



Lewes District Council
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APPENDIX 6

DINCS LDA

Tel: 01323 872471

Email: stephen.gauntlett@lewes.gov.uk

Sue Lindsey
Licensing Officer
Lewes District Council

4 October 2016


Dear Sue

The Trek Nightclub – Hearing 17 October 2016

Two residents of Blatchington Road, Seaford have expressed a wish that I, as their LDC ward councillor, make representations on their behalf. Their written submissions are attached.

They have asked that their identities are not published, not because they believe that the licensees of the Trek Club would cause them harm but that certain customers of the Trek club might decide to punish anyone who made representations to you.

I have therefore redacted names and addresses but assure you that the residents live in Blatchington Road and would be happy to be known to the Licensing Panel so long as the names and addresses are kept strictly confidential.

Yours sincerely


Cllr Stephen Gauntlett

From: **Cllr Stephen Gauntlett** Stephen.Gauntlett@lewes.gov.uk
Subject: FW: The Trek nightclub - invitation to put forward issues and concerns
Date: Today at 12:37
To: sj.gauntlett@btinternet.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 September 2016 11:41
To: cllr.carolyn.lambert@eastsussex.gov.uk; Cllr Stephen Gauntlett
Subject: The Trek nightclub - invitation to put forward issues and concerns

Dear Carolyn and Stephen,

Firstly, I'd like to accept your offer to keep my identity confidential.

Secondly, I would like to thank you so much. My partner and I have just enjoyed the first ever peaceful, un-disturbed Friday and Saturday night's sleep since we moved to Blatchington Road. As a result we were able to use the weekend in the way that we've always wanted - to be able to relax, rest and recharge our batteries for the tough working week to come. We've not been able to do that before. [REDACTED]

I am fully in favour of people being able to enjoy themselves and let their hair down. But that isn't what happens on this residential road on weekend nights. Between the hours of approximately 10pm to 4am Friday and Saturday nights (and to our horror Sunday nights on bank holiday weekends, making 3 awful nights in a row) the road becomes a no-go zone for residents, as it is taken over by a continuous slow-marching army of Trek patrons. Drunken crowds form, screaming, hollering abuse, falling into gardens, urinating in the street, throwing bottles and cans into properties; cars have been damaged (mine included), scuffles break out, residents have been abused and threatened. Frequently the cacophony becomes aggressive and confrontational. It goes on for hours as people use the road as a route to and from the town and the club. Simply, the atmosphere is so threatening and the noise level so extreme and disturbing that we don't sleep and lay awake in a state of misery and anxiety.

Since I have lived here, as the weekends approach, my heart begins to sink as I know what is coming. It's like a repeating nightmare, and because it seems this will just go on forever, the only thing that I take comfort from is saying to myself over and over 'I don't have to live here forever'. That's a real tragedy, because I moved to Seaford for

it's lovely, friendly, communal seaside living, idyllic in it's location and neighbourly in it's approach to life. I don't want to have to leave here feeling that my hopes have been dashed and my impression of Seaford tarnished. That is what this experience is doing.

[REDACTED]

The first thing I did when I got your letter to say the Trek license is suspended is count how many weekends we have this reprieve - 3 more blissful weekends. If that is all we get, then again I thank you. But surely this is something we shouldn't have to wish for in the peaceful town of Seaford?

Please protect your residents. I'd ask you, with all sincerity, please please give us our weekends back.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: **Cllr Stephen Gauntlett** Stephen.Gauntlett@lewes.gov.uk
Subject: FW: The Trek Club
Date: Today at 13:25
To: sj.gauntlett@btinternet.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 September 2016 07:06
To: Cllr Stephen Gauntlett
Subject: The Trek Club

Dear Mr. Gauntlett,

Reference your letter dated 28th September regarding the Trek Club, Blatchington Road, Seaford.

I have lived in my house in Blatchington Road for over 30 years. Many years ago, there was a Neighbourhood Watch group in the area who tried to get the Trek closed.

The reason was that when the customers exited the Club, they used to rampage around the area, pulling windscreen wipers, aerials and wing mirrors off cars, this wasn't just one car on one night, it was all the cars parked in the road on one night, and it happened quite frequently in Broad Street North and Blatchington Road.

The woman in charge of the Neighbourhood Watch group (whose name I can't remember as it was such a long time ago), liaised with the Police and they went to Court to try and get something done about the behaviour of the Trek customers. She came to me afterwards and was almost in tears, because the Police had been on the side of the Trek, and not on the side of the local residents. That was the end of the group round here.

Another time, my neighbours saw a young man jumping on my car in the middle of the night. They called the police who came, and as they had assumed that the culprit (who my neighbours would recognise), had gone to the Trek, they all trooped down there to have a look for him. Unfortunately they couldn't spot him so the police left. When my neighbours were walking back home, they spotted the man through the window of one of the houses. They called the Police again who came along, but said they couldn't do anything as he was on private property.

Carolyn Lambert did come to see me, but she hasn't sent me an email, purely

because I didn't give her my email address!

I do not have any problem with the Trek at the moment, apart from one night when someone stole a plant from my garden and distributed it along the road. I do not have to sleep in the bathroom as some of the other residents apparently do, because of the noise. I sleep in the front bedroom and, unless someone is standing outside my house and yelling, I don't hear anything - and I don't wear earplugs!!

At the moment, my house is on the market, and three people have been turned off by the recent goings-on at the Trek, because of the negative press releases, so from that point of view, I am annoyed.

I hope this will soon be over. Judging by past efforts, I don't think that the Trek will be closed, and if it is, it will probably be reopened with another name in the near future, which is what happens to other businesses that have closed for various reasons, as I'm sure you know.

You may put forward my views at the public meeting on 17th October, but I will not be attending, as I have an Access meeting to attend at the Bradbury Centre in St. Peter's Road on that evening.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

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