

(please write your name & address)

Bedford Borough Council  
Planning Department  
Room A121,  
Town Hall  
Bedford  
MK40 1SJ

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: 1-/00541/FUL. Five Bells Public House, Riseley

I would like to again object to the above planning application on the following grounds:

- The loss of an important village amenity that was home to the village skittles, pool, darts, football and cricket teams. Since its closure we have lost some and others are under threat.
- The closest locations offering these type of amenities that the village needs are a minimum of three miles away. With no bus or feasible taxi service, an increase in drink driving is a real concern.
- To help build and sustain our community we want to encourage people to stay and spend within Riseley as much as possible.
- The Five Bells closed due to lack of brewery investment, a greedy management company and a succession of poor tenant landlords.
- Refurbished and re- opened as a free house, the Five Bells is a viable business that can offer other amenities the village lacks.
- The Fox & Hounds is predominantly a restaurant. It does not have the opening hours or provide all of the facilities or services associated with a traditional pub (darts, pool table, skittles tables, etc.).
- There is a lack of amenities in the village, especially for young adults.
- The current credit crunch will not last forever, but the loss of the Five Bells will and realising their importance the government has recently launched a scheme to help villages and communities to save and re-open local pubs.
- Riseley is a growing village with young families and affordable housing that needs a traditional village pub for entertainment and social interaction.
- Permanent loss of the Five Bells will further erode rural and community life in the county.

Yours faithfully,

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