

**From:** Alan Hodgkinson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 04 April 2023 17:51  
**To:** Licensing <[licensing@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@northdevon.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Review Of Premises Licence for The Woodpecker Bar & Kitchen, West Down, Ilfracombe, EX34 8NU

I respectfully write in support of Mrs. Tina Pearce and The Woodpecker Bar & Kitchen. I am a very regular customer of this excellent bar and have been since it first opened. Previous to this, I was also a regular customer when the premises was called Cafe Max and also The Foxhunters Cafe. The premises are in a good location and there is ample free car parking space. As a busy tradesman (electrician), it works for me, as it does for many.

I didn't know Mrs. Pearce before I started to use The Woodpecker, but have to say, now that I know her, her business ethos and management skills are excellent. Her business at The Woodpecker took off straight away, in a totally different way to the two previous businesses that were there. This was partly because it was a very different business to the previous two and because of Mrs. Pearce's hard work, skills and marketing. The food is second to none and The Woodpecker employs some excellent local staff, including chefs, bar staff, etc. This in itself is a fine achievement and should be applauded as a local employer.

Mrs. Pearce takes her business very seriously and I have witnessed on many occasions, her willingness, diligence and hard work in trying to cooperate with local authorities in trying to sort out 'issues' that continually arise from the applicants next door to The Woodpecker. I am sure that this is all well documented.

In my mind and I know many others, The Woodpecker is a first class establishment, that offers good food, drink and entertainment all well within the Licence boundaries in a very safe environment. It is a place for all ages to enjoy and indeed, my 8 year old grandson loves going there. I have attended different functions over the last year or so, including Oktoberfest, live music events, charity events and many more. I probably attend The Woodpecker several times a week for breakfast and dinner.

Mrs. Pearce has always conducted herself in an extremely professional way and demands the same from her staff. In all of the time that I have attended (and that is many), I have never ever witnessed any wrongdoings or anything aimed at the applicants next door. All I have ever seen is the stress and anxiety that these people are causing towards Mrs. Pearce and her staff.

I find it inexplicable that the applicant's are making futile and constant complaints to local authorities when they clearly bought their property knowing that there was a business next door.

I hope that the licensing authority will now look favourably on Mrs. Pearce and her business. From a customer's point of view, I want to continue to enjoy this excellent place. I hope the authority will once and for all support Mrs. Pearce and in some way assist in respectfully putting an end to what looks like harassment from the applicants next door.

Thank you in anticipation.

Alan Hodgkinson

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