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From: Collette Walsh

Sent: 09 September 2022 09:20

To: SCH Licensing <SCHLicensing@carmarthenshire.gov.uk>

Subject: The Blue Bell, Llandovery

To whom it may concern.

My name is Collette Walsh. I own the Blue Bell, Llandovery, and have done since 2007.

My partner and I run the pub together for many years but left in 2015 due to his ill health.

From then, we leased the Blue Bell out.

In July 2020 our tenants left without notice, leaving behind thousands of pounds worth of damage. We spent all of August 2020 redecorating, putting new flooring, windows, doors etc into the property.

I was approached by Anna Reed, who at the time was the manager of The Castle Hotel, Llandovery. She expressed her interest with leasing the Blue Bell from us.

I was informed by a few locals that Anna would be a brilliant tenant and run the business accordingly. I didn't have any concerns and my partner and I both agreed to a lease with Miss Reed, beginning September 2020.

To begin with, Miss Reed seemed like the perfect tenant and put a lot of effort into the business.

Then came the issues. On many occasions I was stopped in the street, supermarket etc with concerned locals explaining how the Blue Bell was constantly filled with underage drinkers, drugs (customers, bar staff and Miss Reed herself), how they would have lock ins until sunrise, noise complaints, fighting etc.

To begin with I thought it may have just been local gossip. But as time went on I realised that these allegations were true.

I contacted licensing in November 2021 to raise my concerns. I contacted licensing again in February 2022 to raise these concerns again as I was worried about the detrimental effect this could have on my property and the community.

I was made aware that the police had been called to The Blue Bell on many occasions due to these allegations made against Miss Reed.

As things progressed, these issues just got worse by the week. I gave Miss Reed notice to leave The Blue Bell as she was in breach of the contract. Since then, she has refused to leave and we have had, and are still having a solicitor battle on this matter. To which she is now ignoring any contact made via my solicitor, or myself.

Miss Reed has not paid her rent for this month and I have since heard that Miss Reed is planning on vacating the property after Llandovery Sheep Festival, on the weekend of 17th & 18th September 2022. Obviously this will be done without any notice given, as Miss Reed will not communicate with me in any way.

I would like to have the premises licence back into my name as this cannot continue. I refuse to let one woman cause so much destruction and distress to such a small community.

Many Thanks. Collette Walsh.