

From: [Licensing](#)
Sent: 15 July 2022 09:22
To: [Noel Bourke](#); [Phil Fitzsimons](#)
Subject: FW: Application to sell alcohol and play music 054716

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From: Margaret Beaumont <[REDACTED]@northdevon.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 July 2022 08:12
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Dear Sirs

I strongly object to the application made by Red Panda Partnership T/A Vintage 21 behind the Blue Groove Restaurant, at Hobbs Hill Croyde.

My reasons for this are:

1 Public Nuisance

The small car park at the rear of Blue Groove, The Bistro and other retail outlets on Hobbs Hill is now filled with 3 food vans selling a variety of street foods. Access to this area is via a narrow lane called Carpenters Lane which leads directly to the sand dunes and beach. It is surrounded by residential property both above the shops and adjacent to the area. Sound and smells will affect those people living close by. In addition to this, those customers using businesses like Blue Groove Restaurant or Billy Budds, will be affected by noise and smells from the pop-up vendors. I experienced this when I ate at the Blue Groove recently, when the Caribbean Kitchen was cooking and also playing music. There is too much in a small area. The increased footfall will inevitably cause problems, as it has done already with the destruction of the fence between the village hall property and the stream. Noise travels in the 'bowl' of Croyde Bay. I could hear the reggae music played by Caribbean Kitchen from my address in Sandy Way, and from my garden which runs parallel to the main Croyde Rd.

2 Prevention of Crime and Disorder

There are 3 pubs, with alcohol sales in their outdoor spaces within yards of the car park; there are shops licenced to sell alcohol within the vicinity. Increased sales and consumption of alcohol from a food van which has no defined boundary/ seating area is likely to lead to people wandering the footpaths, road, village green, skate park and playpark areas to eat and drink. This is already creating a problem of litter, and anti-social noise. I am often disturbed by drunken noisy people leaving the centre of the village to return to their accommodation in the evenings. There is a particular lamp post outside my bedroom which attracts late-night philosophers!. I have had to alter the configuration of my garden gate to prevent people using an indentation in the hedge as a latrine; a place to vomit, or discard glasses , bottles and cans. my granddaughter challenged a young man who was urinating in the hedge at 5pm in the evening, whilst his children waited for him on the pavement. These incidents do not happen every day, but they have increased in number over the last two years. There are occasional fights, most commonly of a domestic nature. There is little point in calling the police because I do not expect they would come since they have been unable to respond to even more serious matters nearer the beach, and usually the disturbance dissipates within a half hour or so.

I am aware that the Parish Council has received many complaints about noise and littering in the centre of Croyde. Increased alcohol sales, and music will encourage a 'party scene' and change the nature of this family friendly village to a place which attracts younger people, who are likely to be less responsible and more likely to engage in low level crime, especially if they can buy alcohol without having anywhere to sit on the premises to drink it.

3 Public Safety

Without anywhere to sit and eat a takeaway and drink , it is likely that people will use the village green, play park and skate park. This misuse of those facilities puts children and young people and their families at risk. Drinkers spilling out onto the road is likely to increase the risk of traffic accidents. The position of the food/drink vans in this car park, tucked behind the high street, also poses a risk to public safety because of the limited and congested access. If there was a fire, there would be a serious risk to all the properties next to the car park. In this area, how will the alcohol be stored? If left overnight there would be an increased risk of vandalism. If it is delivered daily this compromises the access to other properties and their proper access rights, and it prevents access to the public footpath which is extremely well used and busy throughout the summer

4 Protection of Children from Harm.

I believe it will be difficult to check the sale of alcohol to minors in this set up. It will be challenging to prevent one young adult from buying drink, and then going off down the lane to the sand dunes, or round into the playpark to supply younger friends with booze. Since there are no premises defined who is to say who has sold the drink, who would be responsible?

In conclusion, I strongly object to the granting of a licence to Vintage 21. I believe it will not be possible to attach sufficient robust conditions to the licence to prevent harm, protect public safety and prevent significant public nuisance. Whilst I am aware that the Planning legislation is separate from licencing legislation, I would point out that the permission to allow the car park to be created was based on the urgent need for parking space in the village. In effect a change of use has occurred. There is no space for cars now. The local authority must surely consider that increasing facilities in a small village must also consider the infrastructure needs to support such facilities. There are no toilets in the immediate vicinity of this car park (the nearest ones are on Jones Hill., and not obvious to anyone using this car park.) These are managed by the District Council and in summer are often not in a clean condition because of heavy use.

Croyde is a small rural village which has attracted families to return year after year. Since the pandemic, more people have come here, and have been welcomed, but the parish does not want to see the fundamental character of this holiday place change. It is not a resort. The infrastructure is not there to support ever-increasing traffic numbers.. By allowing this licence the local authority will be forcing the other responsible agencies to absorb the problem - the nearby pubs to supply the toilet facilities, the parish council to deal with the rubbish and wear and tear in the play park, the Village Hall Trust to repair fences and maintain the green, to allow a small enterprise which does not pay council tax to make a profit. Rural and seaside villages are under considerable strain, and the role of the District Council must surely be to make decisions in the context of the wellbeing of the whole community. This unit will not bring significant economic, social and environmental benefits to Croyde.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission.