



**Department of Public Health**

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Michael Moss  
Licensing officer  
Lewes District Council  
Southover House  
Southover Road  
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Dear Mr Moss

**Bay Tree Inn (now known as The Kings Head), Pelham Road, Seaford, BN25 1EP**

Further to my previous representation of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017, I would like to add the following.

Recent evidence shows that alcohol is the third leading risk factor for death and disability after smoking and obesity. In recent years, many indicators of alcohol-related harm have increased.

The public health burden of alcohol is wide ranging, relating to health, social or economic harms. The spectrum of harm ranges from those that are relatively mild, such as drinkers loitering near residential streets, through to those that are severe, including death or lifelong disability. Many of these harms impact upon other people, including partners, children, relatives, friends, co-workers and strangers. Children affected by parental alcohol misuse are more likely to have physical, psychological and behavioural problems. Parental alcohol misuse is strongly correlated with family conflict and with domestic violence and abuse. This poses a risk to children of immediate significant harm and of longer-term negative consequences.

Alcohol-related ambulance call-outs

Alcohol-related ambulance call-outs in East Sussex have seen a 17% increase in 2015/16 compared to 2014/15. Half of these occur during the night time economy (between 8pm and 4am). Seaford Central ward, where the Bay Tree Inn is situated, has the second highest rate of alcohol-related ambulance call outs in the Lewes district and ranks 10th out of all the districts and boroughs in East Sussex.

Binge drinking

The police evidence shows a high level of binge drinking and drunkenness at The Bay Tree Inn.

## APPENDIX 9 (*additional information*)

The term binge drinking usually refers to drinking large quantities of alcohol in a short space of time or drinking to get drunk. Researchers define binge drinking as consuming more than eight of more units in a single session for men and six for women.<sup>1</sup> Binge drinkers are at increasing risk of physical and mental ill-health and of being a victim of crime, contracting a sexually transmitted disease and, for women, being more likely to have an unplanned pregnancy. There are also risks to others such as aggression towards family members, general disorder, accidents and assaults. More commonly, binge drinking can lead to anti-social, aggressive and violent behaviour.

A&E attendance during the night time economy (8PM – 4AM) as a result of an assault is a proxy measure for alcohol-related violence. In East Sussex during 2013/14 to 2015/16, 71% of attendances for assault during the NTE were for men and 73% for people aged 15-39 years. The number of assault attendances is increasing with the highest numbers in the 25-39 year olds.

The high levels of binge drinking and drunkenness at the Bay Tree Inn indicate that the Licensing Objectives of Public Safety and the Prevention of Public Nuisance are not being promoted.

### Cocaine use

The evidence provided by Sussex Police demonstrates persistent cocaine use at The Bay Tree Inn.

Cocaine is a very addictive drug which has adverse effects on the heart and circulatory system. This is exacerbated when combined with alcohol as it produces a toxic substance called Cocaethylene. Even for perfectly healthy people, the increase in heart rate and blood pressure can increase the chance of seizures, heart attacks and strokes. Cocaethylene also puts a strain on the liver and, over time, can cause serious damage. Cocaine's stimulant effect is reported to reduce a drinker's feelings of intoxication allowing greater quantities of alcohol to be consumed. The combination of the disinhibiting effect of alcohol and confidence inducing cocaine with the addition of cocaethylene, leads to a heightened possibility of impulsive or reckless behaviour and even violence.

Of those East Sussex residents in drug treatment, a third were in treatment for cocaine use; 53% of whom were also using opiates and 40% also using alcohol.

The cocaine use at the Bay Tree Inn shows that the licensing objectives of Public Safety, and Prevention of Crime and Disorder, are not being promoted.

### Alcohol use amongst young people

Allowing under-age young people entry to The Bay Tree Inn puts them at risk of underage drinking and possible drug use.

Alcohol can affect brain development in young people as well as causing liver damage and other health problems. The disinhibition can result in unprotected sex and consequent sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancy; it can also result in aggression and violence. Coordination and judgement are also affected and make young people more prone to accidents and

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<sup>1</sup> NHS Choices. 'Binge Drinking'. Accessed May 2017. <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/alcohol/Pages/bingedrinking.aspx>

## **APPENDIX 9 (*additional information*)**

injuries. The UK chief medical officers recommend an alcohol-free childhood as the healthiest and best option.

In East Sussex, young people (15 year olds) have significantly higher alcohol consumption compared to the England average. And hospital admission episodes for alcohol specific conditions in the under 18s are higher than the national average (56.3 compared to 37.4). East Sussex public health are working with other partners to reduce alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harm in young people in East Sussex, an aspect of which is addressing the behaviour of licensees.

The apparent disregard of an age verification policy such as Challenge 25 shows that the Bay Tree Inn is not promoting the Licensing Objective 'Protection of children from harm'.

Yours sincerely



Martina Pickin  
Consultant in Public Health