

4 Cromwell Terrace
St Ives
Cambridgeshire
PE27 5JE

Mrs. Christine Allison
Licensing Manager
Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St. Mary's Street
Huntingdon
PE29 3TN

20/10/14

Dear Mrs Allison

As a resident of Cromwell Terrace, I wish to register my objection to the application for a Licence for the Octagon, Cattle Market, St Ives, PE27 5BH.

I object on the following 4 relevant grounds:

- Crime and disorder
- Public safety
- Public nuisance
- Litter

I will also cite Cumulative Impact under HDC's Licensing Policy Section 8.8

I will also note that there are inadequate data for determination under HDC's Licensing Policy 5.5 and 7.4.

Crime and Disorder

The application is to sell alcohol from 10am to 1am every day. Due to existing problems, the Octagon and the surrounding streets are in a designated place under the Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places Regulations 2007.

We can only expect any future Octagon licensed premises to add to existing weekend problems affecting the immediate neighbourhood in the early hours of the morning: drunken shouting and screaming, fighting, throwing objects and urinating in our gardens

Public safety

The Octagon sits in a small pedestrian area within a car park. Foot passage is already difficult, and this would increase in the evening- especially with external tables and chairs posited for the new premises. Serving alcohol right in the middle of this area until 1am would not be conducive to public safety. This is both a licensing and a planning issue.

More people, and further use of congested access onto Market Road will increase public safety issues, and risk repeating this year's mortality and serious injury within 100m of the site.

Public Nuisance

Noise The application is to serve alcohol, late night refreshments and play music until 1am 7 nights a week, 365 days a year and to play live music until midnight 7 days a week.

The Octagon is flanked by a significant number of residential properties, fronting open spaces. As we know only too well from this week's fair, music and screams travel well to surrounding buildings.

Noise from music, internal and external music and people arriving and leaving will generate noise 7 nights a week, year-round.

Leaving the site area (as we know from existing events in the evening further down the town) means using one of two exits from the Cattle Market car park. Both are very close to residential properties. Any approved license would add to existing late night disturbance to local residents on Cromwell Place, Cromwell Terrace, the Quadrant, Meadow Lane and Needingworth Road.

The current building is unlit. Any new alteration/ new building will be a source of additional light pollution.

Understanding noise also requires more material than is available. A planning application to convert or rebuild it has not been submitted. This means that neither interested parties, nor the licensing authority, can reasonably assess whether noise that could lead to public nuisance could be contained, or if other statutory objectives can be met. The Precautionary Principle suggests not to accept in the absence of such data

Litter

All of our front gardens have weekend increment of bottles, cans and food packaging thrown into them.

Cumulative impact

New premises, are by definition incremental. This is recognised by HDC's own Statement of Licensing Policy (section 8) Paragraph 8.8 , which allows interested parties to raise the issue of cumulative impact with reference to a new application.

This is not a proposal in isolation. It is following one for the Robin Hood, and possible Wetherspoons, as well as the large number of premises within 400m of the Octagon currently licensed to sell alcohol (on and off licence), serve late night refreshments and provide entertainment until the early hours in St Ives Town Centre.

These already result in public nuisance and crime (see the usual list in St Ives Town Council Minutes) and disorder.

This is not limited to the premises, but fans out into the wider area.

The Octagon application is not in the immediate area of existing licensed premises. It is a new area, with an open aspect: noise carries. This would result in expanding noise and nuisance away from the Pavement and Sheep market into a new area.

Problems with the information provided with this application

To make an informed decision requires adequate material being to hand. Section 5.5 of the Statement of Licensing Policy says:

"Applications for premises licenses for permanent commercial establishments should normally be from businesses with planning permission for the property concerned".

This is clearly not the case here. The shortfall is also exacerbated by the absence of material for Section 7.4 which says that applications

"should show the amount of seating to be provided" (Section 7.4).

This does not apply here. Basic data are missing. What is available is a rough plan attached showing tables and chairs, relating to a building that does **not** yet exist. This hypothetical building lacks detailed plans or dimensions, I would question whether this is an adequate basis on which to make an assessment.

On the four licensing issues, cumulative impact, plus lack of relevant material the licensing application should be refused

Yours sincerely

Dr Timothy Reed