

Noise Impact Assessment

36a Derby Road
Longridge PR3 3JT

I. Introduction – What is a micropub?

This application seeks permission to convert a vacant retail premises to use as a micropub – a small, one-room public house providing a warm and friendly atmosphere for people to meet and chat over a drink. Whilst falling in the same A4 class use, a micropub is not a standard pub like many of the national pub company outlets and clubs associated with some negative social issues linked to drinking. A micropub is more reminiscent of a traditional neighbourhood public house where people socialise and strengthen community ties.

Micropubs are often small scale and aimed at limited numbers of customers at one time. They serve real ale from microbreweries – often locally sourced – with good wine and soft drinks and limited snacks such as nuts and crisps. Micropubs do not serve draught lager, alcopops, spirits or cocktails and there will be no jukebox, no regular music, no amplified music or speech, no television nor fruit machines. The predominant noise generated by a micropub is often little more than the gentle hubbub of chit chat. It is estimated that the current application will have room for between 25 and 30 customers at peak times.

Further information on the micropub concept including related newspaper articles and examples can be found at the following web pages:

- www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micropub
- www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/leisure/features_lancashiretelegraph/14269167.Mark_Briggs_charts_the_rise_of_the_micro_pub_in_East_Lancashire/
- www.micropub.co.uk

II. Noise Impact Assessment

We have assessed the area and taken into consideration the nearest noise sensitive receptors and find the following:

The proposed location is the ground floor of an end terrace property that faces Derby Road near Longridge town centre in what is a mixed use commercial and residential area. Derby Road forms the main connection between the B5269 and the west end of Berry Lane, resulting in heavy traffic usage, some congestion and noise pollution.

The immediate area is dominated by the Thwaites tied Bull & Royal pub, located directly across Ashton Street from the application premises. The opening hours for the Bull & Royal are 12:00pm – 11:30pm, Monday through Wednesday, and 12:00pm to midnight, Thursday through Saturday. These hours extend later than the hours requested in this application. The Bull & Royal also has an external beer garden which borders Ashton Street, shows live sports on televisions and promotes live entertainment including a weekend karaoke disco. The size of the application premises in comparison to these factors for the Bull & Royal mean the proposed micropub would add no significant contribution to noise pollution in the neighbourhood due to more limited numbers of customers visiting the application premises and the genteel atmosphere created therein.

There is a residential flat above the application premises and a residential terrace house on the north side of the party wall. This proximity of commercial premises to residential properties is not unusual for this mixed use neighbourhood as located on the ground floor of properties surrounding the application premises there is a butcher's shop, a bridal wear shop, a quilting shop and an interior design business. However, we are keen to ensure the residents of the attached properties are not adversely affected by our proposed business. We recognise that simple and effective measures can be put in place to significantly reduce any noise transfer to attached premises. The premises already benefits from double glazed windows and blown vinyl applied to the ceiling which

both aid in reducing sound transfer. We also intend to incorporate the following measures in the premises to ensure that any internal noise will be well contained and will be at a minimum to any external receptors.

1. Install Saarpur Sound Proof Insulating Liner on the party wall. This excerpt from the FAQ section of the product description on the website www.gowallpaper.co.uk explains its use and qualities:

Sound Proof Insulating Liner is best suited to rooms where you want to absorb the noise within it. For example, noise could be entering the room through an open window, single glazed window or from a source within it (eg; vacuum cleaner). In such cases, internal application of the Sound Proof Insulating Liner will help absorb sound and stop it bouncing around as well as reduce the noise escaping through surfaces into other rooms. In an incidence of noise problems from an adjoining room it can be used to best effect by using it in the room that is generating the noise, not in the room adjacent.

2. Install an appropriate door closing system on the front door to reduce any transfer of door noise to the adjoining properties.

3. Display signs within the premises advising patrons to reduce any noise and respect the surrounding area when leaving.

Out of respect for our potential neighbours, on Saturday, 6 Feb 2016, we hand-delivered letters to both the upstairs flat and next door house explaining our intended business and asking to be contacted in the week following if there were any concerns about our proposal. We have not been contacted by the upstairs tenant; however, the letting agent for the application premises as well as the flat above spoke with the tenant and told us he has no objections to the proposal. We have ourselves had a conversation with the next door tenants who initially and reasonably had some concerns about noise transfer. We told these potential neighbours about our proposed noise reduction plans stated above, and their feedback was then positive.

Given the nature and scale of the proposed application it is unlikely to result in significant additional highway traffic or demand for parking. The site is located on a busy main road where there are good public transport links and is within easy walking distance to the town centre. It is hoped that customers will either walk or use public transport to attend the premises.

Any deliveries to the application premises will be done during sociable hours and will be completed by no later than 6pm.

Waste removal will be minimal. Empty casks will be returned when fresh ones are delivered, during social hours. Disposal of waste bottles and cans into appropriate waste receptacles will only take place during social hours so as not to cause disturbance. Any refuse collection will be by Ribble Valley business waste collection only so will be operated within their hours.

The only fitting to the building will be a small air conditioning unit that is attached to a chiller unit within the premises. The unit is only intended to chill (not freeze) a small chiller room. This is unlikely to generate significant noise.

There is no major construction required to the application premises and any alterations or decorations internally would take place within social hours. Once in operation the establishment will have no amplified noise for entertainment purposes. It will be one of the smallest drinking establishments in the town.

It is submitted that the proposed application will not significantly alter the noise level in the affected area. Any additional noise generated by the application premises will be minimal and will not have a significant adverse affect on the sound receptors located within that area.