



Powell Close  
Aylesford  
Kent  
31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

FAO: Licensing Services

**Re: 21/00374/CLUB – Aylesford Village Club variation application**

I wish to object in the strongest terms to the 3 proposed variations, requested by Aylesford Village Club in the above application.

1. Addition of a rear outdoor area

The club car park backs directly onto my home and 3 others in our terrace. When used as car park, people pass through the area fairly quietly on their way to and from the club. I chose to buy a home that backs onto a car park, not a beer garden, which is what this 'outdoor area' would become, as has already been demonstrated in the past and is part of why the restrictions were previously imposed.

Since the introduction of the 'smoking shelter' already in place people congregate here for long periods of time and are loud, causing nuisance to residents. People grow louder as alcohol takes effect, they do not watch their children (who scream and shout), they use foul and offensive language, turn on car stereos, smoke cannabis and urinate in the car park. These are all part of the objections lodged and upheld previously. To suggest that a new structure is erected to further encourage people to spend time in the car park is absurd and should not be permitted.

When people are encouraged to spend long periods in the car park, I am unable to use my garden or have my windows and doors open, due to the noise. I cannot invite people to spend time in my garden, as we never know whether we will have a pleasant time or not. Even with doors and windows closed, the noise is such that we have to turn up our TV or put on music of our own to drown out the noise. My dog is upset by the noise and barks when he goes into the garden, causing further nuisance to the neighbours. Inside, he is unsettled by the noise. At closing time, people spend long periods outside, instead of just going to their cars and leaving. This prevents me from being able to go to sleep at a time of my choosing.

Finally, I need to mention my privacy. I have already had to raise the level of my fencing to prevent people in the car park being able to see into my home and garden. When people spend time in the car park, they are able to see directly into my bedroom window – an extreme invasion of my privacy.

2. Addition of "off sales" for alcohol (Mon to Sun 9am to midnight)

I object to this variation, on the grounds that Aylesford became an unpleasant place to walk around when other licensed premises sold 'off sales' during COVID-19 restrictions. People buying products to take away, then open them in the village and cause nuisance by drinking and congregating in parks, green spaces and on the bridges. This causes obstructions to pedestrians and is very intimidating.

I also object to the vast period of time being requested for the condition – there should be absolutely no need to grant such an early or late end to this condition, were you to actually grant it.

3. Removal of condition 2 of Annex 3 relating to the closure of doors and windows (All doors and windows to remain closed at all times except for access and egress.).

I object to this request on the basis of everything lodged before. When the restriction was put in place, it was due to the nuisance caused by loud music and congregating of customers both at the front and back of the club premises. As mentioned above, congregating for periods of time causes loud shouting and swearing which residents should not have to be subjected to. Keeping the doors closed stops people congregating, as they need to enter the premises to speak with people. Keeping the doors and windows closed stops the music inside from being able to be heard in my home and garden.

I believe that the club were given a substantial amount of money to install better air-conditioning in the premises, so there should be no need to open doors and windows for ventilation.

I trust that you will also relook at the objections lodged before, as they all mention the reasons why this should not be able to be reversed.

I do hope that you will take my objections seriously. Although on paper some time has passed since the restrictions were placed on the club, in reality for most of that time the club has been closed, due to COVID-19. Since the restrictions were put in place, I have finally been able to enjoy my home and garden for the first time in many years. I have been able to spend time in the garden and leave doors and windows to my home open without worry or nuisance. I haven't been kept awake in the small hours by parties or fighting.

The club has blighted our family life, and that of other residents, for years. I have had to bring up children and try to get them to sleep whilst loud music and fights in the car park go on at the club. We have had to close our windows during the hottest times, simply to try and lessen the noise from these inconsiderate neighbours.

Last Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the club had their back door open all day. It was noisy, with people sitting on benches and loud music coming from inside. I did email to advise you of this and was told that the club would be reminded of their terms. The very next morning, the notice for the new application appeared in their window. To me, this shows a complete lack of consideration for the rules imposed or the reasons they were put in place and does not suggest that the club will consider their neighbours in the future.

It took years of complaining to achieve the results that we did and they have all been welcomed by those affected with gratitude that the council finally listened. Please do not undo all of the hard work by allowing this business to blight our lives again.

With kind regards and hope for a considerate outcome,

Helen Grogan

**Katie Shipman**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 23 May 2021 11:58  
**To:** Licensing Services  
**Subject:** Public notice 21/00374/CLUB Aylesford social club - objection  
**Categories:** Katie

Good morning,

I would like to express my unconditional objection to the changes proposed in this application.

In Sep 2019 myself and other residents had to take the club to a lisencing review due to the amount of noise and music coming from the club.

To allow them to drink outside or have their windows open would increase the noise to local residents who live nearby. We we're told new air conditioning was installed so no windows would need to be open. I understand with covid that they may want to open windows but due to their previous behaviour they should just have fewer patrons inside.

Also, there is not much room for people to pass on the pavement as it is, and if patrons are blocking the path members of the public can't get by.

I personally live at the back of the club and do NOT want to see an extension to the property wherdby the already noisy patrons will congregate.

Just last night a patron decided to play their music from their car so loud the neighbourhood could hear.

I know they've changed management but the noise and smoking next to the property continues even now.

If this approved and their behaviour is noisy and rude to residents I will have no choice but to complain everytime this occurs to yourselves. With the sad potential of another licensing review in the future.

Kind regards,

Sara Green  
Powell Close  
Aylesford

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24/5/2021

Rochester Rd  
Aylesford  
Kent

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you regarding the application for changes to licensing at Aylesford Village Club. I had serious issues with the club back in 2019 before the pandemic, when certain restrictions were put in place and the club was closed for a month.

I am now very concerned to see that they want to allow off sales from 9.00 to midnight every day. I feel that this is truly excessive and detrimental to the village. We have 3 drinking establishments within this part of the village and I find it hard to believe it warrants the necessity to sell alcohol all day, every day. We have had many issues with customers drinking excessively

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and causing problems before - as a very close neighbour this concerns me greatly. If the intention is that people will drive to the club to buy alcohol, there is also an issue with parking within the village. Cars frequently park on the double yellow lines outside the club rather than using the car park at the rear.

Also, the club was required to keep doors and windows closed to prevent noise and disturbance to local residents and cannot see any reason for this to be changed. The problems of loud music and excessive noise can not be addressed any other way that I can see.

I would also like to express my concern that the side door of the club, which I understood to be a fire exit, is regularly opened and used by people coming outside to

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smoke and chat. It is my understanding that a fire door should remain closed unless there is an emergency.

There are families with young children and many older residents living within close proximity of the club. I do not believe that the suggested changes are in keeping with the village. The local people who use the club for socialising and a quiet drink are not the ones causing problems, but when there are functions and the facility to buy alcohol so freely I can foresee some real problems occurring. I myself suffer from severe depression and anxiety and this is only exacerbating my problems.

I hope that the licensing department will look very carefully at the record of all the previous problems with

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the club. When I first moved to Aylesford many years ago we did not have all these problems - the club was used by families, including my own, and was a pleasant place to spend a couple of hours. Unfortunately this does not seem to be the case now.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Linda Cook



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**Katie Shipman**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 04 June 2021 13:20  
**To:** Licensing Services  
**Subject:** Village Club 57 Rochester Road Aylesford Kent ME20 7BS  
**Categories:** Katie

I am writing concerning the new proposals put forward by the village club. Due to lockdown there have been no recent grievances but prior to the complaint in November 2019 I was living with constant noise coming from the club especially in the early hours after the club closed. There was drunken behavior resulting in loud swearing and fighting. The noise was unbearable. With reference to the new proposals I fear that the problems will return. The new management should be given a trial period to prove that the club can be run in a proper manner before the new proposals are accepted. Doors and windows being open will create more unbearable noise if it is not properly controlled. I know that they keep the fire door in use which I am sure is not acceptable, it should be kept closed. The off sales until midnight could cause more cars (parking is a problem and they do not use the club car park) and more unreasonable noise. I have lived near the club for 37 years and never had a problem before 2019 and I do not want to experience that awful noise and unruly behaviour again. Thanking you Denise Hamilton ( Rochester Road)



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**Katie Shipman**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 11 June 2021 10:36  
**To:** Licensing Services  
**Cc:** Anthony Garnett  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed changes to Aylesford Village Club's Licence agreement - 57 Rochester Road. 21/00374/CLUB

**Categories:** Katie

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 09 June 2021 22:35  
**To:** 'licencing.services@tmbs.gov.uk' <licencing.services@tmbs.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** '  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to Aylesford Village Club's Licence agreement - 57 Rochester Road. 21/00374/CLUB

For the attention of Mr. Anthony Garnett and Ms. Katy Shipman

I am writing to inform you that I strongly object to the proposed changes outlined in the Club's application to make changes to their licence.

I cannot understand how they can do this as they haven't been able to prove to the local residents and licencing authority that the club has improved from when we went to panel in 2019 (for the club to have its club premises certificate reviewed), as we have been more or less locked down all that time since.

From the review in 2019 they were told to keep the side door shut at all times ( a fire door) and customers should use the front door only so they can sign/swipe in. This is not happening – customers are regularly going in and out of the side door. The door is constantly being opened and shut and left open for sometimes all day. It is constantly banging noisily. This is causing me much distress but more than that – people are smoking in the doorway ( and just outside which actually is blocking the exit which should be kept clear of any obstructions. They have a designated smoking area at the rear of the property.

The smoke goes into my garden and into the house via my back door and kitchen window which I have to keep closed. I can't sit in the garden very often as the smoking affects my health. Sometimes there are several people smoking at once and generally being loud and sometimes using offensive language. There is no respect shown to me as their close neighbour. The Manageress has been approached by me and my daughter on several occasions about these issues but have been met with nonchalance and shrugging of shoulders. In fact, the Manageress has been seen to be smoking outside this door which is not a good example to her patrons.

We already have three pubs in the village and do not need the Club to be open for even longer hours. Who on earth needs to drink alcohol at 9 in the morning? When customers leave the club at night especially if it is allowed to remain open until much later will result in even more anti-social behaviour. Nearby residents have had to put up with a lot in previous years from the Club. From past experiences, the customers can come out very noisily whilst getting into cars/taxis very late at night.

If they are allowed to have windows and doors open then it will be even more noisy. Bearing in mind they have been opening the side door all the time when not supposed to shows they haven't adhered to some of the stipulations in

their licence. Also it was discovered that at the hearing in 2019 that they weren't allowed to take drinks outside which they had been doing for many years previously to 2019.

It doesn't make sense to now allow them to do this especially as I said previously, the Club hasn't had a chance to prove it can be run in a quiet neighbourly way when fully functioning.

The Club was originally a working men's/village club for the villagers to use (snooker/darts/quizzes) for the villagers to use but now there are a lot of people coming from further afield and they show less respect for the neighbours.

My quality of life has been severely compromised by the Club over the years. When I first moved in about 25 years ago it was a very quiet club for the sole use of villagers in Aylesford.


I am extremely worried that allowing these amendments to the Club's licence to go ahead will further be to the detriment of my health and well being and to all other neighbours affected by the Club. A lot of the neighbours are elderly. All I want is to be able to sit in my garden without any stress – surely everyone is entitled to that.

I am just asking that they do not smoke outside my house and stop using the side door altogether as they should have been doing. I have not caused any trouble to the club over the years.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email. Thank you.

Kind regards

Mrs. J. Tyrrell

 Rochester Road  
Aylesford.

Please be aware that my daughter, Mrs J. Jacobs will be acting on my behalf sometimes.

## Katie Shipman

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 17 June 2021 19:08  
**To:** Licensing Services  
**Subject:** RE: Aylesford Village Club

**Categories:** Katie

Yes you can use them but I would like the faces to be obscured as I don't want to make this personal. The photos were taken on Sunday, 13th June at 15:54, 15:57, 16:01, 17:07, 17:12. I did take a photo yesterday (16/6/22 at 17:17) which showed the door left open. However, the door has been open a lot of the time.

Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Licensing Services <Licensing.Services@tmbc.gov.uk>  
Sent: 16 June 2021 14:37  
To:  
Subject: RE: Aylesford Village Club

Good Afternoon Jayne

Many thanks for these, it is better for me to have them prior to the hearing so they can be included as part of the report.

Can you just confirm you are happy for me to include them? I would have to say who they have come from and it is likely I will blur out the faces of those pictured.

Many thanks  
Katie

-----Original Message-----

From:  
Sent: 15 June 2021 20:49  
To: Licensing Services <Licensing.Services@tmbc.gov.uk>  
Subject: FW: Aylesford Village Club

-----Original Message-----

From:  
Sent: 15 June 2021 20:42  
To: 'licencing.services@tmbc.gov.uk' <licencing.services@tmbc.gov.uk>  
Subject: FW: Aylesford Village Club

Dear Katy

I wasn't sure whether I should send you some photos as evidence or print them off and bring them to review. These photos show how close the people are smoking near my mother's garden. They are also blocking the fire door. The door has been left open on occasion, all day. The photos clearly showing the door being left open were taken over an hour apart and were open all that time and most of the day. Obviously, these photos show people's faces so we may not be able to use

them. One of the ladies outside is the Club's Manageress. Please let me know what you think.

Kind regards

Jayne Jacobs on behalf of Joan Tyrrell

-----Original Message-----

From:  
Sent: 13 June 2021 17:16  
To:  
Subject:

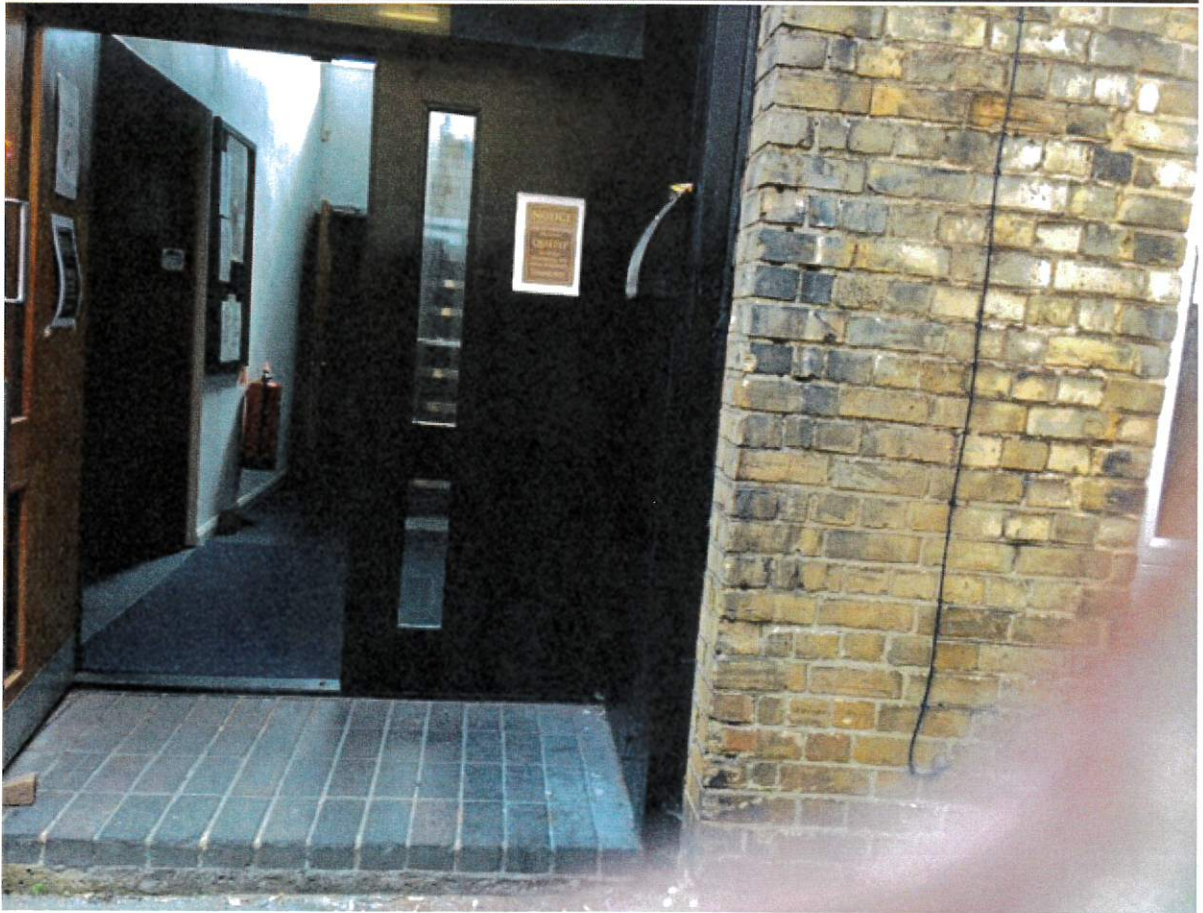
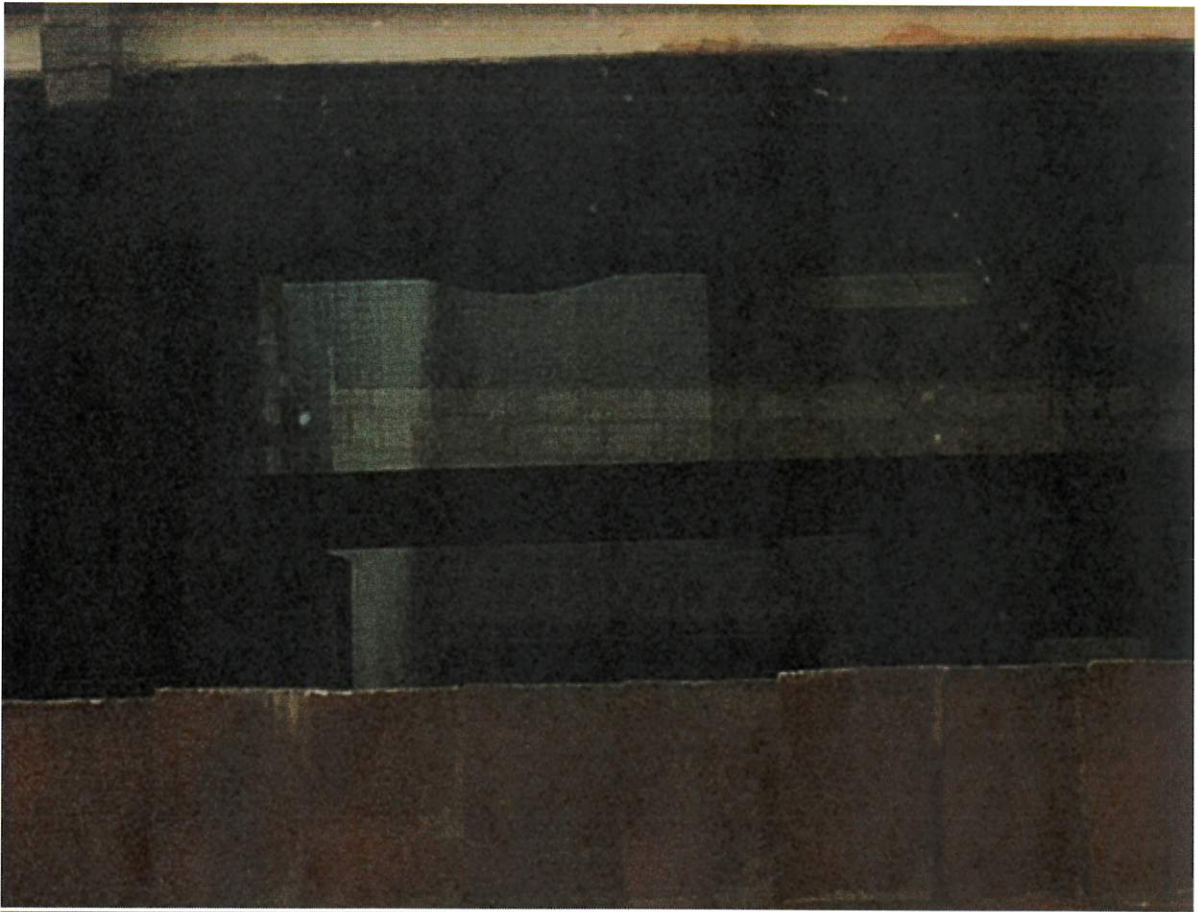
Have you tried contacting us at [www.tmbc.gov.uk/do-it-online](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/do-it-online) ?

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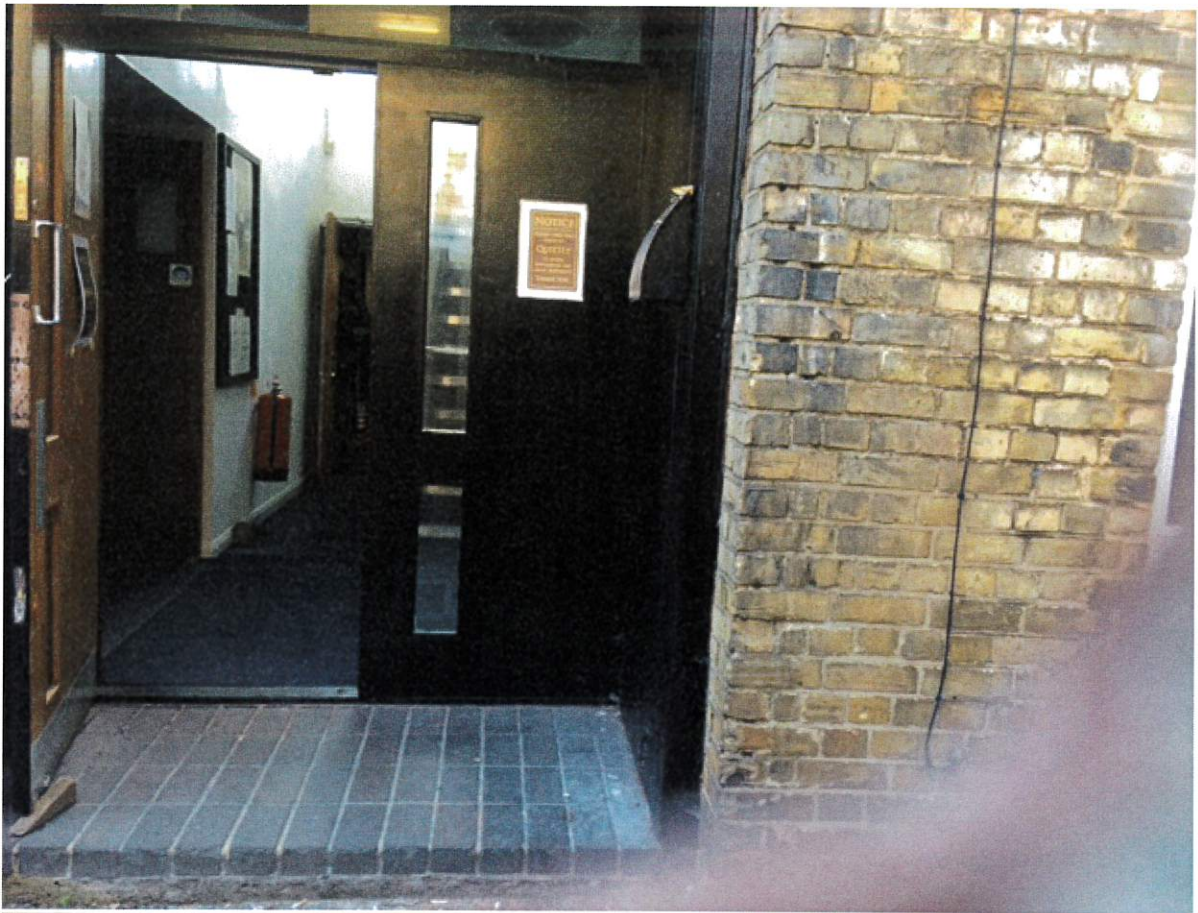
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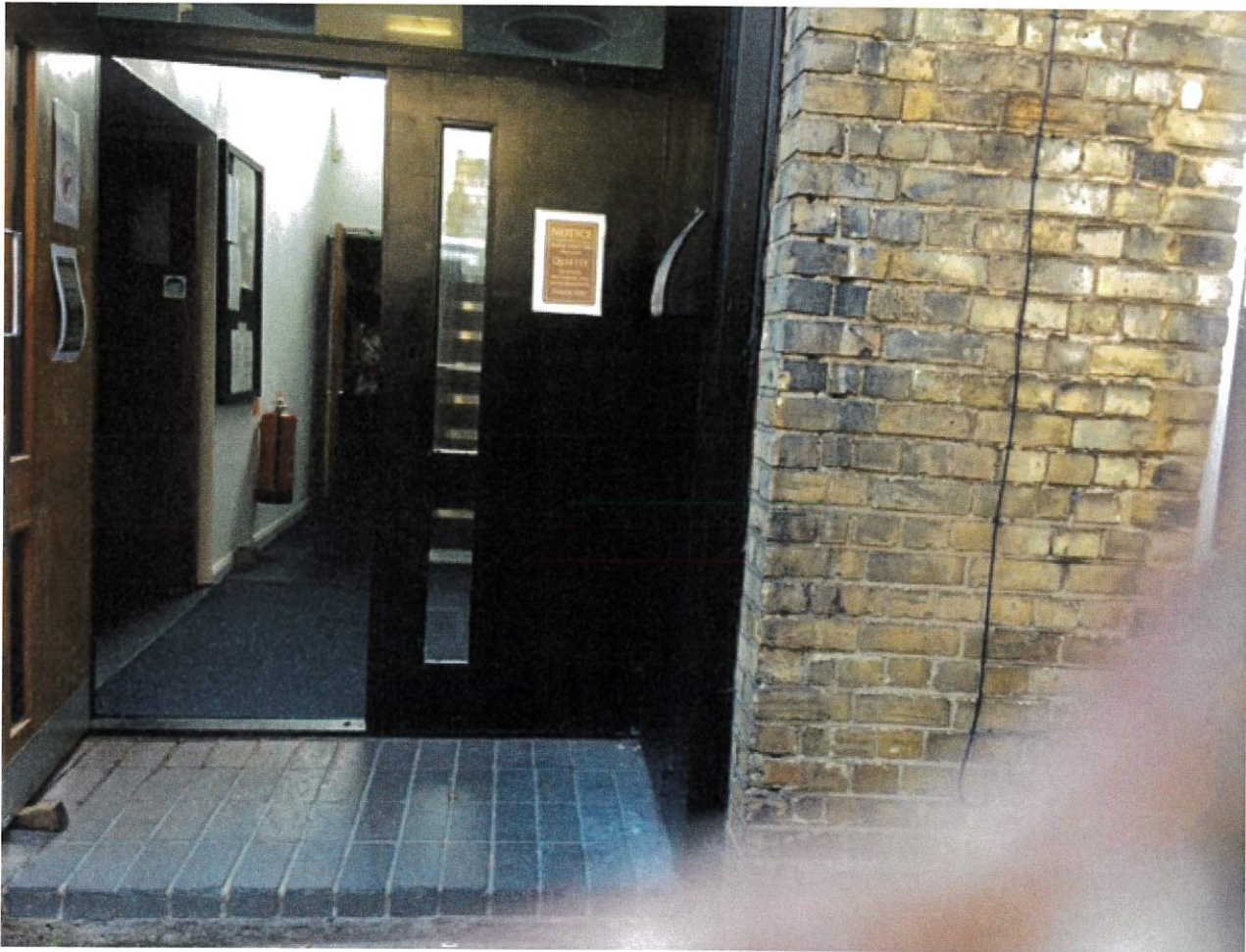
## Katie Shipman

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 17 June 2021 19:10  
**To:** Licensing Services  
**Subject:** Aylesford club

**Categories:** Katie

Photo taken yesterday of door open.



Sent from my iPhone