

PL022/23a – comments from residents

Phone call received at Parish Office 05/07/2023

Resident lives in the vicinity of The Black Horse and wanted to raise concerns about the licensing applications for the area.

The resident states The Black Horse patrons are causing issues with anti-social behaviour around the vicinity and along Orchard Road, including the lanes running off the road.

Over the last 12 months they have witnessed a dramatic increase in issues including; people having sexual intercourse in the roadway, shouting and swearing, broken glass, unpleasant smells, food smells, litter, inconsiderate and dangerous parking and numerous incidents of police attendance.

The resident states that this anti-social behaviour has been made worse by the provision of the food trucks as patrons visit simply to purchase the food until late into the night.

Reports of other elderly neighbours feeling scared and vulnerable due to the atmosphere around the pub, especially on the evenings that food gathers more people.

The resident wishes the Council to agree that a residential area is not the correct place to approve the licensing of such food vans.

Date: Thu, Jul 6, 2023 at 8:56 AM

Subject: Re: Food Vans at The Black Horse

To: <parishclerk@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Dear Parish Clerk

Further to the matters raised in our email dated 19th May, thank you for your prompt response dated 22nd May and the advice it contains concerning the Parish Council's status as a consultee and that the final decision will be made by South Cambs District Council's planning department. Furthermore, we welcome your assurance that "I will ensure that the Council are made aware of your views".

Our neighbour of long-standing has again explained the difficulties [REDACTED] has had to endure - and continues to endure - as a result of trading from The Black Horse car park. Very regrettably, therefore, we feel obliged to reiterate to the Council the view presented in our email dated 19th May, namely:

"An elderly [REDACTED] mid-seventies should not have to undertake what [REDACTED] has been obliged to do in order to have [REDACTED] concerns addressed. Also, we regret that [REDACTED] direct representations and polite protests were rebuffed. Indeed, we understand matters have been permitted to drag on without any intervention by those in local positions of knowledge and authority who were advised by [REDACTED] of what was taking place.

We ourselves do not approve of unplanned and unregulated development taking place anywhere in our communities. Like [REDACTED] we are concerned that all this unplanned development has taken place without any discussion/consultation with the immediate neighbours (and other concerned residents), including ourselves, or, as far as we are aware, with anyone else including relevant authorities. We also have concerns about the mound of rubbish overflowing the kerbside rubbish bin - and standing often for days in all weathers."

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As already pointed out it is incumbent on those in local positions of knowledge and authority who were advised of what was taking place to act proactively at a very early stage to ensure that unplanned and unregulated development was halted. This was not done as it should have been and was certainly not done subsequently in a timely manner. It should not require the active and sustained involvement of ordinary residents to ensure that legal and proper standards are maintained. Indeed, we understand from our neighbour that circumstances have become much worse and, in fact, have deteriorated to the extent that violence and threats of violence have occurred and all requiring police involvement.

All of these developments affect everyone and not just the immediate neighbours who seek only the restoration of the quiet residential area they have enjoyed for decades past. The noise, rowdiness, increase in traffic and inappropriate parking - particularly close to the junction of Maple Way and Orchard Road - the significant fumes from the cooking process of these Food Vans, all continue and they remain simply unacceptable.

In particular, significant food related rubbish accumulating not only on but also around the waste bin on the corner of Maple Way and Orchard Road continues. This food related waste has significant potential to attract vermin and is frequently being disturbed by local wildlife attracted by the food items contained in the rubbish. As already advised, this bin which is appropriately designed and sized for its attractive surroundings, has stood for generations and been used by casual passers by to dispose of small items of rubbish. It is unacceptable that it continues to be inappropriately used to dispose of commercially generated food rubbish, itself rubbish arising from unplanned and unregulated development. The inappropriate use of this rubbish bin which is now taking place should be halted. Indeed, the inappropriate use should never have been permitted to occur.

It is now our understanding from our neighbour that the matter of trading from The Black Horse car park is to be further discussed at Parish Council / Sub Committee meetings / and at the District Council level. We welcome the advice of our neighbour that [REDACTED] - supports the views [REDACTED] has expressed to us. We also welcome advice that [REDACTED] will support the concerns of all immediate neighbours and other residents and will articulate [REDACTED] opposition [REDACTED] both to the Parish Council and to the various levels of the District Council whenever the matter is under discussion.

Indeed, we would expect all our District Councillors to support [REDACTED] in the endeavour [REDACTED] has undertaken on the behalf of all immediate neighbours and other concerned residents. In this regard, we further expect all District Councillors to support the Parish Council itself in the firm decision it has come to as a consultee in this matter. We request, therefore, that the Parish Council as a consultee, firstly reiterates its firm and clear decision in opposition to this development and then draws that firm and clear decision to the attention of all our District Councillors with a request for their active support for the Parish Council at every forum the matter is discussed.

Furthermore, we request that appropriate structures and procedures are put in place by the Parish Council to ensure that what is taking place is monitored and assessed to ensure that all official decisions and rulings are carried out.

Please convey our views to the Parish Council and all involved. Thank you in advance.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]