



Bar licence variation - response to residents' representations

30 September 2021

FAO: Kevin Dunsford, ERS Licensing

This document is in response to the three representations made to the Tetbury Goods Shed (TRLRT) licence variation application.

It is firstly worth stating that the proposed bar location was decided upon after a long appraisal and with consideration of the pros and cons of a total of six options, none of which was ideal. There is no doubt that the ideal location for the bar would be inside an extended version of the building, and this is part of the Goods Shed's long term development plan. The proposed licence variation is therefore a short-to-medium term measure, albeit for a number of years (perhaps three to five years). Tetbury Town Council has formally voted to back the proposal after being presented with the options and the thinking behind it.

The Goods Shed is an arts and community centre, and hosts a wide range of musical events including classical, jazz, folk and the occasional tribute band, plus a renowned Piano Series which makes use of our £40,000 Steinway grand piano. In addition, we hold a variety of educational talks, weekly cinema nights and family-based community events. We are actively trying to engage a wider audience, although the perception (probably accurate) is that we primarily cater for middle-aged and middle-class people.

The current licence reflects the early requirements of the venue, which were to get up and running with events as fast as possible, using the area that was available. As such, the licence allows alcohol to be served through the kitchen hatch or from a "bar table" within the main building. Both of these options require a temporary "bar" to be assembled and disassembled for each event. Since the licence was granted, the kitchen has been fully given over to the café, which is now very successful and has no space for a bar to co-exist. As such we have been running a "pop-up" bar with limited options within the main venue. Our maximum seating capacity is 180 people and when this number are present, there is no space to run a bar at all.

With all the above as background, I will address the concerns of the residents:

C Jeffs

Objection	Comments
1a. Art centre does not require a bar, which goes against the spirit of the venue.	It is not an "Art centre" as in a gallery, it is an "arts" centre as described above. Customers come for an evening's entertainment in various forms and expect

	a bar to be part of the package, as is found in cinemas and theatres across the country.
1b. This is part of a plan to host more events including private parties where Trustees have no control.	There is no plan or intention to host more events as a result of this variation. We will not hire the space out to weddings or other private parties as it contravenes our Planning rules. For all events, the Trustees / DPS remain in control of and responsible for the event.
2. Noise and public nuisance.	The bar is only open to event attendees for the duration of events and is not a destination in its own right, meaning that there will be no prolonged congregation of drinkers as would be the case with a pub. All drinks are consumed within the building except by some customers for very short periods before an event or during an interval. The bar has always closed before events finish, so there is no drinking or noise from drinkers towards or at the end of an event. The nature of our events and customers is a long way from the idea of “noisy revellers”. The location of the bar would be on the side of the building facing away from any houses.
3. Crime and disorder due to covers, seating and lighting.	See point 2 above. The proposed bar will be a locked, converted container with limited cover in the form of a railway platform-style canopy. There will be no additional seating associated with the bar. There is no reason why this proposal should attract any additional “undesirables” compared to today. There is CCTV coverage of the area.

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Objection	Comments
1. This is a parkland/footpath popular with families etc, with nearby toddlers’ playground.	I don’t understand this objection. Proposed opening hours of the bar would not interfere with any of these activities.
2. Current licence is for sale on the premises, not to be consumed outside.	The variation is to allow the sale from an outside location but consumption is already permitted within a certain outside area.
3. Difficult to restrict sale of alcohol to event attendees and to ensure drinks consumed inside or in immediate area.	We operate the Challenge 25 scheme and in the same way we would challenge those we believe are not customers. This would

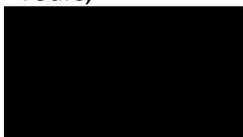
	not be difficult to spot. If any drinks were consumed outside, there is a very obvious area where this would happen, which is immediately in front of the proposed bar.
4. Access and carrying of drinks inside.	The distance needed to carry drinks inside is very short and this location is the most accessible of any of the options considered. The railway platform-style canopy will ensure the walking area is dry and there will be lighting provided. Trays are available.
5. Broken glass hazard.	As with the current bar operation, this is an ongoing requirement and broken glass checks will be built into our operation procedures.
6. Suggestion to swap bar location with the café.	Kitchen and serving hatch are not ideal for the bar; use of the café window as the serving area would mean area of customer congregation would be at the front of the Goods Shed and facing residents' houses; proposed container area is not big enough to house current kitchen equipment.

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Objection	Comments
1. Noise and nuisance based on experience of canopy previously in place elsewhere on site.	There will be very limited cover in the form of a narrow railway platform-style canopy, which is intended to shelter only those being served at the bar and walking back to the Shed. There will be no seating underneath it, nor any other additional seating associated with the proposed bar. There is CCTV coverage of the area.

I look forward to discussing the above at our meeting on 12th October.

Yours,



Richard Lark
Trustee, Tetbury Rail Lands Redevelopment Trust.