

# Godstone Parish Council

(incorporating the Villages of Godstone, South Godstone and Blindley Heath)

## Clerk to the Parish Council

S Endersby

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**PREMISE LICENCE REF: TAND/PREM/16/003/MV1**

7 June 2022

Dear Licensing Department

## **RE: Flower Farm – OBJECTION in relation to the Application to vary premises licence**

The current consultation in relation to Flower Farms application to vary its premises licence has come to the attention of Godstone Parish Council. At the Parish council meeting held on 6 June 2022 a significant number of local residents attended the meeting to raise their concerns in relation to the application, which clearly demonstrated the level of disturbance to the village.

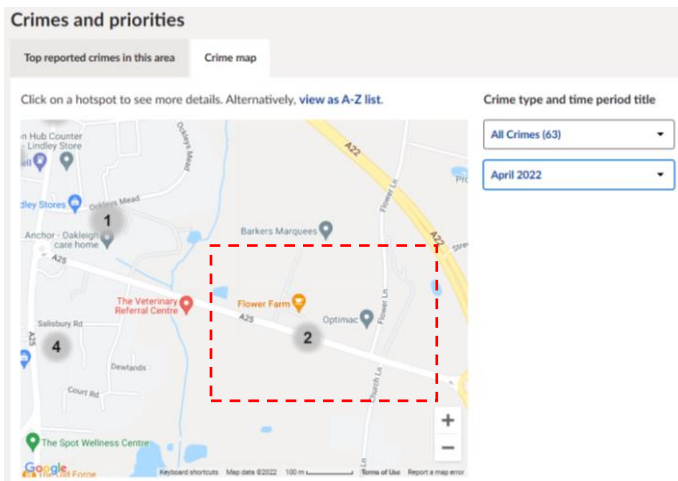
### **Public Nuisance and Safety**

A summary of the points reported and raised with the council, by the residents to highlight the concerns in relation to the application to vary the premises licence at Flower Farm, Godstone relating to the Licensing Act 2003 objectives of Public Nuisance and Safety:

- The endurance of noise disturbance under the current licence and the impact on the village
- The regular weekend events that cause amplified noise late into the evening
- The excessive level of amplified noise which is heard late into the evening
- The impact of the noise disturbance which prevents people being able to enjoy their own homes and gardens peacefully, particularly during the summer months when people want to be able to open their windows.
- A report of people attending the events breaking into the garden of an adjacent property
- Litter being thrown into adjacent gardens
- The disturbance and impact on Children's wellbeing in the homes of families being disturbed
- Concerns about safety and the compliance with Fire regulations, for example in relation to the chicken barn and the safety of people attending events in the barn building.

### **Police Data - Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

Noting that the Prevention of Crime and Disorder one of the Licensing Act 2003 objectives, the Parish council have reviewed the reported crimes data for the area in the immediate vicinity of the premises, shown within the red dashed box. The review of the category of crimes recorded and number of crimes can not be considered insignificant in relation to the Prevention of Crime and Disorder objective of any licence when considering the proximity of crimes reported and recorded at the premises location.



Year	Drugs	Anti-Social Behaviour	Public Order	Violence/ Sexual Offences	Other	TOTAL (within year)
2022 to April 2022		1	1			2
2021		2	1	6	1	10
2020	4	4			4	12
2019*		3	1	4	1	9
<b>TOTAL (Type of Crime)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	

\*Figures only available for May 2019-December 2019. No further historic figures available online.

### Further Concerns of Residents

We would also like to bring to your attention a summary of further points made to the council by residents:

- Residents believe that the current licence conditions are being broken
- Residents are aware of action they can take, i.e., noise diaries, and complaints of noise disturbance have been sent to David Bryant, Environmental Services
- No evidence of enforcement by Tandridge District Council (TDC) in relation to noise disturbance complaints.
- Concerns about the lack of awareness of the licensing officer in relation to complaints raised historically with TDC in relation to the premises activities under its current licence
- The increased impact and devastation on residents' lives if the variation of the licence is approved
- Wish to ensure the residents' concerns on the variation of the licence are acknowledged and considered.
- Response and lack of empathy of the owner when residents try to engage with him about their concerns via telephone or visiting the premises

### Summary

This is not the first time that Flower Farm and its activities have come to the attention of the Parish council. In July 2020 serious concerns were raised in relation to 'Godstoneberry' taking place during a time that Covid-19 restriction still applied and again in June 2021 in relation to the noise disturbance of an event held. On both these occasions Tandridge District Councillors were also aware and confirmed they were monitoring.

Furthermore, the residents and council are aware that the premises has shown a blatant disregard for planning applications for the development of buildings on the site and although not directly relevant to the licence variation application, it was considered by many at the meeting that this demonstrated a serious concern for the premises disregard to rules and regulations and its responsibility to comply.

It was noted that there was a general willingness to tolerate the odd one or two irregular one off annual events, such as 'Godstoneberry', but that the variation for the licence to be for every day of the week throughout the year is unnecessarily excessive and a serious concern to the regular impact on the lives of those that are within the surrounding areas to the premises.

Many residents have lived for many years in Godstone and predate the changes to create an entertainment venue at the premises, from when Flower Farm was a farm and farm shop in the village. It is not a case that people should have to or are indeed able to move their lives

## **Conclusion**

The Parish council are keen advocates of local business, but equally would not want to see the success and ambition of a local business be to the detriment of the village and the wellbeing of a greater sum of residents.

It is requested that this matter goes to the licensing committee for consideration.

For the reasons detailed in this letter Godstone Parish Council strongly objects to the variation to the premises licence being approved and therefore request that the application to vary the licence is declined.

Yours sincerely,

S Endersby  
Clerk to Godstone Parish Council  
*on behalf of Godstone Parish Council*

cc.

**Surrey Police, Licensing Officer (Tandridge)** - Surrey Police, PO Box 101, Guildford GU1 9PE  
**Environmental Protection (Noise), Environmental Health (H&S) and Planning** - Tandridge District Council, Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted RH8 0BT  
**Surrey Fire and Rescue Service** - [sfrs.firesafety@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:sfrs.firesafety@surreycc.gov.uk)  
**Health and Safety Executive** - Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted RH8 0BT  
**Surrey Trading Standards** - [trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk)  
**Health Authority** - Public Health Business Manager, Public Health NHS Surrey, Room G55 County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston Upon Thames KT1 2DN  
**Home Office Alcohol Licensing Team** - [Alcohol@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Alcohol@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)  
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