

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Licensing & Permits
Ty Penallta
Parc Tredomen
Ystrad Mynach
CF82 7PG

29th March 2022

Licensing Act 2003 – New Premises Licence

TOG Farm Ltd - The Old Granary, Pentwynwyn Road, Rudry, CF83 3DG
The sale of alcohol Monday to Sunday inclusive 1500 to 2300 hours.

Dear Sir/madam

I wish to object to the above, noted licence on the following grounds:

- 1 Prevention of Crime & Disorder
- 2 Public Nuisance
- 3 Public safety
- 4 Protection of children from harm

Prevention of Crime & Disorder

From 2020 and throughout 2021 we have unfortunately been able to experience and can provide an insight on the impacts of TOG Farms unlawful business activities and although not licensed the impacts of them providing alcohol to their revellers has shown their lack of respect for the law, their neighbours and local residents. On walking close by we could smell the excessive use of cannabis by its clients. Not having to be close by we could hear excessive noise from their revelling far and wide.

The activities conducted at TOG Farm, being mainly 'entertainment events' involving lots of alcohol as well as music live, disco, karaoke and recorded, have resulted in numerous complaints from local residents in respect of noise, general disturbance and anti-social behaviour often resulting in police attendances and the issue of a noise abatement order. While it appears that alcohol has been previously provided for these events without seeking to apply for licence, it will only serve to increase the detriment to local residents if the sale of alcohol for 40 hours each week in a peaceful [open-air] countryside location is permitted. It will also have a detrimental impact on the rural area should Film Events take place as this will again disturb the rural setting by light and sound.

Public Nuisance

It is clear from the previous complaints received by Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding TOG Farm's activities that the consumption of alcohol has fuelled several instances of public nuisance due to the inhibitions of 'visitors' or more accurately 'rowdy party goers'. The more usual setting for public consumption of alcohol is in public houses where noise and behaviour impacts are contained within that environment rather than those outside and around it. At TOG Farm, which is an open-air event environment in a countryside setting, the noise and behaviour impacts greatly on local residents and has been totally unacceptable as evidenced by the attendance of police and the noise abatement order. Agreeing to licensing the sale of alcohol for TOG Farm events will likely result in a proliferation of such complaints and cause distress and disturbance for us neighbours and those residents in the villages of Rudry and Waterloo as well as disturbing the natural setting and sense of place and the disruption to nature and wildlife habitats.

Past evidence has shown those party goers of TOG Farm have been responsible for creating additional littering of empty beer bottles and detritus coming from the business either in deliberately being disposed of inappropriately or being allowed to filter out from the business (cans, balloons, plastic, food containers etc) and the antisocial behaviour such as that seen where one of their visitors was witnessed urinating along the hedgerows coming back to their tents after venturing out wider than the confines of the business.

Public safety

It is obvious from images attached there are serious concerns regarding the safety of visitors to TOG Farm which are likely to increase with the permitted sale of alcohol in what is essentially a farming environment. In the application TOG Farm suggests in their response to 'safety' is getting clients to sign a disclaimer! **This does not reduce the risk!** those risks, due to lack of duty of care, incompetence and impaired judgment through excess alcohol reduces the ability to foresee risk and danger. This will lead to serious harm where there is the likelihood of risk taking behaviour resulting in a greater risk of injury. Consuming alcohol in a farmland setting means the risks are more so where farm animals present an unpredictable risk in any event.

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This detritus allowed to filter/escape into the local environment



In addition to these risks the terrain on which this activity is to take place is difficult to access by vehicle and the police have already indicated should there be an emergency the emergency services would not be able to access the area without 4x4 vehicles of which are not available easily in Gwent for the ambulance services, fire and rescue or the police.

Protection of children from harm

I have some very serious concerns for the safety of children attending TOG Farm where they were in close proximity to farm animals with no apparent protection and without any competent person should an incident occur. This is completely reckless behaviour by the owners of TOG Farm and give you an insight on their lack of ability to understand the legal implications as business owners of ensuring their clients will not be put at risk. See here where pictures posted by a 'visitor' to TOG Farm which demonstrates a lack of responsibility by the proprietors clearly placing children in harm's way. Adding poor practice and lack of basic common sense of the proprietors in protecting visitors from risk and the addition of the sale of alcohol to those visitors will only increase this risk by decreasing inhibitions and increasing the likelihood of those very real risks and risk taking.



I believe the application for an Alcohol License to this business for any number of guests should be refused because of the above and in view of the historical evidence that shows these applicants, in my opinion, are not reliable or responsible candidates to hold such a license, they have in my view shown clearly they hold no regard for rules or regulations especially as the applicant does not reside at the Old Granary as stated on the application form, but in an unlawfully sited static caravan within the fields of TOG Farm and it is my belief they will abuse any allowance afforded them.