

## APPENDIX D

### REPRESENTATIONS/OBJECTIONS RECEIVED FROM INTERESTED PARTIES (MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)

#### #1 Wendy Philipson

Allowing opening to midnight 7 days a week has the potential to attract larger numbers of drinkers to the village, thus increasing traffic and noise levels past midnight. This will destroy the peaceful ambience of a small village within the Quantock Hills AONB and will cause nuisance to the nearby residents, most of whom are over 60. At present the village is quiet after about 11pm and it is possible to enjoy the peace and listen to the owls – this will change if these opening hours are extended. Very few locals use the pub in the evening – it will become a destination pub because of its ease of access along the A39, and the A358 via Weacombe Road, and thus will mainly be used by people travelling by car. The A39 is already busy until around 11pm - this will only increase traffic levels and noise well into the early hours of the morning.

In addition, the proposal to increase the external licence area down to the A39 is a road safety issue. The road is very busy during the daytime and early evening – exactly the times the area would be used – and having drinkers in such close unfenced proximity will increase the possibility of accidents. Furthermore, drinkers will have to carry drinks across the busy car park to the grassed area, again increasing the possibility of accidents.

Finally, I believe that more residents would have made a representation were this proposal more widely known about, and the process of making a representation much simpler – more aligned with the planning system. Not everyone has access to the internet or are comfortable using it in this way.

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#### #2 Stuart Scott

Although I have no objection to The Windmill being open till midnight in the building, the external bar being open till then will cause a public nuisance with noise. There is very little call for them to be open to that hour as regards their serving of food and drinks in their core business but is to do with them staging events. Outside events where the bar is open till midnight and their customers don't disperse till later still will severely impact on the tranquillity of the village.

Before the outbreak of corona virus, they started to experiment with holding comedy evenings, I have heard they are going to erect an outside stage to hold these or other events. The noise of amplified acts be they comedy or music till midnight outside would mean anyone living near the pub would be unable to ignore. Plus, as they are applying for a permanent licence for every night of the week this would be intolerable. Personally, I have to get up for work in the mornings.

**What changes to the application would you like to see to address your concerns?** That any events are held inside of the building and the outside bar closes by eleven.

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### **#3 Katharine Vaughan**

West Quantoxhead is a small, quiet village and having an extension to opening hours to midnight every night, particularly with an outside bar, risks increased noise and nuisance to local residents. I understand that the brewery is also looking to build an external stage for live bands and other events, which will again disturb the local residents. There are residential buildings immediately behind the pub, and a holiday let business next door, which could be detrimentally affected if its guests are regularly disturbed beyond midnight as the pub guests leave. There is also a risk of increased drink driving, on what is already a road notorious for road traffic accidents.

**What changes to the application would you like to see to address your concerns?** Extension to midnight for Fri and Sat night, for the internal bar only.

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### **#4 Mr Alan Read**

It is currently understood that a licensing application has been made to extend the sale of alcohol from 11.00pm to midnight and to construct a stage with cover in the top corner of the present outside space (beer garden), for the performance of live music. I understand that the objective of the pub's management is to diversify its business capability by creating a "destination pub" for such events.

The issue regarding the additional hours for the sale of alcohol is accepted. However, I and my immediate neighbours do have great concern relating to the proximity of the position of the planned stage to our joint boundaries, which is going to be probably just a few metres away, and the potential for excessive noise arising from 'live music' events.

Myself and my neighbours are concerned that unless the level of sound from such live music is not capped at a sensible level of decibels, then the sound is going to be heard in our homes (very close by), even through double glazed windows and doors.

Personally, I do not want to be living next to and in very close proximity to a small scale 'Glastonbury', and not be able to enjoy the tranquillity of my own garden space, which was one of the reasons I moved here to my new home in 2016.

I only became aware that application WK46686 had been made to the council due to verbal information passed on to me by a nearby neighbour, when it appeared on the agenda of a local parish council meeting recently. Under these circumstances this information would have passed me by if my neighbour had not spotted it. So, I would therefore ask why such an application is not drawn to the attention of the immediate neighbours as if it was a building planning application. It seems to me that application WK46686 is being put through the processing procedure by 'stealth'.

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### **# 5 Virginia Smith**

I have tried without success to make this representation online but have been unable to access the required form.

I would point out at this stage that I live next door to the Windmill and have done for the past 15 years.

My main concern is noise level. I understand from past experience how sound travels here and whilst I realise that the Windmill already has a music licence, extending the licence for alcohol means not only can this be served later but also the music can be played, judging from past experience very loudly. This can be accepted on the odd occasion but not on a regular basis i.e. every night if they so wished, which this licence would enable them to do.

The fact that there would be noise from the traffic some of which would come through the village is also a concern. People leaving the pub at midnight would mean that they probably would still be in the car park until 12.30 and having been drinking would be a 'little' louder. This in a village where a good majority of the resident are retired.

Agreement to an outside bar would also increase noise levels and I feel that consideration should be given to the village residents.

This application does not only have an immediate effect but also for years to come on our village as the Windmill would become a 'Destination Pub'.

The best answer to the licencing would be for it to stay as it is at present ie a late night licence being applied for when required.

Yours faithfully

Virginia Smith

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### **#6 Maureen Hilditch**

I would like to raise my objection to the above application to extend licensing hours at The Windmill PH. I have been a resident of the village for fourteen years and in the last four or five years have noticed a vast increase in traffic using The Avenue, Weacombe Road and Staple Lane.

I live on the Weacombe Road and along with my neighbours have difficulty pulling off our often-concealed drives onto the lane safely because of the volume and speed of the traffic using it as a short cut to the Taunton road. If a license extension is granted to The Windmill PH this will only make the aforementioned road, avenue and lane noisier and busier, particularly after midnight.

Surely being in an AONB this goes against the whole concept. If a license extension is granted this will not only have a detrimental effect on the villagers but also the deer and other wildlife that enjoy the peace and quiet here after dark.

Maureen Hilditch

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Resident of West Quantoxhead

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### **#7 Jim Stiles**

Being unable to get your website to work I am sending my representation as an email as advised by your office.

This is a quiet elderly village situated in the Quantock Hills AONB. The Windmill backs onto an area of Special Scientific Interest and is situated on a dangerous bend with no pavements on the A39 with the carpark entrance/exit within 2 metres of The Avenue which runs thro' the village centre and is used as a short cut by drivers from the Taunton A358 to the Bridgwater A39. Over parking in the pub carpark regularly obstructs vision onto the main road which is already a difficult exit, especially bearing in mind Butlins traffic and motorbikes using the roads as a circuit.

However, it is the social aspect which is of greatest concern since the noise of outdoor activities with music blaring until the early hours is totally out of keeping and will spoil the peace and quiet of yet another part of rural Somerset.

Thanks for your time.

E J Stiles

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### **# 8 Julie Pennington-Ridge**

Re closing at 12.00 extension

Not in favour

More noise more traffic

We are a quiet village and would like to remain so Found your website difficult to navigate Julie Pennington Ridge

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### **#9 John Roberts**

The pub is within the AONB and the village demographic is made up of mainly retired and older generation residents. The reason they choose the village is because of its location and the peace and tranquillity of its surroundings. The pub itself is a local amenity but is used only by a small minority of villagers. Most of its business comes from outside the area, passing trade and from its B&B. We are a little puzzled by the application as there is already an external bar, which was created during lockdown to serve those customers seated outside as seating inside was against the Covid regs. So why another purpose-built bar? We understand that one reason is that the owners wish to put on regular entertainment such as music events and comedy nights and the noise generated by these would be nuisance to those living close to the venue and also those in the wider area as sound

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carries easily. Most evenings and after 8.00pm the pub does not look overly busy so we do not understand why they want to extend the opening hours until midnight, unless it is for regular entertainment! This will cause not only a noise nuisance both by humans, car doors banging, stereos and the possibility of a greater degree of drunkenness. From a safety perspective the car park entrance/exit is right next to the turning into the village (The Avenue) and we fear that cars that cannot get into the pub car park will park on this junction as they have done in the past. (Sunday lunch in the summer regularly saw the car park full and parking extended onto the green in front of the pub, the village hall car park and the road! Signage at the pub is also problematic as it partly obscures the view of the A39 when exiting The Avenue! There was an accident at this point in the recent past involving a car and a motorcyclist. The possibility of more instances of drink driving should also be taken into account and is a concern.

Limit opening to 11.00pm as we cannot see a reason other than that mentioned above for an extension. Further investigation into the real reasons for this application should be carried out. Limit the numbers attending any event. Limit the time of any event externally to 10.00pm.

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### **# 10 P M Stiles**

(See letter attached below)

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17<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Somerset and Taunton County Council  
County Hall  
Deane House  
Taunton

Licensing Department – Public Houses  
Licence Application WK 46686 St Austell Brewery, Windmill - West Quantoxhead

Dear Sir/Madam

As I have found your web site far from user friendly I am writing to register my objections to the proposed application above,

West Quantoxhead is a small, quiet country village with no need for a venue of this type operating until midnight and beyond every night of the week causing noise and social nuisance especially with outdoor activities included. Add to this the extra traffic using the “rat run” through the Village via The Avenue and Weacombe Road in the early hours of the morning creating noise and safety issues.

Perhaps some consideration could be given to the licence being extended on special occasions only ie New Year's Eve or National Celebrations such as Jubilee events

Please acknowledge this registration of objections to my email address at

~~pete@windmill.com~~

Thank you

  
P.M. Stiles (Mrs)

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**# 11 Mike and Sue Sanders**

We are sending this email as we are unable to use the 'make a representation' facility on the Application website. We do not object in principle to the Windmill serving alcohol until midnight on a few special occasions each year but strongly object to them being able to do this every night of the year. These occasions usually lead to a lot of noise and disturbance which we would not appreciate. This village is on the SCC list of 'retirement villages' and most of the residents near the Windmill are indeed quite elderly and may well be alarmed and frightened by late night disturbances. We would hope this application will be rejected or a very small limit imposed on the number of nights allowed.