

To the licencing officer

Objection to change to licence at Aysgarth Falls Hotel.

Submitted as a local resident in a private capacity.

The hotel has submitted an application to change the licencing hours and the area covered by the licence.

As a former chairman of a licencing bench, I am familiar with the considerations which applied at that time and would expect that the same considerations would still apply.

Among these are whether the application is appropriate or necessary given the venue and its location, whether there would be an unreasonable impact on local residents and the environment, and whether granting the application would create a precedent with regard to future applications. The site of this hotel is in a peaceful rural location which attracts visitors for the scenery, setting, and tranquillity.

The grounds of this hotel are currently being converted from a low cost, low impact camping and caravan site to a small estate of chalets described originally as 'bedrooms in the field', and the hotel itself is being extended to include a new room for entertainments and a new adjacent bar. A modified licence was also granted to accommodate the business plan which catered mainly for hotel residents and their guests.

The planning application for this change was unanimously opposed by local residents who expressed concerns about the impact of such a large development on the area and the loss of community through the removal of the campsite.

This new application which effectively extends the licence to include the new estate built on the former campsite would allow a 24-hour bar for the whole site, together with other undisclosed entertainment activities.

Yet again this application is opposed by every local resident who are concerned about what exactly is being planned that would need such a change to the license,

In a unique location such as this, famed for its peace and tranquillity, a 24-hour licence is clearly not appropriate. No claims have been made that might indicate a need for such a licence, and such activity would clearly have an unreasonable impact on local residents, both domestic and in nature.

As far as creating a precedent is concerned, within a short distance there are other licenced facilities catering for visitors, who also may wish to change their business plan should this application succeed, which would create a massive change for the nature and culture of the area.

Such late-night entertainment is not a new problem for this area since there was a facility operating as a Saturday night disco, which attracted young visitors from all over the area and was a cause of many noise and drink related problems. The facility has been closed for many years and local residents do not want to see such a thing resurrected.

This application includes no justification regarding appropriateness or necessity. History tells us that there would an unreasonable impact on local residents and the environment, and the proximity of other licenced facilities demonstrates that this would create an unwelcome precedent.

In all the circumstance this application should fail on every aspect.

I would be obliged if you could confirm receipt of this objection. Kind regards,

