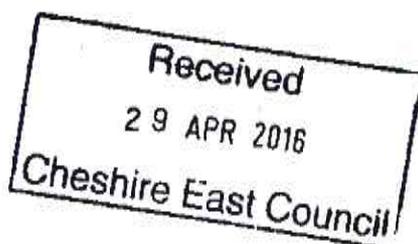


Mark & Michaela Ellwood
22 Queens Drive
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1BW

27 April 2016



Licensing Team
Municipal Building
Earle Street
Crewe
CW1 2BJ

RE: The Mill Bar and Restaurant, Town Mill, High Street, Sandbach. Cheshire CW11 1AH

Dear Sirs,

We would like to extend my unequivocal support to The Mill Bar and Restaurant during this review.

We have no personal or business relationship with the Mill or its owners. I was made aware of the application for review by Sandbach High school, which would suggest that a local puritan has taken umbrage at the fact that the two local high schools had a sixth form night out at the premises.

My daughter is in the lower sixth and yes is only 17. We were fully informed about this event and she and her friends had a great and trouble free evening. It would be huge shame should it prove impossible to hold these events in future, because the owners were afraid they might lose their licence.

We are surprised that the review application mentions "protection of children from harm", when the licensing Act 2003 appears to specifically exclude 17 year olds as children. But regardless to what the letter of the law might say, these are not children, and they MUST have somewhere where they can learn and grow as young adults in our community. This type of over-reaction (prohibition) has, in the entire history of socially acceptable drugs, always failed miserably and should not be considered now.

I have consulted my daughter and her friends regarding the event that seems to have caused the Mill so many problems and am satisfied as to the following:

1. Any student who turned up drunk was made to wait outside or refused entry. We ourselves saw (from Casa Mia) many students make their way to the Mill from the towns other pubs including the Market Tavern. They did this because the Mill had made the access to alcohol more difficult.
2. On entry to the event the students were required to provide ID. Any old enough to buy alcohol were given a (stamp/ID bracelet) at the door. If you did not have a tattoo you could NOT buy alcohol.
3. There were door staff and security staff moving throughout the venue all evening
4. There was no obvious trouble of any sort all evening within the Mill

I fail to see what more the Mill can have done to take their responsibilities more seriously. They appear to be adhering to the licencing conditions as fully as is realistic in a democratic society. The management appear to have taken all reasonable measure to ensure that the majority of people had an enjoyable and trouble free evening.

While crime and disorder under the influence of alcohol is unacceptable at any time, I am tired of the endless vilification of young people who make a bit of noise while enjoying themselves; and believe we should not be so heavy handed or so puritanical as to turn Sandbach into little better than a grave yard.

I applaud the Mill for allowing the sixth forms to hold this event and would like to know that they should not fear for their business should they do so again.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Ellwood

Michaela Ellwood