

[REDACTED]  
Wickersley,  
Rotherham,  
[REDACTED]

24<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Re: - Review of premises licence number P0421.

I have worked at the Joker for over 40 years. My comments will be restricted to observations from the outside as I do not at all frequent the Joker. Whilst I am not in favour of it being allowed to re-open, I hope my comments will be as objective as possible.

With regard to the four licencing objectives: -

I have not actually seen any drugs change hands, but it has to be said there is a large amount of traffic with souped up cars, a number of mopeds and a quad bike which pull up outside, and have various patrons of the pub going over to the vehicles. I have occasionally smelt "wacky backy" as I have passed on the way to the newsagents, but then, the same could be said of walking through the town centre. With regard to the quad bike, that was definitely illegal as it driven in a very erratic way, does not have any registration plates and is undoubtedly not insured.

With regard to public safety, I confess to being astonished nobody had been injured by the mopeds or the quad bike, which also sometimes ride into the grounds of the pub and also race around and around the square which the pub is on. I'm not entirely sure to what extent the pub manager could influence that behaviour, but since the pub has been closed, they have been conspicuous by their absence.

The proximity of the pub to the junior and infant school is a concern and a large number of the pupils from Wickersley Academy pass the pub on the way to and from school. Obviously going to school is irrelevant as the pub is not open at that time in the morning, but if, as I have been led to believe, drugs are an issue, then the opportunity to influence children of secondary school age and also recruit for county lines could well be a problem. I have also seen teenagers obviously under 18 being given drinks outside from older adults who have bought them inside.

As to the prevention of public nuisance, the main problem I have with the Joker is suffering the heavy base beat from Friday and Saturday night discos, karaoke and the occasional live act, in my own lounge

. That with my new, double glazed, windows closed, which they have to be, even in hot weather, or the noise is intolerable. I don't think I should have to put up with it but I have never complained inside the Joker as I try not to be "a grumpy bugger", but there are times when I have to go upstairs to the back bedroom and put earplugs in. There are also some nights when noise of people leaving the pub at closing time is very loud and there are obviously a few people who should have been refused drinks some time before they actually stopped drinking.

I would also like to say that, should a decision be made to allow the Joker to re-open, the only possibility of effecting a change in the culture of the pub is to take on an experienced manager of some years – in much the same way as a failing school has an experience headmaster/ mistress put in place – and definitely NOT to have posters outside the pub inviting absolutely anyone over the age of 18 to apply for a unique opportunity to run their own pub.

Many thanks for considering these points,

John Rushbrooke  
[REDACTED]