

**Statement from Resident 1**

I am writing this statement of behalf of myself and my teenage daughter who lives with me.

I have rented this flat very happily for the last almost 8 years , sadly I am now in the process of looking to move out of Lewes completely due to the noise, anti social behaviour, personal verbal attacks made against myself and my daughter from their customers, not only while I have been out minding my own business and walking my dog but also from people shouting up at our windows whilst inside our own home. We feel completely under siege and intimidated. I have been called various names to disgusting to write here.

The pub has loud music and rowdy customers 5 nights of the week, I have on several occasions called or messaged the landlord to ask politely he send staff out to move the customers along or at least point out that it is a residential area. He always responds by telling me that they do not have any responsibility legally to deal with their patrons outside of the pub and that maybe it is what I should expect living in the centre of town.

I work full time and my daughter has just started Uni, to say we are stressed and sleep deprived would be a massive understatement. I also have a chronic autoimmune condition that has never been as bad as it has been the last 6 months, due to lack of sleep and stress .I have had to have three courses of steriod treatments since may this year to get my symptoms under control ,more than I have had in the whole time since I got diagnosed.Due to this I have had to take more time off of work than i have ever done before in my whole working carear, and I am 53 years old.

I do not have a specific lists of dates and times the pub has opened over their opening times ,had loud bolshi crowds , fights , and general anti social behaviour, because quite frankly

its a regular thing each and every week, every night they are open.I do however have lots of video evidence.

I and my neighbours are tired, sad and desperate to get our neighbourhood back to a safe place, where we can go to our beds before 2am five nights a week, walk our dogs and our daughters can safely walk into their own homes in the evenings.

I also think it is important to point out they more often than not have 200 people plus in there with very young staff and no security whatsoever, this is a disaster waiting to happen , especially in light of the tear gas attack in there on Haloween, after which it was up to a neighbour of mine to report to the police the following morning as the pub staff had not done so.

### **Statement by Resident 2**

I am writing this statement on behalf of myself and two children in the hope that you will understand how the re opening of The Lamb by the current Management has impacted on our lives.

For the past six months we have had to endure the relentless, ongoing and unacceptable anti social behaviour from the customers of The Lamb pub. We have been subjected to verbal abuse, excessively loud volumes of music, crowds of youths gathering on the streets below our bedroom windows. We've had to listen to foul language , arguing, shouting, vomiting on occasions and screaming sometimes till 2am in the morning.

The behaviour of the customers of the Lamb has become intolerable. The staff and Landlords attitude is once the customers leave the pub they are no longer their responsibility unlike the majority of Lewes pubs who respect their residential neighbours and believe that it is their responsibility to move drunk and unruly customers on well after closing. The Management and staff have total disregard, empathy and common decency towards the neighbouring residents.

I do understand that pubs with live music licenses generate certain amounts of noise but the levels of noise this premises generates is beyond acceptable.

Last weekend we watched a customer being thrown out of The Lamb when he was so drunk that he could barely walk at approx 930pm . He then threw himself in front of a DPD van whilst trying to cross Fisher St. The owner of the Fish and chip shop had to peel him off the bonnet of the van. Now, this is a customer who the staff of The Lamb had served so much alcohol to that he couldn't walk. They then threw him out of the pub and they then claim that they hold no responsibility for his safety or welfare once he has left the premises. This is shocking and unprofessional. I have video evidence of this incident which makes for disturbing viewing.

This exposure to prolonged and excessive noise has had an adverse effect on my health. I am constantly tired from the interrupted sleep or sometimes lack of it. I find myself falling asleep during the day. I have high blood pressure, headaches and for the first time in my life I have resorted to taking sleeping tablets and using ear plugs in the desperate attempt to get at least a few hours sleep in the early hours of the morning . I find myself feeling anxious knowing what we will have to endure from Wednesday night through to the early hours of Sunday morning week after week. I looked forward to my weekends in the past. Now I dread them!! My Sundays are often spent catching up on my sleep.

I have an 18yr old daughter who feels anxious and uncomfortable walking past the Lamb on her way home late at night after work.

I would also like to point how incensed we were by the article in the Sussex Express. [REDACTED] comments were in no way accurate. The Lamb is run by an absent Landlord and a group of very young irresponsible bar staff. The comment made by [REDACTED] on the Facebook website, Present Lewes that the police were called after the CS gas incident in the pub on 31st October was again not true. I went into the pub myself after that incident to confront the bar staff about the noise on the streets. They admitted to me that they did not call the police because they did not want police involvement but did agree that in hindsight perhaps they should have done. The staff were totally irresponsible that night, several were [REDACTED] under the influence of alcohol themselves. They did not manage that incident correctly or responsibly. Customers were suffering adverse effects of the gas and no ambulance was called.

I called the police and Informed them of this incident myself the following morning.

I am exhausted. Please take my concerns seriously



### Statement by Resident 3

From the time the Lamb was taken over by the present management in June 2019 I have been unable to use my house to socialise from Thursday - Sunday of every week due to shouting, swearing and aggressive behaviour from the customers of the Lamb.

Initially the manager, [REDACTED], could be contacted and was willing to negotiate with residents regarding the noise; the garden area was even fenced in and, following a meeting with the Council, customers were cleared from the garden at 10.30pm (11.30pm on Fridays and Saturdays). This lasted a few days. [REDACTED] no longer listens or negotiates with us. This appeared to happen after I pointed out to him that his CCTV didn't show everything as there had been a young child in the bar until closing time on several evenings. He told me I was being aggressive and suggested I delete his number.

I cannot tell you how intimidating this has become. As a single female, to have to regularly feel under siege in my own home is becoming intolerable. These customers are not people to be reasoned with, especially once they are intoxicated. That is why pubs employ security staff. The Lamb has no security staff whatsoever and the bar staff are young and inexperienced. I also understand the Lamb is about the only pub that does not belong to Pub Watch.

Last Thursday a canister of CS(?) was let off in the pub. Customers were coughing and spluttering with swollen tongues and breathing difficulties. The bar staff admitted to my friend [REDACTED] that they did not call the police as they did not want bad

publicity. The Sussex Express interviewed [REDACTED], Managing Director of Revived Inns who is reported as saying: 'The pub always takes the security and health and safety of our guests very seriously'.

At your meeting on Thursday would you please ascertain exactly how [REDACTED] or maybe even Greene King ensures the security of their guests when they do not employ a single security officer in a premises that can hold 200 people?

Had a knife been involved we could have been looking at fatalities. The Lamb is an accident waiting to happen.

We are requesting that the late music licence be withdrawn from the venue because every time the premises changes hands we residents have to undergo yet another bout of antisocial behaviour and our health is being adversely affected. Should the licence not be revoked we request that certain provisos be put in place:

1) two paid and trained Security staff be employed (not just one of the customers walking round in a high viz jacket with Security written on it); security staff to remain until all customers have left the surrounding area;

2) the door to the garden be closed at 10pm;

3) Evidence of antisocial behaviour result in an immediate closure of the pub until a meeting is held with the Management of the Lamb and local residents.

**NOISE DIARY**

Fri 5 July - loud live band, door opening and banging shut all night till 11.55pm.

Sat 6 July - large group of men in back garden from 2-6pm, so loud I could not hear

tennis commentary on tv or speak to my sister when she rang me - had to walk down the

road to get away from noise. Fight broke out. Called police but because I hadn't seen a

weapon they couldn't help.

Sun 7 July - loud again. Feel exhausted. Have had no rest this weekend since

Wed. Complained to manager, [REDACTED], who said he will not be bullied by the

neighbours??!! Is this some kind of weird joke??!

July - August - loud music on Fridays and Saturdays, customers screaming and shouting

in the garden till all hours. Miserable, tired and run down. On sleeping pills to help me

sleep hence no diary.

06 Sept - late night lock-in at pub drinking with the lights out, one punter friend of

barmaid [REDACTED] shouting Fuck the Neighbours and making V signs, left at 1220am. I'm

SICK OF BEING ABUSED IN MY OWN HOME WHEN I HAVE DONE NOTHING

TO PROVOKE IT.

14 September - [REDACTED] got everyone in at 10.30pm. Fab! Made all the difference. Texted

[REDACTED] to say thanks. (was this following a visit by Sue Lindsey?) and asked him to thank

[REDACTED]. Never heard back.

15 Sept - Everyone went in by 11.30pm. Brilliant,

19 Sept - noisy again, door banging, shouting, garden not cleared of customers, all

shouting.

20 Sept - rowdy gang outside till 1.40pm

23 Sept - crowd in street effing and blinding till 1.10am.

26 Sept - another fight

4 Oct - people shouting in Lamb garden, effing and blinding. Screechy barmaid shouting in street at 12.05.

Fri 11 Oct - loud music, crowd hanging round in street, aggressive shouting till 12.35pm.

Fri 18 Oct - /loud customers in garden, drunk and shouting. Texted [REDACTED], who ignores me since I pointed out that [REDACTED] barmaid had her young son in the pub till closing time on several nights in Sept.

Sat 19 Oct - unbelievable. Crowd of 8 youngsters, drunk and shouting loudly on corner of Lamb till 1.20am. Impossible to sleep. Discussing whose car they are going to 'shag' in.

Delightful. I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

Wed 23 Oct - argument in garden. [REDACTED] screaming at top of voice. Another girl reeling drunk and crying. Total mayhem. As usual, no bar staff around to do anything.

Sat 26 Oct - the usual crowd ([REDACTED]) screaming at top of their voices till 1.30am.

Sun 29 Oct - I went to Lamb with a friend to see the Contenders. Two drunken men reeling around with legs like jelly, bumping into people, spilling drinks etc. Bar staff

totally oblivious. I spoke to [REDACTED], the Sound Manager and asked him if there was any procedure to move on customers so that they do not hang around after closing

time. He told me that the barmaid is a problem as she invites all her mates and treats the place like her own and also everyone is well aware that Security is needed but because the

Lamb does not make enough profit the brewery are too tight to provide it. We both agreed it was an accident waiting to happen.

Wed 30 Oct - book club held at my house. Friends could not believe the noise and vile behaviour from the Lamb's customers - asked if I regret having moved to Market Lane. Embarrassed.

Thr 31 Oct - ?? CS gas or some noxious substance let off in the Lamb. Customers coughing and choking. Police NOT called as the barmaid didn't want the bad publicity. At least it wasn't a knife!

As detailed in our conversation this morning, the local resident group is in the process of applying to have the licence of the Lamb revoked, having been left with no choice in the matter.

#### **Statement from Resident 4**

Myself and my partner are writing this statement because we feel that we can no longer continue to live in our home in Lewes due to the consistently unacceptable level of noise and disruption we experience due to the activities of 'The Lamb'. We both work and have important schedules and commitments and it is simply not possible or acceptable to stay up till 1am half of every week, unable to sleep in our own home. Ear plugs make little difference and sleeping on the floor in the spare room also does not solve the problem. This is not an occasional issue or a minor inconvenience. It is a guarantee that 3 to 4 nights a week loud music will play until midnight or later. On a few occasions I've heard music playing past 1am. The door is always opening and letting the music and singing out into the street at full volume. Additionally the customers of the pub stand outside our homes in the street



and in the pub garden shouting and screaming every night, long past the curfew for noise and in many cases past their licensed hours and on till 2am most weekends.

No attempt is made to get the customers to be quiet, to get them move on or to keep them inside with the door shut to prevent noise pollution. There is no security and nothing to prevent large groups of people drinking, arguing and shouting outside our homes until the police are called. This problem is only getting worse and on top of our daily work and personal lives being impacted, we are now finding ourselves affected by a growing anxiety; the knowledge that we will have to endure a series of long sleepless nights when we have work in the morning, including at the weekend, makes us want to not live in our home. We feel we have no choice but to start looking to move. We love our house and our town but this is too much and there appears to be no efforts made by The Lamb to consider us as their neighbours. This is our last action before we have to leave the town. Below I have detailed a number of recent occurrences that have impacted us:

Fri 27th Sept - At 01:05am loud music was still playing and the venue was in full swing despite being past it's licensed hours.

Sat 28th Sept - Unable to sleep before an early start at work with loud music and shouting outside long past midnight.

Wednesday 2nd October - Loud Live Karaoke still playing at 23:07 with the door regularly open so music played through amps at full volume impacts everyone in

the street. Then at 23:37 this same evening a large group of drinkers were in the beer garden screaming and shouting and this continued on late.

Sat 5th October - Loud music and shouting long past midnight -

Friday 18th - Loud music playing past 1am and screaming all night long from beer garden

Sat 19th - Unable to sleep till gone 3am due to the loud music and the customers in the beer garden of the pub screaming outside long after the venue seemed to be closed.

Friday 25th Oct - Very loud music playing after 11pm and had no choice but to not sleep in our bedroom and make up a bed on the floor as we had work first thing the next morning and we knew we would not get enough sleep due to the consistent pattern of activity from The Lamb each weekend.

Wed 30th October - Woken at 23:20 with ear plugs in from the shouting outside and the music still playing in the venue.

### **Statement by Resident 5**

I have seen the submission to you from Resident 3 and i am writing to you to endorse her views and to encourage you to work with Environmental Health, Lewes DC (EH) on appropriate action to solve this situation.

Also i wish to confirm that hers is not a single person view but represent the feelings of the 9 or 10 residences involved and suffering this noise pollution.

I live further down the road away from the Lamb so receive less of the abusive noise but it still spreads down the road especially as they come and go, frequently late at night and often with glasses of beer in their hands. My main concern is the music and the intrusive noise pollution which occurs in the garden in summer and

frequently inside the house in the evenings. I would assume that the granting of a music licence carries with it conditions that the music shall not cause offence or annoyance by the type and volume of the sound. The Lamb has been consistently breaking this condition and despite appeals to EH - to which no reply is received - they continue to do so - twice within the last week; this pollution inside the house seriously affects our right to the peaceful enjoyment of our homes, is stressful and in the long term affects our health through the tensions involved.

The argument that the lamb has been a music venue for a while is not relevant, as the type of music has changed to a modern thumping electronic beat but without any commensurate change to the acoustic insulation of the premises producing the noise. Also the previous tenant had music for their guests over a significant period and we never had cause for any complaint as they had careful control of the volume.

If the music licence for the Lamb does not include the conditions indicated we would like a submission made to the licensing magistrates for such conditions to be attached with the proviso that flouting them will bring a suspension of the licence. EH say they will only receive complaints on a proforma to allow them, from the volume received to assess priorities - this seems an odd process as all complainants will send in heaps of forms in the hope of getting priority whereas they already know of the problems we face and presumably have been to judge the situation for themselves.

However we will shower them with complaint forms if that is what it takes, we will get professional sound and noise pollution tests carried out if needed for an independent submission to the magistrates, in fact any action to gain some meaningful action and reduce this invasion of our privacy with the attendant stress and health and welfare implications I already see in some of my neighbours

