

** Islwyn Road
Wattsville
Crosskeys
Caerphilly
NP11 7QH

23rd May 2021

Licensing Section
Tŷ Penallta,
Parc Tredomen,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed.
CF82 7PG

Dear Sirs,

The Wattsville Pavilion Sports Ground, also known as the Wattsville Club House, has now requested to extend their alcohol license application from 19:00-23:00 Monday - Friday (inside), to 12:00-23:00 (inside and outside), and outside at the rear of the property. There is also an application to vary the recorded music and an application for live music, for the same hours advertised as the alcohol license. Saying that, it is not clear from this variation of the license whether music recorded or live can be played to the rear of the property.

This variation of the application has been made only 6 months after the original license application. It was suggested that the original hours were reduced at that point but was rejected due to the additional cost to have them lengthened at a later date. At the council meeting on 26th October, Mr Wayne Brinkley stated that they had applied for the original dates and times specified in order to only have to do it once due to costs. Yet, just six months later, they are applying to increase the hours after only being open a handful of days.

The Wattsville Club house is close to residential properties at lower Islwyn Road. Many of the residents, ourselves included, have lived in this quiet area for 20-30 years, when the building was used as a Community Centre. It is notable that the majority of people, if not all who are supporting this venture, either do not live in Wattsville or do not live close enough to be affected by noise and parking issues. Despite this, the people who are directly affected by it are seen as negative or miserable.

We did not buy and invest in our homes to be next to a clubhouse playing music practically all day every day. There will be no respite from the noise and the shouting to be heard over the music. After working all day, the quiet time we have to recharge our batteries and maintain our mental health will be destroyed by music from the clubhouse. We know that noise travels, and will travel to our properties, particularly bass music. The first Saturday they were open and were allowed to drink outside, the beat of the music from their sound system was easy to hear, and when a popular song came on the singing from the group was even louder – assumedly from the football team. It will get even louder with live music, which leads to the question of why the residents should be subjected to this anti-social behaviour. We have already witnessed this from all the football matches and training sessions held over the past few months. When adults are involved, it often includes foul language too.

We personally feel that allowing the sale of alcohol every day for such long periods, along with extensions on bank holidays, will lead to more noise and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of our residences. The noise of people leaving after having the opportunity to drink

for many hours will increase at a time when most respectable local residents want to enjoy the peace of their garden, and at the end of the night are in bed and trying to sleep. In addition, residents may have to sleep with their windows tight shut when groups of "customers" slam car doors, wander home talking loudly to each other, talking on their mobile phones, or screaming at each other in the lane. Along with this there will noise from car engines and taxis.

As you will know, parking is at a premium in this locality, and there have already been scratches and damage to a neighbour's car from visitors parking. This will only get worse during evening events with music, especially with alcohol being served for 11 hours every day and 10 hours each Sunday. Alcohol often leads to aggressive behaviour too. Some residents have young families, some are elderly, and some (like us) just want peace and quiet when they come home from work or have time off.

On the 28th April, the retired village postmistress who lives near the clubhouse, asked on the Wattsville Community Group Facebook page about the change in licence, as nothing had been shared there. Wayne is the one of the Administrators of this page along with Steve Prosser. There were a lot of aggressive comments back to this lady for just asking the question regarding why this news had not been shared. One of the local trustees was involved in this. Due to this response, many residents are scared to make representations, but have posted notes in doors and on local lampposts. Out of 33 comments made in response, there are only 6 left to be viewed. It appears only positive statements for the clubhouse can be posted or can remain online. It was only after this request that the announcement was shared across the village. It was strange that the club did not want to post the news of their extended licence application, like they do when they want to share the club's cocktail menu and bar opening hours.

In conclusion, as in our previous appeal, we ask that those in charge of the clubhouse manage expectations based on the hours they have before extending them. These changes are not reasonable to local residents in our opinion. They have not been open long enough to gauge if they need more hours. The close proximity of this venue to us as local residents will have a major and long-term effect on our future wellbeing.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr and Mrs S Latham