

## **Kirsty Clark Licensing**

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**From:** Richie Palmer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 June 2021 07:20  
**To:** CE Licensing  
**Subject:** Half Moon Inn - Ryton

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning

i tried to call your number on Friday but no one was available to take the call so I left a voice message.

I am writing in regard to the application from Diane Phillips to:-

- 1.Extend the licensable are to include outside area.....
- 2.To remove condition 4, annex 3.....

We would like the application/applications to be given favourable consideration based on the following :-

My wife and I purchased [REDACTED], Ryton Village, NE40 [REDACTED] on 31st March 2021. Our property is directly adjacent to the Half Moon and we share a drive with the pub.

I need to say for the record that we did not know and had never met Diane Phillips before we moved into our new home.

Since the reopening of pubs, we have been into the beer garden on a number of occasions and must say that the set-up in place is second to none. There has obviously been significant investment in the beer garden in order to comply with all the recent regulations imposed due to Covid-19 regulations.

I understand that Lisa Bainbridge, GMBC Environmental Health Officer has indicated that she will be objecting to point 2 for a number of reasons.

I have seen a copy of an email she has sent to Mrs Phillips which would suggest that she has little or no idea of how the pub operates. She writes that the pub has large number of people frequenting it seven days a week when the pub is only open Thursday - Sunday and closed Monday - Wednesday. It has been closed on the last two Bank Holiday Mondays in line with the policy to only open four days a week. She also suggests that the beer garden should close at 10.00pm which it actually does and there are very clear notices within the property which show that.

There is a sentence in which Mrs Bainbridge refers to complaints about "noise in the beer garden, noise in the street after closing time, people fighting, streaking, vomiting, urinating in the street and glass on the floor making residents feel unsafe to walk past the pub".

Of all the above I can only relate to one incident which was about urinating in the street. I actually spoke to the young lad and pointed out that there were plenty of toilets in the beer garden and his behaviour was unacceptable.

The rest of the sentence makes Ryton Village appear like The Bigg Market in Newcastle in the late 70's and early 80's and is somewhat exaggerated in our opinion.

We have not witnessed any of the other things mentioned. The pub uses plastic glasses so it is unlikely that any broken glass in the street would have come from the beer garden. The young men who police the

gates do not allow anything to be removed from the beer garden. They do a fine job as far as we are concerned. They are polite, considerate and a credit to the business.

If Mrs Bainbridge has photographic or video evidence of any or all of the above, I stand to be corrected but can only speak from our personal experiences.

She also writes that the noise from people chattering is significant in its own right. Our experience since moving is completely different to that suggestion and must say we really consider that statement to be total and utter nonsense.

My wife works from home and uses our conservatory as an office. The conservatory is less than 10 metres from the entrance to the beer garden.

She has the doors and windows open on hot days and not once has she been distracted or disturbed by any noise from the beer garden. She sometimes works till 8.00pm and is in Teams meetings at least 50% of her working day as Manager of the Special Educational Needs Department for the Sunderland Authority.

Our property is closer to the Half Moon than any property in Ryton Village and that being the case I think that our views should be taken very seriously and given great consideration.

Since moving here we have been somewhat surprised that some of the residents seem to have an agenda against the pub.

I would go so far as to say it is tantamount to a vendetta, has been ongoing for some time, and I suspect that this is more to do with personality clashes and differences of opinion other than any truly legitimate concerns.

We are new to the area, have no axe to grind with either the pub owner or the residents, and just want to put forward a different perspective to what is being detailed to Mrs Bainbridge.

Music relayed to the beer garden does not have to be particularly loud for patrons to enjoy it so I see no reason to not allow this to happen.

In our opinion the application should be allowed without any conditions attached. I reiterate that at present there is no significant noise or anti-social behaviour from patrons of the beer garden which disturbs us. There will always be some noise at throwing out time from any establishment with a fixed closing time which is just a fact of life that people living beside a pub should recognise and accept as we have.

This a local village pub which provides service for young and old alike. Pubs are closing all over the country and Ryton has recently lost The Ryton Hotel.

The Half Moon is providing a service that is needed in the village and also employing a significant number of people which is no bad thing.

All things considered we would encourage the Licensing Section to pass the application.

We believe that GMBC should be actively encouraging local business's not creating obstacles for them.

Sadly, these days, some people seem to want to complain at everything and anything. it seems to us that some would probably never be happy unless a pub which has been in existence for many, many years was to close or at very least have restrictions imposed that would impact on the patron's enjoyment and the profitability of the operation.

The pub was there when people bought property next to it and hopefully it will continue to grow and flourish long after the residents of today (ourselves included) have long gone.

In closing I would put on the record that we have no family, financial, or emotional interests in the Half Moon Inn. We are submitting this email purely as newly moved residents who saw the pub as an attraction, not a problem, when we bought the house.

Could you please let me know that you have received this mail. Thank you.

Best regards

Richard and Audrey Palmer