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## Apethorpe Village Meeting

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**Chairman:** Robert Taylor  
**Treasurer:** Peter Kerruish  
**Clerk:** Jo Williams

**Date:** 02/08/2021

**To:** Victoria Hammond Admin: ENC Licensing Unit.

### **Bluefield's Barn - Premises Licence.**

The planning application for the conversion of Bluefield's agricultural barns to a wedding venue was controversial and the subject of objections from local residents and the parish of Apethorpe. East Northamptonshire Planning declined the application but after appeal, it was subsequently approved by the Government Planning Inspectorate.

The applicant has applied for licensing hours from 10:00 – 00:00 for the sale of alcohol, Monday to Sunday with extensions for New Year's Eve. We note that the 10:00 – 00:00 'opening' hours also apply to the provision of late-night refreshments and the performance of dance and the playing of music.

Basically, this means that those attending the wedding ceremony will have access to alcohol from 10:00 am onwards and will be able to purchase alcohol and bottles of wine etc up to 00:00. In effect, this will extend drinking time way into the early hours.

Although the barns are situated in a rural location, there is no noise dampening and sound will travel especially when windows and doors are opened and guests wander about outside. A local farmer has complained that a private event held there substantially disturbed his livestock and horses. Sound will also 'travel' to Apethorpe village.

Bluefield's business model is aimed at attracting up-market clients, and its carpark has the capacity for over 100 vehicles plus coaches. Many of the weddings could attract in excess of 100 vehicles. Further, the venue can only be accessed via narrow (unlit) country lanes and all traffic must pass either through Nassington or Woodnewton, or Kings Cliffe and Apethorpe. All this additional traffic, to and from the venue, will result in 'gluts' of vehicles travelling through local villages and in the early hours of the morning it will certainly create a disturbance. We would like the following points to be taken into consideration:

We accept that Bluefield's has a business to run but request that the sale of alcohol should be between the hours of 11:00 – 23:00 and the same for music and dancing and the serving of food. Our request is made on the grounds of Public Safety (traffic) and the prevention of public nuisance (noise and traffic).

In addition, this venue could be in operation 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year. While this is unlikely, it does seem reasonable to ask for licensing to be granted for a limited number of events per year. Perhaps in the region of 50 – 60.

Finally, we would like to be kept informed of the name and contact details of the Premises Licence holder or designated supervisor.

Please call me if you wish to discuss or clarify this matter further.

Jo Williams

Clerk: Apethorpe Village Meeting. Tel [REDACTED]