

Leeds City Council - Licensing & Registration
Application for the grant of a personal licence - App No: PERL/06556/12
Applicant: Sam Donnelly - D.O.B 25/02/1989

STATEMENT
IN
SUPPORT

My name is Rebecca Collings, D.O.B 18/01/1980. I am the partner of the applicant, Mr Sam Donnelly. I live at The Swillington Pub, 40 Wakefield Road, Swillington, Leeds, LS26 8DJ together with Sam and also my two children from a previous relationship. I am six months pregnant and Sam and I hope to settle at the pub with our family and make a success of the business.

I am currently employed full time as a solicitor. I qualified and was admitted to the role on 15th December 2009. I encouraged Sam to apply for the lease of The Swillington because he lost his job and I could see that as the months passed by he was getting more and more depressed. We heard that the pub was available and I was convinced that it would be the perfect opportunity for Sam given his personality and the way he is with people I just knew he would do well and I had, and continue to have every faith in him.

Me and my children have made alot of sacrifices to try and make this work. We have moved out of our comfortable home to move into the flat above the pub which was in a complete state of disrepair. Sam and I have worked extremely hard to make the flat habitable. We are completely devoted to making this work. We want the pub to be not only a nice, comfortable and safe environment for our children to live but also a nice, friendly place where people can come to socialise and enjoy themselves.

It has not been easy for us to build the business up and it continues to be a challenge. The pub is in desperate need of refurbishment and repair which obviously affects trade but we are doing our very best in all the circumstances.

On the night of the test purchase operation I was upstairs in the living accomodation, Sam came upstairs to tell me what had happened and he was devastated. He fully accepted he had done wrong and knew that he would have to face the consequences. I was the person who told him that he wasnt yet the DPS (it was me who had sent his licence application) and he immediately rang the police to tell them but they said it was too late to change anything. I know that Sam never intended to deceive anybody it was a simple misunderstanding.

I have seen the effect this has had on Sam, he has been so worried to the point where he has felt ill and I can sympathise with him because it has had the very same impact upon me. Sam knows he has made a mistake but he is more than willing to do whatever it takes to put things right and I will be with him every step of the way to support him.

In relation to the party there is not much I can say because I was upstairs with the children most of the evening but I did go downstairs sometime before 12.30 to see if everything had gone well. The pub was empty and all of the bar staff said the night had gone well. Sam was tidying up he told me that everyone had left and that there had been no issues. I sat downstairs for about an hour talking to Sam and the staff and I specifically recall somebody looking out of the front window and saying that everyone had gone.

Sam and I have discussed the future of the pub in great detail and tried to think of things we can do to ensure that the pub runs as smoothly as possible and to ensure that the protection of children and the good of the community are our paramount concern. I know that Sam has taken a number of steps to try and address any problems.

Sam and I are more than willing to work with the police, the council or any other authority to make the pub work and to address any concerns that the police may have. We have been tenants in the pub and responsible for it for the past seven months and we would welcome the opportunity to continue to do so. I fully support Sam, I trust him and I know that he can make this work. I am prepared to help as much as I can if he is given the chance. I really don't know what we will do if Sam is refused his licence, we have given up so much so that he can pursue this career.

I would like to thank the panel for taking the time to read this.