

## Anthony Garnett

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**From:** Matt Boughton  
**Sent:** 15 November 2020 12:22  
**To:** Anthony Garnett  
**Cc:** Katie Shipman; James Lark; Jon Botten; Karen King; Vivian Branson; Licensing Services  
**Subject:** Re: Licensing Review application - Wetherspoons, Tonbridge

Dear Anthony,

Please take this as our response to the request for a review of the licence for Wetherspoons on Tonbridge High Street. We are writing in our capacity as Borough Councillors for Medway Ward. As you know Medway covers the east of Tonbridge High Street. I've copied in Castle Ward Councillors Vivian Branson and Karen King too.

While the premises in question is not within the boundaries of Medway ward, it is clearly a significant local licensed premises and one that many, including us, enjoy frequenting. It is also in very close proximity to a number of properties on Tonbridge High Street, Navigation House, Maylams Quay and most significantly Waterside Reach, all of which fall within Medway Ward.

Over the course of the past few months we have, sadly, had cause to report antisocial behaviour to Kent Police and also Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. Much of this has taken place in the vicinity of Wetherspoons and we are keen to see the matter resolved. Residents should expect to live peacefully and while living near to the High Street will clearly bring some ambient noise, it is the level of disruption that has caused issues. Often this has resulted from people having one too many drinks from local pubs, including Wetherspoons.

However, this is not to say that Wetherspoons is the cause of the problems. Footage we have been shown and anecdotal evidence we have received from residents and drinkers suggests that many of the issues do not start in Wetherspoons, and rather its location and proximity to other pubs, takeaways and footpaths means it becomes a magnet for people heading home after a night out.

As a result we would not support the reduction in hours of operations at Wetherspoons unless further evidence could be provided that it was the cause of the problem. Rather we would like Kent Police to commit to more Officers patrolling Tonbridge High Street during the late evenings. We would also like an assurance that CCTV footage from the camera at the Botany can be made available at all opportunities to catch and identify the culprits of the antisocial behaviour. This would help prevent crime and disorder, improve public safety and prevent public nuisance in line with the licensing objectives.

Finally, this does not mean that we do not support further measures being taken by Wetherspoons, and other pubs and bars, to reduce antisocial behaviour. We know that they work very closely together through the Safer Towns partnership and are keen this continues. However, one action we would like to request is that each bar and pubs looks at installing its own CCTV so that they can identify any causes of trouble and act on them appropriately.

Best wishes

Jon Botten, Matt Boughton and James Lark  
Councillors for Medway Ward, Tonbridge  
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

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