

4 Church Street  
Bicester  
Oxfordshire  
OX26 6AZ

Head of Urban and Rural  
The Licensing Authority  
Cherwell District Council  
Bodicote House  
Bodicote  
Banbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX15 4AA

RECEIVED  
06 OCT 2011

5 October 2011

For the attention of Alex Gilbert

**Licensing Application -The John Paul II Centre, Causeway, Bicester OX26 6AW**

As an interested party, I would like to register an objection to the current licensing application by The John Paul II Centre, Causeway, Bicester, on the grounds of potential public nuisance due to noise (Policy GN1 of the Cherwell Licensing Policy Statement, and in particular Para 2.5.8 of that Policy Statement).

My wife and I own 4 Church Street which is a semi-detached Grade II listed property, situated in a conservation area near the centre of Bicester. The John Paul II Centre has been built at the back of this property, within 25 metres of our back bedroom windows; I attach a layout showing just how close this actually is. The planning application for the John Paul II Centre does not seem to have considered the proposed use of the building at all, in particular whether it is appropriate for conservation area comprised largely of residential buildings.

This licensing application appears to request permission to allow almost every sort of public entertainment without significant restriction. I am advised that the application is for, amongst other activities, music (live or recorded), dancing and sale of alcohol until midnight on EVERY NIGHT, extended to 2.00am on Friday and Saturday nights.

The Google profile<sup>1</sup> for the John Paul II Centre states that *“the new parish centre will enrich parish life for current and future generations, by providing a comfortable purpose built environment to meet. Activities include parish groups, functions and celebrations as well as sacramental preparation.*

*The function / meeting room will also be available for hire. Importantly, this will provide a vital source of income and enable the parish to interact with the wider local community”.*

<sup>1</sup> <https://profiles.google.com/johnpaul.immaculateconception/about>

I am entirely in sympathy with these aims, but I would suggest that this application has a far wider scope. The hire to the general public will in particular involve wedding receptions and other similar functions but there does not seem to be any restriction whatsoever on the frequency of these events. I can understand that the applicants want to have as wide a scope as possible to maximise their earning potential but it would seem totally unreasonable to permit this such late night use without restriction whatsoever.

I therefore request that:

- a. The application, if approved, is limited in both permitted times and frequency of such events. I suggest that regular opening should be curtailed at 10.30pm and extensions past that time should be limited to a set number in any period, such as twice per month to midnight and once every three months until 2.00am.
- b. That there are robust procedures to control the additional noise of individuals smoking (and talking) outside (ref Policy Statement Para 7.3.8), and for dispersal late at night (Policy LH6).
- c. I am notified of the date/time of the Committee hearing for this application, and that I am allowed to speak at that meeting.

Please contact me on [matthew.clements@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:matthew.clements@tiscali.co.uk) or on 07786 321430 if there are any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Clements', with a horizontal line underneath.

Matthew Clements

Attachment: Layout of Site

Copy by both e-mail and post

LAYOUT SHOWING PROXIMITY OF Nos 2 & 4 TO THE NEW CENTRE

(No 4 is the other half of No 2, being semi-detached)

