

From: Grekos, Martha
Sent: Tue, 20 Feb 2024 20:40:40 +0000
To: Breese, Robert;M&CP - Licensing
Subject: Objection to new premises license application at the Ground Floor and Basement at 165 Fleet Street, EC4A 2AE (Licensing application for Tokyo Hit).

Dear Robert,

As Alderwoman of Castle Baynard ward, I am writing to object on behalf of some of the residents in the ward (specifically for those living at 6 Bolt Court which is directly behind 65 Fleet Street) for the new premises license application at the Ground Floor and Basement at 165 Fleet Street, EC4A 2AE (Licensing application for Tokyo Hit).

The objection is based on three out of the four “licensing objectives”: namely for the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; and the prevention of public nuisance.

On the side of and directly behind 65 Fleet Street, there are block of residential premises: 6 Bolt Court, 4 Crane Court, Red Lion Court and individual flats within Johnson’s Court.

These residents are already unable to enjoy the amenity of their homes as the area is undergoing an enormous amount of transformational change. Fleet Street is a construction site at the moment. It is undergoing a huge amount of unprecedented redevelopment. So as much as the area will be flourishing in four years’ time, at the moment it is on its knees. This means that the community is suffering too as the area is attracting more anti-social behaviour given the state that it is in (e.g. over the summer we had teenagers harassing staff in shops and the Police had to be called and we also had several break-ins on Fleet Street and just off Fleet Street too); people are flouting the rules as rubbish are left out during the day; and we have a large increase of homeless people sleeping in the alley-ways just off Fleet Street. We are trying to control the situation the best we can to make sure the community is kept safe (and clean); that anti-social behaviour and crime is minimised and there is minimal public nuisance; and that the homeless people are also kept safe and are helped.

By providing a themed mini golf course bar to show films, play live music and serve alcohol from 10am to 2am every day (and specifically the licence application states to provide late night refreshments inside and outside these premises from 11pm till 2am each day and to sell alcohol onsite and offsite every day from 10am to 2am every day - with premises open to the public till 2.30am) is inappropriate for such a residential area when that will reduce the living and environmental conditions of these residents. The noise, in the early hours (11pm to 2am) will mean large disturbance to residents’ sleep and unfortunately potentially an increase in anti-social behaviour at those hours if a license is given to provide alcohol onsite and offsite. No other premises in that area is open until 2am and sells alcohol offsite at those hours. Despite the proposed efforts of the applicant to have a sign to leave quietly and also CCTV footage, this will not abate such nuisance and crime. Such licenced premises will just exacerbate the situation and put the community at risk of increased crime/disorder and public nuisance. Other license applications in this area have had their hours restricted to either 7pm, 9pm or 11pm for such reasons - which is far more suitable for a residential, given the local concerns of public nuisance and anti-social behaviour we are witnessing especially in our alleyways and courtyards just off Fleet Street.

The ward has roughly 300 residents and opposite 165 Fleet Street there is a proposal coming forward to have circa 750 students in a student accommodation block. This area will therefore have a footfall of nearly 1000 residents – the majority living near 165 Fleet Street. We need to be mindful of the community currently there but also potentially in the future, because this will be the only place till 2am and will attract the wrong crowd. The target client market for the sell of alcohol is more likely to be those who are going to cause some anti-social behaviour by drinking on the streets, causing disturbance and noise (whether it is visitors into this area for parties such a hen do etc or even students). The new premises license will just fuel the issues we already are trying to control in the area and create more public nuisance for such footfall. The client market is unlikely to be local residents who will want to enjoy the amenity of their homes to be able to sleep at night or even the business workers who will have left the area when the restaurants / pubs etc have closed. If they do venture to 165 Fleet after other venues have closed, this is more than likely to be to consume more alcohol from 11pm till 2am and are very unlikely to be leaving those premises quietly come 2.30am.

This will really be a huge detriment to the area and for the people living there now and coming in the future. For the reasons above, I object to the new premises application and urge you to decline it.

With best wishes,
Martha

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