

## George & Dragon – 19 High Street, Graveley, Herts, SG4 7LE Representations by “Other Person/MOP”

### **Objection 1 - Liz Felstead, Bow Cottage, 15 High Street, Gravely SG4 7LE**

I would like to begin by saying that I genuinely support the success of this business. The original vision of a family-friendly village pub, offering good food and a welcoming atmosphere for local residents, is something I value and would be pleased to see thrive within our community.

However, I am increasingly concerned about the proposed licensing hours of 08:00 to 01:30, particularly from Thursday through Saturday. These hours feel significantly out of keeping with the character of a small village setting and raise concerns about the impact on those living in close proximity. My concerns are not about the pub itself, but about the secondary effects that late operating hours are likely to bring. In particular:

- Noise from customers leaving late at night, including conversations, raised voices, and general disturbance in the car park area
- Increased taxi activity during late hours, including engines idling, doors closing, and associated noise
- Staff arrivals and departures outside typical daytime hours
- The emptying of bottle bins and waste disposal, which can be especially disruptive during early morning or late-night periods

As someone living immediately adjacent, these are not minor inconveniences but issues that could significantly affect sleep and overall quality of life.

It is difficult not to feel anxious about the potential for regular disturbance into the early hours of the morning.

I want to stress that I am not opposed to the pub, nor to its success. My hope is that it can become a valued part of the village without effectively operating as a late-night venue that changes the nature of the area.

I would therefore respectfully ask that the proposed licensing hours be reconsidered, or that clear and enforceable measures are put in place to mitigate noise and disturbance—particularly in outdoor areas and during late-night periods.

I would welcome a solution that balances the success of the business with the wellbeing of local residents.

### **Objection 2 - Stephen Forbes – 35 High Street Hitchin, SG4 7LA**

I am writing to make a formal representation against the application for a new premises licence for the George & Dragon, 19 High Street, Graveley, SG4 7LA.

I wish to object on the grounds of the prevention of public nuisance and prevention of crime and disorder, in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

While I acknowledge that the premises is located on a main road and has parking, the proposed activities – including late-night alcohol sales, live and recorded music, and late-night refreshment into the early hours (up to 01:00) – are not appropriate for a small, historic rural village setting.

I am concerned that the application, if granted as proposed, will result in:

- Significant noise disturbance from amplified music, particularly in the evening and late at night
- Noise from customers arriving, congregating, and leaving the premises during late hours
- Raised voices and anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol consumption at these times

Graveley is a quiet residential village with low background noise levels, and disturbances late at night carry significantly. The scale and timing of the proposed activities are likely to have a disproportionate impact on nearby residents.

I believe this would undermine the licensing objectives, particularly the prevention of public nuisance.

I respectfully request that the application is either refused, or that strict conditions are imposed, including:

- A reduction in permitted hours for licensable activities
- Strong controls on amplified music
- Effective measures to manage customer dispersal late at night

I would like to be kept informed of any hearing relating to this application and would be willing to attend to present my concerns if required.

**Objection 3 - Helen Lumley, 4 Pondsides, Graveley, SG4 7LG**

As a resident living very near the George and Dragon pub, I am concerned at the hours for live and recorded music requested in the new licence application.

This is a small, quiet village and having music from early in the morning to late at night is not in any way appropriate for this quiet rural village - it would cause major disturbance to residents living in Graveley - both from the music itself, and from people leaving late at night, car doors, car headlights etc,

I urge the Licence Officer to cut back these hours to something more suitable for a quiet village (not in the morning, and not after 11pm except on special occasions).

I hope the new business is successful, but this should not be to the detriment of, and at the expense of local residents. The pub is not in a busy town, and it needs to be sensitive to the environment it will operate within.

**Additional Information from objector 15/05/2026**

My objection to the licence application would fall under item 3. (Licensing Objective)

The examples I can cite is that I have been disturbed previously on a number of occasions by music events at the George & Dragon under previous tenants - this has been due to loud music late at night which has woken me up and on other occasions prevented me from sleeping. I have phoned the pub on several occasions asking for music volume to be turned down - sometimes this has happened, sometimes not. [REDACTED]

This is all when previous tenants were running the pub but illustrates the fact that music late at night ( and similarly early in the morning) in this location can cause significant disturbance to local residents.

**Objection 4 – Martin Griffin - Graveley Parish Council (chair), Coach House, Oak Lane, Graveley, SG4 7LN**

Graveley Parish Council objects to the licence application recently submitted for the George and Dragon public house in Graveley.

This objection is on the prevention of public nuisance grounds [REDACTED] the nature of the site will inevitably lead to more noise and other disturbance to local residents.

[REDACTED] outside space being the largest proportion of that.

There is further no natural break, or fencing, or similar to protect local residents from noise spillage into the village as a whole.

Under previous tenants there have been occasions when music from the George and Dragon has caused significant disturbance to local residents in the village late at night.

The Council wishes the business of the pub well and hopes that a compromise can be arranged, but with stronger restrictions on the late night and early morning opening and would be supportive of the hours in line of those of the Waggon and Horses pub in Graveley.

**Objection 5 – Cheryl Norgan - 4 High Street Graveley**

I wish to object to the very late opening hours of the above public house.

My ground is the prevention of public nuisance.

[REDACTED] there have in the past been two occasions when extreme noise in the form of music (both live and not live) has been complained about to management of the pub who have done nothing whatsoever to control the problem.

The latest was noise nuisance heard 300 yards away in the form of outdoor entertainment and live singing by an Elvis impersonator. It should not have been possible to hear every word of the singing 300 yards away in my back garden or indoors in my bedroom. The racket was truly intolerable and persisted for some hours causing disturbance to my sick husband who had just come out of hospital and myself. A Parish Councillor rang to complain but the Manageress did nothing. I rang to complain while it was going on but the Manageress did nothing. The Council's Environmental Health Officers were therefore contacted because of the complete lack of control by management.

This is a rural location.

I ask that the Council's Licensing look at and moderate the hours that this public house can conduct entertainment, in particular outdoor entertainment.

**Objection 6 – Nokomis Curtis-Forbes – Gravley House, 35 High Street, Graveley, SG4 7LA**

I am writing to make a formal representation regarding an application for a new premises licence at The George and Dragon Graveley.

My name is Nokomis Curtis-Forbes and I reside at Graveley House in close proximity to the premises in question.

I wish to raise an objection on the grounds of the prevention of public nuisance and the prevention of crime and disorder, in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

While I recognise that the premises may be situated in an accessible location, I have concerns that the proposed activities – including late-night alcohol sales, live and recorded music, and late-night refreshment extending into the early hours – are not appropriate for what is a predominantly residential and/or quiet area.

I am concerned that, if granted as applied for, the licence may result in:

- Noise disturbance from amplified music, particularly during evening and late-night hours
- Noise from customers arriving, gathering, and dispersing late at night
- Raised voices and potential anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol consumption

The local area experiences relatively low background noise levels, and disturbances at late hours are likely to carry and have a significant impact on nearby residents. The scale and timing of the proposed activities could therefore have a disproportionate effect on the amenity of those living nearby.

I believe this would undermine the licensing objectives, particularly the prevention of public nuisance.

I respectfully request that the application is either refused, or that appropriate and proportionate conditions are imposed, such as:

- Reduced hours for licensable activities
- Effective controls on amplified music
- Measures to manage customer dispersal and minimise late-night disturbance

I would appreciate being kept informed of any hearing relating to this application and would be willing to attend to present my concerns if required.

**Objection 7 – Fiona Hutton – 3 High Street Graveley, SG4 7LE**

I live on the High Street and the garden and car park of the George pub goes behind my house - such that normal noise from activity in the pub garden, car park and waste and recycling bins is plainly audible if I am in the garden and within the house when it is louder.

Like other residents I was concerned about the future of the closed pub and relieved and reassured to receive the introductory letter from the new owner some weeks ago- especially to read that he is committed to ensuring that 'it works for everyone locally and that the intention is to create a 'proper village pub'.

I have lived in the village for 30 years and it has generally been positive to have two thriving pubs within the community and I genuinely wish the new owner success in the enterprise, However I was disappointed and rather dismayed to read the licence application which appeared in the pub windows a couple of weeks ago. I do appreciate that to gain agreement to the extended hours of operation would give the owner maximum flexibility to grow the business, but am concerned that this may result in activity which is inappropriate, given the setting, and consequences that would be unwelcome to residents - disturbance and excessive noise from the carpark (shouting, door slamming) and bottle dumping late at night/early morning, loud music and other activity. It is in no-one's interests for there to be conflict between the pub and its neighbours. The hours of operation applied for seem to be excessive given the espoused values of the owner and the rural 'heart of the village' location of the pub.

I would therefore urge that some licensing restrictions are applied so that there is a balance between the owner's aspirations and the reasonable expectations of the local community.