

Statements in respect of application P19/S2005/FUL (SODC Planning Committee 01.07.20)

The Morning Star, 98 Papist Way, Cholsey OX10 9QL

Statement from Ms Lucy Blaxland to be seen to the Planning Committee prior to the above meeting.

Please reject this application for planning consent at the Fairmile Sports and Social Club.

I wish to make two key points to add to the submissions of others:

1. The Fairmile Social Club (FMSC) took over the site with no consultation with neighbours or a broader consideration of the implications of this change of use. The use of the site for a private social club, with the extended license moved from its former site, in a densely packed residential area is wholly inappropriate and the current application extends and compounds this unacceptable situation. The FMSC is an important part of the social fabric of the village and its history given the importance of the hospital here, but an alternative, more appropriate site needs to be found. A pub within a community has to consider and maintain good relations with neighbours as potential customers and for its general reputation. A private members club is conversely maintained for its members and the obligation to control customers is immediately relaxed. Neighbours are experiencing the immediate impact of this change, where relatively tight control of pub customers before the arrival of the FMSC, is now light touch, with local management seemingly not given the authority to control members in the ways required, eg to stop deliberate revving of noisy vehicles, and to halt raised voices in the carpark after hours. The acoustic report is poor with no clear definitions of noise level, and the explicit reliance on neighbours and the Police to deal with issues. None of this suggests commitment to or confidence in FMSC in the management of their premises within a residential area. Is the approach implied by the report acceptable for SODC in terms of management of its communities and their activities?

2. Central claims made in support of the current planning application within the amended Planning, and Design & Access Statement dated January 2020 are misleading and the Committee should question these.

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The site is not considered to be one of Cholsey's Community buildings. This point is overstated to support the application. The numerous community buildings within the village are The Pavilion, the Great Hall, St Lawrence's Hall, The Old School. This fact is supported by complete lack of any reference to hiring spaces in the FMSC's own advert in the most recent

Cholsey Community magazine, The Forty. Also of all events listed in the Forty from December 2019 - March 2020 (a key period for events) not one lists The Morning Star or FMSC as a venue. The Red Lion, as a proper local pub (see point 1.) is featured at least 3 times. Aunt Sally and darts events do take place at the site, but in general community events which did take place have ended and now relate, I would argue, to the interests of the members rather than to those of the local community as a whole.

Thank you.

Lucy Blaxland

96 Papist Way - immediate neighbour to FMSC

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