

Alcohol Licensing Application 165 Fleet Street: Objection

Application by Bloomsbury Leisure Holdings Limited re “Tokyo Hit”

Castle Baynard Ward

My London Flat Address: [REDACTED] Bolt Court (off Fleet Street) EC4A 3DQ

My attention has helpfully been drawn by the City of London Licensing Officer to the four Alcohol License conditions ie

“the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; the protection of children from harm.”

I write in support and agreement to the measured and precise submissions of my Ward Councillors (eg Graham Packham, Henrika Priest, Martha Grekos) and my neighbours.

My own comments are based on observing and participating in the rhythm of work and life in this specific ward, over two decades of work in this ward, and one decade of living in this ward in our second family home. This is currently let to a fellow mature professional while I work in Scotland before return to the City of London. It is located just behind the Application Premises, adjacent to Dr Johnson’s historic house.

The Application fails on all four tests, a fortiori outside working hours late at night and at weekends.

The proposed venue will attract large groups who are not committed to and responsible for continuing work or living in the Ward.

The Evening Standard reported the implications at the Applicants’ site in Camden:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/bloomsbury-bowling-lanes-scraps-hip-hop-and-urban-music-nights-in-wake-of-nearfatal-stabbing-a3174186.html>.

The Police made urgent demands for Camden Council to review critically the late night Alcohol and Entertainment Licenses, to deal with the aftermath of a mass brawl and near fatal stabbing linked to the venue. Camden did not withdraw the License, demonstrating that a fait accompli is too late to amend.

The Ward and its historic surrounds, including existing and fully adequate licensed premises with appropriate hours and behaviour monitoring (eg Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, Wynkyn de Worde etc) are an enclave of remarkable calm and civility, during and after work hours, in a network of footlanes.

The area is dominated by professional service Firms (Legal, Accounting, Financial) and I have not previously worried about inevitable late night working and commuting for male and female employees and residents, young or mature, and my own Family. I will if this Application is granted.

Andrew Gavan