

Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)

From: Mardon, Sarah (Licensing) on behalf of Licensing
Sent: 23 October 2014 09:04
To: Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)
Subject: FW: Objection to licensing application for the Octagon, St Ives

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 October 2014 18:03
To: Licensing
Cc: Davies, John (Cllr); Angie Dickinson (Cllr); Ablewhite, Jason (Cllr); clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: Objection to licensing application for the Octagon, St Ives

I would like object to the licensing application for the Octagon, Cattle Market car park, St Ives.
My objection is covered by the following points:

I understand that the building, currently owned by Hunts DC, is to be sold and potentially used as a bar/restaurant, and that some preliminary plans have been drafted. A license would be to sell alcohol and serve food until 01.00, 7 days a week, play live music until 11.59, 7 days a week and play recorded music until 01.00, 7 days a week. I feel that this is unreasonable in a residential area.

Currently, drunkenness and disorder seems to be limited, in the centre of town, to the area around the Broadway, Crown Street, Merryland and Bridge Street, possibly due to drinkers migrating to the take away outlets after leaving drinking establishments. This central area is particularly noisy on Friday and Saturday nights, until about 04.00; some of the noise is of people shouting, screaming, arguing and making threats, of taxis coming and going in a fairly constant stream and cars, on leaving town, using their horns. Drunkenness and disorderly behaviour appears to be contained in this area and is probably easier for the Police to control with their already limited resources.

If another bar were to open, using the Octagon, the central area of town, that requires policing, would be extended unreasonably, giving the Police more problems than they already have.

Drinkers using a bar at this end of town, and at the hours proposed, would create a problem for residents along several roads and a number of in-town locations, potentially similar to those problems along London Road, associated with drinkers leaving the LEL Club a few years ago, when resident's property and vehicles were damaged regularly.

I feel that putting a bar in the middle of an established town car park could cause problems. Damage could be caused to vehicles by drinkers sat outside or loitering whilst waiting for their taxis; visitors to town could be deterred from parking in town and could therefore avoid visiting altogether. Displays of abusive drunkenness could be common later in the evening, particularly as door staff refuse someone entry. Unlike a pub car park, a town car park is used by all, and not everybody is familiar with drunken or rowdy behavior, nor wants to be.

The noise generated by a bar playing live music, then recorded music, until 01.00, will be similar to having the Michaelmas Fair on the Cattle Market car park, beyond 22.00, every night of the year, this would be a public nuisance and difficult to police in terms of environmental health.

It is disappointing to see that what could be a valuable asset, in terms of a community building, could be sold to the benefit of a few, at the expense of the majority. I hope that our elected representatives also see that this building has the potential for community use.

George Jordan
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