

Daniel Lines

From: Michelle Dalby <[REDACTED]@mail.com>
Sent: 14 September 2020 16:16
To: CE Licensing
Subject: The Schooner, South Shore Road, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 3AF

Dear Sirs

I write in relation to the notice of the review of the premises licence of The Schooner, South Shore Road, Gateshead, NE8 3AF.

Upon reading the notice I was very surprised at the tone of the language and the assumption made by yourselves that the owners have "continually shown a disregard for the coronavirus and other safety legislation". I do not know how you can make such a statement given I have attended the Schooner after the rules of lockdown allowed it and can honestly say that I have at no time seen anything but a complete regard for the safety of their staff and their customers.

I also visited the Schooner on several occasions throughout lockdown to collect takeaway food and saw no evidence to corroborate your statement that "throughout the lockdown the owners have continually shown a disregard for the coronavirus and other safety legislation". I was asked to wait outside on one occasion as another member of the public was inside collecting their food and drinks.

The notice refers to an event where people congregated on the public highway. I note that it is true that people do stand outside to listen to music, and have done so for a very long time – including with the previous owners. I also note that the current owners have been very clear with us as customers that this is not acceptable and we have been asked to move off the highway, which we have done immediately. They also implemented a ticket only system which restricted the number of guests seeing the live music. For you to say that they have continually shown a disregard for the coronavirus is not true in my experience.

The Schooner is a great local business which not only supports local jobs within the pub serving behind the bar, cleaning and working in the kitchen, but also the jobs of local musicians by ensuring that they have live music on wherever possible, most likely at a loss on some occasions. The words used in your notice have made me believe there is some underlying agenda, which is extremely unfair and, in my opinion as a regular customer, biased.

I fully support The Schooner, the proprietors are really doing their best in a very difficult time – and for you to take such a negative and biased approach is at the least unfair, and at the most calls into question your integrity as a local council. The very nature of the wording on the notice has made me feel this way – surely you are investigating potential issues, rather than making an assumption that there are issues and provoking negative responses. The tone of your notice has made an assumption of guilt on the proprietors.

I am very happy to discuss this further should this be required, please contact me via email and I can arrange a mutually convenient time. However, I would also like a response to my comments regardless.

I sincerely hope that common sense prevails and that The Schooner is allowed to continue to make a valuable contribution to the local economy.

Regards

Susan Michelle Dalby