



2003

175 Albert Road  
Horley  
Surrey  
RH67HS  
Tel. 01293  
432093

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with concern to the entertainment Licence Application made by Horley Baptist Church on Albert Road in Horley. I have lived at the above address for over seven years with my husband and 4 year old daughter and 6 month old son.

We have strong reservations about this licence due to the attitude and behaviour of both the church and the organisers of previous events at this location. A couple of years ago the church hall started being used for a bands night every couple of months, this was targeted at under sixteens and seemed to be a very popular event. In the beginning I wanted to be patient with the event and not be one of those people who say not in my back yard, but with each event things got worse and more out of hand.

The first problem is really the location of the hall it is the boundary of my neighbours garden and as so is less than four feet from her house and only six feet from mine, when the windows are continually left open at the hall and amateur rock bands are playing you can imagine the noise at that distance (you might as well be in the hall).

After the first event I spoke to the vicar at the church and asked them to let me know the dates of future events so I could arrange for my daughter to stay somewhere else on these nights, despite assuring me they would I was never informed of future events and so every time one of these where held I had a child who was upset and frightened by the noise.

The second issue I have is that these nights continued to get rowdier and rowdier, when a place encourages well over a hundred young teenagers into a residential area and then in no way monitors what they are up to outside the hall it can only lead to problems. The vast majority of the children I saw where drunk, many sitting at the end of my drive drinking or trespassing in the grounds of Strawson Hall (which has been frequently vandalised in the last few years). There was constant screaming and bad language throughout the night and not one event passed without the police having to be present. There was a particular night when my husband had to go across to Strawson Hall as there was a very drunk young girl (aprox 14) who had gone into the secluded grounds at the back with six young men and was now screaming, I was not happy that my husband was put in the position of tackling six young men to see if the girl was alright, as it turned out the young men just ran but you just have to see the news to realise this isn't always the case.

After the night described above I actually went round to the hall when they where setting up for the next event, I described the events of the last few band nights and expressed my concern over the safety of the young people attending and that of my family and property, this was done in a friendly concerned manner, I was told in no uncertain terms that they where not responsible for anything that happened outside the hall, all I had suggested is

having a couple of respected adults outside to keep an eye on things. I again asked to be kept informed of the dates so I could arrange for my children to stay elsewhere (again they have never had the courtesy of letting us know dates).

I found the attitude that prevailed, they could invite over a hundred teenagers to a party six foot from my house, without any prior notice, then take 110 responsibility in the welfare of the children or local residents. I don't think it is too much to expect that I should be able to enjoy a peaceful evening without blaring music (the windows shake) drunken children screaming abuse at each other, and my husband and I being more afraid for the welfare of drunken young girls than the organisers. I also do not find it acceptable that I have had a hole kicked in my fence and that I have regularly to clear broken bottles, rubbish and even vomit from my garden.

Another aspect to this is that there has been frequent trouble on the A23 between One stop and the park (hardly a weekend goes by without the police having to break up some trouble in the area) so encouraging a hundred plus 16 year olds and under to the area and doing nothing to stop them drinking is hardly going to help matters.

I would be grateful if you would be able to inform me what this entertainment licence will enable them to do, will it be more band nights and rehearsals or will it be for more normal church functions like wedding receptions and the like. I do not want to be a kill joy and I did have an open mind when these things started up but the attitude of the organisers and the total mayhem that ensues makes me very wary about the validity of them being held in a residential area. If you do intend on holding a hearing on this matter I would like a chance to put my case against it in person and I do think you should get the environmental health round to check noise levels in my daughters and baby's bedrooms and then I think you will understand a little more my negativity.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Sally Limb.