

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Licencing

**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the
Licensing Act 2003**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.
If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary. You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I Sarah Bedford
(Insert name of applicant)

apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 / apply for the review of a club premises certificate under section 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below (delete as applicable)

Part 1 – Premises or club premises details The Joker Pub

Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description

The Joker Pub
Blackthorne Avenue
Bramley
Rotherham
S66 2Lu

Post town Rotherham	Post code (if known) S66 2LU
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Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)

Not aware of new licence owner
A part of the Stonegate Pub Partners group I believe

Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)

Part 2 - Applicant details

I am Sarah Bedford	Please tick ✓ yes
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1) an individual, body or business which is not a responsible authority (please read guidance note 1, and complete (A) or (B) below)	Yes
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2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) below)	
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3) a member of the club to which this application relates
(please complete (A) below)

(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in as applicable)

Please tick ✓ yes

Mr		Mrs		Miss	Yes	Ms		Other title	
									(for example, Rev)

Surname Bedford		First names Sarah

	Please tick ✓ yes
I am 18 years old or over	Yes

Current postal address if different from premises address	██████████ Wickersley Rotherham S66 ██████
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Post town	Rotherham	Post Code ██████	
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Daytime contact telephone number	██████████
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E-mail address (optional)	████████████████████
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(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT

Name and address

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)

This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)

	Please tick one or more boxes ✓
1) the prevention of crime and disorder	Yes
2) public safety	Yes
3) the prevention of public nuisance	Yes
4) the protection of children from harm	Yes

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 2)

1) Prevention of crime and disorder - The car park of the pub has been used for drug transactions, openly throughout the day, without any attempt at concealment. The dealers servicing customers of the pub as well as drive throughs within the confines of the car park. The open plan status of the car park enables dealing to take place through out the day even when the establishment is closed, facilitated by the young children dispatched to deal, some as young as possibly 11. Since the temporary closure of the pub this has stopped in its entirety. If the company proposes to reopen the establishment without securing the car park with appropriate fencing and security system in place, namely vehicle number recognition, which fellow establishments within the area have already established to control parking and hence the possibility of antisocial behaviour and or mis use of the parking area. Drug dealing will recommence with immediate effect as the cars that we recognise that are associated with the business of dealing are currently circulating the pub throughout the week waiting for the car park to be reopened to recommence. I will make a brief note about the use of nitrous oxide within balloons for recreational use this was a fairly new development and one which the patrons of the pub and the local youth engaged in openly in the evening on the car park on the evenings of the last few weeks of the opening of the pub. Another direct offshoot of this behaviour was possibly the heightened incidents of cars, bikes and quads racing up and down the roads surrounding the area performing at high speed and driving inappropriately within the confines of the car park, where often young children of the customers of the pub were often playing on bikes. This has now ceased in its entirety again since the pub has closed. The extended evening sessions associated with the license to 1 am has had an adverse effect on the surrounding community as the grouping of clientele and people who were solely utilizing the car park for recreational use were causing considerable noise and antisocial behaviour to all surrounding homes. The extended time gave the dealers more scope to engage in their trade throughout the evening also. If this pub reopens then the licencing hours need review and possibly re-aligning back to the 11 pm closure to prevent this congregation and trade and further upset and disruption to the community which is in effect a residential housing estate, predominately families with young children. The Joker pub is across from the access to a primary school and the presence of young children dealing within the confines of the car park and the wasted packaging and other containers which are left behind from the drug use are very alarming for the parents of the locality who should be given assurances that this does not continue. I will not go into detail about the men, who utilized the car park throughout the evening when the pub was open urinating up the walls of the establishment, there must have been a rationale to it.

2 - Public safety - The drug dealing and people being under the influence of drugs and other substances within the confines of the pub and car park are very concerning. Witnessing incidents on the car park that involved nitrous oxide in balloons and the ensuing messenger conversation with the then acting supervisor of the pub whose opinion that it was not illegal to do so and did not feel that there was any danger posed to the people involved on the premises. The overall age of the people involved in this new trend were to the lower spectrum, and the congregation of people potentially too young to be incorporated into the functioning of the pub lifestyle has also been noted by the police and licencing respectively. The activity of the even younger end of the age spectrum that were occupying the smoking shelter and hanging out in general, which also included the young individual that periodically went off on foot or on their bikes to talk to people in cars and possibly exchange drugs was again concerning. The way that cars pull on and drive around the car park at speed, doing twists and turns to amuse the assembly team on the car park is also dangerous especially when you hear them drive off at extreme speed into the estate. I have reported over the last couple of months incidents of grave concern. However prior to this I have spoken and attempted to liaise with the supervisor of the pub only to get concerning responses, either I am not on site or alternatively that they are intimidating me and my staff or finally on one occasion after 1 am I am in the pub on my own and do not feel safe intervening. Despite my response to him to ring the police. It appeared to be a laissez faire approach to management, as in totally concentrating upon what was only going on within the confines of the pub itself and totally ignoring the disintegrating events occurring outside and with no attempts to control or supervise the outside of the premises. Again formal retaining fencing and gating to prevent and reduce the above along with vehicle recognition should assist in the future.

3 - Prevention of public nuisance. All the above will reflect this category. i.e. points one and two have highlighted these concerns. The licence of the pub needs to be reviewed, and the extension of the closing time of the pub needs to be removed whilst the pub reopens initially for the workings of the pub and the supervision of the outside spaces to be monitored for an initial period of six months. Following which if there is a marked improvement of the behaviour and conduct of the patrons whilst outside drinking then they should be given the chance to reapply for the extension provided that the surrounding residents agree to this change as part of the licencing process and having written clear notification and posted notification around the perimeter of the premises as part of the appropriate process. The pub does not have any formal outside spaces away from other residential buildings that is a formal beer garden apart from the space on the disused car park on the side of the property adjoining Sycamore Avenue. In light of all the difficulties we have experience and the congregation of racing cars around the pub at night, out door drinking should be restricted to dusk and customers encouraged to move inside of the property. In the last two weeks of the pub being open door supervisors were in situ for the Saturday night we are not sure about Friday nights but they did make a positive but limited intervention, however they were encourage to monitor the front of house predominately missing the continued dealing at the back door. The back door of the pub need to return to a one way exit only and not be propped open. to reduce this in future. The only other reason that the back door should be opened to admit someone would be for a disabled customer and only then.

4 - Protection of children from harm. Again I have discussed the concerns for children indepth with regards to points one and two. The pub does not open till 12pm each day therefore the detritus left from the evening before especially on a Friday and Saturday night are left for a considerable time before being cleaned prior to the pub being opened for the next days trading the cleaning lady often opening up between 10 and 11 am. There is considerable amounts of glass, partially drunk drinks remaining on tables around the car park and then there are the empty nirtous oxide cannisters and empty clear drugs packaging and discarded ballons to. Plus body fluids also. Not an safe environment. Something that should be dealt with by staff the evening before not left. The pub does have ample opportunity to work with the local community few of which still do frequent the pub and also possibly more importantly with the parents who until the pub closed parked on the pub car park and the adjoining roads. Changing the licencing to opening at 9 am may enable the parents to have a coffee or tea at the pub engage with the staff and the conversly the staff may gain new customers. Engendering a more proactive approach to community spirit.

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3)

14th May 2022 Saturday Messenger facebook' Hi Sarah Im not on site at the moment' 21.26 pm (I have save a screen shot of these messages if required to confirm)

14th May 2022 Same evening Messenger facebook.'They woke me too I'm in here on my own' this is referring to an incident the day before Friday 13th of May

22nd July 2022' I've actually looked into it theyre not illegal' and 'we just get threats to myself and staff' with regards to ballons and nitrous oxide.

Following the deterioration of events of the pub we stopped communicating with them and started to report as seen below. We had been in communication with the manager for over two year prior to this.

Enquiries to South yorkshire police Incident number 20220723-0725 24th July 2022

Enquiries to Rotherham council reference number 2963550 23rd July 2022

Enquiries to Rotherham Licensing reference number 296635548 23rd July 2022

Enquiries to Rotherham Licensing 29756883 6th August 2022

Enquiries to South yorkshire police incident number 494 of 06/08

Enquiries to Rotherham licensing 2981845 13th August 2022

Enquiries to South yorkshire police incident number 20220813-0384 13th August 2022

We also unfortunately have video footage also of various dates and time. However the main concern is how the pub is going to be run on reopening and not hopefully on the past especially for the new managers of the pub.

This is the end of a third landlord/landlady to run this pub since 2015, and two and a half years of which were constricted by a pandemic.

Billy Udell - Ei Group Limited 23/04/2015

Billy Udell - Ei Group Limited 08/06/2015

Mrs Kelly Buckthorpe - Ei Group Limited 20/11/2018

Mr Kyle Hawley (Supervisor) - Ei Group Limited 20/11/2018

All the above have run the pub along the lines of a sports bar and a late night drinking venue. Opening the ablishment at either 11 am or midday. The Stonegate Group which now encompasses Ei Group Limited had marketed the pub as a sports pub and has outline a demographic of the surrounding area in 2015 which they are still using to describe to Joker Pub on their literature today. As a predominately working class area that would favour this tpyle of venue however The bars, restaurants in the surrounding area have looked at this moving trend and have adapted accordingly. They predominately open early enough for people to get breakfast, hold meetings whether work or informal. They have improved their kerb appeal and have made sure that there is a demarkation line outlining their boundaries as well as electronically controlling who parks in their car parks.

The literature that outlined the pub was right however when it described the ideal landlord as someone who would emerse themself within the community. The pub has a professional kitchen therefore so much more scope. An establishment closed for half a day is still costing money. Which makes the respective closing accounts for the individuals listed with regards to running the pub very interesting reading.

There needs to be considerable more thought to the direction of where the Joker Pub is going to go the last incumbent was closing one side of the pub as there was no one utilizing it. So unless some radical thinking or changes are made the pub in the incarnation that it has been run as or promoted as will surely die.

Finally all the ideas I have put forward I would appreciate that they be given consideration before the pub is reopened because I fear that if changes are not made and the infrastructure of the outside of the pub is not made safe then the new manager will continue to experience grave difficulty

I have worked in major trauma theatres for the past twenty years and have seen many harrowing situations that have escalated from the events similar to those that are starting to unfold upon the Joker car park in the early hours of the morning. Sorry my own thoughts!

Please tick ✓ yes									
Have you made an application for review relating to the premises before	no								
If yes please state the date of that application	Day Month Year <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr></table>								

If you have made representations before relating to the premises please state what they were and when you made them

Please tick ✓	
yes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate 	yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected 	yes

IT IS AN OFFENCE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003, TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION. THOSE WHO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT MAY BE LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF ANY AMOUNT.

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 4)

Signature of applicant or applicant’s solicitor or other duly authorised agent (please read guidance note 5). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature Sarah Bedford

Date

15th September 2022

Capacity

Author of complaint

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6)

Wickersley
Rotherham
S66

Post town
Rotherham

Post Code
S66

Telephone number (if any)

If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional)

Notes for Guidance

- A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
- The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
- Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
- The application form must be signed.
- An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
- This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.