

APPENDIX F – Objection from Paul and Sonia Chavasse

Objection to application for licence extension Croydon Hall (RECEIVED ONLINE VIA GENERAL ENQUIRIES- DATED 4TH MARCH 2021)

Re: Application for variation of licence for Croydon Hall, Rodhuish, TA24 6QT

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to object to the application to extend the licensable activities at Croydon Hall as displayed on your letter near the property dated 4th February 2021.

We are unable to find the full details on your website at the time of writing because the following message is displayed.

'Current licence applications

Sorry this service is currently unavailable

Please try again later'

Therefore, we only have the limited information on the displayed letter to rely on.

Our points of objection are:

Extending the hours of serving alcohol to 02.00hrs and that of food to 07.00hrs to non-residents will undoubtedly be associated with increased traffic in the area due to guests leaving the hotel after these hours and increased noise associated with their departure. It will also result in more guests being on the site in the early hours of the morning than would be the case if it were just hotel residents who could be served alcohol after the current deadline of 01.00hrs.

The location of Croydon Hall in a quiet area of Exmoor National Park makes this a very noticeable increase in traffic in the area and thus will cause public nuisance.

We do not agree that a hotel in this area needs a licence for non-residents after midnight to succeed as a 'function venue'. Many, many properties in towns and cities all over the country must stop serving alcohol at midnight and they all continue to function perfectly well as venues for weddings, parties etc.

We are very surprised that the matter is being considered again after being considered in March 2019, when an hour was added to the existing licence. It should be noted that the extension then given was in fact against the planning permission in place for Croydon Hall to be functioning under and I am confused why the extension was not repealed at the time. Is it lawful for an extension to be granted which cannot be legally applied?

It is only two years since the committee made the decision to extend the hours to 01.00, when that applicant asked for a longer extension. As we are not aware of any factors that would have changed in the last two years, to grant a different extension now would imply that the committee had not done their job properly last time. This would suggest that the committee's decisions are arbitrary and - a point made at the time - that one extension is a slippery slope to further extensions.

On the same grounds we are very surprised that you are again considering an application to extend the licence of the property when we are not confident that it is within the limits of its current planning permission. We appreciate that you considered in March 2019 that this was not within your remit but would like to question whether you are legally allowed to extend a licence for a property

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which is not then able to use that licence. The problem with this failure to link the two processes is that if, every time an application is made, a little extension is made and not repealed this will lead eventually to a markedly extended licence being in place for a venue which had no legal right to use it. Should any application then be made to change the planning permission there would be no further possibility of restricting the hours. Again, we would like you to assure us that this is within your legal boundaries.

Yours faithfully,

Sonia and Paul Chavasse