

Dear [x],

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well.

I write further to our previous correspondence and meetings in relation to licensable events and activities taking place at the cricket club.

As a reminder, Langley Cricket Club has been part of the village for 156 years. We are a true community club and facility, providing recreational and sporting opportunities for all age groups. We are the only Cricket Club in the local area, and we are very proud of the offering we provide to that area.

We have a Club House which provides refreshments for members and guests and, as you know, we also carry out occasional events within our grounds. These events are vital in generating the revenue we need to continue to offers the sports facilities that we provide, and without them the future of the Club and the teams that play here would be in serious jeopardy.

As you are aware, following correspondence with you in August last year, I made contact with Cheshire East Council to seek guidance on the operation of these events in relation to sound levels.

This lead to discussions with the Council about some tweaks that would be necessary in relation to our Club Premises Certificate, namely to reflect the amendments made to the layout of the Club House since our Club Premises Certificate was granted, back in 2005.

You may well be aware that we attempted to lodge minor variation applications to address this, but that these have been refused by reason of objections lodged by some residents. We have now had the opportunity to review the content of these representations (although we are not aware of the names of those making them). We of course understand the concerns raised, and as such we have taken advice with regards to the best next steps here, as we were not sure how best to proceed.

We understand that when objections are received to minor variations, this leads to automatic refusal. We need to address the matters contained within the minor variations, to regularise the layout, as this is something we have been advised by the Council to do, in light of us proactively reaching out to them following our previous correspondence.

Our options in order to address this are either to apply for a full variation of our Club Premises Certificate, or apply instead for a Premises Licence. We have determined that the latter is the best course of action, but we wanted to explain the reasons behind this to you so as not to cause alarm.

The purpose of a Club Premises Certificate is to provide licensable activities to club members and their guests. A Premises Licence allows provision of licensable activities to members of the public, something we have previously done (for example during the Winter Ball) through the use of Temporary Events Notices.

As such, we believe that a Premises Licence is more suitable for our purposes, and will mean that we do not need to go through the administrative process of applying for Temporary Events Notices every time we want to have one of these sorts of events going forward.

However, as I say, we are conscious that we do not want to cause alarm, and we do not want you to think that this indicates a change of style of operation from a cricket club to an events space. It simply allows us the flexibility to hold the same sorts of events we have held previously under one licence.

As such, to ensure that this remains the case, we are proposing strict conditions as part of the Premises Licence Application we intend to lodge. Importantly, one of these conditions will limit the number of times per year that licensable activities can take place in the grounds after 7pm to a maximum of 8 occasions. This will include events like the Winter Ball and our fireworks display. These sorts of events are important to generate much needed funds for the day to day activities at the Club, but we are aware that these must be limited in such a way as to ensure harmony with all members of the local community.

Therefore, we are also proposing that we be obliged to inform you at least 14 days in advance of the date of any such event. On all other occasions, licensable activities after 7pm will take place within the Club House only.

We will also propose various conditions to govern our use of the site, and I attach a copy of those here for your information. We hope that this will give you comfort, as any breach of these conditions would be grounds for enforcement action from the Council (something that we are acutely aware of in making this decision).

We would highlight that our current Club Premises Certificate does not contain any conditions restricting our operation, so the grant of the Premises Licence would mean imposing specific obligations on us which do not currently exist. We hope that this demonstrates to you our commitment to ensuring that we are good neighbours. As you will see from the attached, for example, this includes the use of the sound level meter we invested in, solidifying this commitment we made to you into a legal obligation.

The Premises Licence Application will seek permission for licensable activities to the hours that we discussed when we met you previously, so until 11pm Monday – Thursday, midnight Friday, Saturday and Bank Holiday Sundays and 10.30pm on other Sundays (all plus 30 minutes dispersal). This mirrors the timings currently permitted by our Club Premises Certificate, save for Fridays, Saturdays and Bank Holiday Sundays, and as I say this is to allow for events without the need for Temporary Events Notices.

We hope that this explanation will provide you with all the information you need in relation to this proposed application. However, if you have any queries please do let me know.

If you feel it would be beneficial to discuss this more generally, please also let me know and I would be happy to look into setting up a ‘virtual’ residents meeting. In usual times, I would have wanted to invite you to the Club to explain the above in person and invite any questions, but obviously that is not possible in light of current circumstances.

I look forward to hearing from you should you wish to get in touch, and in the absence of any queries we will proceed to lodge this application in due course.

Kind regards,