

30-11-23  
THURSDAY

Good morning commissioners.

Thank you for hearing my submission.

My name is John Hill and am a landowner and farmer.

I personally own land on the boundary of the Gun club.

The family owned four houses adjacent to the site BEFORE the gun club was established.

Initially shooting took place once a month on Sundays with infrequent special shoots on long weekends by Upper Hutt locals. After the Karori gun club was closed, the club expanded.

In the early 2000's during an update to the Upper Hutt District plan, the Gun club sought to change zoning of their land and get setbacks imposed on our adjoining land so houses could not be built nearby.

The club was well aware the land around them included residential properties, was zoned rural residential and very likely to have houses built at any stage.

Shockingly the club ignored the goodwill shown by the neighbours who had tolerate their noise, and tried to ruin other landowners existing use rights.

They wanted to secure their club and stop any development around them.

To protect our zoning and existing rights to build houses the environment court was involved.

In 2002 a comprehensive court undertaking followed, and it was determined the Club did not have consent or had not considered the environmental impacts of its operation. The hearing and subsequent mediation directed by Judge Kenderline and commissioner Mills requested an environmental report from the Upper Hutt City Council to define the operational procedures, hours of shooting, impact on surrounding residents and future impact on residential development. The commissioner Mr Mills told the gun club must apply for a Resource consent and if things were not well under way by October 2002 the Gun Club was to call a halt to their operations.

Unbelievably without our involvement the council sometime later made the club a permitted activity and gave them a certificate of compliance with permission for 80 days operation per year total ( <sup>W.HEN</sup> Any day shooting

is undertaken and gun noise is produced ,is counted as one of the 80 days)

We read this decision in the paper and had no input.

We complained to the council and were advised we could take the matter back to court ourselves, but had lost faith in the process and could only be disappointed in the councils' actions.

We did however protect our right to build and have reattained our zoning for which we are grateful.

On the downside we have never had an official calendar to notify us when shooting days will take place So we could plan for events outside without noise and be aware if the club was abiding by their restrictions.

Other questions regarding the clubs operations such as how close to boundaries shooting can take place, what supervision there is of shooters, what impact the clubs activities has on other properties land rights and if the noise levels have ever been measured are still unanswered.

The area has never been overly suitable for a gun club being so close to town, residents and situated in a natural amphitheatre. Neighbours and especially

horses do not enjoy the continual sound of gunshots but do tolerate it.

Continually increasing the burden on residents for the recreation of a few others is going above and beyond what the club was ever intended to be.

The club is on a small site and their ambition to operate at a larger scale is not suitable.

80 days per year of shooting in this area is currently very generous, and would amount to one day every weekend and both days every second weekend.

For the sake of surrounding landowners existing use rights and enjoyment of their land the shooting days should not be increased and a calendar specifying exact shooting days should be published months in advance so neighbours can plan for the disturbance and total operating days can be tracked.

Thank you

*WITH PROPOSED CHANGES TO CURRENTLY INCREASING DEVELOPMENT IT IS NOT THE TIME FOR A GROWING GUN CLUB. THE PAST IS REPEATING ITSELF.*

Note: The closest shooting stand is aimed only 200m from the boundary and when FREE FORM shooting with remote throwers is done, this distance could be much less. When working near the boundary pellets can be heard on the utes roof on occasion.