

Members, I speak on behalf of the many households who have been denied their democratic right to be heard on this application this evening.

I ask members to consider beyond the bricks and mortar aspects of this application to the use to which this extension will be put. The building was a country pub serving customers until 11 pm. It is now a private club serving subsidised alcohol often way beyond 11 pm. When a pub, noise nuisance was not an issue. Now as a club, during last summer the club members caused nuisance until well after 11 pm with loud activity in the garden, premises doors open with music playing inside and the area floodlit.

The noise nuisance is an issue recognised by the planning officer and a noise assessment was required. The noise assessment provided is nothing of the sort. No measurement of the area's ambient noise level has been made, no measure of the noise level during use of the premises has been made, and no assessment of the increased noise level that the new function room will lead to has been made. No comparison is possible. This is not a noise assessment.

The paper produced was commissioned by the applicant and is not an independent view. The mitigation described in the paper calls upon the management of the premises to monitor the noise level and curtail it. The management is the employee of the members, some of whom are the perpetrators of the nuisance. The paper puts the onus on those directly affected by the nuisance to report their disturbance, this would typically be late at night, by elderly people or those with young families.

The club has been established in a residential area without consultation with local residents. A number of its members have been the cause of growing noise nuisance. Allowing the function room to be extended with no restrictions on what might be developed within once permission is granted, will add to the considerable discomfort of those unfortunate enough to live close to it.

Members please remember the strength of feeling of the Cholsey residents I have tried to represent here. I implore you to refuse permission for this development.

Thank you

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