

The current arrangement of licencing only prebooked events seemingly allows the applicant to make a judgement about the likelihood of clients posing a risk of public nuisance and crime and disorder. With a permanent licence and open access to the licenced premises, the parish Council does not see how this judgement can be exercised. We consider that there will be risk of littering, drunk and disorderly conduct and potentially criminal activity. This will be exacerbated by off-sales. Periodically, the village has experienced groups of people from outside the village using the village to 'hang out' and consume alcohol. The village is away from the public gaze and without vigilance provides an opportunity for this sort of activity. The parish council has successfully taken steps in the past to eliminate the problem but off-sales in the village are highly likely to lead to the problem returning. One resident reports being woken in the early hours of the morning by a person banging aggressively on the front door. Criminal damage was discovered along with a large amount of vomit over the door. The matter was reported to the police and there should be a record of the report. There is no intention to suggest that this act was associated with clients of *The Barn* but it demonstrates the additional vulnerability of people living in close proximity to *The Barn* should the permanent licence be granted.

Additionally, under the current arrangements the applicant has assured the Parish Council that to the best of her ability she manages traffic flow to avoid most of the event traffic passing through the village. This will not be possible with an open access permanent licence. The narrow road through the village to the barn is lined with residential properties which are only several feet from the road (see photo above). Parking is unrestricted along the road and there is a risk of disturbance for residents late at night with slamming doors and vehicle movement. Again this will fail to promote the objective of preventing public nuisance.

The parish Council is also opposed to the application on the grounds that it will fail to promote the objective of protecting children from harm. Immediately adjacent to the Barn and its Courtyard is the Loversall Farm Day Nursery, which accommodates children from six weeks to five years. In these circumstances the sale of alcohol on or off the premises during the daytime is highly inappropriate and presumably the early years Regulator will be consulted.

Conclusion

The Parish Council objects to the application as it stands but wishes to be reasonable. Doubtless the applicant would benefit from not having to continuously renew a temporary licence. If a permanent licence was granted that could be limited only to pre-booked events, as now, the Parish Council could withdraw its objection in part. That said, the Council would need to be advised by the licensing authority of what constitutes a definition of a "pre-booked" event and whether it is possible to enforce such a limitation. Under no circumstances would the Parish Council support a licence to provide alcohol for consumption off the premises or to allow the sale of alcohol on the premises during the working day, especially given the proximity to the Day Nursery. We would also like further information on what the licencing arrangements are to be in the associated 'Meadow', which is also used for events, and whether this will continue to require a TENS licence.