

Peter Simester  
Municipal Buildings  
Earle Street  
Crewe

Dear Mr. Simester,

I am writing to express my concern over the level of noise at The Wilbraham Arms. I have lived on Welsh Row for the past 12 years, and I have noticed a significant difference in both the level and the type of noise associated with the pub over the past 8 months. Loud music- especially on Sunday nights- prevent us from sleeping, and loud talking, singing, rowdy behaviour and fights outside the pub create a very a disturbing element to our street.

I am the home watch coordinator for our neighbourhood. Several of the elderly people on our street have told me that they feel vulnerable and threatened by the behaviour at the pub, yet also frightened to write in to complain.

I am asking that the landlord respect the tone of the neighbourhood - a residential part of town with many impressionable and vulnerable young people – by minimizing the loud music on week nights and maintaining a more commanding presence to control the rowdiness – carding young people, cutting off customers when they have had too much to drink and closing the pub on time. I would like the committee to recommend closing time of 11 pm on weeknights.

I believe that the situation has improved over the past couple of weeks – the music is currently played at a more acceptable level. It is also heading towards winter, and gatherings outside the pub are less frequent as the weather turns. My concern is that once the current attention to the pub has faded, that the condition will return – that of after-hours drinking and drunken behaviour. (In fact, Friday night (5 Nov) the pub was still open – with loud and argumentative people outside at 2:30 am. and on Sunday night the 7<sup>th</sup>, 3 women began a loud argument which escalated into pushing and shoving and involving 4 or 5 others – from 12:45 until 1:25am.) Several weeks ago, after 2:00 am on a Sunday night, it sounded like a woman was being beat up by a man and they were running and shouting back and forth across the street. The police arrived shortly after.

The picnic tables outside the pub exacerbate the problem, in my opinion. When the pub is open, people gather outside late at night, talking loudly. Even these past weeks while the pub has been operating under abatement notices requiring people to leave their drinks inside – and in spite of signs asking customers to do so – customers continue to drink outside (14 gathering and drinking at 1am on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of Oct , 7 young people drinking outside on Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> of Oct , again at 1 am. On Friday night the 5<sup>th</sup> of Nov, I noticed the landlord out on the steps of the pub having a cigarette. He completely ignored the 2 young men and a girl standing outside with cans of lager in their hands (11:15 pm).

When the pub is closed, people returning home from town often stop at the tables, at 2, 3, or 4 am – eating, talking loudly, singing, fighting, climbing on them, vomiting etc. My understanding from the highways department is that the tables are placed on highways land (in spite of their being placed on black bricks. Highways tell me that the entire pavement all the way up to the building belongs to their department.) Rob Welch, formally in highways, has told me that he had intended to have the