



**Doncaster
Council**

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Contact: Stephanie Douglas
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Date: 06 July 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: WK/218006369

I have been asked for my professional opinion regarding an application for a License to Sell Alcohol made for the venue known as 'The Barn, Loversall Farm'. The venue is based next to Loversall Farm Day Nursery, and it is for this reason that I have been asked to respond to the application.

I understand that this amendment would include the following change:

- The sale of alcohol between 09.00- 22.00 daily
- Increased opening hours, 09.00 – 22.00 daily

As Head of Service for Early Years for Doncaster Council, I have visited the nursery on a regular basis to offer advice and support and know the layout of the setting well. This response also relies upon my knowledge of the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance, the Safeguarding and Welfare requirements and also on my experience as an Ofsted inspector.

I am already aware that the Nursery has had to make a significant number of costly adjustments to both its premises and routines which support the young children it caters for, in order to meet the challenges of the previous application for the venue to open in its current form.

In terms of the additional amendments to the planning application (WK/218006369), and in particular to the proposal that the venue would become licensed, I would have a number of significant concerns.

The EYFS 2018 Statutory documentation (3.1 to 3.2) clearly identifies a settings responsibility for safeguarding children, taking all necessary steps to ensure a child's safety and to ensure all adults who come into contact with children are suitable, and whilst

I understand that the people in the courtyard will not have direct contact, I feel it is a concern that the children will potentially observe; people smoking, drinking alcohol, hear people swearing, be witnesses to inappropriate behaviour and in addition there is the significant risk that people will be using mobile phones, cameras and other forms of image taking. It is possible that children could be photographed with no regulation of the use of the images.


In my view, the request to allow members of the public to access a venue, where children are present either directly or indirectly puts not only the children but also the staff in a vulnerable position. The addition of increased opening hours and opportunities to sell alcohol further adds to this risk. I would have a concern that there is potential for a negative impact upon the settings ability to ensure that 'Children are protected from Harm' and it is for this reason I would support an objection to the changes.

The changes would also further impact upon the Nursery's ability to deliver its core purpose in providing high quality childcare. For example, the setting would be unable to open the full length windows within the 3-5 year room which would implicate limitations for fresh air and further to this they would be unable to practice 'free flow' outdoor access to the sensory garden, resulting in limitations for children's outdoor learning opportunities.

These concerns would be in addition to my original concerns regarding the appropriateness of having a licensed venue operating in close proximity to a daycare provision for very young children. The ethos of any nursery must include keeping children safe and in this case, to provide an outstanding quality of care in an exceptional, peaceful village environment. I would state that the setting's ability to keep children safe and to continue to maintain this ethos is going to be significantly jeopardised if the planning application be accepted.

I hope these comments are useful to you.

Yours faithfully



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