

White lion Hotel
11 Market place
Clitheroe
Lancashire
BB7 2BZ

Dear Sir or Madame

I'm writing this letter as I've been made aware that our town C.C.T.V may be in jeopardy, which I must say angers me, as this system protects members of the public and is an invaluable service towards ourselves as publicans and the police as we work together to make Clitheroe town centre a safe place to be.

After five years of owning the White Lion Public house, like any other town centre pub, you have your amount of trouble, which unfortunately is reality, however, how as a licensee we deal with that trouble is what's really important. Our policy has always been to run a pleasant fun loving pub with safety to the public and staff as our first priority, the town C.C.T.V is paramount to the safety of our customers, the general public entering the town centre and the stamping out of anti social behaviour on our streets. I must at this stage mention the town radio system, basically instead of ringing the police which goes through to Lancashire police, who then despatch your problem to Clitheroe police, which can take up to twenty minutes sometimes to reach you, can be frustrating and time consuming, however we can use our radio which goes straight through to Clitheroe C.C.T.V, which goes straight through to Clitheroe police and usually the police are here within minutes. Why is this this good for Clitheroe? Why should this be funded out of public money? Here are some examples...

. Drinking on the streets in the town center is illegal, anybody with a glass or can or anything else they have got their hands on will be caught on camera and radioed through to the police where this alcohol can be destroyed or face an on the spot penalty of eighty pounds, drinking on the streets is unregulated which can lead to acts of violence and all sorts of anti social behaviour and our town is right to use and police this law.

. Property, vandalism of the town centre, shops and cars, times are hard enough for our retailers without having their windows smashed and unfortunately if they are, with town C.C.T.V they can be identified, prosecuted and usually the defendant will be ordered to pay for the damage, I've had first hand experience of this with damage to my property and theft, without town centre C.C.T.V I would have received

nothing and the defendant would never have been caught, leaving me with massive bills in damage to my property.

. Anti Social behaviour, the three words that the government love to use, that we all as members of the public experience day in and day out, anti social behaviour can be anything from urinating in public to assault, our town C.C.T.V is invaluable in the town centre for stopping petty crimes to assaulting members of the public, the C.C.T.V have radioed me to let me know that people outside my pub are causing a disturbance, they may or may not have been in the pub, but at least that gives me the knowledge that I need, to act by informing the police or telling people to keep the noise down and respect the people that live in the town centre.

Between ourselves, the police and Clitheroe's C.C.T.V, we have managed to catch drug dealers, criminals carrying out scams, thugs that have assaulted members of the public, stamping out underage drinking, vandalism, noise pollution and on a lesser scale but I think is extremely important, people urinating and exposing themselves in public, just a laugh to the drunken lad and his mates, put it on face book or U Tube, but not a laugh if your walking through town from the cinema or the grand with your children or elderly mother.

I'm writing this as a publican, I'm sure Clitheroe retailers will have first hand experience of why we should keep Clitheroe's C.C.T.V and radio system from their point of view, which is equally important to the retail side of Clitheroe, I know Clitheroe police and the victims of crime that have relied on the C.C.T.V will also support the funding of this scheme.

What better way to spend public money, by keeping the public safe, assisting the police and letting the thugs, criminals and people committing anti social behaviour know that we mean business, the rest of the country might be a haven for criminal activity but Clitheroe town centre is not. There are so many great places to eat and drink in Clitheroe, Clitheroe is known for a good night out, that is why so many come from out of town because Clitheroe has great restaurants, wine bars and of course your local friendly pub, this reputation will change without our valued C.C.T.V. On a personal level for my husband and myself, our job will be so much harder without our eyes on the street for us, our lifeline when trouble erupts and unfortunately the streets of Clitheroe will become the un safest that they have been for years.

I will fight tooth and nail to make sure that Clitheroe's C.C.T.V and radio system gets the funding it needs to help keep the public safe. Unfortunately licensed premises are a haven for criminal activity, FACT! That's why the publican should always work with the police to stamp out this behaviour, where does it go then?? Onto the public street, who then

monitors the criminal activity....Clitheroe's C.C.T.V, who then call the police? Please don't take away our life line, our voice at the end of the radio reassuring us that help will be on it's way soon, our eye's outside on the street looking after our customers, member's of the public and neighbours. Ribble Valley Bough Council insist that in certain areas of my pub I have C.C.T.V, my premises has twelve camera's in and around the premises because I know how important it is to protect the public and C.C.T.V is the biggest deterrent from committing crime that there is. I'm proud to call myself a publican and hope I run a place where people feel safe, we could not do our job without the support of the police, town C.C.T.V and radio and Clitheroe and Whalley pub watch scheme, there's something about Clitheroe that I have always loved and it's the community spirit we have, the way we look after each other, we come together to raise money for good causes, people feel safe walking the streets, we are blessed these days to live in a community like ours, we are now finding ourselves in the minority by living in a pleasant and low crime area, we are lucky that these people that commit anti social behaviour and criminal activity in our town are in the minority, but I fear without our C.C.T.V system in |Clitheroe, THEY will have the upper hand!

Yours truly,
Claire Crossly - Ellis