

# ADJOURNED LICENSING ACT 2003 SUB COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Friday 28 April 2023  
Time: 10.00 am  
Venue: Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Brindle, Robertson, Springett and English (Substitute Member)

*The Chairman will assume that all Members will read the reports before attending the meeting. Officers are asked to assume the same when introducing reports.*

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## AGENDA

Page No.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Notification of Substitute Members
3. Election of Chairman
4. Disclosures by Members and Officers
5. Disclosures of Lobbying
6. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information
7. Application for review of a premise licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 2AN 1 - 121

## **PART II**

**To move that the public be excluded for the items set out in Part II of the Agenda because of the likely disclosure of exempt information for the reasons specified having applied the Public Interest Test.**

### **Head of Schedule 12A and Brief Description**

- |   |  |           |
|---|--|-----------|
| 8. Exempt Appendix 8 to Item 7 - Application for review of a premise licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, Kent ME17 2AN | Paragraph 1 –<br>Information relating to an individual<br><br>Paragraph 2 –<br>Information likely to | 122 - 162 |
|---|--|-----------|

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**Issued on Thursday 20 April 2023**

**Continued Over/:**

*Alison Broom*

**Alison Broom, Chief Executive**

reveal the identity of  
an individual

Paragraph 7 –  
Information relating  
to any action taken or  
to be taken in  
connection with the  
prevention,  
investigation or  
prosecution of crime.

### **ALTERNATIVE FORMATS**

The reports included in Part I of this Agenda can be made available in alternative formats. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, please contact Democratic Services at [committee@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:committee@maidstone.gov.uk) or call **01622 602899**.

# Agenda Item 7

**Agenda Item No:** 1 – Summary of Report

**Licence Reference** 23/00670/REVIEW  
**Report To:** LICENSING SUB – COMMITTEE  
(UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003)

**Date:** 28 April 2023

**Report Title:** KINGS HEAD, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT,  
ME17 2AN  
Application for Review of a Premises Licence

**Report Author:** Lorraine Neale

This report is classified as public, with an exempt appendix. The Appendix is referenced as appendix 8 to this report, This appendix contains exempt information as classified in paragraph/s 1, 2 and 7 to Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, in that they contain information relating to

- 1 - Information relating to any individual.
- 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
- 7 - Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime. The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure due to the nature of the information provided.

**Summary:**

To summarise the Police's reasons for bringing about this review application of the premises licence for the Kings Head. Kent Police believe the premises represents a serious and real danger to the public if they are allowed to continue operating unchecked.

This follows on from a search of the premises on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023, carried out under an executed search warrant acting on intelligence received.

During the search weapons, ammunition and drugs were found in various places on the premises, the detail can be found in the application for review attached as Appendix 1.

The Police believe that the location of the weapons quite clearly indicated that the licenceholders were aware of their presence on the premises and permitted them to stay on site. This leads to concerns to their intended use or need and the serious and real danger they pose to the public.

Kent Police have serious concern in the managements ability to run a safe premises because of the serious nature of weapons being present in the bar and so seek revocation of the licence and the removal of the designated premises supervisor.

**Affected Wards:** Headcorn Ward

**Recommendations :** **The Committee is asked to determine the application and decide whether to take such steps as members consider appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.**

**Policy Overview:** The decision should be made with regard to the Secretary of State's Guidance and the Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. Where the decision departs from Policy or Guidance the departure must be directed solely at the attainment of the licensing objectives,

and that such departure be supported by proper reasons.

**Other Material  
Implications:**

**HUMAN RIGHTS:** In considering this application it is **appropriate** to consider the rights of both the licence holder and the applicant together with other parties, such as “**responsible authorities**” and/or “**interested parties**” (objectors). The hearing procedure for reviewing premises licences has been formulated to ensure a fair hearing for all parties.

**LEGAL:** Under the Licensing Act 2003 the **Licensing Authority** has a duty to exercise licensing control of relevant premises.

**Background  
Papers:**

Licensing Act 2003  
Home Office Guidance Document issued under section 182 of The Licensing Act 2003 as amended  
Maidstone Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy

**Contacts:**

Mrs Lorraine Neale at: [lorraineneale@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:lorraineneale@maidstone.gov.uk) – tel: 01622 602528



## **Agenda Item No. 1**

**Report Title: KINGS HEAD, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2AN**

### **Application for Review of a Premises Licence**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

The report advises Members of an application for the review of a premises licence, brought by Chief Inspector McLellan on behalf of Kent Police in respect of the premises Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 2AN (Appendix 1)

#### **Issue to be Decided and Options**

1. Members must, having regard to the application and any relevant representations, take such steps mentioned below as members consider appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
2. The steps are:
  - To modify the conditions of the licence (including for a period not exceeding 3 months);
  - To exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence (including for a period not exceeding 3 months);
  - To remove the designated premises supervisor;
  - To suspend the licence for a period not exceeding 3 months;
  - To revoke the licence.
  - To issue a warning or caution.
  - To take no action.

#### **Background**

3. The relevant statutory provisions are sections 51 to 53 inclusive of the Licensing Act 2003. the Licensing Objectives are as follows:
  - The prevention of crime and disorder;
  - Public Safety;
  - The prevention of public nuisance; and
  - The protection of children from harm
4. The current premises licence was granted on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 a copy is attached as Appendix 2.
5. The application has been correctly advertised with a notice displayed on the premises and at the Council offices for the required period.

6. The applicant is requesting that the Sub-Committee:- .
  - 1) Revoke the licence.
  - 2) Remove the current Designated Premises Supervisor
  
7. Members are advised that they may only modify premises licences if it is **appropriate to promote the licensing objectives.**
  
8. Relevant sections of **The Guidance issued under section 182 of The Licensing Act 2003;**

**Chapter 2 Licensing Objectives –Para 2.1 to 2.6 crime and disorder, para 2.7 to 2.14 public safety, para 2.15 – 2. 21 public nuisance and para 2.22 to 2.32 children from harm.**

**Chapter 10 Conditions attached to Premises Licences**

**Chapter 11 Reviews**
  
9. Relevant policy statements **contained in The Licensing Authority’s Statement of Licensing Policy (Jan 2021);**

**CONDITIONS TO PROMOTE THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER.**

- 17.10 Under the Act the Licensing Authority has a duty to promote the licensing objectives, and, a further duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the borough.
  
- 17.11 Wholesale of alcohol. Since 1 April 2017, businesses which sell alcohol (for example, retailers of alcohol and trade buyers) need to ensure that the UK wholesalers that they buy alcohol from have been approved by HMRC under the Alcohol Wholesaler Registration Scheme (AWRS). They will need to check their wholesalers Unique Registration Number (URN) against the HMRC online database. This is an ongoing obligation and if a business is found to have bought alcohol from an unapproved wholesaler, they may be liable to a penalty or could even face a criminal prosecution and their alcohol stock may be seized. Any trader who buys alcohol from a wholesaler for onward sale to the general public (known as a ‘trade buyer’) does not need to register unless they sell alcohol to other businesses.
  
- 17.12 Examples of trade buyers would be pubs, clubs, restaurants, cafes, retailers and hotels. However, they will need to check that the wholesaler they purchase alcohol from is registered with HMRC.
  
- 17.13 The applicant will be expected to detail in their operating schedule how they will prevent crime and disorder on and close to the premises. Such detail should reflect the licensable activities on offer, location and character of the area, the nature of the premises use and the range of customers likely to use the premises.

These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Prevention of disorderly conduct and anti-social behaviour
- Prevention of underage drinking
- Prevention of sales of alcohol to intoxicated customers
- Prevention of drunkenness both on and in the vicinity of the premises
- Prevention of drug use and drug dealing
- Restriction to responsible drinks promotions
- Use of safety glass

- Inclusion of a wind-down time following alcohol sales period
- Adequate seating to discourage “vertical drinking”
- The offer of food and snacks or other entertainment or occupation to discourage persistent drinking

17.14 In busier premises the Licensing Authority would usually expect to see a short (e.g.30 mins) ‘wind down’ or ‘drinking up’ period allowed for after the cessation time of entertainment and alcohol sales as this is effective in assisting in a reduction in noise and exuberance of customers before leaving the premises.

17.15 Applicants will be expected to seek advice from the Police and the Licensing Authority will give appropriate weight to requests by the Police for premises to be protected by SIA registered door staff subject to the provision of relevant evidence. Where the Licensing Authority determines after consultation with the police that a premises is one that warrants additional security and monitoring it would expect applicants to include the provision of SIA approved door staff at the premises at appropriate times. Relevant premises are usually those used mainly for drinking alcohol, have later opening hours and are situated within the Town Centre night time economy area.

17.16 Where appropriate, applicants for licences in the Town Centre areas providing mainly alcohol, music and dancing would be expected to consider inclusion of a provision of safety glasses to prevent a risk of injury on the rare occasion that a glass may be used as a weapon.

17.17 The use of CCTV should be considered where appropriate or on the advice and recommendations of the Police and to a quality and standard approved by the Police for evidential purposes. Licensees will be expected to fully comply with the requirements of the Information Commissioners Office and the Data Protection Act 1998 in respect of any surveillance equipment installed at a premises.

17.18 In any application resulting in hearing the sub-committee will consider each application on its individual merits and determine the imposition of conditions that are appropriate to promotion of the licensing objectives.

#### **CONDITIONS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY.**

17.19 The applicant will be expected to show how the physical safety of persons attending the premises will be protected and to offer any appropriate steps in the operating schedule to promote this.

17.20 Such steps will not replace the statutory obligation on the applicant to comply with all relevant legislation under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1973 or under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2004.

17.21 Applicants will be expected to have carried out the necessary risk assessments to ensure safe occupancy levels for the premises. Where a representation from the Fire Authority suggests that for the promotion of the Public Safety objective a maximum occupancy should be applied, the Licensing Authority will consider adding such a limit as a licence condition.

Where appropriate an operating schedule should specify occupancy limits for the following types of licensed premises:

- (i) High Volume Vertical Drinking e.g. premises that provide mainly stand up drinking facilities with limited seating/table space and the primary activity is the sale of alcohol
- (ii) Nightclubs
- (iii) Cinemas

- (iv) Theatres
- (v) Other premises where regulated entertainment is likely to attract a large number of people.
- (vi) Where conditions of occupancy have arisen due to representations received.

#### **CONDITIONS TO PROMOTE THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE.**

17.22 The applicant will be expected to detail any appropriate and proportionate steps to prevent nuisance and disturbance arising from the licensable activities at the premises and from the customers using the premises.

17.23 The applicant will be expected to demonstrate that they have considered the following and included steps to prevent public nuisance:

- (i) Proximity of local residents to the premises
- (ii) Licensable activities proposed and customer base
- (iii) Hours and nature of operation
- (iv) Risk and Prevention of noise leakage from the premises from equipment, customers and machinery
- (v) Prevention of noise from customers leaving the premises and customer pick up points outside premises and from the Car Park.
- (vi) Availability of public transport to and from the premises
- (vii) Delivery and collection times and locations.
- (viii) Impact of external security or general lighting on residents.
- (ix) History of management of and complaints about the premises.
- (x) Applicant's previous success in preventing Public Nuisance.
- (xi) Outcomes of discussions with the relevant Responsible Authorities.
- (xii) Impact of location, noise and contamination from outside smoking areas on neighbours and other customers
- (xiii) Collection of litter arising from the premises

17.24 Steps to prevent public nuisance may include a range of options including noise limiting devices, sound insulation, wind down periods, acoustic lobbies, management of smoking areas etc.

17.25 Steps will differ depending on the individual premises and activities and it is for the applicant to ensure that reasonable, effective and appropriate steps are included within the operating schedule.

#### **CONDITIONS TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.**

17.26 Applicants will be expected to detail any appropriate and proportionate steps to protect children at the premises from any harm. The Licensing Authority recognises the right of licensees (serving alcohol) to allow accompanied children into their premises. The Licensing Authority would not seek to restrict access by children (above that specified in the Act) unless it is necessary for the prevention of physical, moral or psychological harm.

17.27 Steps to protect children from harm must be carefully considered for inclusion where:

- (i) There is entertainment or services of an adult nature provided.
- (ii) There have been previous convictions for under age sales of alcohol.
- (iii) There has been a known association with drug taking or dealing.
- (iv) There is a significant element of gambling on the premises.
- (v) There is a presumption that children under 18 should not be permitted entry such as to nightclubs (apart from when specific events are held for under 18's).
- (vi) Outcomes of discussions with relevant Responsible Authorities suggest such steps are applicable.

17.28 Nothing in the Licensing Act prevents licensees from excluding children from a licensed premises and no condition can be added to require the admission of children.

17.29 Where there are no matters that give rise to concern in respect of children at premises the Licensing Authority would expect to see the relevant box on an application form completed to specify NONE.

### **Implications Assessment**

10 The decision should be made with regard to the Home Office Guidance and the Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. Where the decision departs from either the Guidance or the policy clear and cogent reasons must be given. Members should be aware that if such a departure is made the risk of appeal / challenge is increased.

11 **Human Rights:** While all Convention Rights must be considered, those which are of particular relevance to the application are:

- Article 8 - Right to respect for private and family life
- Article 1 of the First Protocol - Protection of Property
- Article 6(1)- Right to Fair Hearing
- Article 10 – Freedom of Expression

The full text of each Article is given in the attached Appendices.

### **Conclusion**

Members must ensure that the application is considered on its merits, as well as against the relevant guidance, policy and statutory framework.

### **List of Appendices**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 12 Appendix 1 | Application for Review                                    |
| Appendix 2    | Premises Licence  |
| Appendix 3    | Plan of the premises (to follow)                          |
| Appendix 4    | Plan of the area  |
| Appendix 5    | Fire Brigade –Neutral comment                             |
| Appendix 6    | Representation - Gosschalks on behalf of EI Group         |
| Appendix 7    | Support Comments x 51                                     |
| Appendix 8    | Licence holder response to review on behalf of Kings Head |
| Appendix 9    | Human Rights Article                                      |
| Appendix 10   | Order of Proceedings                                      |

**Appeal**

**13. The applicant, any interested party and the licence holder may appeal the Licensing Act 2003 Sub Committee's decision within 21 days beginning with the day on which the Appellant is notified. All any appeals must be lodged with the Magistrates' Court.**

Contact: Email:	<b>Senior Licensing Officer</b> <a href="mailto:lorraineneale@maidstone.gov.uk">lorraineneale@maidstone.gov.uk</a>
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## Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

### PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary. You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I, Chief Inspector Mark MCLELLAN on behalf of Kent Police  
(Insert name of applicant)

**apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 / apply for the review of a club premises certificate under section 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below** (delete as applicable)

### Part 1 – Premises or club premises details

<b>Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description</b> Kings Head Headcorn Road Grafty Green	
<b>Post town</b> Maidstone	<b>Post code (if known)</b> ME17 2AN

<b>Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)</b> Mr Kenneth Sweet & Ms Beverley Simpson Sweet
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<b>Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)</b> 20/02948/LAPMV
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### Part 2 – Applicant details

I am

**Please tick yes**

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <p>1) an interested part (please complete (A) or (B) below)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a) a person living in the vicinity of the premises <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b) a body representing persons living in the vicinity of the premises <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">c) a person involved in business in the vicinity of the premises <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">d) a body representing persons involved in business in the vicinity of the premises <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></p> |                                   |
| <p>2) a responsible authority (please complete ( C ) below)</p>   | <p>X <input type="checkbox"/></p> |

**OFFICIAL (when complete)**

**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

**3 a member of the club to which this application relates (please complete (A) below)**

**(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT** (fill in a applicable)

**Please tick**

**Mr**  **Mrs**  **Miss**  **Ms**  **Other title**   
(for example, Rev)

**Surname**

**First names**

**Please tick yes**

**I am 18 years old or over**

**Current postal address if different from premises address**

**Post town**

**Post Code**

**Daytime contact telephone number**

**E-mail address (optional)**

**(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT**

Name and address

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)



**OFFICIAL (when complete)**

**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

**(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT**

Name and address <b>Kent Police</b> <b>Maidstone Police Station</b> <b>Palace Avenue</b> <b>Maidstone</b> <b>ME15 6NF</b>
E-mail address (optional) [REDACTED]

**This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)**

Please tick one or more boxes

- 1) the prevention of crime and disorder **X**
- 2) public safety **X**
- 3) the prevention of public nuisance **X**
- 4) the protection of children from harm **X**

**OFFICIAL (when complete)**

**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

**Please state the ground(s) for review** (please read guidance note 1)

Kent Police are requesting a review of this premises licence under the licensing objectives of prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm at KINGS HEAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2AN. Ms Beverley SIMPSON-SWEET is the designated premises supervisor and premises licence holder along with Mr Kenneth SWEET. The premises trades as a pub. There is a premises licence which permits the sale of alcohol between 10:00 to 00:30 Monday to Saturday.

Kent Police executed a search warrant at the premises and located drugs and weapons.

**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

**Please provide as much information as possible to support the application**

(please read guidance note 2)

On Wednesday 8th February 2023 a Kent Police executed a search warrant at the premises acting on intelligence received. This was in relation to a male linked to the premises being involved in the dealing of drugs and possession of firearms. During the execution of the warrant a search of the premises was conducted and as a result of this search drugs were located in the upstairs rooms, in the form of small bags of cannabis and bags of white powder, these items are believed to be connected with the supply of drugs. Also found upstairs was a quantity of Section 1 firearms ammunition. A search of the bar area located two imitation firearms, a BB gun and a starter revolver, and an ASP baton under the bar and another BB gun secreted between the bar and kitchen area in an easily accessible location. Four shotguns were also found at the premises, these were legally held under a shotgun licence however three were correctly stored within a secure gun safe but the fourth was found standing at the top of the stairs.

The male subject of the intelligence [REDACTED] of the premises licence holder and lives on the premises and a quantity of the drugs were located in a bag belonging to the designated premises supervisor/premises licence holder. Vehicles at the location were also searched where further weapons were located.

It is the belief of Kent Police that this premises, if allowed to continue to operate unchecked, represents a serious and real danger to the safety of the public. It is clear from the location where items were seized from that the premises licence holders were aware of them and permitted them to remain on site. The presence of multiple weapons within the public areas gives rise to concerns with regards to the intended use or need for these items and believe it is indicative of an involvement of those present in serious crime.

Due to the serious nature of weapons being in the bar gives Kent Police concern in the management's ability in running a safe pub. Kent Police has no faith that Ms SIMPSON-SWEET or family members are able to uphold the licensing objectives for Public Safety and Crime and Disorder.

**OFFICIAL (when complete)**  
**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

Kent Police seek revocation of the premises licence and the removal of designated premises supervisor Ms SIMPSON-SWEET.



**OFFICIAL (when complete)**

**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

Please tick yes

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected

**IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION**

**Part 3 – Signatures** (please read guidance note 3)

**Signature of applicant or applicant’s solicitor or other duly authorised agent**  
(See guidance note 4). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature James WILLIAMS

Date 22/02/2023

Capacity Police Licensing Officer

<b>Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application</b> (please read guidance note 5)	
<b>Post town</b>	<b>Post code</b>
<b>Telephone number (if any)</b>	
<b>If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e mail address your e mail address (optional)</b>	

**Notes for Guidance**

1. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
2. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
3. The application form must be signed.
4. An applicant’s agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
5. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

**Official (when complete)**

**Supplementary information for a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

**Part 1 – Premises or club premises details**

<b>Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description</b> Kings Head Headcorn Road Grafty Green	
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<b>Post town</b> Maidstone	<b>Post code (if known)</b> ME17 2AN
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<b>Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)</b> Kings Head
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<b>Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)</b> 20/02948/LAPMV
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When did you submit an application for a review relating to this premises

**Day Month Year**

2	2	0	2	2	0	2	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Supplementary information for a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

**Details of supplementary information**

Kent Police now submit further information in relation to the review.

Police Statements and exhibits

- 1) Police Statement PC BRYANT
- 2) Police Statement PC LEYTON
- 3) Police Statement PC BALDY
- 4) Police Statement PC AUSTIN
- 5) Police Statement PC HUPJE
- 6) Police Statement PC WHITE
- 7) Police Statement PC SADLER
- 8) Images of seized items

**Please tick yes**

- **I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate**

**IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION**

**Part 3 – Signature**

Signature – PC 11187 WILLIAMS

.....

Date – 02/03/2023

.....

Capacity – Licensing Officer

.....



**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

46

Statement of: **Oliver BRYANT**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable**

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **O.Bryant 14016**Date: **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

On WEDNESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2023 I was on duty at MAIDSTONE police station in call sign YY40 crewed with A/PS 10285 SADLER, PC 12412 WHITE, PC 12192 MCILROY, PC 14155 LEYTON and PC 14408 ELLIS. Along with DSU Bravo we attended THE KINGS HEAD PUB, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, in order to conduct a section 23 Misuse drugs act, warrant in relation to [REDACTED]. We entered the premises at 0805hrs. At 0834hrs I started searching the 2nd floor hallway, during which I located and seized the following: OB/1 - 0835 - shotgun ammunition - located on chimney breast 2nd floor - placed in evidence bag P05555001. Sealed.

At 0905hrs I finished searching the 2nd floor Hallway. We left the premises at 1205hrs. I then handed my exhibits to PS 11082 MILLINS who recorded these in the exhibits register and conveyed them to MAIDSTONE POLICE STATION. Property reference YY/1387/23/S.

Signature: **O.Bryant 14016**

Signature witnessed by:

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

46

Statement of: **Thomas Leyton**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable  
14155**

This statement (consisting of 1 page each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **Thomas Leyton**Date: **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February  
2023**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 I was on duty in uniform crewed with APS 10285 Sadler, PC 12192 Mcilroy, PC 12412 White, PC 14016 Bryant, PC 14408 Ellis and PC 30025 Hupje in the call sign YY40. We attended the KINGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN to conduct a S23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Warrant. Bravo team lead by PS 11082 Millins were also attended the address. We entered the premise at 08:05 hrs.

I then searched the property from this search I seized one item.

TL/1 - 09:03 - 2 bags of White Powder - Located in purse on bedside cabinet in [REDACTED]

Sealed in M28350641.

I then handed this exhibit to the exhibits officer PS 11082 Millins. The exhibits were taken back to Maidstone Police Station where they were booked into the Maidstone Transit Store property reference YY/1387/2023/S relates.

The warrant was complete at 12:05 hrs.

Signature: **Thomas Leyton**

Signature witnessed by:

N/A

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

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Statement of: **Andrew Baldry**.....Age if under 18: **Over 18**..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Officer** .....

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **AJ Baldry** ..... Date: **8<sup>th</sup> February 2023** .....Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

At approximately 0800 hours on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 whilst on uniform duty with PS MILLINS, PC's LAWLESS, DERRY, AUSTIN & MUIR we attended The Kings Head public house, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green after acting upon information received from a section 23 misuse of drugs act search warrant. The property is a large-detached premises. At which we were joined by a second Police search team. At the rear of the property PC AUSTIN and LAWLESS knocked the door repeatedly and shouted 'Police'. In response a female's face appeared (later identified herself as Mrs SWEET) at the window over the front door looking directly at us. She then moved away from the window and several minutes went by without any obvious effort to open the door by the occupant. PC LAWLESS and AUSTIN then made preparation to force open the backdoor which they paused as Mrs SWEET then appeared at the backdoor and unlocked it. On entering the property, I moved up the staircase to the top floor where I located a bedroom off to the left within which I found a male who later confirmed his identity as Ken SWEET. I requested SWEET show me the location of the gun cabinet licensed to the address and occupant. This was located in the loft space, SWEET

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

Continuation page 2

URN

46

Continuation statement of:

unlocked the cabinet which was secured to a roof beam. Inside the cabinet were three shotguns which I seized as AJB1-self-loading shotgun, AJB/2-shotgun over/under, AJB/4-shotgun side by side. When asked where the fourth shotgun was located SWEET led me to the landing where a small single shot shotgun was leaning against the wall, I seized it and exhibit as AJB/3. SWEET was then accompanied to the ground floor where the other occupants of the property were sat near the bar area. Myself and PC DERRY initiated the search of the ground floor bar area where I located a black BB handgun under the bar which I seized as AJB/5. Also behind the bar I located and seized a Police ASP baton as AJB/6 and a small black pistol as AJB/7. On the shelf beside these under the bar I located and seized a small clear plastic snap lock bag containing a brown solid substance I believe to be cannabis resin (solid) from within a red purse as AJB/8. I further seized Ken SWEETS firearm certificate as AJB/9. All officers left the address at 12:05 hours that same day. My body worn video footage of our approach and entry to the property I exhibit as AJB/10.

AJ Baldry  
Signature

Signature witnessed by

**OFFICIAL**

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN 

46	
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Statement of: **James AUSTIN**.....

Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable 13390**

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **J Austin** ..... Date: **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb '23**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

At 08:05 hours on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 I was on duty in full uniform with my Divisional Support Unit colleagues executing a Warrant at THE KINGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE, GRAFTY GREEN, HEADCORN. During the search of one of the occupants' bedroom, [REDACTED] I located and seized the following items:

JRA/1 – 'PREDATOR' BULLETS, located on shelf in bedroom, seized at 11:35 hours and placed in evidence bag M23494279.

JRA/2 – ASSORTMENT OF SHOTGUN CARTRIDGES, located on shelves and in drawers in bedroom, seized at 11:35 hours and placed in evidence bag M13494281.

JRA/3 – DRUGS PARAPHANALIA, located in bedroom, seized at 11:40 hours and placed in evidence bag P07459601.

I seized no further items and all my items seized were handed to PS 11082 MILLINS who was acting as exhibits officer.

Once I had finished searching, I took [REDACTED] arrested [REDACTED] on suspicion of being in possession of Section 1 ammunition and being possession of class A and class B drugs. I cautioned [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] made no reply. [REDACTED] was then conveyed to Maidstone Police Station where [REDACTED] detention was refused by PS 15456 BROWN. All items seized were booked into Special Property under reference YY/1387/23/S. This statement are my original notes. J Austin

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

46

Statement of: **Thomas HUPJE**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable**

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **PC 30025 HUPJE**Date: **08/02/2023**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

At 0700 hours on WEDNESDAY the 8<sup>th</sup> of FEBRUARY 2023, I was on uniformed duty under callsign YY40 with A/PS 10285 SADLER; PC 12412 WHITE; PC 14016 BRYANT; PC 14408 ELLIS; PC 12192 MCILROY; and PC 14155 LEYTON at MAIDSTONE POLICE STATION. Also present were officers from DSU BRAVO. We were tasked with executing a warrant issued under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 on the KINGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE, ME17 2AN.

I therefore attended the location in the company of my colleagues, and the warrant was executed at 0805 hours. Entry was gained by officers on the black side of the premises. Whilst this occurred, I was covering the white side of the premises. Upon being informed that entry had been gained successfully, I then entered the premises via the black side. My Body Worn Video (BWV) camera was recording for the duration of this process, from the moment of arrival at the KINGS HEAD until entry was successfully gained. I exhibit this recording as TH/100.

I then began to assist my colleagues with a systematic search of the premises, the details of which are documented within my electronic pocket notebook (ePNB). Whilst carrying out this task, I assisted with the search of the [REDACTED]. I entered this room at 0859 hours and exited at 0931 hours. Whilst in this room, I located a small quantity of personal use cannabis in a metal tin with a colourful elephant motif on the front. The tin itself was inside a box at the foot end of the bed. I seized the cannabis at 0913 hours and placed it into an evidence bag with seal number M28350718. I exhibit this as TH/1.

Signature: **PC 30025 HUPJE**Signature witnessed by: **N/A**

Continuation page 2

URN

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Continuation statement of: Thomas HUPJE

I then handed exhibit TH/1 over to PS 11082 MILLINS, who was designated as the exhibits officer and this item was added to the exhibits register.

I subsequently continued to assist my colleagues with further searches within the premises; outbuildings; and vehicles but I did not seize any additional items. I then departed the premises at 1205 hours to return to TONBRIDGE POLICE STATION.

This statement was written in the DSU office of TONBRIDGE POLICE STATION as soon as reasonably practicable following the execution of the warrant and forms part of my original notes. It is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. PC 30025 HUPJE.

Signature **PC 30025 HUPJE**Signature witnessed by **N/A**

OFFICIAL

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN 46

Statement of: Malcolm WHITE.....

Age if under 18: Over 18..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Constable 12412 .....

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: Malcolm White ..... Date: 8th February 2023 .....

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded [ ] (supply witness details on rear)

On Wednesday 8th February 2023 I was working a 06:00 till 15:00 shift along with A/PS 10285 SADLER, PC 14016 BRYANT, PC 12192 McILROY, PC 14155 LEYTON, PC 14498 ELLIS and PC 30025 HUPJE under call YY40.

At 08:05 we attended THE KINGS HEAD, PUBLIC HOUSE, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN in order to carry out a Section 23 Misuse of Drugs act warrant along with other officers.

At 09:53 I assisted A/PS SADLER and PC ELLIS in searching [REDACTED] KEN SWEETS BEDROOM and I seized the following items:

MCW/1 AIR PISTOL IN BLACK CASE, placed in evidence bag P05420396

MCW/1A MAGAZINE AND AMMO FROM MCW/1, placed in evidence bag M28350642

The search of [REDACTED] & KEN SWEETS BEDROOM was completed at 10:29.

At 11:15 I assisted PC ELLIS, PC HUPJE and PC McILROY in searching the GARAGE and I seized the following item:

MCW/2 2 X BOXES SHOTGUN CARTRIDGES, placed in evidence bag N13709805.

The search of the GARAGE was completed at 11:50.

During the warrant all exhibits were handed to PS 11082 MILLINS as exhibits officer.

I left the warrant at THE KINGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE at 12:00.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:



Continuation page 2

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Continuation statement of:

This statement along with my electronic pocket notebook form my original notes in regard to the Section 23 Misuse of drugs act warrant at THE KINGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN 46

Statement of: **Richard Sadler**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Officer**

This statement (consisting of 1 page each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **R. Sadler**Date: **8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

At 08.05hrs on Wednesday 8th February 2023 I was on duty in full uniform and in a marked Police vehicle when I attended the address of The Kings Head Public House, Grafty Green, Maidstone, Kent with officers from both B & C team Divisional Support Officers.

At this property, a Warrant issued under the Misuse of Drugs Act was executed.

I assisted in the search of several areas of the property. During the search I seized the following item;

**RDS/1** - 6mm bb shotgun - In the coat cupboard between the kitchen and public area - R02140626

This item was handed to the designated exhibits officer PS MILLINS.

At 11.00hrs another Warrant also issued under the Misuse of Drugs Act was executed on Black BMW [REDACTED]

At 11.37hrs a Search with consent was carried out on [REDACTED] a Bentley in the garage.

At 12.00hrs we left the premises

Signature: **R. Sadler**

Signature witnessed by:

**Typed by: PC 10285 SADLER**



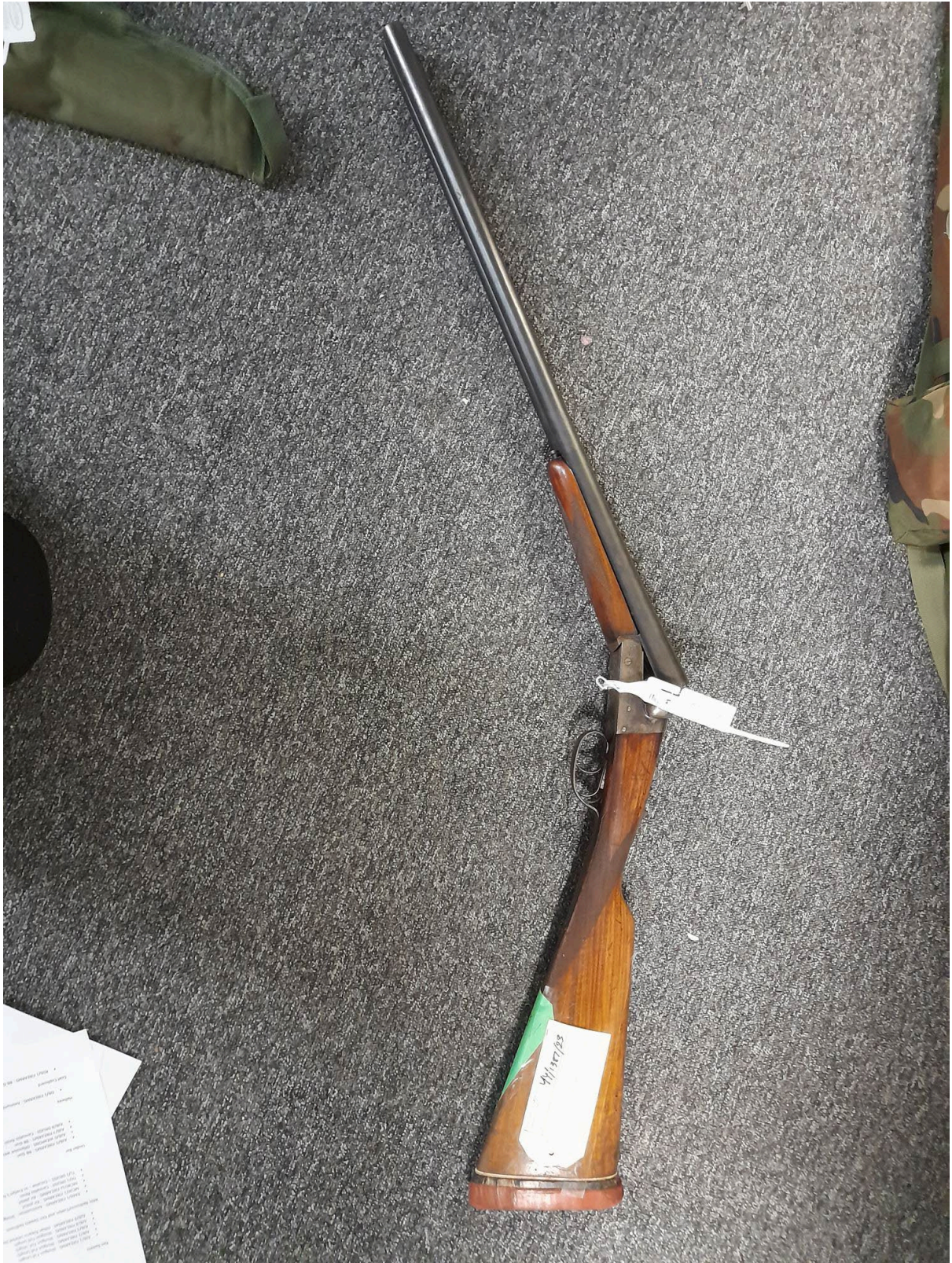




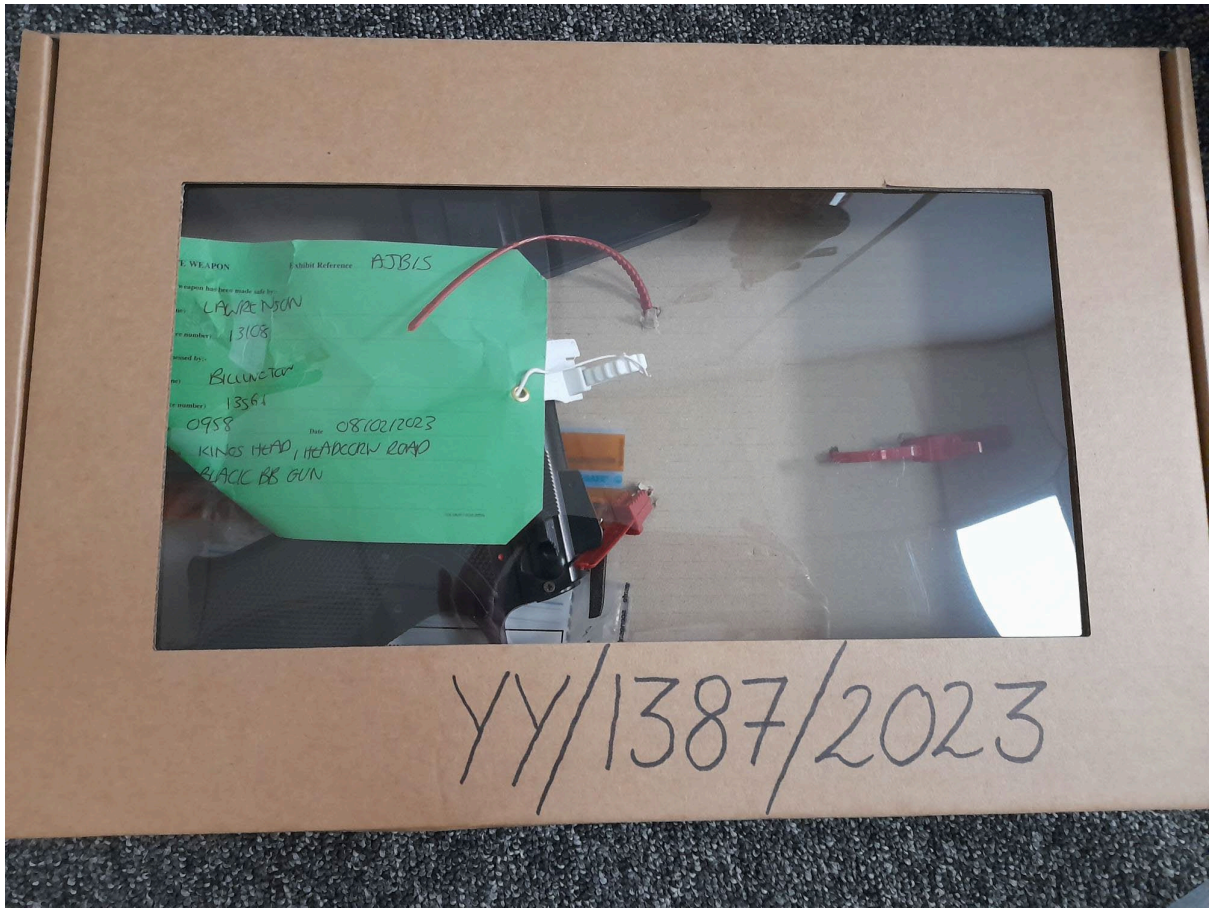




















SAFE RELATION  
This evidence has been made safe by:  
Name: BILLINGTON  
Phone number: 13566  
Witnessed by: LAWRENSEN  
Date: 13/08  
Police number: 0955  
Time: 12:15 PM  
Location: MARL  
Exhibit Reference: A1817  
Date: 08/02/2023  
Time: 13:08  
Location: HENDON ROAD  
MAYL  
BLACK  
AND

YY/1387/2023















**Official (when complete)**

**Supplementary information for a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

**Part 1 – Premises or club premises details**

<b>Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description</b> Kings Head Headcorn Road Grafty Green	
--	--

<b>Post town</b> Maidstone	<b>Post code (if known)</b> ME17 2AN
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<b>Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)</b> Kings Head
---

<b>Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)</b> 20/02948/LAPMV
---

When did you submit an application for a review relating to this premises

**Day Month Year**

2	2	0	2	2	0	2	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Supplementary information for a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

**Details of supplementary information**

Kent Police now submit further information in relation to the review.  
Police Statements and exhibits

- 1) Police Statement PC LAWLESS
- 2) Police Statement PC MCILROY

**Please tick yes**

- **I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate**

**IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION**

**Part 3 – Signature**

Signature – PC 11187 WILLIAMS

.....

Date – 27/03/2023

.....

Capacity – Licensing Officer

.....

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

46

Statement of: **Megan LAWLESS** .....Age if under 18: **OVER 18** ..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **POLICE CONSTABLE**

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **Megan Lawless PC 46014383**..... Date: **08/02/2023**.....Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 I was on duty at MAIDSTONE POLICE STATION in crew with my DSU colleagues. We attended KINGS HEAD PUB, GRAFTY GREEN, HEADCORN to execute a Section 23 Misuse Of Drugs Act warrant. The warrant was executed and upon entry into the property I began to search [REDACTED] room and the following is what I seized from the address:

Exhibit ML/1 - seized at 08:25 hours, black mobile phone from [REDACTED] bedroom floor. I placed this into evidence bag with seal M23494269.

Exhibit ML/2 - seized at 08:54 hours, 1 x Kosh from [REDACTED] bedroom floor. I placed this into evidence bag with seal P07459592.

Exhibit ML/3 - seized at 09:15 hours, cannabis bud in blue sandwich bag. I placed this into evidence bag with seal M23494270.

Exhibit ML/4 - seized at 09:27 hours, green pot of cannabis bud from bedroom drawer. I placed this into evidence bag with seal M23494275.

Exhibit ML/5 - seized at 09:45 hours, broken mobile phone from bedroom drawer. I placed this into evidence bag with seal M23494276.

Exhibit ML/6 - seized at 11:28 hours, bullet from bedroom drawer. I placed this into evidence bag with seal M23494277.

Exhibit ML/7 - seized at 11:31 hours, bullet from bedroom drawer. I placed this into evidence bag with seal M23494280.

Signature: **PC 14383 LAWLESS**Signature witnessed by: **N/A**



Continuation page 2

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Continuation statement of:  
Megan LAWLESS

Exhibit ML/8 - seized at 11:33 hours, bullet from bedroom drawer. I placed this into evidence bag with seal M23494278.

Exhibit ML/9 - seized at 11:37 hours, 2 deal bags with white residue from bedroom drawer. I placed this into evidence bag with seal M23494282.

I seized nothing further from the address. All exhibits were taken back to MAIDSTONE POLICE STATION and booked onto OPRAH property system as YY/1387/2023.

I exhibit my body worn video as ML/10. **M.LAWLESS PC 14383**

Signature **PC 14383 LAWLESS**

Signature witnessed by

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

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Statement of: **Richard Andrew McILROY**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable 12192**

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: *R. McIlroy* PC 12192Date: **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

At 08:05 hours on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 I was on duty in full uniform in crew with A/PS 10285 SADLER, PC 1416 BRYANT, PC 14155 LEYTON, PC 14408 ELLIS and PC 30025 HUPJE, when I attended KINGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE, GRAFTY GREEN, KENT to assist in the execution of a search warrant under S.23 of the Misuse of Drug Act. Once the occupants of the premises were secure at 08:15 hours, I commenced searching the attic bedroom. At 09:00 hours, in the top right-hand drawer of a dressing table, I located a "410 SHOTGUN CARTRIDGE" which I placed in tamper evident bag M28350578 and exhibited as RAM/1. The drawer was insecure, and the cartridge appeared out of place with other personal effects within the drawer such as personal grooming equipment. I concluded my search of the attic bedroom at 09:00 hours. I then commenced searching the hallway cupboards at 09:13 hours, concluding at 09:31 hours. At 09:58 hours I commenced searching the lounge, I seized nothing within the hallway or the lounge. At 11:00 hours, I commenced searching a BMW 530 [REDACTED], under a specific warrant for that vehicle. The search concluded at 11:15 hours, nothing was seized from within. At 11:15 hours I commenced searching the garage, At 11:45 hours whilst searching a Silver BENTLEY displaying vehicle registration mark [REDACTED] within the garage, in the driver's seat door pocket, I located an "ASP BATON" which I sealed in tamper evident bag M28350712, exhibited as RAM/2. I handed exhibits RAM/1-2 to exhibits officer PS 11082 MILLINS for entry on to the exhibits register. Exhibits RAM/1-2 were then booked into Maidstone Police Station Special Property reference YY/1387/2023/S. The search concluded at 12:05 hours.

Signature: *R. McIlroy* PC 12192

Signature witnessed by:

# PREMISES LICENCE

The Licensing Act 2003  
Schedule 12, Part A

Premises Licence Number	20/02948/LAPMV
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## Part 1 - Premises Details

Postal address of premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description, including Post Town & Post Code

Kings Head  
Headcorn Road  
Grafty Green  
Maidstone  
Kent. ME17 2AN

Telephone number 01622 850259

Where the licence is time limited the dates

Not Applicable

Licensable activities authorised by the licence

Films  
Indoor sporting events  
Live music  
Recorded music  
Performances of dance  
Anything of a similar description to the activities of live music, recorded music or the performance of dance  
Sale or Supply of Alcohol  
Late Night Refreshment

Times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities

Films

Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 00:30

*When opening hours extended on Bank Holidays and Event Days, these hours follow the opening hours.*

Indoor sporting events

Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 00:30

*When opening hours are extended on Bank Holidays and Event Days, these hours follow the opening hours*

Live music

Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 23:30

*When opening hours are extended on Bank Holidays and Event Days, these hours follow the opening hours.*

Licence Number: 20/02948/LAPMV  
Issue Date: 09/04/2021

Page 1 of 7

## Recorded music

Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 00:30

*When opening hours are extended on Bank Holidays and Event Days, these hours follow the opening hours.*

## Performances of dance

Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 23:30

*When opening hours are extended for Bank Holidays and Event Days, these hours follow the opening hours.*

## Anything of a similar description to the activities of live music, recorded music or the performance of dance

Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 23:30

*When opening hours are extended for Bank Holidays and Event Days, these hours follow the opening hours.*

## Sale or Supply of Alcohol

Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 00:30

*10:00 New Year's Eve - 01:00 1st January. 10:00 - 00:30 on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday on Bank Holiday weekends, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day 10:00 - 00:30 on up to 30 other event days per annum, at my discretion (occasional)*

## Late Night Refreshment

Every Day 23:00 - 00:00

*When opening hours are extended for Bank Holidays and Event Days, these hours follow the opening hours.*

**The opening hours of the premises**

Not Known

**The non-standard opening hours of the premises**

Not applicable

**Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and / or off supplies**

Alcohol is supplied for consumption both on and off the premises.

**Part 2****Name, (registered) address, telephone number and email address (where relevant) of holder of premises licence**

Mrs Beverley Simpson-Sweet  
Kings Head  
Headcorn Road  
Grafty Green

Licence Number: 20/02948/LAPMV  
Issue Date: 09/04/2021

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Kent. ME17 2AN

Email address

Mr Kenneth Sweet  
Kings Head  
Headcorn Road  
Grafty Green  
Kent. ME17 2AN

**Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable)**

Not applicable

**Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol**

Mrs Beverley Simpson-Sweet  
Kings Head  
Headcorn Road  
Grafty Green  
Kent. ME17 2AN

**Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol**

Licence Number: 11/00496/LAPER  
Licence Authority: Maidstone Borough Council

**John Littlemore  
Head of Housing and Community Services  
Maidstone Borough Council**

## **Annex 1 – Mandatory conditions**

### **The supply of alcohol**

- Where a premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol, the licence must include the following conditions:-

No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence -

- (a) at a time where there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or
- (b) at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.

- Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

Licence Number: 20/02948/LAPMV  
Issue Date: 09/04/2021

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**Mandatory conditions in force from 28 May 2014**

1. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.

2. For the purposes of the condition set out in paragraph 1-

(a) "duty" is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979

(b) "permitted price" is the price found by applying the formula—  $P = D + (D \times V)$

where -

(i) P is the permitted price,

(ii) D is the amount of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol, and

(iii) V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol;

(c) "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence -

(i) the holder of the premises licence,

(ii) the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a licence, or

(iii) the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;

(d) "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and

(e) "value added tax" means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994.

3. Where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 would (apart from this paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.

4. - (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 on a day ("the first day") would be different from the permitted price on the next day ("the second day") as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.

(2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.

**Mandatory Conditions in force from 01 October 2014**

1.— (1) The responsible person must ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.

(2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises—

(a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to—

(i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or

(ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise);

(b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;

(c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;

(d) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner;

(e) dispensing alcohol directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability).

2. The responsible person must ensure that free potable water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.

3.— (1) The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.

(2) The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.

(3) The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either—

(a) a holographic mark, or

(b) an ultraviolet feature.

4. The responsible person must ensure that—

(a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures—

(i) beer or cider: ½ pint;

(ii) gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and

(iii) still wine in a glass: 125 ml;

(b) these measures are displayed in a menu, price list or other printed material which is available to customers on the premises; and

(c) where a customer does not in relation to a sale of alcohol specify the quantity of alcohol to be sold, the customer is made aware that these measures are available."

## Exhibition of films

Licence Number: 20/02948/LAPMV  
Issue Date: 09/04/2021

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Licence issued by:  
The Licensing Partnership P.O. Box 182 Sevenoaks Kent TN13 1GP  
Telephone number: 01732 227004

- Where the film classification body is specified in the licence, unless subsection (3) (b) applies, admission of children must be restricted in accordance with any recommendation made by that body.

- Where -

- (a) the film classification body is not specified in the licence, or
- (b) the relevant licensing authority has notified the holder of the licence that this subsection applies to the film in question,

admission of children must be restricted in accordance with any recommendation made by that licensing authority.

In this section -

"children" means person aged under 18; and

"film classification body" means the person or persons designated as the authority under section 4 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 (c.39) (authority to determine suitability of video works for classification).

### **Annex 2 – Embedded conditions**

Not applicable

### **Annex 3 – Conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule**

Outdoor performances/events of live music or recorded music shall be limited to 4 events per calendar year and shall cease by 23:30.

To install internal CCTV to allow camera to encompass all ingress, egress and include all areas to which the public have access, including fire escapes, stairwells and where the supply of alcohol occurs (except w/c's).

The CCTV will be recording at all times the premises are open to the public.

Equipment to be maintained in good working order, be correctly time and date stamped, kept on the hard drive for 31 days and handed to police on request.

The premises licence and or DPS will be capable and competent at downloading footage in a recordable format to Police and Local authorities upon request.

The police or local authority will be given a copy of any CCTV within 48 hrs upon request.

The DPS will be responsible for maintaining an incident book on site and will log any incidents regardless of police attendance.

We will undertake the Challenge 25 Scheme and training given.

Only a photographic driving licence, passport or PASS will be accepted as proof of age.

A refusal register will be operated on site and any staff selling alcohol will be fully trained to record:

ITEM REFUSED

NAME OF DESCRIPTION OF PERSON REFUSED

REASON FOR REFUSAL

NAME OF PERSON MAKING REFUSAL

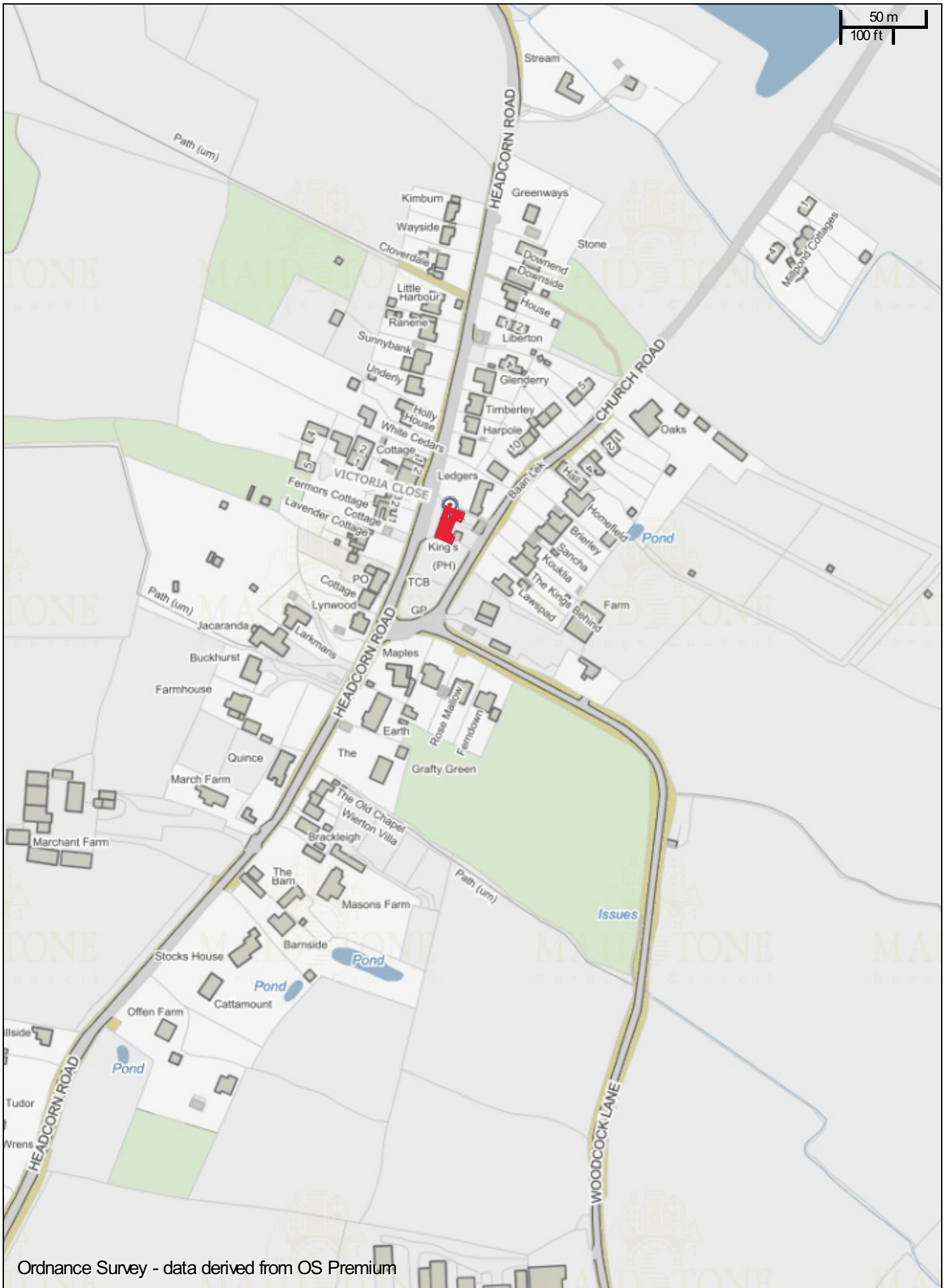


**Annex 4 – Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority**

Not applicable

**Annex 5 – Plans**

Please see attached



Ordnance Survey - data derived from OS Premium

**From:** Banfield, Gillian [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 March 2023 14:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>; Kent Police - West Division Licensing <[west.division.licensing@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:west.division.licensing@kent.pnn.police.uk)>  
**Subject:** BS - LIC01 Licensing The Kings Head

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon

Please find attached my response to the licence review.

Kind regards

Gill

**Gill Banfield | Senior Building Safety Inspector | Fire Risk Inspection Team |  
Maidstone Building Safety | Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Maidstone Fire  
Station, Loose Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9QB**

**Tel:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]





Kent Fire &  
Rescue Service

together

To  
Kings Head  
Headcorn Road  
Grafty Green  
ME17 2AN

FAO Mr K. Sweet

Contact  
Gillian Banfield

Direct line

Email  
Buildingsafety.maidstone@kent.fire-uk.org

Our ref  
CAS-051980

Your ref  
####

Date  
6 March 2023

Dear Ken

### **Licensing Act 2003**

### **Re: Kings Head, Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AN**

With reference to the application dated **23 February 2023** the Fire Authority does not propose to make any representation to the Licensing Authority, provided that the premises are constructed and managed in accordance with the information supplied within your application.

It is the duty of the “responsible person” to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to which relevant persons are exposed, for the purpose of identifying the general fire precautions needed to comply with the requirements of The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

A competent person should carry out the fire risk assessment. Where any doubt exists, or the assessment identifies areas for concern, it may be appropriate to employ the services of a suitably qualified consultant.

The significant findings of the fire risk assessment must be recorded if:

- Five or more people are employed; or
- A licence under an enactment is in force; or
- An alterations notice requiring this is in force.

To remain valid, the fire risk assessment will need to be kept under constant review and revised as necessary.

If you need further advice, please consult the publication **Fire Risk Assessments in Small and Medium Places of Assembly** which provides information about the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This publication is available from the MHCLG website ([www.gov.uk/workplace-fire-safety-your-responsibilities/who-is-responsible](http://www.gov.uk/workplace-fire-safety-your-responsibilities/who-is-responsible)).

We recommend that you use the attached link to the Kent Fire and Rescue Service Business & Property Protection Portal: <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/business-safety>. This will

**Fire Risk Inspection Team, Maidstone Fire Station, Loose Road, ME15 9TX**

[Buildingsafety.maidstone@kent.fire-uk.org](mailto:Buildingsafety.maidstone@kent.fire-uk.org)

**01622 212430**



Kent Fire &  
Rescue Service

together

enable you to generate a risk based report, which provides you with advice and guidance on specific areas relevant to your business type and location.

This letter is without prejudice to the powers of the licensing authority and to any requirements or recommendations that may be made by enforcing authorities under other legislation.

If you need further advice or want to ask questions about this letter, please contact me using the details above. Please be aware the Building Safety office hours are 09:00 – 17:00, Monday to Friday.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Gill Banfield  
Senior Building Safety Inspector

cc: Licensing Authority  
Police Licensing Officer

Fire Risk Inspection Team, Maidstone Fire Station, Loose Road, ME15 9TX  
[Buildingsafety.maidstone@kent.fire-uk.org](mailto:Buildingsafety.maidstone@kent.fire-uk.org)

[Redacted contact information]

**From:** Alex Green [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2023 16:12  
**To:** Licensing (MBC) <Licensing@maidstone.gov.uk>; Sevenoaks Council  
(licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk) <licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Mandy Mighty [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** KINGS HEAD, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE - PL NO 20/02948/LAPMV -  
REVIEW PROCEEDINGS GTE:00094000019397  
**Importance:** High

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached freeholder representation letter in relation to the review proceedings at the above premises submitted by the Licensing Police dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.

Please kindly acknowledge receipt of the same and confirm that our representation is accepted.

Kind regards

ALEX

Alex Green | Partner | Licensing

# GOSSCHALKS

BY EMAIL AND FIRST CLASS POST  
Licensing Department  
Maidstone Borough Council  
PO Box 182  
Sevenoaks  
KENT TN13 1GP

Please ask for: Alex Green  
Direct Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Our ref: ARG / MJM / 098454.28713  
#GS5071729  
Your ref:  
Date: 28 February 2023

Dear Daniel,

**Re: Licensing Act 2003 – Review Proceedings**  
**The Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone ME17 2AN**

We act on behalf of Ei Group Ltd. Our client is the freeholder owner of these premises and we have received a copy of the application for review of the premises licence by the Police dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.

We would be grateful if you would accept this letter as a formal representation on behalf of our client.

Ei Group Ltd owns around 4000 public houses in England and Wales. The vast majority of these premises are the subject of lease/tenancy agreements through which the tenant operates his/her/its own business out of our client's premises. The lease/tenancy agreement makes it clear that all operational responsibility for the premises lies with the tenant. The Kings Head is the subject of a 27 year lease agreement in favour of Kenneth and Evelyn Sweet, the premises licence holders.

Please note that we take a wholly neutral stance with regards to the allegations made given that our client has no operational responsibility for the operation of these premises.

Our representation is that the licensing objectives will be promoted by the removal [REDACTED] of the premises licence holder' (as described in the review papers) from the premises so he has no involvement in the running of the premises and also isn't allowed to live on the premises. Plus, the addition of some intense staff training for the management as to their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003.

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this representation and advise as to the date of the hearing as our client may wish to expand upon it at the hearing.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,



GOSSCHALKS LLP



**From:** James Williams PC 46011187  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 11:10  
**To:** Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Kings Head Support

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Lorraine,

I have attached emails.

Regards,

James

*James Williams*

**Police Constable 11187**  
**Maidstone Licensing Officer**



**From:** Geoff Atkinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 11:03  
**To:** James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL - Kings Head Grafty Green - The Sweet Family

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Morning Sir,

I have been asked to contact you to let you know that I have known the above for over 8 years, as they are a customer ( I work in the drinks industry ) and they have become friends.

I cannot say I have ever heard a bad word said against them, and have always found them honest and supportive.

Regards

--  
Geoff Atkinson  
**Area Sales Manager - Kent**  
Majestic Wine



>> From: Paul Basham [REDACTED]  
>> Sent: 22 February 2023 16:44  
>> To: James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
>> Subject: EXTERNAL - Kings Head Grafty Green  
>>  
>> CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.  
>>  
>>  
>> Dear James  
>>  
>> I have only been a resident of Grafty Green for a short period of time. Just 19 months. However, during this period I have got to know the patrons of the kings head, my local pub fairly well. I'm aware that their good character has been bought into question. I can only speak for myself, but feel it only right that I speak up for them. They have been nothing but welcoming to myself and my family since we moved there, and are honestly some of the nicest, genuine and kindest people I have ever met.  
>>  
>> Kr  
>>  
>> Paul Basham  
>>  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 22 February 2023 20:01  
To: [REDACTED] James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: EXTERNAL - Re: IN SUPPORT OF Ken, Bev and all at TheKings Head, Grafty Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

May I reiterate MY STRONG SUPPORT  
For Bev, Ken and the whole Family at  
The Kings Head at Grafty Green

Grahame

Sent from my iPhone

> On 22 Feb 2023, at 17:22, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Please register my PERSONAL Character Reference and Support for the whole Family at The Kings  
Head, Grafty Green

>

> Grahame Godding

>

[REDACTED]

>

> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Polly Soper [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 09:19  
**To:** James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL - Character ref: Sweet Family, Kings Head, Grafty Green

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Polly Soper and [REDACTED] The King's Head, Grafty Green.

For over 30 years the Sweet family have warmly welcomed patrons into The Kings Head, their home. In all of these years there has never been any incident, cause or reason to doubt their integrity or call into question the unblemished reputations of Ken, Eve or Beverley.

This family are kind, honest, exceptional people who are beloved by the community. They are the linchpin of the village and as such are held in high regard and hugely respected following decades of loyalty and the expert running of The Kings Head, Grafty Green.

This is a true and honest character reference based on my own personal opinions and experiences.

Kind regards

Mrs Polly Soper

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** Ron Sorrell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 February 2023 16:52  
**To:** James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL - The Kings Head. Grafty Green

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Williams, it has come to my attention that there has been some police interest in the Kings Head Pub in Grafty Green. I have no idea what this is about, but I would like to take the opportunity to support the family that run the pub, and state that it's beyond my belief that they could be responsible for any improper behaviour. I have known the family for almost twenty years, and during that time I have found them to be people of the highest moral standards, and integrity. They are hard workers, and have managed to maintain a respectable, reputable and successful business at a time when many others have failed. They have done this because they are a special breed, that is unfortunately rare these days. They can only be victims of malicious rumours, and I can't imagine why. I hope this situation can be resolved without any harm coming to such a great family. I would be happy to speak on their behalf in whatever circumstances. Kind regards, Ron Sorrell. Previously Bank of England Manager.

From: steve warburton [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 6:16:11 PM

To: James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]

Subject: EXTERNAL - King's Head Grafty Green

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

James

We are regular customers of the Kings Head in Grafty Green.

I am not sure what has been going on but the owners are wonderful people and are the heart of the village. They adapted the pub so we could get my son's wheelchair in.

I can't say enough good things about them.

Regards

Steve Warburton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 12:27  
**To:** Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: EXTERNAL - Please see attached letter re The Kings Head

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nadine Lamont-Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 12:13  
**To:** James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL - Please see attached letter re The Kings Head

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kind regards,

Nadine Lamont-Brown



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

23/02/2023

Dear Mr Williams,

**The Kings Head**

We are writing in support of the licensees of The Kings Head because we understand that you are considering the status of their licence in view of recent events. Although we are aware that the events may be considered serious we would like to appeal to you to give this matter your most compassionate consideration on the following grounds:

[REDACTED] the Kings Head and can totally vouch for the fact that it is a perfect village pub. We are older people (57 and 71 years old) and we are regulars, visiting the pub at least once a week if not more. It is a warm and welcoming place for older people, never any hint of trouble, and very popular with all of the villagers. We have never noticed anything untoward and have always felt totally comfortable there. We were therefore saddened to hear of the current issues, as are all of the Grafty Green community, and wish to add our support to that you have no doubt already received from the local people.

We wish to vouch for the Sweet family, who have always been exemplary landlords and the kindest most genuine people you could ever meet. My husband and I are both professional people, (I am a Tax Adviser and he is a TV and Radio presenter) and we are more than happy to give character references for Beverley and Ken if that will assist them in any way. We are horrified to hear that Ken and Eve may lose their home after 30 years, and at their age.

My husband, James Whale, [REDACTED] and I cannot express how grateful I am to the entire family at the Kings Head for the kindness and support they have shown us during James's illness. They have driven James to appointments that I have been unable to attend, looked after our dogs when we have had to spend days at the hospital, and always welcomed us with open arms into the pub even when James is very sick and probably likely to put other customers off. There is often a disabled young man in a wheelchair in the pub on a Sunday afternoon too and it is just heartwarming to see how welcome they make him. They do not discriminate and are just the epitome of the perfect traditional pub landlords.

Please take into consideration the above facts when you are making any decisions that you are required to, and if we can be of any further assistance in this matter please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Nadine Lamont-Brown and James Whale

From: James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 February 2023 12:43  
To: Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>  
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL - Kings Head Grafty Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

-----Original Message-----

From: leonie field [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 February 2023 12:42  
To: James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
Subject: EXTERNAL - Kings Head Grafty Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We recently moved to Grafty Green & found the family run pub, Kings Head very welcoming. It is the hub of the village where all the local people meet for convivial conversation , a glass of beer & of course yummy fish 'n chips on a Friday night!  
Leonie & John Hunter

Sent from my iPhone

From: James Williams PC 46011187 [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 February 2023 13:28  
To: Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>  
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL - Re kings head, Grafty Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

-----Original Message-----

From: Fae Kennedy [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 February 2023 13:22  
To: James Williams PC 46011187  
Subject: EXTERNAL - Re kings head, Grafty Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

Please accept this email as a character reference for Ken & Eve.

They are a huge part of our community. We join them Most Friday evenings, mainly for our daughter to see Ken and give him a cuddle and tell Ken about what she has done at school. I've never met such a lovely couple. I would hate to see Ken, Eve and the pub not be in the village. It would not be the same anymore.

Best wishes,

Fae Rushton  
[REDACTED]

Representation withdrawn



Representation withdrawn



**From:** Richard Thompson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 22:58  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Character Reference: Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AN

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs,

I am attaching a reference in relation to the Section 51 Review of Licensing notice that is being held upon Kings Head in Grafty Green.

Understanding the importance of this notice, I felt it important to offer a local perspective of the establishment and put on record what we have observed and felt while visiting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone [REDACTED] and I will be happy to assist.

Kind regards

Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson

Licensing Partnership  
P.O Box 182  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1GP

**Re: Kings Head Public House, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green**

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this statement as a character reference for the Kings Head Public House, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green and the members of the staff and family that run the establishment. I have been a patron of the establishment for a number of years, since moving locally in April 2016, however becoming more frequent in the last year since the easing of COVID 19 lockdown restrictions.

My family and I have never considered ourselves a local of a pub up until recently, historically this is because it was hard to find an establishment that the whole family could feel safe and part of a community as we have now found at the Kings Head.

Even before we became more regular at the establishment, my children (M - boy aged 7 and S – Boy aged 15) enjoyed coming down as catered for both their needs. M, enjoyed playing in the garden with the play equipment and S, enjoyed playing pool. They always felt welcomed and relaxed and had many good times spending time as a family and meeting friends.

About 18 months ago, or just over, one of our neighbours invited us down for a birthday drink, it was at this time we started to really feel part of the community. This was a post COVID world where meeting people still felt a little strange, but something we longed for as the loss of local community spirit over the lockdown period had an impact on all of us and was a refreshing change. It was at this time that we really started to engage with Beverly “Bev” and her family and felt a home away from home.

We found ourselves popping in often to see everyone down there, chat with local neighbours, make new friends and engage with the owners and family. If stress was high from work or felt like we just needed some relaxation, we would pop down and immediately feel better in a warm friendly atmosphere.

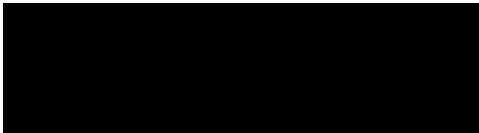
M, is a typical child that seems to only be interested in playing on gadgets and can be a little over excited at times. It is sometimes hard living outside of a town to strike a balance between entertaining him in a creative

way and not letting him play on a games console. But he loves going to the Kings Head, a gadget free zone where he can meet his friends (with their parents) and play and engage. At times, he and his friends can become a little over excited and forget the rules, they have to be reminded. This is where I have a lot of admiration for Bev, she notices that we as parents might be getting agitated with our children's restlessness and engages with them in the most patient and kind manner. An example of this was near Christmas, the kids were excited and a little bit fractious wanting to run about, Bev approached us and the kids with a "new" game (Shut the Box), taught them how to play and spent 5-10 minutes playing it with them, gave them a little pep talk and calmed them down before returning. They had a great, and much quieter time, playing and have asked about it since.

S, is currently sitting GCSE exams and is feeling the pressure of them, plus having a slightly annoying little brother a bit of respite is needed from time to time. When asked he often suggests popping down to the Kings Head for some down time, a soft drink and maybe a game of pool. He also likes taking our new puppy down to engaging with other locals which is so important for his social skills.

In conclusion, we as a family find the Kings Head to be a vital community space that is warm and welcoming, a meeting place for family, friend and neighbours. We ultimately feel safe and cared for by the owners and the family who have always been kind, engaging, interested in us and offer great customer service.

Yours Faithfully,



Richard & Hannah Thompson





**From:** Grahame Godding [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 24 February 2023 06:46

**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** IN SUPPORT of The Kings Head, Grafty Green: Ref. Notice to Review License by MBC served by The Kent Police (James Williams Copied in)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

FAO The Licensing Partnership. PO Box 182 Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP

Date as email

Dear Sirs

Please find enclosed a letter of strong support for Bev, Ken, Evie the Staff & ALL the Extremely satisfied and SAFE Customers of The Kings Head, Grafty Green

Yours Faithfully

Grahame Godding

[REDACTED]

By email to [licensing@severoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@severoaks.gov.uk)  
AND in the post.

Grahame Godding

Licensing Partnership  
P.O. Box 182  
Severoaks  
Kent TN13 1GP

24th February 2023

Re: The Kings Head Public House, Headcorn Rd,  
Griffy Green

Dear Sirs

The purpose of this letter is to make an absolute statement of support and endorse the positive character of both the KHP and all the Family (Ben, Ken, Eric & Co) plus staff.

This is a Community of like minded people who thoroughly agree that this Public House is amongst the very best to be found

I have read the letter of Local Family The Thompson's and wholly endorse every word.

Whatever the root cause(s) of the "Notice" served by Maidstone Borough Council the 'Application to Renew a Premises License' must be refuted at every opportunity

Yours faithfully

Mr. Grahame L. Godding

For and on behalf of All the Family Godding

**From:** val king [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 February 2023 11:10  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Notice of Application to Review a Premises Licence - Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AN

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

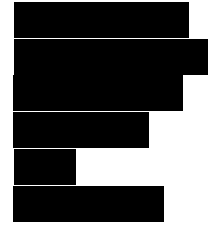
Dear Sirs,

Please find attached a letter in respect of the above application.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Val King



Licensing Partnership  
P O Box 182  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 1GP

24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Sirs,

Re: Notice of Application to Review a Premises Licence – Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, Kent ME17 2AN

This letter is to register support for Ken & Eve Sweet and Beverly Simpson-Sweet.

We moved to Grafty Green almost six years ago. On our first full day in our new home we took a break from unpacking etc. and went into the Kings Head to say hello and introduce ourselves. The welcome we received from Ken, Eve and Bev was so warm and friendly we felt as if we had lived in the village for years. On the second day in our new home our parents came to visit but had difficulty finding our property. Mum went into the pub to ask if someone could help with our location. Ken immediately walked her over the road to show her where we lived.

Occasionally our family join us in the pub, including two grandchildren aged 8 and 4. Even though they don't live in Grafty Green and are not regular visitors to the pub, they are always made to feel very welcome. On one occasion Bev spotted our grandchild attempting to climb onto the pool table. She very calmly and quietly spoke to him to explain how dangerous it was for him to be climbing on the table, no fuss, no bother, he came away a happy chap.

The writer of this letter was a member of the ladies darts team at the pub for several years and for every home match, Eve and Bev provided a lovely supper for both teams. Sadly the darts league disbanded due to Covid but a few of us still meet most Thursdays to have a friendly game of darts and a catch up with each other.

During lockdown we were allowed to order takeaway fish and chips, which we did most Fridays. To this day we still have takeaway fish and chips most Fridays, sometimes eating in the pub.

Bev was the driving force behind arranging a very successful day in the village to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee last year. Everyone who attended had a fantastic time enjoying entertainment during the afternoon and into the evening.

One of the grounds for the review is Protection of Public Nuisance. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Kings Head and in the six years we have lived here we have not experienced any nuisance from the premises i.e no excessive noise etc. In fact, there is more nuisance caused by one of our neighbours livestock (cockerel and geese) and yapping dogs.

Ken, Eve and Bev have always shown a strong work ethic and are always so warm, friendly and welcoming. We have never seen or heard of anything happening that would cause us, or our family, any concern at being in the premises. As we work for most of the week we are sure that, without the pub, we would not have met and made friends with so many lovely people.

The Kings Head is a brilliant asset to Grafty Green where everyone, villagers and strangers, are always made to feel very welcome. The pub is a place in the village where people can meet up in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Yours faithfully

V. King  
[REDACTED]

This letter is being sent via e-mail and post

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 February 2023 20:37  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] Kings Head - Application to review license

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom to my concern.

I'm writing to make a representation on the above, because I am shocked and stunned that this is necessary, and would like to give my personal experiences with the Ken, Eve and Bev.

[REDACTED] the pub and pub garden, my parents moved to Grafty Green when I was 16, (I am now 62) and the pub has been a pivotal venue for many for our family celebrations and events. There isn't a year that we don't go on Christmas morning for a toast to the season, it's our family tradition. When my father was alive he visited most evenings for a night cap until he became too ill. This connection with the pub was strengthened when Ken and Eve took over and remained unchanged when Bev joined them.

In all this time I have not witnessed anything that gets close to the grounds on the notice. On the contrary, all my kids and grandchildren have enjoyed many events in the pub and my 16 year granddaughter is very fond of Ken and Eve. The pub garden often has children playing, weather permitting and there is a kids room for them. I've never seen anything that would put them at risk or in danger.

My late father had a lot of respect for how the pub was run and as a family we always feel safe and comfortable when visiting. They go out of their way to cater for everyone in the community. For example, my father and I have organised many fundraising events over the years, Ken, Eve and Bev always supported these events and go above and beyond to help make these successful and safe for everyone in the village.

With respect to the public nuisance, I have never suffered any disturbances or noise issues in all the years I've been living here. When there is a special event I can hear music, but it's never too loud or goes on unreasonably late. Additionally, I've never witnessed or heard any trouble at these events.

From my own very personal perspective, they were extremely supportive when my father was ill and after he died they provided me emotional support which I was so grateful for. I know that they do this for other people in the village too, not only providing a venue for wakes but also becoming good listeners when people are going through the grieving process.

It would be extremely sad if they were not able to continue in the pub, there would be a gaping hole in our whole community without them. I've not requested additional details of the grounds because I'm sure I don't need the details to make this representation, as I have not experienced or witnessed anything that would justify this licensing review.

If you require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me as I would be happy to help Ken, Eve, Bev and family anyway I can.

Kind regards



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 27 February 2023 11:17  
To: Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Kings Head, Grafty Green, Maidstone

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

Further to your review of the licence of the above I would like to make a few comments on there behalf.

I have been a customer of the Kings Head for some 10 years and in that time I have experienced a very professionally run establishment always extremely friendly and courteous. Furthermore in that time I have never experienced any disquiet or problems of any description. The licensee and family are also very supportive of the local community.

I hope these comments will help in support of your enquiry.

Graham Dowse

From: Phil Fraser [REDACTED]  
Sent: 01 March 2023 17:51  
To: Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Kings Head, Grafty Green

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Re The Kings Head Pub, Headcorn Rd, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AN

Dear Sirs,

Please accept this email as a reference of character for Beverly, Ken and Eve of the Kings Head, Grafty Green.

My family, children and myself have been using the pub on a regular basis since we moved to the area in 2008. Since that time we have always found the pub to be exceptionally well run, friendly and an important part of community life for all of us. Living in Platts Heath, which has no pub, it has become an important meeting point for local families, who are all made to feel most welcome. During my time as school Governor at Platts Heath Primary School, Ken, Eve and Bev were incredibly supportive of our school and PTA. They regularly supported us with donations for our Christmas raffle and also allowed us to host some of our events in their garden.

I have never found the pub to be anything but a well run, friendly place. I have never witnessed trouble of any sort there and believe that it is an incredibly important part of the community and has been made so by its excellent management.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind Regards

Phil

Phil Fraser  
[REDACTED]

received 3rd March 2023



27<sup>TH</sup> February 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**Licensing Review: Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone.**

We write to give our full support in renewing the above premises licence.

We have lived in the village for forty years [REDACTED] and have got to know the family very well, ever since they started running this public house.

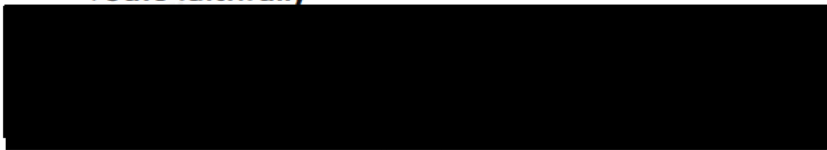
The family has become a key factor within the community of the village and we have never seen or heard any thing but good things regarding this family.

We were flabbergasted when the recent police raid was made on the premises of the 80+ year old couple and their daughter, and which we understand was only based on hearsay.

Mr Ken Sweet was also a keen member on the local clay pigeon shoot, who since the police action, has also disposed of his guns.

It is ridiculous that this licence should be questioned and hope that good sense will prevail in this matter, we can only repeat again that the Kings Head is a family friendly public house under the present licence owner, and we will happily be taking our grandchildren over there again.

Yours faithfully



Peter & Lesley West



From: Paul McDonnell [REDACTED]  
Sent: 03 March 2023 17:08  
To: Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Kings Head at Grafty Green

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I feel compelled to write to you after seeing the notice posted at the Kings Head, Graftey Green, Maidstone, Kent

Me17 2an and give you an honest opinion of the establishment and on Mr Ken Sweet and family.

I have frequented the Kings Head with my family since around 2000 and have witnessed nothing but a trouble free, family run public house right up to currently.

I took my daughter in their regularly in her school years and was always met with a warm welcome and a safe environment both inside and out. Ken and his daughter Beverly are great local people and are a huge part of the community. They even opened the pub specially following my father's recent funeral to allow us to toast him at his local pub, where he also drank well into his eighties and was always in a safe environment, despite him suffering with [REDACTED]

My mother, brother and I were always comfortable with him going there and sharing stories with Ken and the locals about "the old days" and there is no way I would of permitted him to go there if it wasn't such a great, safe family run establishment.

As a family we have attended many local events at the Kings Head, spent many hours in the garden and never ever had a negative experience or seen any wrong doing. Ken is seen as a father figure by myself and many of my peer group, who have grown up in the local area and his advice has been responsible, firm, fun and fare.

In summary the Kings Head of Graftey Green is a fantastic local, safe community pub run by a wonderful family and I cannot understand why this would be in question by yourselves unless someone has supplied you with false information. I truly hope that through this process you get a true reflection of this family and how much they add to the community in a great old fashion local pub.

Yours sincerely

Paul McDonnell and family.

Paul McDonnell [REDACTED]

Mr Michael P J Chivers



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Dear Sir/madam

I am writing as a concerned member of the public and a frequenter of The Kings Head Public House, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone. ME17 2AN.

I understand that the Licence for the establishment is under review after malicious claims against its tenants for several issues stated on the review notice attached to the front door.

I call these malicious as I have frequented the establishment for a number of years. I moved to the area after retiring, having served 30 years as a Police Officer in London. My thoughts are one of dismay as I am unaware of any occasions when the establishment has been visited by Police or Licensing Officers for any offences, disturbances or public nuisances as described in the notice.

I for one, would not be happy socialising in any establishment or indeed take my wife, family or friends into any such premises if I believed that to be the case. On the contrary, I find the friendly atmosphere and hospitality shown by the Licensee and staff exemplary and warming, which is what I would expect and have never witnessed anything untoward during my visits.

The family run business has been in good hands for over 30 years and respectfully ask that the Sweet family be afforded the right to continue the service which has been faultless.

Yours faithfully



Michael P J Chivers

Representation withdrawn



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 March 2023 17:50  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** The Kings Head Grafty Green

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find my letter attached.

Regards

Gary Bourne



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

**Re: The Kings Head Public House Grafty Green**

To whom it may concern:

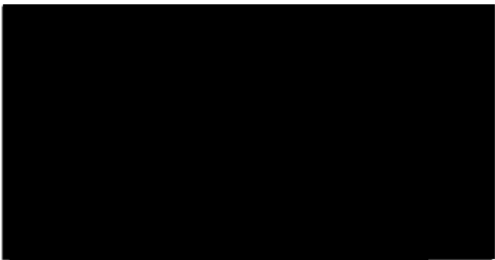
With reference to the Kings Head public house in Grafty Green, I have been along with my partner, patrons of this public house for a number of years now and was some what shocked to hear of the recent development regarding Kent Police.

I am a current Fire Arms and Shot Gun Licence holder and have been for many years, My reference for my Fire Arms application came from the Royal Armouries. I am the chairman of a local archery club and marshal of a medieval living history group that celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> year this year, so I know my way around a variety of lethal weapons. I also hold an enhanced CRB check.

In all my time spent in the Kings Head I have never felt in anyway threatened or in any danger from those working there or from any customer. I have never witnessed any threatening behaviour towards any one; on the contrary everyone is made welcomed. There is always a warm and friendly welcome for everyone.

 Ken and the whole family have given me great support since then and continue to do so. My partner Hilary has worked behind the bar for Beverley when she has needed help.

I have always found the whole family, Ken, Eve, Beverley, and their grand children the most welcoming. They run one of the friendliest public houses in the area. They are and continue to be a great asset to the village and along with their family would be greatly missed if they lose their licence.



Gary Bourne  
A concerned Kings Head customer.

**From:** John Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 March 2023 12:59  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Kings Head, Grafty Green

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As per my telephone conversation with you this morning, please find attached my response to the Notice of Application to Review a Premises Licence at the Kings Head, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AN.

Kind regards,

John Moore  
[REDACTED]



Licensing Partnership  
P.O.Box 182  
Sevenoakes  
Kent TN13 1GP

Sent by email to [licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

20 March 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Response to Notice of Application to Review a Premises Licence at Kings Head,  
Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME172AN**

This emailed letter follows a brief conversation with your office this morning after reading the full details of the police report on Kentonline published yesterday morning Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

I am sure you have received many letters from people in the local community of Grafty Green in support of the Kings Head. I came to Kent in 1984 to work at KCC as Principal Adviser for Special Educational Needs and retired some 15 years ago as Head of the Schools Advisory Service. My wife and I chose to purchase a house in Grafty Green because it was central to the whole area I needed to Visit (this was when Kent and Medway were one authority) and close enough to my office at Maidstone Council House.

Having lived here some 38 years, we were here when the King's Head was taken over by Ken and Eve some thirty years ago and have never in that time experienced any difficulties with the pub in the community. Quite the contrary, as a member of Headcorn Morris for 28 years and a Folk musician, Ken and Eve and indeed in later years their daughter Beverley have always been very welcoming. Headcorn Morris (until its sad demise last year) practiced on Thursday evenings at Grafty Green Village hall and enjoyed being welcomed into the Kings Head afterwards. We were always welcome to dance there on May Day and Boxing Day, with very happy memories. For a while we were also welcomed on the last Sunday in the month to play and sing folk, which the local people enjoyed and given we were acoustic not at all disturbing to the locality.

Our son and daughter are now 36 and 38 years old this year. How anyone could say that children need to be protected from harm at the KH I don't know. Our children were made most welcome and enjoyed the Children's room and the outdoor play facility, which were both very safe areas. They both have very happy memories of being there. The Kings Head has always played a significant role in village activities, making the Village Hall, Village Green and Pub feel like a combined happy place for all villagers to enjoy.

Now to the police allegations. As regards the guns. Four shot guns were licensed, three correctly stored and one found on the stair landing. It should be made clear that there is no public access to the upstairs accommodation from the bar area. In all my time here I have never been upstairs, this would mean going through the kitchen at the far corner to reach the stairs, which certainly could not be done accidentally. Given that the pub prides itself as the place haunted by Dover Bill the Highwayman (the building is 16<sup>th</sup> century), it should not be surprising that there might be two imitation firearms dating back to that period.

The drugs are more difficult to explain. It does not seem likely that they are the result of any trafficking of drugs but some individual's personal supply. In all our time in Grafty Green, let alone the Kings Head, we have never come across even the mention of drugs. Certainly Ken, Eve and now their daughter Beverley have never given the slightest indication that they take drugs. Whatever the reasons for what the police found upstairs I do not believe Ken and immediate family were involved in this. Someone or persons have abused their hospitality without their knowledge and made them innocent victims of crime.

Should they lose the license as proposed by the police, this will result in a tragic loss to the whole community.

Yours Faithfully,

John and Veronica Moore



**Kings Head Grafty Green**

I WRITE THIS LETTER AS A PRIVATE PERSON AND NOT AS  
A BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCILOR.

Members of the Licensing committee,


I have been a regular user of the Kings Head public house since I moved to the area 38 years ago. I have seen three licensees in that time with Mr K Sweet being the longest serving one by far. With Mr Sweets advancing years his daughter Beverly has taken on more of the work of running the public house.

In all the years I have used the Kings Head (once or twice a week) I have never seen or heard of anything to do with the possession or sale of any thing other than the products the Kings Head is licensed to sell. The regular evening customer base is in the main far from the first spring of youth.

To add further, I have never seen or heard a problem with any unpleasant behavior by the staff or customers, not even a raised word and have always felt completely at ease.

Unless a starting pistol is of one particular make then it is perfectly legal to own one without a license like wise provided the muzzle velocity is below the legal limit for an air powered device then that again is perfectly legal to own.

None of the devices mentioned on the police notice have ever been seen by myself in all the years I have used the Kings Head.

Mrs and Mrs sweet are of advanced years and both are 

Without their daughters help it might not be possible that they could continue to remain in what is also their home.

I would ask you all to not to revoke the license or to have their daughter Beverly removed from the position she holds and to allow her to continue to run the Kings Head in conjunction with her father.

Yours sincerely



B.Adams



**From:** hilary parren [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 March 2023 21:01  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Kings Head Public House

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir,

Please find copy of attached letter.

Regards

Hilary Parren

Sevenoaks Licencing Dept



11.03.2023.

Dear Sirs,

**Re: The Kings Head Public House Grafty Green**

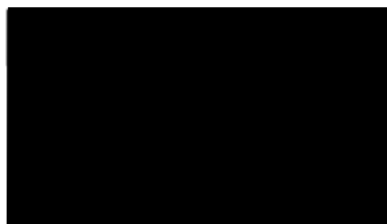
I have been the proprietress of a riding stables near Canterbury since the early 1970's. For many years I was horse adviser to the Royal Armouries, both in their museum in Leeds Yorkshire and at the Tower of London. I supplied horses for film work, for jousting and for archery demonstrations which culminated with my introduction to the late Queen Elizabeth II.

For some time now my partner and I regardless of the considerable distance from our homes have thought of the Kings Head as our local pub. We have also been in the mind to move to the village of Grafty Green to be close to and so part of this wonderful community which revolves around this hostelry. This pub embodies all that is so special about this place and its welcoming family of Ken, Eve and Beverley.

These allegations in no way represent the caring, loving feeling that ensues from this popular pub that envelopes you into its fold.

I can categorically state that I and I'm sure many of my fellow patrons will not cross the threshold with another publican installed.

Yours faithfully



Ms Hilary Parren

From: Robert Skinner [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 March 2023 09:17  
To: Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Kings Head premise licence review

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: The Licensing Partnership, Sevenoaks, Kent

A submission in support of the licensee.

We all live locally and have been regular patrons of the Kings Head for ten or more years. Our reasons why we think the present licensee should be allowed to continue with her current premise license.

We love the atmosphere created by the family (Eve, Ken and Bev), friendly, accommodating a hub for locals, full of conversation, laughter, warmth in the winter, beer garden full of families in the summer. The archetypal country pub.

The licensee and staff have always insisted on civil standards of behaviour within the premise and are prepared to enforce if necessary, as with any well managed organisation rarely needed.

At no time when we have been in the pub drug use dealing or offensive weapons of any sort or heard that this takes place. We want to make it clear that we are against any illegal drug dealing or use and those responsible should suffer the appropriate punishment. The other offensives would appear to hinge on the circumstances of which we know nothing.

A plea for leniency.

Good traditionally run pubs are a dying breed, if it's possible please don't kill another one. We appreciate there are legitimate issues too be addressed and it is your duty to properly deal with these issues, clearly changes need to be made. If there any way you can deal with these offences in a just manner without rescinding the premise license, we plead with you to find it.

Robert Skinner, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Peter & Maria Mackelden, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Terence Parnell, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Nicolas Bates, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: Guy Aldridge [REDACTED]  
Sent: 16 March 2023 02:13  
To: Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Review of premises license Kings Head, Grafty Green ME17 2AN

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear reviewing committee,

I would like to show my strong support to Beverley Simpson Sweet and Kenneth Sweet in respect of their management of the Kings Head public house in Grafty Green.

I have been a regular visitor to the pub for over 30 years and regard it as one of the best in Kent. I used to bring my children with me and would now have no hesitation in taking my grandchildren there - I would have absolutely no problem in worrying about their safety inside or outside of the pub.

The pub is a mainstay of the village, and surrounding areas and I am always happy to recommend it to friends and neighbours and tourists and all of them have thanked me for it.

I am obviously not aware of what has happened to launch this investigation but would hope that the decades of running a fantastic pub and local amenity will be taken into account when making any decisions.

Yours faithfully  
Guy Aldridge

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] from my iPhone

**From:** publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk <publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 18 March 2023 12:05  
**To:** Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 23/00670/REVIEW

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 18/03/2023 12:05 PM from Mr Ken Parish.

### Application Summary

Address: Kings Head Headcorn Road Grafty Green Maidstone Kent ME17 2/

Proposal: Review of licence

Case Officer: Lorraine Neale

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name: Mr Ken Parish

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

- Supporter of Licence Application/Holder

Comments:

18/03/2023 12:05 PM I moved into the area in 1985 and have been a frequent customer of the Kings Head. During this time, I have always regarded it as a well-managed and family friendly pub.

I am not aware of any incidents or cause for concern prior to the current referral for a review. The current landlord has been in residence for 30 years and has continued to maintain the high standards expected of an establishment that relies on local community support. The provision of equipment in the pub garden reinforces the family centric approach. Combined with the support for local activities the licensee has established the Kings Head as a key element for Grafty Green and the surrounding villages.

We have already lost the four public houses within a three-mile radius, as well as the village shop and post office. This again reaffirms the importance for this house to remain a viable business and community hub.

Regarding the reasons for the review being requested , they appear to be minor issues based on information received and subsequent police investigation.

My understanding is that a BB type plastic gun which was found broken in the pub garden and stored under the counter as lost property pending possible reclaiming by the owner.

The small amount of cannabis for personal use and a prescribed drug [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This is a personal matter and has no bearing on the ethos or activities within the pub.

None of the above pose any threat to public safety or suggest that any crime or disorder is foreseeable in the future.

There have been no reports of public nuisance

The facilities provided by the licensee are regular checked and provided in a safe enclosed environment for families with children to enjoy a family outing to the village. There has not been any demonstratable harm to children

I would therefore like to add my support for the continuation of the licence for the current landlord

---

Kind regards

**From:** Steve Farley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 March 2023 10:39  
**To:** Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Fwd: License review Kings Head Grafty Green.

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Steve Farley [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 19 March 2023 at 10:06:28 GMT  
**To:** [james.williams@kent.police.uk](mailto:james.williams@kent.police.uk)  
**Subject:** License review Kings Head Grafty Green.

Dear Sir

I have been a resident of Platts Heath for 27 years and have enjoyed many hours over the past 10 years relaxing with family and friends at the Kings Head.

I was until recently MD of my own very well established company and would think of myself level headed and observant.

I have in all of the past 10 years never witnessed anything that could be considered as inappropriate or harmful to any patrons or staff, the atmosphere is always friendly.

As I know you are aware so many village Pubs are closing and communities are being split as a result but it's not just the physical presence of the village Pub, it's the quality of the people that run them.

I would ask that your review reflects on the comments of the local community and the history of the past 30 years of the Kings Head.

Yours Faithfully  
Mr SC Farley.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk <publicaccess@sevenoaks.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 March 2023 15:11  
**To:** Lorraine Neale <LorraineNeale@maidstone.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Comments for Licensing Application 23/00670/REVIEW

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 19/03/2023 3:11 PM from Mr Gavin Clay.

### Application Summary

Address: Kings Head Headcorn Road Grafty Green Maidstone Kent ME17 2/

Proposal: Review of licence

Case Officer: Lorraine Neale

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

Name: Mr Gavin Clay

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

### Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment: - Supporter of Licence Application/Holder

Comments: 19/03/2023 3:11 PM Having visited this family establishment for many years, this family run pub is honestly one of the best pubs to have gone to. The licensees are wonderful people, so friendly, genuine, and always engage with their customers. They are active in ensuring the wellbeing of the locals, and always encourage the return of newcomers. Everyone is always having a laugh, and the licensees are such amazing people, with their customer service being to an exceptional standard. When having a drink, we are often provided with free snacks, which is a perfect topping to our outings. It is such a welcoming environment, and they make you feel like they are your family. You can tell that this is one whole community when visiting, and I do not believe there is another pub that has the ability to rope so many people in, and keep them as returning customers. This place holds an extreme uniqueness, and it is a fresh taste of what the pubs in all those fanciful movies are like. It is a pity that there are not many places like this! This pub is a warm place that reminds you of home, as soon as you walk through the door. I've never known a place with such great hospitality, and it truly is a rare find. This place honestly has the ability to make each individual that steps through the door like they are the only one in the room, and it makes us truly feel special, leaving a lasting impression; which is exactly what a customer wants in any business

---

Kind regards

**From:** kelvin hitchcock [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 March 2023 20:07  
**To:** Licencing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>; st@stephenthomaslaw.co.uk  
**Subject:** Representation in support of the Kings Head

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir

I have worked at the Kings Head for 18 months as a cleaner. I have done bar work on and off for over 20 years. I also drink at the Kings Head occasionally myself and sit with people I know. I am married with 3 children.

I am shocked at the allegations. I have never seen anything untoward. The people who frequent the pub are mostly middle aged or retired locals, occasionally at the weekend's young families. It is a very friendly, safe pub.

I have never found any evidence of drug use when cleaning the premises or the toilets and would have flagged it up straightaway if I had.

I know the location of the lost property locker and have occasionally put left behind clothing like cardigans in there.

Donna Hitchcock

**From:** christine preston-bird [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 March 2023 21:34  
**To:** Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Representation in support of the Kings Head

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

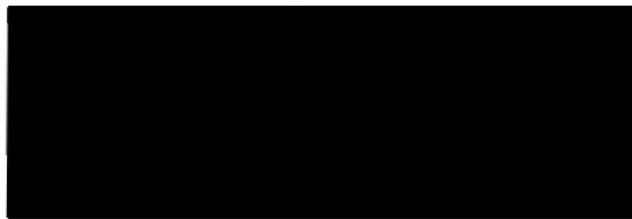
Dear Sir

I have worked at the Kings Head for about 3 years. I work mainly on Sundays. It is a local pub with a nice atmosphere where locals go for a drink that attracts families. I have never seen anything untoward involving Kenneth Sweet or Beverley Simpson-Sweet the licence holders. I would describe Beverley as a fabulous landlady.

Christine Tomlinson

## Licensing Partnership.

Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1GP.



15th, March, 2023

Licence Review- Kings Head,  
Headcorn Road,  
Grafty Green,  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME17 2AN.

Dear Sirs,

It is with shock and disbelief that I learn of the review of the license of "The Kings Head" Grafty Green. I have known Ken and Eve Sweet for over 30 years and it has been a privilege and a delight to have done so. They have been at the centre of community life in and around Grafty Green being a family run public house for families. Their generosity and support for local groups and individuals has been a hallmark of their trading ethic.

As a "mine host" warmly welcoming strangers and locals alike, they have been exemplary in how to run a popular pub and the congenial, jovial atmosphere they have created is obvious to all.

I ran a folk music club on the last Sunday of every month at "The Kings Head" for many years which attracted attenders from all parts of the county. It's popularity was very much down to the generosity and kindness of the landlord and his wife. Snacks were provided free of charge during our breaks and their support and encouragement ensured that folk music including Morris Dancing could be found there on many occasions.

Clearly, there has been some kind of mistake with this review. Ken and Eve's whole philosophy of life does not and would not include criminal activity of any kind. Someone or persons have abused their hospitality and premises without their knowledge and made them innocent victims of crime.

I trust this miscarriage of justice can be simply resolved leaving Ken and Eve completely exonerated from any involvement so we can have them back behind the bar as the brilliant publicans they are.

Yours faithfully,



Roy Gill

**From:** amy chivers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 March 2023 07:56  
**To:** Licencing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Representation in support of the Kings Head

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir

I work in the office of a children's nursery Monday to Friday. I am DBS checked. I have been working on Friday nights at the Kings Head from 6.30 to 10 pm for about 3 years. I don't need to do this job, I do it for social reasons.

I am shocked at the allegations and would never have considered working there if I had had any concerns. When we first moved here, we found it a good place to meet local people. It is a family friendly pub, everyone gets on well, it is like one big happy family. It was my dad who came across it. He popped in and had such a lovely welcome that he recommended it to us. My dad is a retired policeman and would never have suggested we go there or tolerate me working there if he thought there was anything wrong.

The premises are safe for children, there is a children's play area and games for children to play indoors. I have only ever seen kids' toys and random bits of jewellery in the lost property locker, but I don't look in there much. People do leave items on the bar sometimes. A chap recently left his phone there and another lost his glasses and that's where they were found.

Kind regards

Amy McNeill

Sent from my iPhone

From: Robert Eastwood [REDACTED]  
Sent: 20 March 2023 09:07  
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>  
Subject: 23/00670/REVIEW

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I comment on the licence review for The Kings Head, Grafty Green 23/00670/REVIEW For 22 years I was subpostmaster at Grafty Green Post Office and owned and ran the village shop. During this time I felt the Sweets at the pub and we all worked for the good and welfare of the community. I am aware of many acts of kindness done by them especially for more frail members of the community.

I do not condone any illegalities as regards the licence but do believe the Sweets in the future will conform and that because of their personalities and abilities the community will be a more vibrant and safer place through their presence.

Robert Eastwood  
[REDACTED]



**From:** Eddie Brooke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 March 2023 12:49  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** The Kings Head

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have known Mr Ken Sweet and his own family for over 30 years and helped behind the bar on many occasions. They are an honest, hard working group of individuals who put 100% in to the running of the Kings Head Public house. It is the heart of a respectable village and attract people and families from near and far. Many of the clientele have known Ken Eve and Beverley for as long as I have. Lots have had their own families grow up in and around the King's Head. Parents are still regular customers and families ow frequently visit, I know it is often the children asking their parents to cone and see Beverley and Ken.

There has never been any serious or dangerous incident at the premises and I have never witnessed anything suspicious or unlawful going on. There is no public disorder ever, no crime or nuisance as the review notice suggests and it is ludicrous and completely ridiculous to suggest children need to be protected There. They could not be safer as their parents will confirm. For a family that has always been professional and lawfully running their pub for so many years, it is a credit to them and one that they should be immensely proud of as are their customers and neighbours.

Signed Mr Edward Brooke

From: Felicity Nichols [REDACTED]  
Sent: 20 March 2023 16:52  
To: Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green. ME17 2AN

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our names are Felicity and Gary and we have known the landlord and landlady of the Kings Head since 2019.

We started using the pub shortly after the Covid lockdown rules were lifted in the summer of 2019 as the pub has an outside play area for children. We have two young children and from the moment we arrived as a family, we have been made to feel so welcome.

Our two children adore the landlord and landlady and vice versa. They make all families feel very welcome and cannot do enough for them. From what we have witnessed our children and others are in a safe and caring environment and are all very happy when visiting the pub.

Also, the landlord and landlady raise money for the Lennox Childrens Charity on a monthly basis, therefore the grounds for review, particularly on the 'Protection of Children from harm' seems utterly outrageous and a malicious vendetta. They only have caring and good intentions for all their customers.

We understand the seriousness of the matter but sincerely hope that the licensing authority will show some leniency as these people are good, honest, caring and hard working. They have been running a successful business for the past 30 years and are valuable members of the community.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Cordrey and Felicity Nichols

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Ronald Borowski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 March 2023 08:19  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Jackie Borowski [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** The Kings Head - Grafty Green

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Before we moved to Germany my family and I were regular customers in the Kings Head in Grafty Green. Friday's Fish and Chips meal was especially enjoyed by everyone in the family and the atmosphere has always been very friendly and inviting. We always had the impression that the pub was well established and played a vital role not only in the village community but also attracted customers from other parts of Kent because of its good food and drinks.

After our move to Berlin we continued to pass by and stop for food and drink on our numerous visits to England. Even our children, who were very small when we first met the Landlord and Landlady and are now adults themselves, always make a point of visiting the Kings Head on their regular visits to England. In all that time we have experienced great hospitality from the Landlord and Landladies and enjoyed the warm and welcoming atmosphere they created. We have always had the impression that they are upstanding citizens who actively play a role in the local community, encouraging youngsters to stay out of trouble and providing a pleasant meeting place for people of all ages. They were very conscious of keeping an orderly house, and had a knack for foreseeing and nipping any disorderly conduct in the bud in a firm but friendly way, thus ensuring that situations did not escalate and the pleasant atmosphere was not marred in any way. They run their business professionally, with integrity and understand the meaning of hospitality. We have always had the impression that they take their responsibilities as Landlords very seriously.

The Kings Head provides a meeting place for many people, old and young, in an area which offers very little in the way of recreation for the local citizens. It is a focal point in the village, bringing people together and would be sorely missed by many. We would therefore like to express our support of Kenneth and Eve Sweet and their daughter Beverley and sincerely hope that we will be able to visit them in this wonderful British village pub many more times in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Ronald Borowski and family

**From:** Vickie Ford <[boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** 21 March 2023 12:30  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Ref 23/00670/REVIEW

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

At a meeting held on 6th March 2023, Boughton Malherbe Parish Council resolved to submit the following comment with regard to the review of the licence at the Kings Head, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 2AN:

*“So far as the Parish Council has seen, the establishment is meeting the licensing objectives: keeping people safe, not a source of crime, not a place in which people feel unsafe, has a good relationship with neighbouring properties.”*

Regards,

Vickie Ford

Clerk to Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

<http://www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk>

**From:** Rosemary Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 March 2023 15:27  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Kings Head Public House, Grafty Green

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find attached copy of letter with reference to Kings Head Public House, Grafty Green. Original sent in the post on 21 March 2023.

Regards

R Smith

**Copy of Letter Sent by Post 21.3.23**



21 March 2023

Licensing Partnership  
PO Box 182  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 1GP

To Whom It May Concern

**Re: The Kings Head Public House, Grafty Green**

We have lived [REDACTED] since 1980 (other family members since 1901). Ken and Eve Sweet and their daughter Beverley, have been the lovely landlords for the past 31 years.

They are hardworking, honest, kind and helpful, providing a friendly warm welcome to all their customer, in a safe pleasant environment.

The pub is popular and under Ken's management, rowdiness and fighting are not tolerated, ever. The family is an asset to the village, and we would like them to stay.

The Kings Head is the heart of Grafty Green but more importantly is their home.

We offer Ken, Eve and Beverley our full support in their bid to keep/renew their licences.

Yours faithfully

M S Smith and R Smith

From: Nicholas Eastwood [REDACTED]  
Sent: 21 March 2023 15:50  
To: Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
Subject: REF: 23/00670 / REVIEW

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to attend and speak at Maidstone Borough Council's review reference 23/00670/REVIEW into the licence held by the King's Head Pub in Grafty Green. Please inform me as to how I can achieve this.

Also please consider the following comments in regards to the same.

The pub under its current management family has a more than 30-year history of providing good service to the village and, whilst doing so, keeping on excellent relationships with the surrounding properties of which I occupy one. This is the situation that the licensing regime seeks to protect in its objective of preventing public nuisance although not achieving in many parts of the borough. It would therefore be counterproductive to end that without sufficient basis.

I am confident that you need no persuasion of the acute isolation that is often felt in rural communities regarding crime. Grafty Green lies in far closer proximity to areas where the police fear to tread than it does to a police station. Whilst I do not expect condoning of the precautions taken, I hope they are viewed as understandable and not indicative of a threat to public safety. I can vouch for the contrary in this case. The King's Head has an exemplary history of managing the challenges that face a rural pub in these circumstances in a reasonable and lawful manner.

The police appear to be insinuating that the premises was used for drug dealing which is presumably why they have requested such a ruinous response. I refute this absolutely. I have been both a neighbour and customer of the pub for over twenty years and have in that time had no occasion to believe any such activity to be emanating from there. Neither would it seem, have the police. It would appear that, having concluded that they do not have sufficient evidence for prosecution, they seek to achieve punishment for unsolved crimes through mere suggestion that they relate to the licence. This defies paragraph 11.24 of the Secretary of State's guidance and the MBC licensing policy which, in referring to matters outside the scope of the licence, "would expect those authorities to use their powers and duties within their statutory roles to control such matters."

I encourage you to consider that the licence revocation requested is both disproportionate and contrary to the public interest. It would be detrimental to the licensing objectives and damaging both to the community and residents of Grafty Green.

Regards,  
Nicholas Eastwood



**From:** Andrew Phillips [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 March 2023 19:51  
**To:** Licensing <[licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Kings Head, Grafty Green

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Exercise caution unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs

With regards to the Kings Head licensing review, we would just like to say that we have always found the proprietors and bar staff to be very welcoming and friendly and over the years we have enjoyed our family gatherings there on many occasions. It is very much an old traditional village pub with a warm and friendly atmosphere where we have never experienced any antisocial behaviour or any wrong doings.

Andrew & Judith Phillips

To the licensing authority.

20<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear Sirs,

Re - The revoking of the license for the Kings Head Public House

I write as a member of the public and am not representing the Parish Council or any other authority.

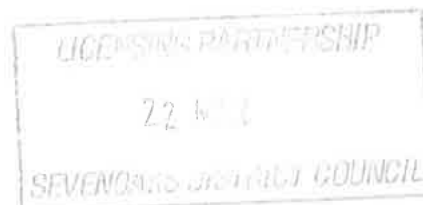
I have been a regular user of the King's Head since before Mr and Mrs Sweet took over as landlords and I have known them and Beverley as honourable and trustworthy members of our community. I believe that proper investigation will reveal that if some illegal activity might be provable on the premises it was certainly without their knowledge or approval.

I understand that the Police raid took place just after Mr and Mrs Sweet returned from holiday and this should be taken into account.

Having just returned from several weeks abroad I am shocked to learn of the news but with time running out I am unable to say more as my knowledge is limited to the notice on the door of the pub.

Mr and Mrs Sweet and Beverley have been model landlords in my experience and any revocation of the license would devastate our community for which the pub is the central hub.

[REDACTED]  
R Galton,  
[REDACTED]



### HUMAN RIGHTS

#### Article 8

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

#### Article 1 of the First Protocol

Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law. The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

#### Article 6(1)

In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgement shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.

#### Article 10

3. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.
4. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

**LICENSING AUTHORITY:  
MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committee Hearing Procedure of  
Applications for the Review of a Premises Licence or Club Premises  
Certificate**

## **Introduction and Procedure**

### **i) Introductions**

The Chairman will request all those persons participating in the hearing to identify themselves, starting with the:

- Members of the sub-committee (who will, if applicable, declare any personal or prejudicial interests)
- Legal advisor
- Committee clerk
- Maidstone Borough Council licensing officers/managers
- The licence/certificate holder (and any representative)
- The applicant for review\* (and any representative)
- Each responsible authority (and any representative)
- Each interested party (and any spokesperson or representative)

### **ii) Procedural Matters**

- **Procedure**

The Chairman will:

- Confirm that all parties are aware of the sub-committee hearing procedure and that each party has a copy of the hearing procedure document.

\* Not applicable following a closure order.

- **Submissions**

The Chairman will:

- Explain that the sub-committee will allow all parties to put their case fully and make full submissions, within a reasonable time frame.

- **Discussion and cross-examination**

The Chairman will:

- Explain that the sub-committee procedure shall take the form of a discussion led by the sub-committee.
- Explain that the sub-committee will usually permit cross examination (conducted within a reasonable time frame).

- **Disruptive Behaviour**

The Chairman will:

- Explain that where any person attending the hearing behaves in a disruptive manner, the sub-committee may direct that person to leave the hearing (including temporarily) and thereafter the person may submit to the sub-committee in writing any information which the person would have been entitled to give orally had the person not been required to leave the hearing.

- **Reading of Papers**

The Chairman will:

- Confirm that all sub-committee members have pre-read all the papers and any other documents contained in the report regarding the hearing.

- **Draft Conditions**

The Chairman will:

- Enquire whether draft conditions have been agreed between the licence/certificate holder and any of the other parties for the sub-committee to consider.

- **Witnesses**

The Chairman will:

- Enquire whether any parties request to have any witnesses give evidence at the hearing; and if so grant the request unless the request is unreasonable.
- Invite the parties, where appropriate, to appoint a spokesperson.

# The Hearing

## **Outline of the Application and Representations**

- The Chairman will ask the legal advisor or community services manager to briefly outline the application and all representations regarding the application.

### **i) The Applicant for Review**

- Opening remarks by the applicant for review (or their representative).
- Evidence of the applicant for review and any witnesses.
- After each person has given evidence the person may be questioned by the licence/certificate holder, each responsible authority, interested party and sub-committee member.
- If necessary, the applicant for review (or their representative) may clarify any matter that arose during questioning.

### **ii) Responsible Authorities (where applicable)**

<b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</b>	<b>Tick if applicable</b>
Police	
Trading standards	
Environmental Health	
Child Protection (Social Services)	
Planning	
Fire and Rescue	

- Opening remarks by the officer representing the responsible authority (or their representative).
- Evidence of the responsible authority officer and any witnesses.
- After each person has given evidence the person may be questioned by the applicant for review, the licence/certificate holder, each other responsible authority, interested party and sub-committee member.
- If necessary, the officer (or their representative) may clarify any matter that arose during questioning.

### **iii) Interested Parties**

- Opening remarks by the interested party (or spokesperson/representative).
- Evidence of the interested party and any witnesses.

- After each person has given evidence the person may be questioned by the applicant for review, the licence/certificate holder, responsible authorities, each other interested party and sub-committee member.
- If necessary, the interested party (or spokesperson/representative) may clarify any matter that arose during questioning.

#### **iv) The Licence/Certificate Holder**

- Opening remarks by the licence/certificate holder (or their representative).
- Evidence of the licence/certificate holder and any witnesses.
- After each person has given evidence the person may be questioned by the applicant for review, each responsible authority, interested party and sub-committee member.
- If necessary, the licence/certificate holder may clarify any matter that arose during questioning.

## **Closing Speeches**

In the following order:

- The applicant for review**
- Each responsible authority**
- Each interested party**
- The licence/certificate holder**

## **End of Hearing**

- The Chairman will ask the members of the sub-committee if they have any final questions for any party to the hearing.
- The Chairman will ask the legal advisor whether there are any further matters to be raised or resolved before the hearing is closed.
- The Chairman will invite the legal advisor to remain with the sub-committee during its deliberations.



- The Chairman will bring the hearing to a close and shall declare that the sub-committee will retire, to private session, to consider the application, all relevant representations, evidence, the relevant extracts of Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy, the relevant extracts of the National Guidance issued under section 182 of The Licensing Act 2003 and the licensing objectives under the Licensing Act 2003.
- The Chairman shall ask all other persons to withdraw from the room.

## **The Decision**

The Chairman shall declare in public session:

- The sub-committee's determination.
- All parties to the hearing will receive a copy of the written Determination Notice regarding the sub-committee's determination.
- All parties may appeal against the sub-committee's decision within 21 days beginning with the day on which the appellant is notified of the Licensing Authority's written determination. Appeals must be lodged with the Magistrates' Court. The decision of the sub-committee does not take effect until the period for appealing has ended, or if there is an appeal, upon completion of the appeal. Parties should be aware that the Magistrates Court may make an order with respect to costs on any appeal.
- The hearing is formally closed.

# Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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