime and the Parish Hall Committee (some of whom are the same people) were aware of this, however, they decided that all of the performances would still go ahead regardless.

On Saturday 6th February 2016 the weather was so bad that it caused severe flooding in the village to both land and property, the Pantomime performances should have been cancelled in the interests of Public Safety, however, they were not. The narrow lanes leading into the Meavy Village were water logged due to blocked drains, blocked culverts and debris from hedgerows, people and cars were still trying to get to the centre of the village for the Pantomime performances. On the afternoon of Saturday 6th February cars had continued to come to the village for the Pantomime in the Parish Hall the roads were flooded and the waves of water that were being caused by the vehicles as they passed through the water was exacerbating the flooding of properties that line the road to the Parish Hall.

People driving the cars would not stop, even at the request of home owners trying desperately hard to protect their properties.

I attach photographs, the photos showing white coverings over the Parish Hall windows are those associated with the Pantomime performances, they were trying to stop the wind and rain from making so much noise on the windows.

The Pantomime performances in Meavy Parish Hall should have been cancelled and the Royal Oak Inn should have been closed in advance, in the interests of Public Safety and for the protection of residential properties. The village need fewer visitors and cars at this crucial time, not more!

## Conclusion

The proposed sale of alcohol licence for Meavy Parish Hall is totally unacceptable when considered against past historical events in recent years that have threatened both public and residential safety, have proven to be extremely noisy, have failed to protect children from potential harm and encouraged crime and disorder (anti social behaviour).

The proposed sale of alcohol licence and the times for that licence for Meavy Parish Hall would effectively turn it into another pub in very close proximity to an existing pub in a very small residential Dartmoor Village. This would increase Public Safety concerns with serious potential of an increase in the alcohol fuelled level of crime and disorder/anti social behaviour if past experience is anything to go by, with no guarantee that children will be protected from harm and the noise level would be seriously exacerbated, the traffic along narrow country roads would also be exacerbated not only affecting local residents, but school children who walk from the local village primary school through the village on narrow roads to get to St Peter's Church. This compounded by horse riders who use the lanes on a regular basis and who leave their horses on the village green to go into the Royal Oak Inn to buy food and beverages.

In allowing a permanent sale of alcohol license, Mr Earp may see this as an opportunity to use his 'Moor Bars' business to set up shop in the Parish Hall on a permanent basis and run that as a dual business alongside the Royal Oak Inn. When he finally relinquishes his tenancy of the Royal Oak Inn, he will unfortunately have set up a rival business only a few feet away with ALL of the profits going straight into his pockets and not off the Parishioners Council Tax or making financial contributions to any other projects within the Parish. This has the potential to do some terrible damage to the Royal Oak Inn tenancy in the future which will be devastating for the Parish community with nobody wanting to have to compete for business in such a small rural village and subsequently the Royal Oak Inn would have to close.

Due to the nature of Burrator Grouped Parish Council, whom on regular occasions have done nothing at all when concerns have been raised and complaints made by its parishioners about the Royal Oak Inn, Meavy Parish Hall and Mr Earp, it would be both suitable to the situation and logical that a *sale of alcohol license should not be granted to Meavy Parish Hall.*

Under the circumstances it would also be prudent that whenever an event is scheduled in Meavy Parish Hall with the request for a Temporary Events Notice application, that West Devon Borough Council Environmental Health and Licencing Team maintain control and vigilance over such a small rural village on Dartmoor.

I have been informed that a Parish Hall can apply for up to 15 Temporary Events Notices in 1 year at the very reasonable cost of £20 per application. This is completely acceptable and befitting a small rural residential village on Dartmoor with the TEN applications being made available for public scrutiny.

Therefore, the sale of alcohol licence should not be granted to Meavy Parish Hall in order to protect not only Meavy Village Residents, but also the visitors to the village for their use of the Royal Oak Inn, St Peter's Church and other activities such as horse riding and walking. Public Safety and child safety is



paramount, coupled with the safety of the local residents and their property. Past lessons need to be learnt otherwise we will going "*out of the frying pan and into the fire*" !

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Steers



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