

Dear Licensing,

I write as a representative of the Environmental Protection team, part of the Council's Environmental Health dept, to advise that we have **no objection** to the granting of the above application to vary the premises licence. Our interest is with specific regard to the licensing objective of the Prevention of Public Nuisance.

We have no objection to the principle of varying the hours. We do request that a signage **condition** is appended to the Premises Licence as follows (or similar): *Prominent, clear notices shall be displayed at all exits requesting customers to respect the needs of local residents and leave the premises and the area quietly.*

These premises are in a primarily residential setting. There are houses directly opposite and leaving the area in any direction will necessitate passing residential premises.

Representations from residents have been received, raising issues including loud talking, laughing, car door slamming and engine noise from patrons once they have left the premises. We know, from having dealt with numerous complaints of this type of noise, that it can be intrusive, causing annoyance and anxiety and can disturb sleep if at night. It is established that alcohol consumption reduces inhibition, and often leads to louder voices and more boisterous social interaction. Nonetheless, we want to support local businesses where possible and it should be noted that I can find no record of previous relevant noise complaints on the EP database. We have had complaints about noise from the garden (2019) and from the car parking area (2020). These were resolved without the need for formal intervention.

Balancing the rights of neighbours to a reasonable level of peace and quiet, as well as the right to a good night's sleep, against the social and economic benefits of licensed premises is often a complex task, one where both sides are rarely satisfied and often neither are. Those who live near to licensed premises must accept that there will sometimes be an element of noise and disturbance. Nonetheless, these types of premises should not be given free rein to do as they wish - the licensing objectives make it clear that there are limits and there is clearly a responsibility to have due regard to residential neighbours.

Our view is that, on balance, the application is acceptable. The 3 additional late night hours per week could lead to occasional disturbance from noise or anti-social behaviour. However this is by no means certain and it is not predictable with any level of certainty – there are just too many variables and unknowns eg how many customers will utilise the extra hours, by which means of transport will they leave the area, how “refreshed” will they be, how noisy will they be etc. It is also likely that there will be some level of existing traffic and people noise in the area which is unrelated to the Cricketers.

SUMMARY – We understand the concerns of the residents, and suggest that most people, if they were in the same position, would have the same concerns. However, despite the possible increase in disturbances, the scale of the changes applied for and the lack of certainty regarding the consequences are not sufficient, in our view, to justify an objection on the grounds of public nuisance in this instance. As noted above, we do request an additional licence condition (signage) and we would like to remind the applicant that, should regular complaints of noisy patrons be received following these changes (if granted), we may call for the Premises Licence to be reviewed.

I hope that this is clear, but please contact me if any further details are needed.

Kind regards

Nick Bennett

Senior Environmental Health Officer