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email: [REDACTED]

Susana Figueiredo  
Brent Licencing Division  
Brent Civic Centre  
Wembley  
HA9 0FJ

15<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Susana

Your Ref: Case 3895896 McGowans 88 Walm Lane

I am writing to ask that you review the licence of the McGowans pub, yet again, with a view to rescinding the licence indefinitely and closure thereof.

Since end September, several emails have circulated between various authorities in Brent, concerning the anti-social behaviour emanating from this pub and its patrons: Jacky Peacock of Advice4renters, on my behalf, Cllr Bernard Collier, Nick Mortimer of Licencing police, Yoghini Patel of Regulatory Services and yourself. I have also sought support from our local MP. In addition, I believe that Nick Mortimer has spoken directly with the licensee. All parties are aware that there is a "problem" connected to this pub, but it continues to operate.

As a consequence there has been reduced nuisance from the pub for the last few weekends, which has been welcomed by myself, my partner, Mr. Kemp and residents in the immediate vicinity.

However, reduced is not the same as eliminated. There continue to be incidents, albeit of a less significant nature, nonetheless contaminating the area in every sense. We have experienced similar periods of "calm" before the inevitable "storm" (the Christmas party season!)

We have attended licensing hearings, lobbied individuals, written letters, logged incidents with the police, had our home invaded by noise patrol teams, collected evidence on our CCTV camera (until forcibly removed by our landlord), created petitions, to what purpose? To emphasise a "problem" which we have had to endure FOR TWENTY YEARS.

John McGowan seems to evade conjecture by regularly sacking and replacing his licensees. But this establishment has a history, as do all McGowans' pubs, and taming it will not suffice.

Since the day in 1996, when he took over the main road by bulldozing through the front of the property, we realised that he had no consideration for the area, and also that he must have paid Brent Council a large sum to enable him to employ such practices. We have always maintained that these premises are inappropriately sited: being on a narrow stretch of a very public footpath, inhibiting people going to and from the tube and Sainsburys local; inadequate provision for deliveries; inadequate provision for smokers; playing of loud music in a congested residential area; rowdy, if not dangerous behaviour from their customers. I am understating the issues.

I have witnessed drunks in the doorway, so that I had to call paramedics, drunks on the pavement being dragged by others away from the road after a fight, drunks lying in the middle of the road, being avoided by motorists!

I have witnessed football and rugby supporters spill out of the tube and fall into McGowans, the nearest pub, causing havoc.

I cannot stress too strongly the breadth of experience that we have borne with this pub, and that of those who have supported our petition, who feel impotent individually.

What do we have to do to cause Brent Council and Willesden Green Management Committee, to face the obvious violation of this important and resurgent community?  
Why is it that we have to address each abuse on an individual basis, when stacked up they present a profile of violence, crime and intolerable behaviour?  
What impression manifests itself in the minds of the elderly, young children, overseas visitors, our muslim community, investors, anybody using the tube and busy bus route opposite this pub, shoppers with prams or trolleys, and drivers who have to avoid staggering drunks.

This is not a NIMBY mentality, it is a plea to restore normality, adapt, adopt and improve. We do not need this pub. We do not want this pub. There are other pubs within 100 metres of McGowans who operate in a civilised manner, offer far better facilities and would not tolerate such behaviour. What better way to promote Willesden Green than to replace this pub with a community hub or some bright new enterprise showcasing the attributes in this area.

We on Walm Lane have had enough. Whatever means are taken to rein in this pub are inadequate and will not satisfy. I have spent considerable time writing this letter in the hope that my detailed explanation will impress upon you the absolute need to remove this blot on the landscape. The future is in your hands.

Yours sincerely



JULIA SMEARDON

P.S. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November: 3 people in pub; 1 barmaid; 2 security personnel; no band!  
This proves that without the music venue, this pub would not attract the undesirables, would not generate excessive noise, or drunkenness, would not exacerbate fights, would not encourage street-fouling.  
This pub serves no purpose except to attract outside inflammatory influences.