

APPENDIX F - Additional Information from Applicant



Dear Dartington Parish Councillors.

Thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns regarding our license amendment application which we have addressed in a separate document.

We believe Things Happen Here offers a lot to our diverse community and we want to work with DPC to continue to do so.

We would like to reassure you that we have absolutely no intention of making extended opening a weekly occurrence or opening post 11pm on an evening where there is not a pre advertised, appropriate event.

We are more than happy to make a commitment to the above - we have never, and have no intention of opening post 11pm unless we give notice in advance of any appropriate post 11pm event.

The sole reason we are applying for the extended licence is to avoid the need to rely on temporary event licences as we have in the past to allow us to operate flexibly and not deal with the cost, time consuming admin and limits of always relying on TENS.

We have run numerous events, including post 11pm finishes without incident or complaint and we trust that our detailed and accurate answers to the concerns you raised clearly demonstrate our good intention and practise and show why our application is supported by both our landlords and the Police licensing authority.

Regards.

Martin Edmunds, Jacek Zeigler, Sasha Edmunds, Jasmine Wooley – Things Happen Here.



- **That people would continue to linger outside the venue after the bar had closed and potentially cause a nuisance - antisocial behaviour, being loud and drunk - for longer if the licensing hours were increased.**

We already host multiple events including events that run until 1am and we have not received a single complaint or concern at any time, regarding any behaviour of this nature.

We have had zero incidents of anti social behaviour at our post 11pm events. We have not had a single reason to intervene or call the police on any of our previous events. If customer noise or drunkenness outside was an issue we would politely remind customers of their responsibility to our neighbours or ask security to step in if required but it has never been an issue.

There is clear signage displayed in the venue and a notification on both our website and monthly newsletter asking our customers to be respectful to neighbours when leaving the premises which is being followed.

- **Outdoor drinking should be discouraged.**

The amount of people drinking outside on a post 11pm event is negligible, generally a few smokers who may take drinks outside before returning inside. On these events people are attending to enjoy the event not to sit outside in the dark or cold or to consume alcohol at all hours. We have till data evidence that clearly indicates that sales of alcohol significantly decreases post 11pm and we have a wide choice of non-alcoholic drinks available.

Before staff leave it is their duty to ensure our outside area is clear of customers, we have always operated this policy and will continue to do so.

- **The building is not soundproofed so sound can travel long distances.**

We have sound curtains permanently in place alongside additional sound insulation which is used at all evening music events irrespective of closing time. We have a robust noise management process highlighting how we manage volume and the importance we place on keeping sound at a reasonable level for a building of our type and size.

We are not the only source of noise in Dartington. Sound can travel from any location or event in the area. We are proud that we make every effort as noted above to keep sound to an appropriate level and have not received a single noise complaint from Environmental Health, DPC, the Police. We have met with one neighbour who contacted us via our landlords. This is the only meeting of this nature we have ever had and are pleased to be able to say that we had a positive conversation on both sides.

- **The area is rural and it's not appropriate.**

The area being rural has had no bearing on any event we have ever held previously, all of which has passed without issue. As noted, we have not received a single complaint or notification at any point from any organisation regarding any of the multiple events, including late night events, we have held.

We would love some clarity on what is deemed appropriate in a rural area so we could answer this point in more detail.

To be clear, the only reason we are applying for the new licence is to avoid the need to rely on Temporary Events Notices for some of our events. We have no intention of significantly increasing the amount of late finish events but want to operate flexibly and not deal with the cost, admin and limits of always relying on TENS. We are more than happy for you to forward this letter to DPC and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with them to discuss their concerns.

It is important to note that we are here to support and work with our local community, based in a community centre, we are extremely mindful of what we bring to Dartington. We wish to work with the DPC to reassure them that we act with thought, care and consideration for all.

We have noted that in the monthly council meeting minutes (available on the DPC website) there is not a single mention of any issues raised by DPC in reference to the many events we have held (there is no mention of Things Happen Here at all) which would indicate that no concerns have been raised in the last 6 months. At no point have we been contacted by DPC, or any other organisation, with any issues.

It is also worth noting that our licence change application is supported by our landlords, The Dartington Recreation Association as well as Rebecca Barker, Alcohol Licensing Officer, Devon and Cornwall Police who is happy to add her name to this reply representing Devon and Cornwall Police.

- **There is a children's respite centre nearby to which these extended hours might cause concern.**

We have a good relationship with the nearby respite centre and have never received a complaint or note of a single issue from them regarding any event we have hosted at Things Happen Here. With our experience of running events, including post 11pm and noise management procedures in place we see no reason why this would change but would obviously deal accordingly with the respite centre if anything was ever reported.

- **Occasional license hours could be extended such as on New Years Eve & perhaps other special occasions but not as a regular weekly occurrence.**

We have absolutely no intention of making extended opening a weekly occurrence or opening as a late bar when there is no specific, relevant event on where we believe a late finish is appropriate. The only reason we are applying for the extended licence is to avoid the need to rely on temporary licences. We have no intention of significantly increasing the amount of late finishes. We currently hold a maximum of two post 11pm events (through the use of a TENS) a month. This is the sole reason we have applied for an extension to our licence.

We have never opened as a late bar, have no intention of doing so and already advertise in advance any post 11pm finishes. Our license extension request will continue these practises.

- **The noise already travelling up from the venue & across the field is enough. Many people here work from early morning so to have this finishing regularly at 1am would inconvenience more local people.**

We have not received a single noise complaint or comments regarding public inconvenience from environmental health, SHDC, the Police, Dartington Parish Council (not once has there been any mention of issues with Things Happen here in publicly available DPC meeting minutes) or from any other body. We already have run multiple events without issue. With our history of running these events in a proper manor and historic lack of issues to report, we see no reason why there would suddenly be a problem of the nature mentioned.

- **Transport; how are these people travelling home?**

As they already do without any issue that has previously been raised - car, walking, bike, taxi.

- **The likely activity in the surrounding neighbourhood will be outside the control of the venue operators. Clients will be leaving before and after 1am and will inevitably make noise and disruption in the local area as they either wait for transport or walk towards, for example, the train station in Totnes.**

As previously mentioned, we have not received a single noise complaint or comments regarding public inconvenience from environmental health, SHDC, the Police, Dartington Parish Council (not once has there been any mention of issues with Things Happen here in publicly available DPC meeting minutes) or from any other body. We already have run multiple events including post 11pm events, without issue. With our history of running these events in a proper manor and historic lack of issues to report, we see no reason why there would suddenly be a problem of the nature mentioned.

- **In addition to the above it is almost inevitable that damage will be done to private property and public facilities in the immediate neighbourhood due to the increased presence of non residents influenced by alcohol consumption and their peers.**

As previously mentioned, we have run many events including post 11pm and we have not received a single complaint re anti social behaviour or issues of the nature noted. The Police licensing department fully support our application. To reiterate, with our history of running these events in a proper manor and historic lack of issues to report, we see no reason why there would suddenly be a problem of the nature mentioned. We would also like to point out that residents may be returning from other venues in the area which we are not in control of.

There has been no speight of damage to private property and public facilities in the area that has ever been reported to us or relevant authorities that we are aware of.

- **This is inappropriate and unnecessary in a rural village setting. The peaceful enjoyment of the area by residents is already sufficiently compromised with the licence as it is, including the options for occasional later events.**

We are very aware of our standings within Dartington and feel very lucky to serve parishioners as we do. We have a loyal local following who fully support what we do. We work hard to build good relationships with our community and feel very in touch with what is appreciated and needed in Dartington.

As previously mentioned, we have not received a single noise complaint or comments regarding public inconvenience or anti social behaviour from environmental health, SHDC, the Police, Dartington Parish Council (not once has there been any mention of issues with Things Happen here in publicly available DPC meeting minutes) which would lead us to believe the peaceful enjoyment of the area by residents is being compromised by our customers.

We would like to reassure DPC that the information above is honest and accurate. The only reason we are applying for the extended licence is to avoid the need to rely on temporary licences. We have no intention of significantly increasing the amount of late finishes. This is the sole reason we have applied for an extension to our licence.

Regards.

Martin Edmunds, Jacek Zeigler, Sasha Edmunds, Jasmine Woolley - Things Happen Here)



THINGS HAPPEN HERE NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Professional grade sound equipment is in place, recommended, provided and fitted by our sound company of choice, Talking Slides, to ensure both the most appropriate volume and best quality sound for a venue of our size.

Sound equipment is regularly checked to ensure it is performing correctly to keep to the appropriate volume.

At all amplified live band events and all relevant late night (post 11pm) DJ events a professional sound person is in place controlling sound via our mixing desk.

At events of the above nature, our sound person and/or a member of staff assess sound both inside and outside the building to keep volume to acceptable levels.

Staff, artists and our sound person are briefed before an event on their responsibilities regarding event volume.

Supervisors are briefed on the nature of each event at the venue to ensure they are aware of the nature of the event and can work with our sound person to ensure appropriate volume is kept to.

Sound curtains are in place covering the two windows in the venue, behind our stage and sound booth. These curtains are drawn for all evening events to negate sound leakage.

Sound curtains are also in place on our wall nearest to our adjoining neighbours to negate sound leakage.

A sound limiter is in place set to 96db (the appropriate sound for a venue of our size as advised by our sound company, sound person and available on line information)

Fire doors remain shut whenever music is on including sound check to negate sound leakage unless needing to be opened in case of emergency or alarm.

Our entrance door into our lobby remain shut whenever music events are on in the evenings including sound check unless needing to be temporarily opened to let air in to cool the room down.

Volume is set outside at a volume that allows people to speak comfortably without being disturbed in our licenced area. This volume is set by and regularly monitored by staff and agreed by artists.

Outside speakers are set up facing away from neighbours, towards the road where there is no housing, to negate sound leakage.

Signage is displayed by the venue exit reminding customers of their responsibility to keep noise and disturbance to a minimum when leaving the building.

A similar reminder is also printed on our monthly listings and included on our website.