

Appendix C
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Licensing Manager
East Devon District Council Offices
Knowle
SIDMOUTH
EX10 8HL

Monday 22nd June by post & email :- licensing@eastdevon.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

Application FOR PREMISES LICENCE at SIDMOUTH RUGBY CLUB

Further to the circular letter sent to neighbouring residents, dated June 9th 2009 ; the application for a full Premises Licence made by Sidmouth Rugby Club on 15th June 2009; and to my recent conversation with your officer, Mr Neil McDonald, I write to express my concern.

The Club's circular letter indicates that it's application for a new premises licence" does not seek to extend either the hours alcohol can be supplied, or the permitted activities undertaken at the Blackmore" However, I understand from Mr McDonald that the Club is seeking to replace an existing Club Licence, which I am further advised permits the premises to be used by non-members on only a limited number of days each year, and more often, if required, by securing further specific permissions from the Licensing Authority, with a full Premises Licence which allows unlimited and unrestricted use by the public at large, at the sole discretion of the Rugby Club. If this assessment is correct, then, in what is almost an entirely residential locality of the Town, one with a Hospital occupying an adjoining site, is it not wholly desirable and appropriate that the use of the subject premises remains under the jurisdiction of the community at large, and not a private organisation which might well be tempted to seek financial gain through commercial activity?

In my time living in Heydons Lane I have only rarely found it necessary to express dissatisfaction with the use of the Clubhouse premises. This is not to say that we do not suffer the occasional late night noise and antics (banging on the front door/ cans & rubbish lobbed over the side gate) which I daresay goes hand-in-hand with the consumption of alcohol these days, and which sometimes occurs as the Club empties out on weekend nights. As I am sure you will appreciate I am certainly very keen to ensure we do not suffer an increase in such inconvenience as a result of more intensive commercial use of the Clubhouse facilities.

Finally, I fear that the availability of a Premises Licence to the Clubhouse facilities will result in even greater vehicular activity along Heydons Lane. In recent times I have gained the impression that cars are accessing the Club grounds, to park, or drop off, rather more frequently than was the case during our first few years living here. This may be an impression and not a fact, but a local tradesman I use made such observation only last week, and, indeed, unless I misread it. I seem to recall the display of a notice by the adjoining Bowls Club, inviting their visitors to park upon the Blackmore. Heydons Lane is almost entirely single width with no pavement, virtually blind on entering, and almost constantly in the course of repair or suffering from a very poor road surface. It was not designed to take large numbers of motor car movements, and certainly not commercial vehicles.

I very much hope you will find my comments of assistance in considering this application and that the Club will continue to be called upon to operate what is a recreational, and not commercial facility for the people of Sidmouth.