

Hawksdale
Church Avenue
Cardross G82 5NS
7th April 2021

Argyll and Bute Licensing Board
Kilmory
Lochgilphead
Argyll PA31 8RT

Dear Sir/Madam

CARDROSS BOWLING CLUB – OBJECTION TO APPLICATION TO EXTEND EXTERNAL OUTDOOR DRINKING AREA

I am aware of the above application to extend the outdoor drinking area of the bowling club. We reside opposite the bowling club and would be directly affected by any change to the current premises licence.

We have found over the past year, since the club has been closed due to Covid 19, a marked decrease in noise and antisocial behaviour in the surrounding area. In the year prior to this we would regularly be subject to much shouting and swearing along with the odd fight occurring in the street when the club would be closing. Litter was also increased as empty bottles of beer would regularly be found on the footpath or smashed on the roadway, but those leaving the club. It seemed to be getting used for many events and social engagements such as birthday parties or engagements, rather than any bowling purpose, it was more like living opposite a pub than a bowling club.

My husband and I both work shifts and are directly affected by high noise levels late at night, which would only be exacerbated by any extension to the outdoor drinking area. During the summer months in particular, we regularly find it impossible to sleep with a window open due to the amount of noise that comes from the club, and this is when the drinking is mainly being done indoors.

The purpose of the club seems to have altered considerably over the years that we have lived here, with a far greater emphasis on the club as a drinking establishment rather than a bowling club. The bowling itself seems to be few and far between and I have heard of club members who have since left to join other Bowling Clubs, where the emphasis is still geared to playing bowls rather than creating a pub atmosphere.

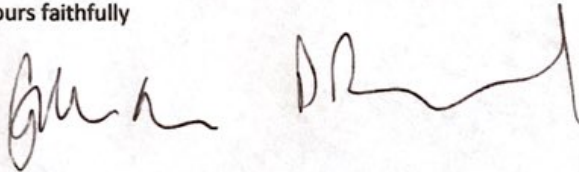
The club is sited on a peaceful residential street where the majority of residents are either retired, or similar to ourselves, have younger children. I have not spoken to any other residents who support this change in premises licence as we are all fully aware of the additional disturbance this will cause to all our home lives, in what is a quiet residential area.

I would obviously prefer that no change was made to the premises licence, other than to further curtail the hours of the club itself, when it is being used purely as a drinking establishment.

However, should the Licensing Board be inclined to grant a change to the outdoor drinking area I would request that this would only be granted to occur on match days and would finish about 30 minutes after the cessation of play at the latest, and not at the end of any potential prize giving. Without this stipulation I don't doubt there will be considerable disturbance and further incidents of antisocial behaviour in what has been an exceedingly peaceful and quiet street to reside during the time of Covid 19, which, as I have said, has seen little to no activity at the club.

With all this in mind, I would ask that the Licensing Board think very carefully about the detrimental impact any changes will have on all the residents of Church Avenue and not just those of us who live so close to the Bowling Club itself. The antisocial behaviour tends to spread along the length of the street when patrons are leaving the club, as they often either walk to the train station or main road in order to make their way home.

Yours faithfully

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is cursive and appears to be 'Gillian'. The second signature on the right is also cursive and appears to be 'David Branch'.

Gillian and David Branch