## Statement of Ziaul Islam Chowdhury Dated: 2018

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION TO TRANSFER A PREMISES LICENCE AND A REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE

#### **LICENSING ACT 2003**

RE: QUEEN VICTORIA (ALSO T/A JALSA GHAR), 79 STORTFORD ROAD GREAT DUNMOW

# WITNESS STATEMENT OF ZIAUL ISLAM CHOWDHURY

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I, ZIAUL ISLAM CHOWDHURY, of

as follows:

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. This witness statement covers matters concerning:
- an application to transfer the Premises Licence for the Queen Victoria Public House, also trading as the Jalsa Ghar, 79 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow ('the Property'); and
- 1.2 an application for a review of the Premises Licence for the Property.
- 2. I wish to take each issue in turn but first wish to provide some background.
- I make this witness statement from the facts and matters within my own knowledge
- 4. Now produced to me marked ZIC1 is a bundle of documents upon which I wish to refer/rely; page numbers referred to in this statement are the page numbers of ZIC1.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The freehold to the Property is owned by a our landlord. (see pages 1-2). He is

- On the Property is a Pub and Indian Restaurant which is run by a company called Aldbrook Limited (Company Registration Number 07831708). The Pub and Indian Restaurant sell alcohol and therefore the Property has a Premises Licence (premises licence number 113 to be more precise). I am the Designated Premises Supervisor for the premises. I am supported by my business partner Omar Shorif
- 7. Omar and I have run the business for many years; Fazlul takes a "back seat". My plan is to eventually sell my interest in the business and the transfer of the licence has been in contemplation for a while.
- 8. The business has operated successfully for over 20 years and during that time Omar and I have become established members of the local community. It has been my privilege to support the local community. Examples of how we/I have supported the local community are:
- 8.1 Organising and participating in local fundraising events (including golf days and the local carnival);
- 8.2 sponsoring local (youth) football teams (3 of them);
- agreeing to have school primary children come to the Property to learn about Indian cooking (and culture); and
- more practical issues such allowing the Property's car park to be used as a safe area for the dropping off and collection of children by parents doing "the school run".
- 9. My children are at the local primary school and I was a retained fireman for 13 years. I therefore would consider my family and I to be very much "embedded" in the local community. I would also consider myself to be an individual with good standing in the local community.
- 10. At pages 3-18 are copies of various letters and emails that I have received from local people supporting me in this matter. There has also been a petition (more below).

#### **APPLICATION TO TRANSFER**

- 11. I understand that objections to an application to transfer are rare but should not be used as an opportunity to vet applicants.
- 12. Omar and I wish to transfer the premises licence to both of my cousins, one of

- whom is Fazlul's son. The proposed transferees are Hadayouth Ahmed Chowdhury (Fazlul's son) and Anayet Kariun Chowdhury.
- As far as I am aware I believe that there is no reason to suspect that either Hadayouth or Anayet are unfit to hold the premise licence for the Property.
- I therefore believe that the objection arises in consequence of Hadayouth's and Anayet's (family) connection to Faziul and me. Such is, I believe, inextricably linked to the application for a review of the Premises Licence to the Property and I discuss this further below.

#### APPLICATION FOR A REVIEW OF THE PROPERTY'S PREMISES LICENCE

- 15. I understand that there is the potential for sanctions to be imposed which could result in the loss of my standing as a Designated Premises Supervisor, Personal Licence Holder and/or the Premises Licence for the Property
- I am aware of the four licensing objectives and note that there is no question in respect of my/Omar's management of the Property giving rise to issues of public safety, prevention of public nuisance or the protection of children from harm.
- 17. The sole issue arising under the objective of the prevention of crime and disorder namely, persons working illegally on the premises.
- 18. I wish to record that I have entirely co-operated with the Police in its investigations and have been open and transparent; I consider this to be in my nature.
- I do accept that persons without the right to work have been employed. I have never sought to deny such. However, I say that this arises not from wilful default but, I believe, from me being naïve or guilty of being too trusting.
- 20. I do acknowledge that there have been a few "raids". However, of those "raids":
- the first (2013) the issue was employing students who although we had taken valid ID for them, unbeknown to us, they had stopped attending college and therefore it was illegal for them to work. This was not a wilful or intentional default. Of note, of the 8 illegal workers found we were only fined in respect of 2; I think this fact gives credence to the fact that ID was taken and checked and so the issue arose out of lack of understanding rather than wilful default.
- 20.2 In August 2016 I recall that Officers came to the Property and asked whether I can arrange a meeting in the Mosque as a community initiative. The Mosque visit wass subsequently arranged and a visit took place.

- 20.3 In July 2014 checks were made but I could not demonstrate this at the time. Regrettably an appeal was not made in time and the Company was again fined. I genuinely believe that had an appeal been made in time this instance should not be on the record but it is and I accept that fact.
- In respect of the most recent "raid" one of the individuals ( and 1 other staff had that very day turned up at the Property seeking work approximately 30 minutes before the Border Agency/Officers arrived. CCTV evidence (which has been shown to the Police) support this fact as does Mr own comments to the Police and the other staff.
- I am aware of my duty to check ID and the right to work and do take this obligation seriously. However, it is clear that I have failed and therefore need to improve but I did check British driving licences.
- 22. I have therefore engaged the services of a third party (Mr Gleeson of CSS Recruitment and Training) who is "mentoring" me in respect of statutory compliance. Mr Gleeson has identified that the first items to be tackled/implemented are:
- 22.1 A written policy to confirm the process for checking the right to work documentation of all new starters.
- 22.2 Designing and implementing the system and paperwork for checking the right to work of all new starters,
- 22.3 Designing and implementing the system and paperwork for the ongoing checking of all existing staff.
- 22.4 Identifying further professional training course for the ongoing development of the people within the business who are responsible for checking the right to work of staff.
- 23. Mr Gleeson will also provide a 1-hour mentoring session per week to ensure that I am following due process and ensuring compliance but also acting in accordance with best practice.
- I therefore believe that efforts have been made and a structure has been put in place to prevent further illegal workers being engaged by either myself or Omar. Furthermore, the system will ensure the same for the future managers of the business/premises.
- 25. I therefore believe that all other licensing objectives being met/upheld, there is no

reason to revoke the Premises Licence.

- At this stage I note that the Police are saying that "deterrence" is a consideration in deciding what sanction, if any, to impose. I believe that the Police are inviting the Council to revoke the Premises Licence which, if true, would in my opinion be excessive.
- 27. Revoking the Premises Licence would put the company out of business leading to the loss of a number of jobs (currently 13 are employed at the Property) but the loss of a valuable, and well-used, community asset. At pages 19 onwards are signatures to a local petition against the revoking of the Premises Licence; more than 120 have now shown their support for the premises licence continuing.
- 28. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the Property could be continued to be used as a parking/pick-up point for the nearby primary school. Certainly, with the business closing I would not be in a position to offer support and charitable donations to local good causes.
- 29. There would also be the query of what would be done with the Property; a pub without a licence is no good to anyone.
- 30. I am making genuine (and strenuous) efforts to "up my game". As above, I have undertaken steps to ensure compliance with the law and so that there are no further instances of people working illegally at the Property. The good work that has been done (and will be done) in respect of the other licensing objectives will continue.
- Moreover, the strength of local support would, to me, indicate that the Property should continue as a pub and restaurant. Nothwithstanding that the "raids" have been public knowledge people have continued to support the business; in part I would like to believe that this is because people know I have never sought to break the law but have been too ready to offer people employment on the say-so of themselves or third parties on their behalf.
- 32. However, the law is the law. I also acknowledge that the business may need a change of management. There is no reason that I am aware of that would suggest that the proposed new Premise Licence holders, Hadayouth and Anayet, are unfit or otherwise unsuitable. For this reason, I believe that the transfer of the Premises Licence should be allowed to ensure that this change comes.
- 33. Lastly, I also acknowledge that I have failed the law, the local community and myself. I hope to be afforded an opportunity to "make good" my errors and demonstrate that I am suitable to hold personal licence. However, if the

Committee's decision is that I am not a fit person then I will offer to forfelt my personal licence. This is not a decision I have taken lightly but I acknowledge that there has been a default and that such is likely to have consequences.

#### STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Dated 13/08/2018

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION TO TRANSFER A PREMISES LICENCE AND A REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE

LICENSING ACT 2003

RE: QUEEN VICTORIA (ALSO T/A JALSA GHAR), 79 STORTFORD ROAD GREAT DUNMOW

EXHIBIT ZIC1

This is the exhibit marked "ZIC1" referred to in the witness statement of ZIAUL ISLAM

CHOWDHURY dated 13 ANGUST 2018.



# Official copy of register of title

#### Title number EX635552

Edition date 16.02.2018

This official copy shows the entries on the register of title on 07 AUG 2018 at 16:29:51.

This date must be quoted as the "search from date" in any official search application based on this copy.

The date at the beginning of an entry is the date on which the entry was made in the register.

Issued on 07 Aug 2018.

Under s.67 of the Land Registration Act 2002, this copy is admissible in evidence to the same extent as the original.

This title is dealt with by HM Land Registry, Peterborough Office.

## A: Property Register

This register describes the land and estate comprised in the title.

ESSEX : UTTLESFORD

1 (22.02.2000) The Freehold land shown edged with red on the plan of the above Title filed at the Registry and being The Queen Victoria, 79 Stortford Road, Dunmow (CM6 1DL).

## B: Proprietorship Register

This register specifies the class of title and identifies the owner. It contains any entries that affect the right of disposal.

#### Title absolute

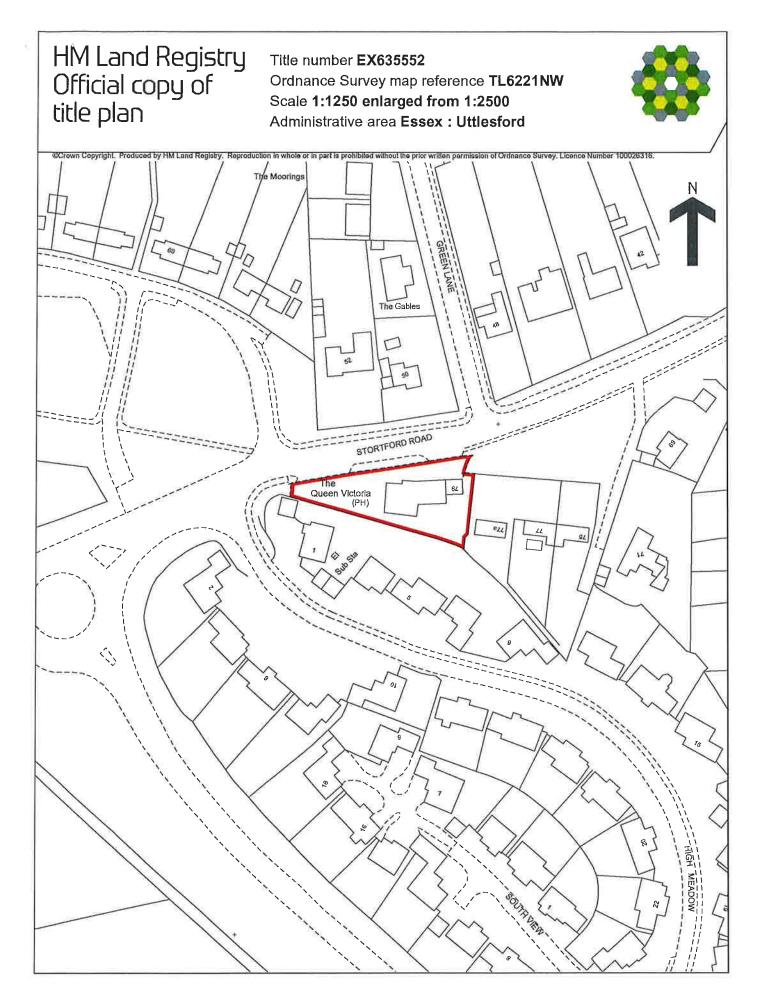
1 (22.02.2000) PROPRIETOR: of

## C: Charges Register

This register contains any charges and other matters that affect the land.

- 1 (21.02.2001) Notice of matrimonial home rights under the Family Law Act 1996 in favour of the spouse of the spou
- 2 (16.01.2003) REGISTERED CHARGE dated 15 January 2003 to secure the moneys therein mentioned.
- 3 (16.01.2003) Proprietor:

## End of register



6, High Stile Dunmow Essex CM6 1EB

Application to review a premises licence Queen Victoria, 79 Stortford Road, Dunmow CM6 1DL

Dear Sir

I am writing in respect of the above application and wish to make some representations on behalf of the persons concerned, Messrs Ziaul Chowdhury and Omar Shorif and their business.

I cannot comment on the evidence in this matter nor would it be right to do so, but I feel it necessary to comment on the individuals and the business they run.

I am probably more familiar with Mr Chowdhury but have known Mr Shorif for equally as long. I moved to Dunmow in 1999 which was almost the same time as the business was formed, and I live some 3 or 4 minutes walk from the premises, it has therefore become my 'local' as it has for many people in the immediate vicinity. It is of course a restaurant and take away as well as a public house, which in itself is unusual and I believe unique in Dunmow.

Mr Chowdhury is a very likeable and personable individual who is very much part of the Dunmow community. I remember in my early days in Dunmow he entered a float in the Dunmow carnival and people who were part of that float entry are still regulars in the pub.

Some years ago he became a retain fireman and said to me he felt he had spare time on his hands and wanted to do something for the community, I am not sure how long he held that position but it was for some considerable length of time.

He has allowed his car park to be used by parents parking their cars to take their children to 2 nearby schools when many, me included, objected against one school's expansion on the grounds there was insufficient access for vehicles to drop off and collect children, by allowing parents to park and walk he effectively reduced the considerable congestion and subsequent inconvenience caused to local residents.

In recent years the Queen Vic regulars have held at least 2 golf day competitions per year finishing with an evening in the premises and the premises providing some form of free food.

This year Mr Chowdhury invited one of the regulars' son's, who was on a gap year and travelling around India and the region, to visit and stay at his house in Bangladesh. The young man accepted the offer and was made to feel very welcome in Mr Chowdhury's family home.

The premises are family friendly with many local people bringing their children to eat and more recently to watch the World Cup in an atmosphere of wave flagging and cheering England on.

In summary The Queen Vic and Mr Chowdhury are very much part of the local community in Dunmow.

The premises/business attract many visitors on a one off basis particularly to the restaurant which has an excellent reputation and has won numerous awards for its food, people come from far and wide to eat there, and inevitably people travelling through Stansted airport who stay overnight

locally, gravitate to the restaurant. The business therefore attracts business and prosperity to Dunmow and the community.

In relation to the application to review on the grounds of crime and disorder, I have never known any disorder at the premises and I don't believe police have ever been called because of disorder. I therefore assume the application is based on crime, namely an employer 'knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that you are' employing an illegal worker. Home Office guidelines suggest these matters will be dealt with by civil proceedings save in the most serious cases when prosecution may be considered. It is my understanding this matter is being dealt with under the civil remedy. In 38 years of law enforcement I have dealt with some very serious cases involving illegal immigrants, obtaining work with forged paperwork and obtaining housing with forged paperwork, I would respectfully suggest therefore that this incident does not fall into the more serious case bracket and certainly not worthy of an application to review under crime and disorder, whereby if successful the small local community will be the ultimate real sufferers.

I would be grateful if my observations are taken into account when dealing with this application.

Blech (Hons)

Yours

Antony Puddick BTech (Hons)

COPY

Green View
Stebbing Green
Stebbing
Dunmow
Essex
CM6 3TE

Application to review a premises licence Queen Victoria, 79 Stortford Road, Dunmow CM6 1DL

Dear Sir

I am writing in respect of the above application and wish to make some testimony as to the character of the persons concerned, Messrs Ziaul Chowdhury and Omar Shoriff and their business.

I do not wish to comment, nor would it be right to speak of any evidence in this case but feel it absolutely necessary to provide testimonial to the character in particular of Mr Ziaul Chowdhury to whom I am better acquainted, although I would describe them both as honourable men.

My family moved to the area in 1997, before the business was formed. Creating a Bangladeshi restaurant and public house in a thatched listed premises has to be quite a unique achievement. However, create this concept they did with much and continuing success.

Ziaul Chowdhury is an extremely charismatic individual, well respected by his peers and clientele and in addition to managing this restaurant has played a significant part in the local community.

He served as a retained fireman at our local station for 15 years. All of our retained fire personnel have my utmost respect, having had the misfortune to require their services some years ago, and I know many of them are regular diners and drinkers at The Queen Victoria.

For many years he has supported our local carnival, entering a float one year and serving food at the event many times.

He allows his car park to be used by parents at two of our local schools after considerable uproar at the expansion of one of the schools based on the grounds of the added congestion and lack of drop off and pick up points surrounding said school.

The Queen Victoria has cultivated a good community spirit, in recent years the locals have organised golf days, rounding off these excursions with a celebration in the pub with food provided without charge for those involved.

Never forgetting his roots, in 2013 following the Bangladesh Dhaka building collapse, Mr. Chowdhury held a charity evening at the restaurant raising almost £4000 which he personally delivered to help the victims of this tragic disaster.

In fact this year Mr Chowdhury invited one of the regulars' son's, who was on a gap year and travelling around India and the region, to visit and stay at his house in Bangladesh. The young man accepted the offer and was made to feel very welcome in Mr Chowdhury's family home.

Ziaul Chowdhury successfully operates a family friendly establishment, testament to this, our son, who is now 23 has grown up dining at The Queen Victoria, he now works at sea but the last place he wants to go before he goes away and the first place he wants to visit on his return is The Queen Victoria. It is a pleasure to witness families being able to relax on his return is The Queen Victoria. It is a pleasure to witness families being able to relax on his return is The Queen Victoria. It is a pleasure to witness families being able to relax over a meal and a drink knowing that their children are as welcome as they are. I have never witnessed any crime or disorder within these premises, as a parent I would not have exposed my child to any such disturbance and many, many families still consider it to be a exposed my child to any such disturbance and many, many families still consider it to be a exposed my child to any such disturbance and many, many families that consider it to be a exposed my child to any such disturbance and many, many families that consider it to be any such disturbance and many, many families that consider it to be any such disturbance and many, many families. To which end that crime being the employment of an illegal worker, then I believe that civil and that crime being the employment of an illegal worker, then I believe that civil and that crime being the employment of an illegal worker, then I believe that civil and that crime being the employment of an illegal worker, then I believe that civil and that crime being the employment of an illegal worker, then I believe that civil and that crime being the employment of an illegal worker, then I believe that civil and that crime being the employment of an illegal worker, then I believe that civil and that crime being the employment of an illegal worker.

I would implore you to take this testimony into consideration and if I can be of any further assistance or you would like me to deliver the above in person then please do not hesitate to be in contact.

Yours faithfully

Wendy M. Haynes (Mrs)

Email: 1 Tel: Richard Stoney 53 Newton Green Great Dunmow Essex 07717332122

30/07/2018

Ref; Zia Choudhury

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in reference to Zia, who is appearing before you.

Zia asked me to write a character reference letter, but the truth is that I was already planning on doing so before the request. I feel strongly about Zia and about his future as landlord of my local and favorite pub, and I want to try to make you feel the same way.

I first started coming to Gt Dunmow over 14 years ago. My local friends would take me to the Queen Vic and I got to know Zia through them. I found him to be very friendly and accommodating. I moved to Dunmow permanently in 2007 and bought my house close to the pub. The pub was a major part in my decision to move here, as it was of many others that moved here.

Over the years I have got to know Zia and his family. He has helped me and I help him, and recently he would often collect me and bring me to the pub as I had surgery and had great difficulty walking.

Zia involves himself in the community and supports the local events. He was also a retained fireman, to which I know he was very proud to be and took his position very seriously.

Recently, during the world cup Zia opened early for all the people to come and support the England team. This was a wonderful time as Lots of families were there and the atmosphere was utterly brilliant. He provided lots of free snacks and reduced the cost of the beer. In general, it is a popular pub and you never get any trouble, a nice place to meet.

Zia has made mistakes, and he is incredibly remorseful, and is willing to do whatever it takes to make reparations, removing the license would not only affect Zia and his staff, but would totally inconvenience the locals by its closure.

Thank you Sincerely



31st July 2018

Dear Sir

Re-Application to review a premises licence for Oueen Victoria, 79 Stortford Road Great Dunmow CM6 1DL

I am writing concerning the above application and feel I would like to comment on behalf of Messrs Ziaul Chowdhury and Omar Sharif on the establishment they run.

I have known both Mr Chowdhury and Mr Sharif since moving to the area in 2002 though I do know Mr Chowdhury better than Mr Sharif. The Queen Vic has been my 'local' ever since. Mr Chowdhury is a kind and supportive member of the local community and is always willing to help in any way he can.

I have recently been widowed and both Mr Chowdhury and members of his staff attended my husband's funeral. During the time my husband was ill Mr Chowdhury personally delivered him several meals, without charge, especially prepared to try to encourage him to eat.

Both the public house and the restaurant are places that I feel safe and able to visit on my own and should it be dark or poor weather conditions he always makes sure that either he or a member of his staff ensures I get home safely.

The premises are family friendly. They hold a 5 for the food hygiene serve excellent food and nothing is ever too much trouble. The restaurant has won many awards for its food and has an excellent reputation people come from far and wide to eat there. People staying locally that are travelling from the airport frequent the restaurant many returning on a regular basis. The business is an asset to both the community and the prosperity of Great Dunmow.

In Summary The Queen Victoria and Mr Chowdhury are part of the local community and the establishment is a safe environment for all customers to enjoy a pleasant evening I have never know there to be any disorder at the premises and have certainly never seen an instance where the police have been called because of a disorder.

I would be grateful if you could take into account my observations when dealing with this application.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Linda Crowther FCMI

Program W

#### Michael Harman

Subject:

FW: Licence Review of Queen Vitoria, Dunmow. Ref Holmes & Hills

LLP:MA:206738.0017

AttachID:

00000000A0084D6CF6E2164FA6C1B25693103A1C0700FC5B8C6680E41D44A5634A

57AF94824000000085A92000001B52C33FA579D54A9797718B452426DB00009B5B

B2BA0000

**EntityRef:** 

206738.0017

EntityType:

MΑ

From: Joanne Bird

Date: 1 August 2018 at 13:05:01 BST

To:

Subject: Licence Review of Queen Vitoria, Dunmow.

To Whom it May Concern

After hearing about the licence review for the Queen Victoria (Jalsa Ghar), Great Dunmow, CM6 1DL. I am writing to strongly support its reissue.

Even though I don't live in Dunmow, I have family that do and we frequently meet up in the Queen Vic for dinner and drinks. I know this establishment to be very poplar with the local community as the food is excellent and so is the service.

I also have spoken with Mr Choudhury on many occasions and find this man to be polite, hospitable and conscientious about his business.

It would be a crying shame for the the local community and the Choudhury family if his licence were not reissued.

I also believe that Mr Choudhury is a great contributor to the local community and beyond; actually saving lives as voluntary retained fire fighter.

Small Towns like Dunmow need traditional pubs like the Queen Vic to keep the community together. They also need members of the community like Mr Choudhury.

I do hope you reissue his licence.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Bird

Sent from my iPhone

#### Michael Harman

Subject:

FW: Review of Premises Licence Queen Victoria, Great Dunmow, CM6 1DL Ref

Holmes & Hills LLP:MA:206738.0017

AttachID:

0000000A0084D6CF6E2164FA6C1B25693103A1C0700FC5B8C6680E41D44A5634A

57AF94824000000085A92000001B52C33FA579D54A9797718B452426DB00009B5B

B2BB0000

**EntityRef:** 

206738.0017

EntityType:

MA

From: Jenny Bakker <

Date: 1 August 2018 at 12:31:51 BST

Subject: Review of Premises Licence Queen Victoria, Great Dunmow, CM6 1DL

Dear Sir/Madam

My family am I are writing to support the reissue of the licence for the Queen Victoria (Jalsa Ghar), Great Dunmow, CM6 1DL.

We have been customers of the Queen Victoria for the last 20 years. We visit every Sunday for dinner and use the pub aspect to socialise several times a week.

If the Town were to lose this lovely restaurant/pub it would have a devastating effect on the local community. This is one of the very few pubs remaining in Dunmow and a place for locals to meet and socialise.

Not only this, but Mr Choudhry is a pillar the community, loved and well respected. He has sponsored the local football teams, is a voluntary retain fire-fighter when needed and has saved many lives. He is a hard working man, honest and of good character; an asset to our community.

My family and I would be truly heartbroken and concerned for Mr Choudhry's well-being if he were to lose his business.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like anymore information.

Kind regards,

Jeanette Bakker & Family

15 Emblems Dunmow CM6 2AG

Mary and Mike Regan 20 High Meadow Great Dunmow CM6 1UG 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018

Dear Sirs.

Re: Application to review a premises licence in respect of Queen Victoria, 79 Stortford Road, CM6 1DL

I and my husband are writing to provide an insight in to the characters and behaviour of the two gentlemen, Mr. Z. Chowdhury and Mr. O. Shorif, who run this business; in the hope of highlighting to you their integrity and community minded spirit, which undoubtedly contributes in no small part both to the success of the business and their popularity among their varied and loyal clientele.

We have been patronising the business for the last 20 years at least once and sometimes twice a week. Our son and daughter were welcomed there and felt valued as children and are now happy to visit as adults with their own friends. Family from Western Australia who have attended on a few occasions have felt special and remembered by Mr. Chowdhury and his staff.

Mr. Chowdhury is a warm, caring, hardworking individual and very popular in Dunmow. During the last 20 years he has become a respected and valued part of our community through his many acts of kindness and support/sponsorship of local groups and charities. A few examples are: the under 11s football team, school fetes and fundays, hosting free sessions in the kitchens of the Jalsa Ghar to teach primary school children about Indian cooking, golf days, participation in the Dunmow Carnival.

Mr. Chowdhury was a retained firefighter in Dunmow for many years and has always evidenced his desire to be part of this community in a positive and selfless way. Mr. Chowdhury allows his car park to be used for school runs and this definitely contributes to the safety of the pupils being dropped off and collected.

I taught both Mr. Chowdhury and Mr. Shorif's children at Great Dunmow Primary School. They were all a fine example of the family values of their parents and their parents were always fully supportive of their children's education and the school itself.

We live very close to the premises and have never witnessed or heard of any aggravation or problems related to the business during trading hours in over 20



Parsonage Downs, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 2AU

Telephone: 01371 872560

Facsimile: 01371 874632

Email: enquiries@hrs.education Website: www.helena-romanes.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Simon Knight B.Ed (Hons), MA

Jalsa Ghar
79 Stortford Road
Great Dunmow
Essex CM6 1DL

19th July, 2018

Dear Sirs,

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your contribution to The Helena Romanes Fun Day in Memory of Elliot Peters. Your generous gift has gone towards raising in excess of £15,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).

On behalf of The Helena Romanes School and GOSH, we want to thank you for helping us make a positive difference.

Thanks again for your generosity and support.

Yours sincerely

Simon Kriight

Head Teacher

Hally Story

Holly Story

Elliot's Mum

Morag Atkinson

Student Welfare Team

Mrs Jennifer Palmer

150 Godfrey Way

**Great Dunmow** 

CM6 2SQ

**Uttlesford District Council -Licensing** 

To Whom it May Concern

Mr Zia Chaudhry: Charactor Reference, Proprietor of the Queen Victoria Pub and Indian Restaurant (The Jalsa Char).

Myself and my Family have been acquainted with Mr Chaudhry for over seventeen years as a friend and in a professional capacity.

He is a very active member of the local community, which involves working with the schools in the area, of which his children attend, helping with outdoor activities and events. Volunteering at the local Fire Station for a considerable number of years . In my opinion Mr Chaudhry is a very upstanding member of the local community.

On a perfessional note he has on many occasions help members of my family, friends, customers and staff members, showing compassion for their well-being to listening and helping where possible in a very perfessional manor.

Mr Chaudhry is a passionate family man and a conscientious member of the local and business community in and around Great Dunmow.

**Yours Sincerely** 

Mrs Jennifer Palmer

25 Brocks Mead Great Easton Dunmow Essex CM6 2HR

6<sup>TH</sup> August 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: The Jalsa Ghar & The Queen Victoria, 79 Stortford Road CM6 1DL

I write in respect of the forthcoming application (premises licence) for the above establishment and to voice my support for the applicants, Mr Z Choudary and Mr O Shorif, who I have known since August 2009.

My family and I are regular customers at the restaurant and also utilise the Queen Victoria for pre-dinner drinks. We find the premises a delightful retreat and it is a firm favourite with visiting friends and relatives, who like us, see it as a welcoming, well run establishment, supported by the community who ensures that it is always busy! The management of the premises, with the support of the delightful staff, is of the highest order and part of its charm and attraction.

My daughter worked part-time at the Queen Victoria from 2012 to 2014 and she has said it was the best run premises she had ever worked in. She was treated vey well by both Mr Choudary and Mr Shorif and is always given a very warm welcome when she returns to dine with my wife and I. She has confirmed that there was never an instance of anti-social behaviour or generation of noise or nuisance in the two years she worked there, which are my sentiments exactly.

Whilst I am very partial to the Jalsa Ghar, I am also very observant having served on the Licensing Committee in North East London until responsibility for administration and regulation was handed to local authorities in November 2005. I would most certainly never send any kind of endorsement of an establishment unless I felt it was tun in a proper and professional manner — both Mr Choudary and Mr Shorif are very aware of the licensing laws and their wider social responsibilities when selling alcohol for consumption on their premises. I can personally vouch for that.

Lastly, a little known fact, but the Jalsa Ghar offers parents of children attending the local school, free use of their premises car park to avoid the type of traffic issues seen outside most schools – a wonderful gesture and an indication of the good character and community sprit within the management team.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further assistance or clarification.

Yours faithfully

Tristan Martens

Re: Application for license.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide a character reference for Mr Z Chowdhury, licensee of the Queen Victoria & Jalsa Ghar restaurant.

I have known Mr Chowdhury for nearly 20 years now and in that time and in my experience, he has demonstrated his ability to remain a trustworthy character.

As a businessman, to date he has been both sympathetic and often generous in helping the youth of the community in a variety of schemes such as sports etc.

Mr Chowdhury has proactively managed a public house, not to distant from my home, and in the time that he has been there I cannot recall ever having problems with patrons in the streets outside or around my house.

In the times that I have frequented the premises, I do not recall any issues with younger guests or behaviour which has required the intervention of the police.

On the basis of the Queen Victoria & Jalsa Ghar restaurant has fitted in to our community without causing any issues of note that I recall in the last 20 years, I would be very supportive of Mr Chowdhury being licensed to continue to manage the pub restaurant in to the future.

Yours faithfully,

Gary Wain

The Briars
Petches Bridge
Great Bardfield
Braintree
Essex
CM7 4QN

9th August 2018

To Whom it may concern

RE: The Jalsa Ghar & The Queen Victoria, 79 Stortford Road, CM6 1DL

I write to you in repect of the forthcoming application/premises licence at the above address and to show my support for Mr Z Choudary and Mr O Shorif.

After dining at this restaturant for many years, my family and i take pleasure in frequenting this establisment as this restaurant has won many awards for the quality and presentation of its food.

Mr Choudary is a very charitable man and he has supported our daughters charity on many occasions and at present we are in discussion of organising a joint fundraiser to raise much needed funds for Olivia who has Multiple Disabilities and Autism. Whilst we are on the subject of our daughter we have taken her here on numerous occasions where Mr Choudary and all the staff present are really kind and really understand her needs, It is never over noisy and we have never encounterd any problems whilst we have been dining, as this would upset Olivia, she is always so happy there and we all find it a calm and relarelaxing place for her to go.

Lastly I would like to say that Mr Z Choudary and Mr O Shorif are an asset and a Pillar to the community and provide a much needed business to dunmow town.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs D Bowyer

Bryan G Haines 6 Highfields Great Dunmow Essex CM6 1ED Thursday, 09 August 2018

Dear Sirs,

## To Uttlesford District Council Licencing.

Reference Mr Sohel Zia Chowdhury and Mr Omar Sharif

My name is Bryan Haines and have been a resident of Great Dunmow since I married in 1988. I moved from London with my wife from Yorkshire to live and work in Great Dunmow. I currently serve on the St. Mary's Parochial Church Council and was formerly a Parent Governor of Dunmow St. Mary's School.

I have been a customer of the Queen Victoria public house since that time. When we first arrived in Dunmow the Queen Victoria public house was quite run down and could then have been regarded as a failing business. At that time, it was then run by Mr and Mrs Reginal Cast as tenants of the freeholder Mr.Ferhat Cevik (who remains the freeholder) After the late Mr Cast was declared bankrupt, Mr Cevik ran the business a short period before reaching a commercial agreement with Mr Sohel Zia Chowdhury and Mr Omar Sharif to operate and run a business that was renamed the Queen Victoria and Jalsa Ghar in October 1998. I first met Zia a few days after he started operating that business.

Since 1998 through hard work and commercial acumen Zia has built his business into one of the most popular and profitable restaurants and public houses in the vicinity, including being very successful in the National Best Curry Awards competition, over many consecutive years, which sees people travelling from outside the town to sample the highly recommended food. I regard it as a safe and welcoming business. It is certainly part of the community. To the best of my knowledge it is fully compliant with all the legislation applicable to a business of this nature. Food preparation, hygiene and storage is first class in the circumstances of the premises (note that applications for building improvements to kitchen and storage have on occasions (in my opinion unreasonably) been declined by local planning). The premises are old, with a thatched roof, and Mr Chowdhury has maintained and repaired so that the building remains clean and in good order.

I have rarely seen any problems at the pub with drunken or rowdy behaviour, and on the odd occasion, a couple of times over a 20-year period), he has calmly and respectfully declined to serve someone encouraging them to leave when they were clearly too inebriated to continue.

I note from the Uttlesford Statement of Licensing Policy 2017-2022 The Licensing Objectives 1.5 that The Act requires the Licensing Authority to carry out its various licensing functions to promote the four licensing objectives that are:

- 1. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- 2. Public Safety
- 3. The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- 4. The Protection of Children from Harm

I believe that Mr Chowdhury complies with all the above and that he is diligent in each respect and that I have not witnessed contravention of any of those objectives in the last 20 years.

Mr Chowdhury also participates in many local activities that support the community.

- Through his business Mr Chowdhury sponsors a local youth football team.
- He is a was a local 'on-call' fireman for thirteen years.

- He allows parents of Great Dunmow Primary School to park in his restaurant carpark when delivering and collecting their children to school.
- He has made presentations on Bangladeshi culture and cookery to pupils of Dunmow St Mary's Primary School.
- Under his direction the pub runs regular golf days and other charity events, which are well attended by the local community.
- He recently hosted my youngest son, Eli Haines, for a few days in his own family home in Sylhet, Bangladesh whist he was backpacking in the far east during his 'Gap-year'.

Most importantly he has ensured that the Queen Victoria has prospered as a community public house. During the last thirty years I have witnessed the closure of many local pubs that include:

- 1. The Dunmow Inn (formerly the White Hart), High Street Dunmow
- 2. The King's Head, North Street Dunmow
- 3. The Cricketer's, Beaumont Hill, Dunmow
- 4. The Royal Oak, Stortford Road, Dunmow
- 5. Lennon's, High Street, Dunmow

I have witnessed trading in illegal drugs and been threatened with and witnessed violence in three other pubs in Dunmow. Yet in the Queen Victoria, none of those circumstances have arisen during the last twenty years because Zia runs a safe and compliant business.

Again, in my humble opinion, Zia Chowdhury is the last publican in Dunmow from whom to withdraw a licence to sell alcohol. He is a man of faith and an elder at his local Mosque. As a PCC member we frequently discuss our faith in God and I believe him to be an honest and decent man. His expertise is that of a businessman and restaurateur. He is not a default border-control operative and I believe that he takes all possible reasonable measures to operate a legal business. Removing his licence to sell alcohol will destroy his business overnight and I consider that it would be a spiteful and counter productive measure to do so. The Queen Victoria is a genuine local hub and is frequented by many local people on a regular basis. To put that at risk damages the whole fabric of the Great Dunmow Community. Further, I think that it would highlight the failings of the British Government to adequately control immigration and make him a scapegoat for those failings. From what I have surmised, this recent event smacks of a 'Sting-operation' and seems like a 'cheap shot' and a way for UK Border Force to pick 'low-hanging fruit'.

Please, when considering this matter, also consider the prevalence of illegal drugs and gang culture in other licenced premises in Great Dunmow, (particularly the Boars Head) and ask why other licences haven't been revoked for more serious infractions of licencing laws and try to view the picture as a whole.

I am sure that Zia Chowdhury bitterly regrets recent events (I don't know the whole circumstances) In my opinion he is the last person from whom his licence to sell alcohol should be removed and the local community would be devasted to lose such a great facility.

Yours Sincerely,

Bryan Haines

Bryan Haines

## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

Name	Address	Contact (email/ telephone)	Signature	Other comments
Vote Vote	4 Buskinghan court CMG (XE			
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Roxy Childs	4 Buckington Court CM6 IXE			
Jack	28 calcroyd Avenue Cmb 1HG			
Hannah Maere	188 DEFOC ROAD IPI 65A 158 Defee Road			your amazing!
EMILY	101 68A			D/ (
SMITH	Yen hodge, High Wych, M Dord OSB			Thank you.
thous				MOLIE!

## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

Name	Address	Contact (email/ telephone)	Signature	Other comments
KEN	2 CLAPTON RD			
SWABY	TAKELEY ESSEX			ıt.
AUSTIN	16 LARCH WAY,			
HOLE	DUNNOW, ESCER CM6 IWN			
Jonathan	28 Marchalls Piece Essex			
Alexander	27 Ongor LD			
Cottrell	Great Dinnow ESSEX CMG 1EZ			
Brandon	36 St Edmunds			
Turnes	Fields, Great Driman ESSEA CM6 2AL	r.		
lachel	7 Sycamore			
Rogers	Mose			
DAVIS	7 SYCHMORE			
Rovers	CLOSE FAUELEY			
POMMEN	School M			9
CINNY	10 THE POPLARS			
Lauis	CMB ZJA			
GARY	10 THE POPLANS			
LEUIS	CM6 ZJA.			

## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

We, the undersigned, say that the Premises Licence for Queen Victoria (also trading as Jalsa Ghar) should <u>not</u> be modified, suspended or revoked on the basis of prevention of crime and disorder and that no action should be taken following review.

Name	Address	Contact	Signature	Other
Steve		(email/ telephone)		comments
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George	32 Chafax			
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George	20 Spruce Ave			
Wallis	CM6 144			
Janie Cowen	Z Holders Mendon			
	CM6 3QQ			
Jodie Lepuc	21 Oxney VULOS CME 3EQ			
Paul Clark	56 Woodview			
	Road (MG 1B1)			
DARREN	40 wahd grooms			
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## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

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Phoese	4 South View CMG IUQ			
	J. J J			

## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

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MICHAEL	8 BAMBOO CRESCEN BRAWTREE CM7191			Ä.
ALAN	167 Bailey Brid Road, Braintr CMT STR			
JUSTW	Vec Hegy ST			Bost City House
COLIN	Comp 121)			KCG Olas Foresons
JARQUEUNE LOCKEY	9 CYDEFSS CT.			

## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

Name	Address	Contact (email/ telephone)	Signature	Other comments
ROGER SMITH	G JUBILEE COURT DUNMOW		,	
DAVID MOYON	COLDARBOUR TILTT CM 62EH			
Andrew Lodge	25 HOLLY			
Madl Sewer	60 ongo			
Darrell Barone	28 Waldgrooms			
Jeanette Baktv	15 bmblem cm6 2AG			26
Devla	Food View House			
Jeremy Leyde	Zo Beaumit hill CMG Zaf			>
Cony Corsbog.	62 God frey way			
Dinne	Cypresslourt CM6 12A			
Wand	WWW 1LA			

## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

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Lynsey /	25 Holly Close			

## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

Name	Address	Contact (email/ telephone)	Signature	Other comments
JOHN TURNER	11-CAMBECK RD Little CANFIELD ESSEX (MGFX			
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## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

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CINDY	32 Harry Cross				
TANYA LEE	close, cmb 3FJ				ei
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Swight	36 Spangfield				
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## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

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## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

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Aaron	14 Margey wood welwyn Hers ALT IUW			best staff.
Jenra	20 Charry Cres Durmons ESSED COMB ITY			best curry ever. fave restourant.
WOLFF SIMON BAKER	DAVIES WAY FUTCH GREEN DOWNOW CMESON			LORDY FOOD.
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## RE: Review of Premises Licence - section 51 Licensing Act 2003

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