

Dear Neighbours

We understand any concerns you may have, arising from the brief premises licence outline provided by the council, which you have seen in our window or heard about.

In brief, our courses will mainly run from 9.00am to 4.30pm with the occasional evening course finishing at 9.30pm. There will usually be around 10 guests at a time, sometimes less and sometimes up to 16, so no rowdy hoards pouring onto the pavement just as you're trying to enjoy a peaceful evening at home!

We will be offering our premises to local businesses for occasional business breakfasts, which usually start at 7.30 but will not include any music. The reasoning behind the request for films is that sometimes a presentation would include a video.

We have the good fortune to have found this fantastic building in such an amazing location. We know that companies and organisations in and around Exeter would love to use it as a venue for awards ceremonies or charity auctions. In these cases we would expect to finish at around 11.00pm but we have requested leeway in this timing so that our guests don't feel unwelcome on the dot of 11.00 o'clock. If there is recorded music we will keep it at a minimum - we ourselves hate loud music and understand how much of a nuisance it is.

Some charities host fashion shows and in these instances there can be an element of dance or brief live music as an accompaniment to the models on the catwalk. Again, we will keep this to a minimum.

All of the guests attending our courses and events will be pre-booked, so we will be in control of the numbers of people at all times. As we mentioned before, we will operate a "Challenge 25" policy with regard to serving alcohol. This is because many children under 18 look so much older. By requesting proof of age if we suspect they are under 25 we will ensure that alcohol is not served to under 18s.

With the benefit of hindsight, it is possible that we were erring too far on the side of caution when we requested permission for film, dance and live music. These might be included very occasionally but will be far from the norm. Also, we requested permission for the maximum hours which we thought we might need to open, but they don't reflect the reality - which is simply to provide friendly, happy cookery courses for all, in beautiful surroundings.

We hope that, after this chat, you will feel more at ease with having us as your neighbours and that if anyone who has been unable to come along this evening still has qualms, you will feel able to assure them that we have the best intentions of providing Exeter with a valuable new facility.

Our best regards

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