

As a governor of Malbank school, further down Welsh Row, I also have to express my grave concerns regarding the influence of the pub on the young in our community. I have personally witnessed ex-pupils (under 18) frequenting the premises on several occasions. Whether they have consumed alcohol on the premises I cannot say but the fact that they are unsupervised and evidently unchallenged (or at the very least the pub's checks are not rigorous enough) is very troubling. Perhaps more worrying is it is common knowledge amongst many pupils that the Wilbraham Arms "is the place to be" - I will let the committee decide what they might mean by that. I would also add that the sight of drinkers, often inebriated, on the pavement outside the pub all day including when pupils walk home not only sets entirely the wrong example for them but is both intimidating and of course entirely unnecessary. I am only relieved that I do not have any daughters that have to pass the pub at this time! This "al fresco" drinking is certainly not seen in any other pub I can recall throughout Nantwich - certainly not on Welsh Row in the middle of a residential area and certainly not at 3:30 in the afternoon.

Consequently, I wish to cite that the pub has not upheld, met or complied with the objectives under the Licence Act 2003(5) specifically objective #3 : "The prevention of public nuisance" nor objective #4 : "The protection of children from harm"

In the interests of fairness, the pub's conduct has seemingly improved since the serving of the not one but *two* abatement notices by the council. I can at least comment on the fact that the rear of the premises is mercifully quiet now after 9pm (the notice requiring it to be closed) so that residents like myself, in Red Lion Lane, Welsh Row and beyond can at last enjoy their basic human right to peace and quiet in the evening and in the small hours.

However, it is important to recognise the reason why this review has been instigated - this modest improvement is not down to the licensees' respect to their neighbours or I would suggest any change of heart from them. It is simply that *the law* has obliged them to. Indeed it has taken the law, and only the law, to consider the community and their responsibilities towards it and if I might be cynical for a moment, perhaps the impending prospect of the license review itself?

As stated earlier, all attempts by the police, council and neighbours such as myself (I have phoned on several occasions only to have the phone go unanswered or put down on me - then again the fact I was calling at 2am might have led the pub to guess I intended complaining) at getting the pub to be reasonable and considerate to local residents over months of trying has been responded with a demonstration of defiance to the authorities and residents. This is the true nature therefore of the licensees and I would implore the committee to recognise this and put an end to our misery.

I consider myself a reasonable person who respects that the pub is a business - I would not have moved in had I not. I have lived now at the same property for 13 years. The record will show that I have never once in that time ever needed to complain about the pub. Previous landlords/owners/licensees have all respected their neighbours - not one has sought nor indeed thought it appropriate to open the pub to 1am before. The last landlord, both popular and respected, never let anyone drink outside in the evenings let alone do so in large groups. He exerted a very strong influence and control over clientele and was ever present. He had live entertainment, sometimes Fridays but every Saturday. *Never* that I can recall though on a *Sunday*. Moreover the entertainment et al always ended at the stroke of midnight (or before) at which point the pub fell totally silent and customers left the premises in a expedient manner. Likewise no-one was ever allowed to drink outside during this time. Sadly, this is simply not the case any more. Until the abatement notices were served - and sound and video evidence will substantiate this - customers were free to come and go as they pleased repeatedly returning in and out of the pub at the back *well passed* the official 1am closing time. Moreover, they were unsupervised and uncontrolled.