

Supporting information with regards to the joker pub

The Joker Licensing review meeting additional information

Overview

Stonegate group/Ei group let the property to landlord tenants.

The Stonegate group/Ei group have the license and responsibility for any license variant. The prospective tenant will be expected to adhere to the licensing parameters.

They provide the property of the Joker pub and its contents to prospective candidates at a ratable value, that the tenant will have to continue through the term of their tenancy irrespective of any profit.

Additional information and Statements

1) Mr. J

On one Saturday evening when the disco was on, Mr. J went for a drink in the best side of the pub and was meeting a friend for a drink. On walking into the best side, he noticed a pram pushed into the corner of the room next to the wall. Did not investigate the contents of the pram but went and sat down. Half an hour later his friend arrived and sat down, also verbally noting the presence of the pram. The pram started to cry, there was no one else in the room apart from J and friend. Eventually a male with a three-year-old walked in started to push to pram, until he finally realized that the baby had filled its nappy. He left it and returned to the tap room where the disco was in full swing. The other parent of the baby arrived visibly drunk and on smelling that the baby had filled its nappy, took out a spray, sprayed the air, and left the room. J also noted the inappropriate language used in the situation which I do not feel necessary to repeat.

Mr. J then noted that the best side was being routinely closed and the reasoning given was they were not getting sufficient customers to fill it, so the management chose to close the area.

On the occasion that Mr. J noted that there was significant activity in the pub car park where numerous young people were using nitrous oxide. He could clearly see this being played out on the security cameras within the pub. He called Kyles attention to this, where Kyle went outside. He was mobbed and embraced by the young women, instead of dispersing the crowd and advising them to stop. He advised them to move away from the cameras.

Mr. J was drinking on another occasion and his friend left to go to the toilet. He returned to the table with a clear bag of white powder. That had been left on the toilet floor by the previous person who used the facilities.

On another occasion where there was a disco on one side and a further disco on the best side for a function, Mr. J., prior to leaving the pub early, operated an app on his phone that measured the decibels. Furthest away from the bar the reading was 98. On approaching the bar, the central point of the pub the reading was 130.

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He finally also noticed on occasion that inebriated customers were going behind the bar to help themselves to alcohol. The bar maid called out to Kyle for assistance but was ignored by the manager who was sitting with the customers in the tap room.

Myself July 2021 after the pub reopened

In the early hours of Monday morning, I started to hear a commotion outside coming from the car park of the pub. The audible voices of a concerned group of people, stressing that "She was not breathing. "I am a qualified nurse, who has undertaken Immediate life support training as part of my role, within an operating department. And as such, I could not ignore the stress and calls for help from outside.

I found a group outside the pub on my side of the car park Linden Avenue, they consisted of the patient, her friend, a drunken concerned male pub attendee, A drunken women in a tee shirt with the logo of the pub on, who was an employee. Two further members of staff, male and female, who both emphasized that they were part time, and the manager Kyle.

The young women appeared in distress, intermittently hyperventilating and then, loosing awareness and not maintaining her airway, properly. I placed my hand under her chin, to maintain airway competency. And asked what had happened, and had she taken anything. The response was that she had not taken anything. They could not initially describe what had happened. She continued to hyperventilate intermittently, so I asked that they ring for help from the emergency services again. Who told them to take the defibrillator off the wall! Instead of doing so they returned to me to question this, and I instructed them to do what they were told to do.

I started to ask leading questions from the friend I learnt that she had a brief previous admission for a chest condition. As the hours progressed approximately three. I unfortunately learned that she had gone missing for over twenty minutes and was eventually found unconscious on the female toilets floor. At this point, I had to point out and ask the rationale of moving an unconscious patient from where they found her. The rationale of moving an unconscious person, who may have sustained a head injury, which could be the reason for her lack of consciousness and change in breathing.

I was shocked that they had decided collectively to physically pick her up and carry her out of the pub, also, rather than calling for emergency services for help. I emphasized that and was met with a blank response.

The emergency services finally attended along with a person, who may have been a first responder who was either on the good Samaritan link, or an additional responder not in uniform, as they were experiencing a high frequency of calls. The first responder ignored everyone else, spoke to me and took over maintaining her airway. I left about three in the morning.

My feelings in retrospect are that the imbalance of gases **within her lungs could have triggered her hyperventilation. A history of a recent hospital admission for a chest condition could have reduced her ability to expel. Her hypoventilation to expel the gases in her lungs, and rapidly trying to breathe in air is not a good combination. If left untreated it could lead** to respiratory arrest, and then cardiac arrest.

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With reference to Talk to Frank <http://www.talktofrank.com>drug> Nitrous Oxide/Laughing Gas

With reference to NHS Volunteer Responders <https://www.goodsamapp.org>NHS>

I was later thanked via messenger by Kyle for my help and I have retained this to verify the date.

2) Good afternoon Mrs S

I would like to express my objection the above mentioned premises being granted their licence to be run as it was before or even with a 1 hour reduction to the loud music being played.

I live ~~at the address~~ from The Joker Pub. The loud music played was ridiculous. And the wailing of the acts that thought they could sing was painful. Karaoke night was the worst and the sound was so loud. I had my windows closed through the heatwave at night because of the noise from the pub. Even with windows closed the noise was a nuisance and I lost many hours of sleep as I laid awake. I once asked the landlord to lower the volume and was met with contempt and the volume promptly turned up.

Over the last year or so I have seen some pretty awful scenes outside the pub. I am more than aware of the drugs problems and the anti social behavior of the customers as a result and ultimately the drugs raid by the police which promptly shut the pub down. I watched the whole thing.

I have a 6 year old daughter who also witnessed some pretty disgusting scenes and behaviour. She became scared of the loud men and quad bikes that she thought were going to attack her in our home. "Why are they shouting?", "why are they smashing things?" "are they going to hurt us?" "will they come to our house?" we're some of the questions she asked me. My heart broke listening to her fears. My instinct is to protect her.

There was often fighting in the car park or smoking area outside the pub. A couple of weeks ago I witnessed a girl try to smash glass on a mans head. Many mornings I woke up to glass all over the road and had to start cleaning up. This is not the environment I want my little girl to grow up in.

One night as I walked home quite late from a night with a couple of friends in Wickersley I was intimidated by a car full of men and one outside that was trying to get a pub parasol in the car, as I tried to get in my home. Luckily my husband came to the door and they backed off and nothing more was said. A couple of days later I had screws in my car tyres.

The type of customers the pub is attracting is very unsavoury. At least twice a week we had quad bikes riding up and down the road showing off by doing wheelies (I didn't even know that was possible on a quad bike). They would cause havoc on the roads and there have been several near misses with other cars or pedestrians including children.

Cars would feel the need to use the surrounding roads as a race track, showing off to customers sat outside the pub. On several occasions there has been racing between cars and motor bikes. The noise from this is loader than you might imagine.

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Since the pub has been closed this has all gone away. It is a delight to live here again.

Please I urge you to consider the impact this pub is having on the surrounding residents. It is literally surrounded by residential houses on all sides that have to live with the nuisance and damage done by the pubs customers.

Please do not give the licence back. Make it into a restaurant or a family friendly establishment. We don't need a night club in this nice residential area.

Kind regards

3)To whom it may concern

I live in close proximity to the Joker pub, I recently received a letter concerning extending the opening hours for Friday and Saturday evenings from 11pm to 12pm.

I am dismayed by this due to the noise that will come from this, in the recent weeks since the pub closed there has been NO FIGHTING,NO DRUG DEALERS IN THE CAR PARKS,NO LOUD MUSIC FROM THE PREMISES. It HAS ACTUALLY BEEN REALLY PLEASANT TO LIVE IN MY HOME.

On warmer days and evenings as an example I am unable to keep doors or windows open to the noise created by the customers and/or music from discos or musical acts performing in the premises.

I may sound like a grumpy person but I am partially deaf so can only imagine what other residents actually experience.

I work shifts so this does impact me quite frequently, the manager that recently left did try his best to Minimise this, Kyle was fantastic AND WILL BE MISSED.

The mess from the car park blowing into my garden, the broken glass smashed by customers and left all over, children throwing objects and rubbish into my garden was a persistent issue (I have pets in the garden which can be harmed from this).

Yes, the children are a responsibility of the customers. However there is no area for them to play which isn't encase in concrete, so they entertain themselves the best they can.

It is one of the cheapest pubs in the area so it draws sometimes the least desirable customers, with foul language emanating from the outside tables on frequent occasions and the fragrant smells from the drugs being smoked. Canisters from whatever gas being inhaled thrown all over, people urinating against my property due to possibly idleness or inability to actually go inside the premises to use the toilet, I have minors living in my home so you can imagine the horror of opening the door to the view of an adult make peeing with his privates on full view.

In conclusion do I agree with the license extension, NO!!!!!! and going forward would I prefer it to stay shut Yes but am aware that I am only 1 person. I do accept that the issues I have raised are a concurrent issue for all but when in close quarters it can be distinctly unpleasant to live with.

I wait for the results of this application with dread.

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4) Mrs H

I strongly object to there being a disco friday and Saturdays, our lives have been hell at weekends due to the loud music, we cannot hear our tv I shut myself in the back bedroom and still hear the music blasting, our mental health is suffering, I am on tranquilizers, we have to put up with men urinating on cars and our wall was reported to the police broken glass everywhere and food take away cartons and tin cans litter the road most weekends, thanking you for your kind attention in this matter sometimes we have not been able to sleep till 2am at weekends.

5) Mr H

With reference to licence number PO421 The Joker Pub Blackthorn Ave, Bramley S66 2LU:

I am a local resident who lives near to the pub, I have lived here for over twelve years and my wife has lived here for over twenty years. Although the most recent licensee Kyle, did listen and try dealing with the problems coming from the premises, I believe even he would admit to fighting a losing battle.

The biggest problem with the Joker is that it's the cheapest Pub in the area and so attracts the less desirable customers. The pub has over the years had numerous drug dealers both inside the Pub and around the outside i.e. a car/van parked on regular occasions and times in the Pub car park with two men passing what I guess to be drugs. Men sat on the wall near the side door running up and down the carpark to a "pringle tube" amongst other things shoved in a corner or under a hedge.

On some occasions young males would sit at outside tables passing "deals" from a "man bag" around their shoulder, at times on their own, occasionally with both males and females of their own age and sometimes with a gang of school age teens around them.

Although now the phone box on Sycamore Avenue has been removed, that location hasn't been used recently and the cars dropping off and picking up have moved elsewhere.

The appearance of the Pub is somewhat run down which I can tell you that it has been the theme of the pub for years, to such an extent the images used to advertise the pub for lease are more from the side elevation which looks the least like a bunker than the front entrance.

Cracked flaking paint work, which had work in the past although only to the three sides of the building visible from the road had work and rotting windows were filled and painted over. Littered carparks, cigarette ends strewn around the front door and broken glass all over both carparks and front areas are common sights.

The Pub is advertised as a family pub, and to some extent customers do take their children there, although there isn't any play area so they let their children run around the carparks throwing litter and glass around, climbing the fire escape stairs and playing in the rain gullies, that the customers that sit outside use to urinate into day and night, because it's closer than the toilet.

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On some occasions teen gangs take up residency on a bench in the carpark where they sit rolling cannabis cigarettes that can you can smell half way down the street, although Kyle did act on this the previous licensees Would say “they are not my customers so I'm not responsible”.

The location of the pub is also very difficult due to houses being on all sides, and so how the pub has a licence granted until midnight and 01.00 is hard to believe, when I was a publican I was told not to bother asking for past 23.00 due to being in a “residential area”, my pub had a railway and river to the rear a quarter mile grass verge to one side, a petrol station and warehouse to the other side and a supermarker to the front, the nearest dwelling being two hundred meters across the supermarket carpark.

The music coming from the Pub mostly on Friday and Saturday nights is what would be best described as a din, the “Friday night disco” starts with the same songs at the same times every week and is made worse by the DJ opening the bay window sash openers and turning the volume up to such a point the glass in the windows vibrates.

The last few months the pub was open weekend evenings consisted of large groups of both male and female adults sat around the outside of the pub taking Nitrous oxide “laughing gas”, another sign of the times I guess, these customers are not local residents but from Maltby and other areas where they've been excluded from their pubs.

In the past years I believe locals have contacted the owners/brewery with their concerns about the pub and the usual answer would be to say contact the licensee, whom up until Kyle took over would ignore and talk rubbish about their experience, walking around the carpark with a sound meter, and saying the music is within “acceptable levels” When asked what acceptable levels were march back inside the pub.

Now the pub is closed the brewery managers have been all-over, to such an extent there were around a dozen or so suited and booted visitors twice in the first week. Most of the windows have been boarded up and the carpark fenced, although it can be pulled open and access gained which has happen a few times by children and the police have attended at least once. Making me think the only reason the carpark is fenced is to prevent parents from the local school using the carpark whilst waiting for their children. Parents that are local residents that May well be customers, Go customer service look after locals.

6) Mr JMC

I have lived opposite the Joker Pub all my life, the only time I have been in the pub was for my grandmothers wake, in early 2019, shortly after the new landlord started. I don't frequent the pub because I don't drink.

I am a professional driver for a large company which means that I either start very early in the morning and often finish very late in the evening working weekends also.

One evening this summer, after finishing after twelve midnight, I drove down sycamore avenue before turning onto blackthorne avenue which I routinely do. I had to do an emergency stop because there were three men in the road of later middle age stripped to the waist throwing glasses at each other. The

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whole road was covered in broken glass. They were not aware that I was behind them and continued in their activity. There were also quad bikes and cars pulled up on the front of the pub with their lights on full beam illuminating the area for them and their spectators their fellow customers of the pub, in their evening of fun. Completed with music pumping from the cars.

The following morning when I was getting ready to go back to work about six in the morning I witnessed many of the neighbours on sycamore and blackthorne sweeping up broken glass off the road.

There is always, extreme loud music every weekend to the extent that I no longer remain at home but stay at friends or my girlfriends so I can sleep. There is always young children, hanging around the pub throughout the day even when the pub is closed and the landlord seems powerless to do anything as they are always there. The people who use the pub frequent end their evening fighting in the car park and on numerous occasions when I am in the middle of driving home I have to drive through a war zone complete with multiple police trying to restore order, again not with much help and support from the pub team who often tried to stop it I think by switching all the lights off on the car park and the pub.

I remember the pub as being a very busy vibrant place that actually functioned as a pub, now it just appears to be a creche for all the disassociated people banned from all the reasonable and sensible pubs around. I feel that the landlord is too young and inexperienced to prevent them from coming and behaving in this way. I also feel that he has to give access to anyone and I mean anyone to get sales and pay his bills. The other pubs in the area have all improved their presence and have made efforts to attract people who actually want to pay a fair price for their evenings entertainment which is what a pub is. All I can see of this place is people bringing their own booze, drugs, and even their own seating areas the motor home on the car park at the end was hysterical and would not be allowed by any other company in the area. Only in and on the Joker.

7) Mr D

I have only lived here for a short period of time. When I first moved here the pub seemed to be fairly busy with locals and people who were having the usual functions, birthdays, christenings, funerals etc. Then it changed about 2015, when the Udell team took over. Suddenly the opening times extended. We had no warning or advisement of this, unlike what is happening now. They summerly shut off the car park running out in the early hours of the morning to prevent the parents from the local school on road it is based on from parking on the car park and this regime continued practically until the last incumbent took over.

Fighting on the car park became the norm and when I approached the landlord he stated that he was not responsible for what went on on the car park, although they reserved the right to close it to prevent parents parking on it. This behaviour began to deteriorate until both Billy and his brother were both injured. They left and then we had Kyle, yes approachable, but yet again blamed everyone and everything else other than the obvious his customers were inappropriate and out of control.

The last few months for me have been horrendous, I sleep in the front of my home, during the summer I cannot sleep with the window open because of the smell of weed permeating my home, the sheer noise of the shouting screaming and wheel spinning of the cars of the occupants in the car park. All

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notable by the fact that the land lord didn't stop it, plus the fact that he appeared to be always off site during the weekend when the fun and games was going on. Leaving his staff to deal with it, which I say loosely as they appeared to be joining in with the fun, being sat outside the the punter and drinking with them.

On one evening just before the pub was closed I was set to go out to a function in the evening. Before I drove off my drive I noticed two small girls cycling around the car park and just before I pulled off I witnessed a car speeding into the car park which nearly hit one of the children. My concern is that children are left outside by their parents seeming unattended and they are left to their own devices.

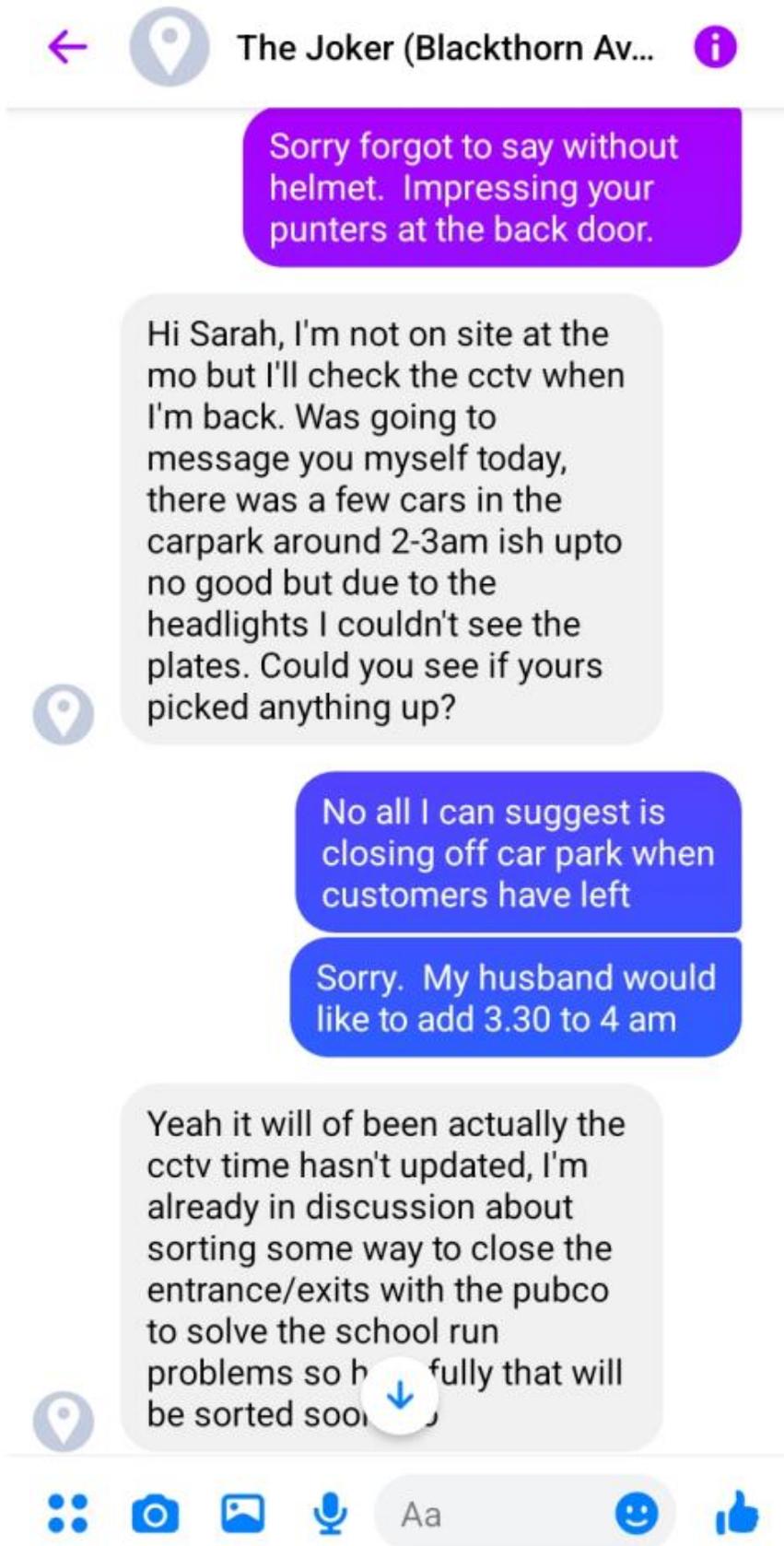
I am aware that there is an application to review the license and I hope that it is reviewed properly and a change of use is considered by the owners to either a restaurant or something similar which might be more practical in this area.

8) Hearsay Mr. H

Whilst I was in conversation with my Neighbour ~~Elle~~, about what was happening with the pub following the boarding of the windows and the enclosure of the car park. We were not sure of what was happening, so we saw our Neighbour Mr. H at the top of the road who used to run the disco within the pub. ~~Elle~~ shouted up to him and he walked down to join us, and she asked him what was happening. Prompted by this opening Mr. H went on to disclose a few things about the function of the pub prior to closure. He said that he had spoken to Kyle on numerous occasions about the use of drugs within the pub and outside, and he advised Kyle he should do something about it. He felt that nothing was done, and Kyle ignored him. He also stated Kyle preferred to go out on the razz on the weekend and did not want to work in the pub, preferring to go out drinking with his friends at his mother's pub amongst other places. To appear still on the premises, he would give his till key to Mr. H daughter who was also a bar maid at the pub. And she would utilize this throughout the evening. I queried this with Mr. H where my Neighbour ~~Elle~~ said possibly that she was frightened of losing her job. Mr. H appeared very despondent and totally acknowledged that it could not go on indefinitely and accepted the outcome of the raid that finally closed the place.

This is one example of a conversation I have had with a person about the function of the pub. I have numerous more, but they are Neighbour's who live around the periphery of the pub. So, I have not included them in my additional statements. I have included this one as it is incredibly significant that the people who clearly frequented the pub knew what was happening inside and it appeared on the surface accepted.

9) Examples of communication between myself and the joker team on Facebook which extended back to 2017 until late summer 2022. and screen shots of the Stonegate information for prospective landlords also attached. To your email. Unable to add to the end of this list I will send you a further email with names and contact details.

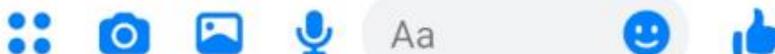


←  The Joker (Blackthorn Av... 

 They woke me too I'm in here on my own now so was edge for the rest of the night, we kicked out at 1am but looking at the cctv they did go to the back door and sit on the wall for some reason. If there is anything let me know. Have a good evening

No worries they have been doing this for years. They know they can get away with it. Leave them to it one will finally hurt, injury and or be inappropriate to the women out there too, who hang out with them. Just reclaim the car park. Every other venue in the immediate area either locks down the car park. Or issues fines if they are parked overnight or not a customer

I'll bring it up at my next meeting, I don't want it either now I'm on myself so I'll try get something sorted. I should of probably just  ed the police thinking about it buy that's my



←  The Joker (Blackthorn Av... 

Right let the games
commence

And my neighbour
screaming at them last night
to shut the fuck up was a
dream. Will be contacting
the team for notice control
etc. Your response not funny

Enough. Was not going
down this route. But I am
you need bouncers and
someone to show them. Its
not acceptable behaviour.
You are really living in a
dream.

More than happy too keep a
dairy and record footage.
Enough I have to live her

It wasn't indented to be funny
as far as I'm aware there was
nobody around the pub after
the time just mentioned. I will
check the footage and if I'm
wrong I apologise in advance, I
always have a  ill work with
you to solve any problems

    Aa  

←  The Joker (Blackthorn Av... 

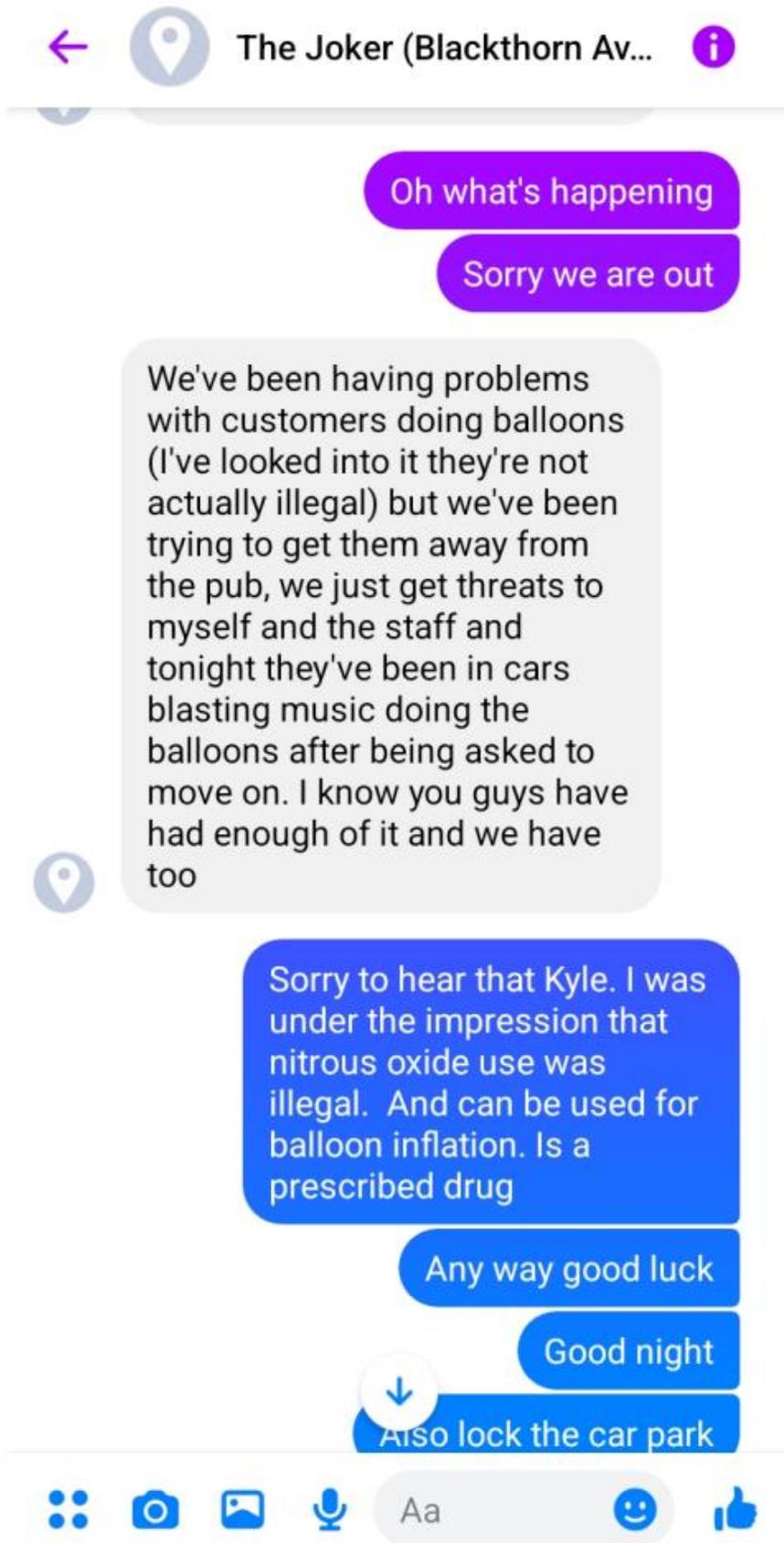
 Sarah I don't wish go argue with you, my cctv has full dates and times. 3 of your videos show my outside lights off which tells me roughly 00:30, turned off to try and help move people on and to not cause you or anyone else problems. Honestly I do try to help with the problems, I'm not always successful I'm just trying to earn a living. If you want to pass these on to the council please feel free as we do work together to tackle the issues. I'll try to sort anything as soon as it occurs as we always do

No enough

20 JUL AT 07:25

Morning Kyle. Sorry too trouble you there's a chap asleep in his car. On the car park. Was concerned for his welfare due to the weather. Hope you don't mind me contacting you. Checked him at 00:40am when I





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15:12   

    57%

 Regional Manager's Thoughts 

 Surrounding Area 

 FAQs 

Do I need any qualifications to run a pub?

We have an online qualification from the British Institute of Innkeeping (BII) that you need to complete before you take on the running of your own pub. The BII's PEAT qualification (Pre-Entry Awareness Training) gives an independent overview of tenancy terms across all pub companies and breweries, covered by the industry code of practice.

If you want to run a pub you will also need to have a personal licence which allows you to sell alcohol on the premises. Getting a licence is usually straightforward – call our team to find out more on 03333 200 036.

What do I need to be a successful Pub Partner?

To succeed as Pub Partner you will need perseverance, time management skills and resolve – running a pub is definitely not a 9-5 job. You will need to be aware of the types of situations that can arise including covering shifts when a team member



15:12

57%

What do I need to be a successful Pub Partner?

To succeed as Pub Partner you will need perseverance, time management skills and resolve – running a pub is definitely not a 9-5 job. You will need to be aware of the types of situations that can arise including covering shifts when a team member is unavailable to work, early or late deliveries and a never-ending to-do list! Taking on a pub can be a challenge but by being determined, – alongside the support and experience of Stonegate Pub Partners, you will be able to achieve your goals and have fun whilst doing it

How much support will I get?

We have dedicated Pub Support Teams as well as a team of Regional Managers. They are on hand to help and guide you as you build your business. Your Regional Manager will visit you regularly and offer business advice and marketing tips to help you thrive.

What is the difference between a tenancy and a lease?

Usually, a tenancy is for a shorter period of time and you can't sell on the goodwill of the business . A lease is a longer agreement and you are able to sell on the goodwill of the business when you leave.

15:13  

   57% 

Do you offer discounts on other goods and services?

With Stonegate Group's buying power we're proud to offer you a range of services to help you run a successful business at discounted rates, saving you money on your bottom line.

Can you run a pub with no experience?

The simple answer is yes. If you have had experience of working in, or running a pub before that's great, but it's not a requirement. The most important qualities you need are dedication, determination, and a passion to make your business succeed. Being a great people person and adapting yourself to work with a variety of customers is vital. Versatility is also key, as is understanding stock control, financial management, legal information and how to staff your pub.

Once I've applied on the website, what happens next?

We will be in touch within three working days to register your interest. Following this, we will set you up with the relevant team member for an informal chat to get to know you and learn more about what you are looking for in a pub. The process takes place over two stages, in which you'll need to complete a business plan. If there aren't currently any pubs you are interested in, or we decide you might be best suited to another pub, we will work with you to find

