

Cabinet – 24 January 2023

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

1) Mr J

I would like to make the committee aware of ongoing issues that several residents have with a business in Great Baddow. Essex Stays, opened for business early summer last and soon after problems started to arise with noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

At the planning stage, concerns were expressed about how this business would operate. All the accompanying documentation revealed nothing of what their intentions were, other than it was to be run as a short-term holiday let. Concerns were raised with the council and with Essex Stays themselves about possible noise nuisance and anti-social activities. They told us that there would be no such problems.

Once opened, it soon became clear that this property had been developed as a 'go to party venue' mainly for stag and hen do's.

Most disturbing is that no one from Essex Stays is present on the property during guest's stays. Although the venue is unlicensed, guest or effectively 'party goers' can bring in alcohol and drink 24/7 if they wish. They have access to loud amplified music. The Summer was particularly bad as guest could spill out from the property into the garden where their activities were more intrusive to those houses that are in close proximity of their garden.

It is this combination of loud music, raucous, sometimes drunken and anti-social behaviour since last summer that we have had to endure. After several calls to Essex Stays by several nearby residents, the owners did very little to curtail the excesses of their guests. Indeed, after several weeks of complaining to them, they started to cut off communications with one or two of us.

We turned to the council for help. Reports of periods of noise nuisance were reported to them and logs were compiled. Although the past few autumn and winter months have seen a reduction in the amount of noise coming from the venue's garden, we still experienced periods of noise nuisance and have called the out-of-hours noise complaint line.

We normally allow up to about 40 mins to an hour to see if the noise is temporary or subsides or that somebody can contact Essex Stays to intervene. After that we report the problem but it can be a while for a field officer to attend. On the couple of occasions, they have eventually got to the property, the noise has subsided or they have gone back into the property and we have been told that the incident needs to be witnessed by the attending officer.

If that is the case what is the point of sending in logs and reports from the residents. We are hoping that the council can be a little more pro-active now as I strongly suspect that if this goes on unchecked, once the summer arrives, the council will be inundated with complaints.