

## Susan Jones

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**From:** Susan Jones <susan.jones@powys.gov.uk> on behalf of Licensing <licensing@powys.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 July 2021 09:05  
**To:** Susan Jones  
**Subject:** FW: Concerns regarding application for a premises licence

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premises licence

Thanks for getting back to me.

I'm opposed to the whole application, especially the ridiculous hours next door to a school. I would like to add people smoking outside next to a school play area as another concern of mine.

Many thanks

Heulwen Stevens

On Tue, 27 Jul 2021, 17:11 Licensing, <licensing@powys.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mrs Stevens,

Thanks for raising these concerns with us, obviously we do not know that any of these concerns will be realised until the premises is running.

Do I take it that you would like to make representations at a licensing sub-committee to either reject all or part of the licence application?

Would there be any changes to the application that could be made to make the application more acceptable as I can go back to them and see if they are willing to change anything?

There is usually a presumption of grant of a new licence unless there is evidence that would make it appropriate for the sub-committee to reject all or part of the licence application.

The alternative would be to wait for the licence to be granted and see if your concerns are realised. There is a mechanism to review a licence should there be any issues with a licensed venues not upholding the licensing objectives, you would then be in a position to offer evidence to a licensing sub-committee to persuade them to take appropriate steps such as restricting hours or imposing conditions to the licence.

At the moment there are no other representations that mean the licence will be considered at a licensing sub-committee although the Environmental Protection officer, who has some concerns has met with the applicant and agreed on conditions to promote the licensing objective to prevent nuisance, in particular noise nuisance.

As you know the end of representations is 6<sup>th</sup> August, if there are no representations the licence will be granted as applied for and with the conditions agreed with the EP officer, otherwise a hearing will be convened for a sub-committee to consider the application and any representations.

Please can you let me know how you would like to proceed.

Regards

Sue Jones

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Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Heulwen Stevens [redacted]. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the application for a premises licence for a Village Sports Bar in Abercraf.

The Prevention of crime and disorder and Public Safety

I am concerned that drink driving will be an issue as people will be travelling and drinking as there is no transport. It could lead to all sorts of trouble very late at night/early morning.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

Sale of alcohol and live/recorded music from 8am-1am every night will mean more noise, traffic, pollution and disturbance for the residents of Abercraf.

The Protection of Children from Harm

Ysgol y Cribarth is located next door to the rear of the Welfare Hall which means drinkers will be visible to these pupils. They should not be subjected to seeing people drinking, possibly being sick, drunk and disorderly during their school day. The noise and possible foul language would also be an issue.

Thank you for considering the above points.

Diolch yn fawr



*Enjoy, Explore, Achieve*

Head Teacher/Pennaeth Mr. G. Williams

01639 731500

[office@cribarth.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@cribarth.powys.sch.uk)

[www.cribarth.powys.sch.uk](http://www.cribarth.powys.sch.uk)

The Licensing Officer  
Powys County Council  
Ty Maldwyn  
Brook Street  
Welshpool  
Powys  
SY21 7PH

Monday 2nd August 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the Governing Body of Ysgol y Cribarth, I am writing to express our concerns and opposition to the application as it stands to sell alcohol for the hours stated on the premises of Village Sports Bar, Rear of Abercrave Miners Welfare Hall, Tan Yr Allt, Abercrave, SA9 1XA. Please accept this letter as representations made on behalf of the Governing Body.


At the neighbouring school of the above premises, we strive to provide education to over a hundred pupils, aged from 2 to eleven years, in a safe environment. As part of this work we promote the positive aspects of health and well-being of our young people. The sale of alcohol for such long hours at premises only metres from the school may have a detrimental effect on this, not least

because the premises is entirely visible from the areas in which children play and exercise with only a wide mesh fence as separation.

We would respectfully request that the application is amended to restrict the sale of alcohol to outside school hours and those in which after school activities are likely to occur (up to 6pm), reflecting healthy lifestyle policies promoted by the Welsh Government. Alcohol abuse can lead to several anti-social problems such as physical damage, as well as health and behaviour issues, none of which is in keeping with the portrayal of good practices for role models of young people.

If it would be helpful, arrangements will be made for a member of the Governing Body to attend the Committee to explain the reasons behind our representations.

Yours faithfully,

  
Mrs Susan Davics

Chair of Governors, Ysgol y Cribarth

**Susan Jones**

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**From:** Susan Jones on behalf of Licensing  
**Sent:** 03 August 2021 14:47  
**To:** Susan Jones  
**Subject:** FW: Application for premises licence - Village Sports bar, Rear of Abercrave Miners welfare hall

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Subject:** Application for premises licence - village sports bar, Rear of Abercrave Miners welfare hall  
**Importance:** High

Re: William Paul Bushnell  
Village Sports Bar,  
Rear of Abercrave Miners Welfare Hall  
Tan Yr Allt Road,  
Abercrave  
SA9 1XA

Dear Licensing Officer,

As a resident who lives next door to the Abercrave Miners Welfare hall, there are a number of concerns we have in relation to this new application (named above) which we have listed below:

The noise and anti-social behaviour due to the entrance and exit being adjacent to our property. As a premises that needs to be licensed, we are also concerned about the anti-social behaviour, bad language and trouble/drug use this will bring as we have a young family who use the garden every day and are concerned to what our children will witness and experience and also a disruption their sleep at night due to the hours of opening that has been proposed.

We are concerned about glass, waste, cans, drug paraphernalia and cigarette butts that will be littered and thrown into our garden which will cause harm to our children and pets on our property. I am also concerned about the users of the Village Sports Bar urinating over into our garden after an excess amount of alcohol.

My concerns are covered by the key objectives set out in Licensing Act 2003 (England & Wales) referring to Section 2.

I was unaware of this application until a neighbour spotted it on the door of the welfare hall. How local I am supposed to see it is beyond me as it's on the door of Miners Welfare Hall which is set back

off the road but also, currently closed and in no use at the present time. Whilst it was advertised in "local" newspapers, it was only listed in the following: South Wales Argus (which covers Newport), South Wales Guardian (covering parts of Swansea Valley but mainly Ammanford), County Times (covering Welshpool), Northern Echo (covering Newtown) and The Leader (covering Wrexham), none of which cover our area. There was no feature of this in The South Wales Evening Post and the Brecon & Radnor, both which do cover our district. This seems very underhand and deliberate as if purposely to avoid making local residents aware.

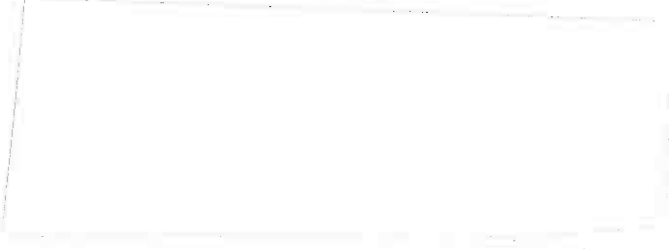
As far as we were aware, going from the application notice we have seen, there is to be no proceedings to be carried out until the 6th August. That is not being adhered to as proceedings have started already due to them starting their work. Also not adhering to the one way system around the building for the carpark, resulting in someone nearly getting knocked down. It appears to us as this is the start and means of the way things are going to carry on. I would like the person reading this email to consider whether they would appreciate all this if it was their home.

As much as I do not want to see the building unused and wasted, This proposed use of the facility would affect our family and home possibly forever.

We would appreciate a response to our email.

Yours Sincerely,

Gemma Bird and Ceri Owen



## Susan Jones

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**From:** Susan Jones on behalf of Licensing  
**Sent:** 04 August 2021 16:49  
**To:** Susan Jones  
**Subject:** FW: Village Sports Bar Abercrave

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

From: >  
Sent: >  
To: >  
Subject: Village Sports Bar Abercrave

Good afternoon

I would like to raise concern regarding the new premise license applied for at the Village Sports Bar, Abercrave Miners Welfare Hall, Abercrave SA9 1XA.

Although I am happy to see the Miners Welfare, for which past generations of my family being miners contributed to over the years, being used, I feel I must object to the opening, alcohol sale and live music hours being applied for.

Whilst this type of venue may be acceptable in towns, Abercrave being a small village does not need this in the heart of the village. The additional traffic/footfall that the events planned would generate will have a detrimental effect on public safety, nuisance and possibly crime for the inhabitants who enjoy a quiet rural life at the moment.

Also, and possibly most concerning, is the location of the local primary school in relation to the venue. During the proposed opening hours, pupils walk to and from school past the Welfare Hall and spend their break and lunch times on both the multi use games area and playing field in full view of the Welfare Hall with only a fence between them. Surely the protection of the children in this village should be our utmost priority.

Finally, the residents that this will affect, have not been consulted at all regarding this application. After much searching the notices found have been in newspapers as far afield as County Durham and Flintshire.

Many thanks  
Karen Jones

Sent from my iPhone





Communicaton by email August 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

The Licensing Officer,  
Powys County Council.

Re: Licensing Application by Mr. William Paul Bushnell in respect of  
The Village Sports Bar, The Miners Welfare Hall, Tanyrallt ROAD, Abercrave. SA9 1XA  
(Please note the correct address is *Tanyrallt Road* not *Tanyrallt*)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Introduction:

Having only recently and quite by chance, been made aware of the above application, I feel both apprehensive and deeply concerned, particularly with regard to the daily and extraordinarily lengthy licensing hours in question. With the absence of accurate, detailed information or clarification with regard to the activities planned for *The Village Sports Bar*, the proposal is very much an unknown entity and cause for concern.

Abercrâf is a quiet, semi rural village and opening hours on the scale of those proposed in the application are unreasonable, unacceptable and inappropriate for daily life in this community. Within the village, local residents-myself included, have been proactive (during the pre-covid era) in supporting the various community Associations and activities. The commendable efforts of the Hall Committee over recent months, in securing a number of financial awards in order to make several much-needed improvements including new amenities, have been welcomed and bode well for its future. According to anecdotal accounts, the Sports Bar's activities will be 'centred on the game of Pool' with the probability of it being the venue for competitions and demonstration games. A potential 'new lease of life' for the Hall is good news. However owing to the excessive and unreasonable hours proposed for each day of the week, together with the lack of precise information regarding what will be involved, the initiative has ironically become a major cause for concern.

Further to my recent conversation with a Powys CC Licensing Officer; I am assured that my concerns and objections maybe processed electronically as an alternative to writing to the address provided on the Notice of Application. I therefore, wish to submit the following representation to this application.

Background & personal interest:

My name is Janet Williams. I am a native of Abercrâf and have lived at [redacted], since January 1998. The Miners Institute/Welfare Hall on Tanyrallt Road, Abercrâf SA9 1XA, was erected in 1927, opposite my property which was built in 1910 and subsequently owned by members of my family from 1936. The Instititute was later extended in 1937.

[redacted] is one of three original properties situated within the immediate vicinity of the Institute/Hall and pre-date its construction. The remaining properties being [redacted]. In recent years the area Primary School, Ysgol Y Cribarth which serves the communities of Caehopcyn, Coelbren, Ynyswen, Penycae and Abercrâf, has been built immediately to the rear of the Hall with the school playing field lying parallel to its length. The playing field is made available for the community and is used by Clwb Rygbi Abercrâf's mini rugby sides both for training sessions and Sunday morning matches. The school's Multi Purpose play area is also located a very short

distance to the right of the rear of the Hall. Situated to the foremost section of the school field, running alongside Tanyrallt Road is a children's park.

The four properties namely, [redacted] and Ysgol Y Cribarth, constitute some of the Welfare Hall's nearest neighbours and as such, are at certain risk of being negatively and adversely impacted by issues of excessive noise, public disorder/nuisance, anti social behaviour, foul language, and property damage if the totally unreasonable licensing hours of The Village Sports Bar are granted. It should be noted that Hennoyadd Road, Tanyrallt, Maesyfron, Henneuadd and Heol Tawe will also be similarly affected. (Ref: attached map)

#### Concerns in relation to the Licensing Application:

- Information:

I accept that notifying close neighbours of a Licensing Application, as is the case for Planning Permission, is not a legal requirement of the 2003 Act. However, it is most disappointing for a small and close knit community such as Abercrâf, that detailed information and plans for *The Village Sports Bar* have not been shared and clarified with immediate neighbours, including the school, along with the community at large. Some form of public engagement exercise jointly organised by the Hall Committee and the prospective licensee, would have been an excellent opportunity to provide clear 'up front' information which would have helped dispel any rumours, uncertainties and fears now circulating. In addition, it would have demonstrated a consideration and respect for public opinion, welfare and support. Taking into account the Covid pandemic, distribution of an information leaflet would have served as a valuable PR exercise.

- Advertisements:

Although it seems that correct procedures have been followed in terms of advertising the Notice of Application ie. (i) A4 notice displayed on the building and (ii) advertisements placed in the local press, the following points are relevant and must be noted:

i) The main door of the Welfare Hall is sited above a flight of steps and is recessed from the building's surface. As the Hall is currently not in use (Covid restrictions), members of the public have no reason to approach the door. Hence, the notice has not been clearly visible nor distinct from functional notices such as '*The Hall is Closed*' or '*Please use the other door*'. The vast majority of local residents including myself, knowing the Hall has been closed, have therefore been totally unaware of this notice.

ii) Notice of Application has, as is required by the Act, indeed featured in the press. An advertisement has been posted in each publication listed below:

*South Wales Argus* (Newport area) <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk>; *S. Wales Guardian* (lower SValley/ Carmarthenshire) <https://www.southwalesguardian.co.uk>; *County Times* (Welshpool area) <https://www.countytimes.co.uk>; *Northern Echo* (Newtown area) <https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk>; *The Leader* (Wrexham) <https://www.leaderlive.co.uk>

It is completely unreasonable however, to accept that this satisfies the requirements of the Act as it is impossible to assume that local residents have become aware of the advertisement from either source listed above. Furthermore, its absence from the *South Wales Evening Post*, *Western Mail* & *The Brecon and Radnor* which are the main Welsh newspapers in circulation in this area, is strangely conspicuous. Unsurprisingly it has led to the understandable speculation that the omission is a deliberate attempt to avoid highlighting and publicising the application within the locality.

- Licensing Objectives:

The proposed Licensing hours for opening, sale of alcohol, playing music and other activities are deeply concerning. In the balance of probability, it will potentially lead to contravention of all four

objectives set out in the 2003 Licensing Act. It is inconceivable that licensing hours extending from 08.00 to 00.00hrs (Mon-Weds) and 08.00-01.30hrs (Thurs-Sun) will not severely impact on the key, very much inter-linked objectives namely, *Crime & Disorder, Public Safety, Public Nuisance* and the *Protection of Children*. From experience, it is conceivable that a code of behaviour which is in breach of any one of the objectives will quickly trigger the 'domino effect'. For example, it is inevitable that Public Nuisance can lead to Crime and Disorder which in turn impacts on People Safety and the Protection of Children.

The document 'Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003'

(<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk>) published in 2018, provides a helpful update of the 2003 Act and helps clarify its objectives. I refer to some extracts from this document in the following paragraphs:

*'The protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm. This includes not only protecting children from the harms associated directly with alcohol consumption but also wider harms such as exposure to strong language and sexual expletives'*

Should these hours be granted, then it is highly probable that vulnerable and impressionable children will be exposed to bad language, smoking, the ill effects of alcohol and other potential harmful substances and behaviours. Given the location of the school in relation to the Hall, this kind of negative exposure must be avoided at all costs. We cannot allow our children whilst on their way to and from school, during a school day's activities and also whilst playing in the park during non-school hours, to be exposed in such a manner. It would be wholly irresponsible to ignore these potential risks and neglect the *Protection of Children*.

With regard to *Public Nuisance*:

*....' issues will mainly concern noise nuisance, light pollution, noxious smells and litter....' ...'the most sensitive period for people being disturbed by unreasonably loud music is at night and into the early morning when residents in adjacent properties may be attempting to go to sleep or are sleeping'.... ....'to respect the rights of people living nearby to a peaceful night'.... '....appropriate to address any disturbance anticipated as customers enter and leave....'*

Taking the above quotes into consideration, it is inevitable that *Public Nuisance* will become a major concern in the community if the unreasonable licensing hours are granted. Examples of unacceptable behaviour were a major concern in the village when Youth discos were held at the Hall some years ago (2018-19(?)). Numerous *Crime and Disorder* issues and incidents of Anti Social behaviour, fuelled by excess of alcohol and misuse of other substances, are known to have occurred across the village. Such incidents include trespassing, urinating in gardens, damage to fences and other items, broken bottles left as litter, along with foul language and verbal abuse. I know I am not alone in wishing to avoid any repetition of those extremely unpleasant, distressing, frightening and intimidating incidents.

*Public Safety* will become an issue if vehicles are parked at the roadside due to limited car parking facilities. If Pool competitions are going to be staged, then increased flow of traffic will follow as participants and their supporters travel into Abercrâf. Tanyrallt Road is a narrow yet very busy stretch, with a pavement on only one side of the road and a blind corner at the junction with Henneuadd. It is the access/link between Heol Tawe and Hennoyadd Road to the sizeable housing estates at Henneuadd, Tanygarth and Tanyrallt. As a result, there is a constant flow of traffic including residents' private cars, assorted delivery vehicles and couriers, oil tankers, construction and maintenance vehicles and also heavy farm vehicles gaining access to and from the farmland on the hillside above Tanyrallt. It is common for drivers to exceed the speed limit. There are already concerns particularly relating to vulnerable children arriving and leaving the park. Additional traffic, if competitions are planned, through vehicles potentially from across South Wales visiting the Sports Bar will exacerbate the situation as there is unlikely to be sufficient parking facilities at

the rear of the Hall. Roadside parking will then occur, posing a risk to public safety, in particular that of children en route to and from school and visiting the park.

As mentioned previously, *Crime & Disorder* is so often a consequence of substance misuse, linked with anti social behaviour and a 'gang mentality'. Residents will feel vulnerable if there is inadequate supervision and control :

'...ensure that people who are drunk, drug dealers..do not enter the premises'...

'....in certain circumstances, capacity limits may be appropriate in preventing disorder, as overcrowded venues can increase the risks of crowds becoming frustrated and hostile ...'

People need to feel safe in their own community and within their own homes and can often be reassured if security measures are taken:

...'where there is good reason to suppose that disorder may take place, the presence of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras both inside and immediately outside the premises can actively deter disorder, nuisance, anti-social behaviour and crime generally'....

Conclusion:

I urge the Licensing Authority at Powys CC to exercise great caution in arriving at a decision with regard to the daily licensing hours for the Sports Bar. The safety, welfare and quality of life of all Abercrâf residents are of paramount importance and must be taken fully into consideration in line with the Licensing Objectives. It must be ensured that any unfortunate consequences are avoided as opposed to being the reasons for regret.

Yours sincerely,  
Janet A Williams (Mrs)

