

Dear Kieran,

Thank you for the email and forwarding the objections to our application.

Whilst there are no doubt genuine concerns and objections, we are dismayed at some of the objections as they appear to have a common theme and a concerted effort to thwart our application.

We accept that there are genuine concerns which we will address as necessary. However, there are certain objections that are exaggerated.

As I have explained, I am away in India from 22 January to 30 January and will therefore not be able to attend the meeting scheduled for 26 January 2016. I shall therefore not be able to make representations or rebut some of the spurious and unfounded claims that have been made.

I should therefore be grateful if this email could be put forward to the committee on my behalf as my representations.

I purchased the Novello when it was a struggling business. Over the years I have invested a lot of money and resources in the business and also maintaining its character as a long established local landmark.

The reality is that it has been making a loss every year and it is only through our hard work and effort that we have kept it running. However, it had come to a point in 2014 when the losses were becoming un-sustainable and we had tried to rent out the place to new tenants. However this was not successful as the place was not commercially viable for potential tenants. Serious consideration was given in closing down the business. In the event it had closed and there would have been a big chance of it falling into a dilapidated state as a few others in the area have done. The other option would have been to sell the place to some speculative developer for a change to residential use, for which we had approaches from some large developers.

We decided not to pursue these routes and indeed spent a lot of money and effort in renovating the place whilst keeping its traditional character. However, in order for the place to be commercially viable we had to explore opportunities other than a few regular drinkers and a small number of diners and customers. Therefore we had decided to open up the restaurant space so that it could be suitable for small functions of upto 80 people.

Whilst we accept there have been some issues with noise levels, we have at all times been considerate of the immediate neighbours and the wider village community. We have endeavoured to limit the noise and other impact on the neighbours.

Turning to some specific objections it is wrong to say that this place is run or likely to be run as an urban nightclub. Our clientele tend to be older individuals and family groups. The functions are mainly family orientated and have been such things as Birthday parties, engagements, Xmas and New Year parties. There is generally recorded music and live music on some occasions. There has certainly been no drunkenness or rowdy behaviour or any breach of the peace and this is not likely to happen.

The car clubs have been a traditional feature of this place and indeed other surrounding establishments. These clubs comprise of classic and veteran car owners and the membership is older group of individuals who want to meet up in a convivial place. These are not boy racers, but respectable members of the community, and there is certainly no

revving of engines or cruising up and down the roads. These members take pride in their cars and their clubs and this is reflected in their behaviour at these meetings.

The live music we have had was an Elvis night which was again attended by a well behaved crowd of predominantly older age group.

With regard to the conservatory we accept that there is noise leakage and we are in the process of applying to change this into a much more traditional construction and sound proofing. This shall overcome a lot of the noise issues which have arisen in the past. We can assure the committee and the residents and neighbours that the interests of the local residents and community have always been at the heart of our interest and will continually to be. We will work with them to ensure that they are not inconvenienced.

All our efforts and investment have been to ensure that we can make this a successful business and will remedy any deficiencies that may have arisen. It is also fair to say that if we cannot run the place as a commercially viable operation than we will have no option but to close the business.

I would therefore request the committee to approve our application. I am very happy to discuss any matters or changes that may be required, upon my return.

Regards  
S.K. Rajput