

From: Nicholas Gould
Sent: Thu, 29 Feb 2024 13:20:52 +0000
To: Robert.breeze@cityoflondon.gov.uk;M&CP - Licensing
Cc: Alice Gambato
Subject: Objections to Tokyo Hit, 165 Fleet Street

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear Robert,

My wife and I live at Red Lion Court. I understand that there is a new premises license application at the Ground Floor of Basement 165 Fleet Street, EC4A 2AE. This is a licensing application for Tokyo Hit.

I want to object to this application. I understand that there are 3 out of the 4 licensing objectives that apply. First, the prevention of crime and disorder, secondly public safety and finally the prevention of a public nuisance.

I live directly next to 165 Fleet Street. My wife and I both work as lawyers, and are away from home from around 8-7pm each day. Our jobs are quite demanding, and we currently enjoy very quiet evenings and weekends at or near home. This is despite the fact that there is already a considerable amount of construction activity on Fleet Street. In that respect I must say that the builders are very considerate and seem to be doing an excellent job without the disturbing the neighbourhood much at all, and certainly the building sites are quiet at night and at the weekends. This is much appreciated, and I'm certainly looking forward to the transformation that will take place on Fleet Street. Nonetheless, I do know that some of the local shops have had difficulty particularly in the past summer with rowdy individuals and anti-social behaviour. I understand that the police have also dealt with a number of break-ins on Fleet Street.

For my part there has been a considerable amount of rubbish left around during the day, and I suspect that some of this is related to the protests that have taken place in London. In addition, we have had an increased number of homeless people after the covid period that have been sleeping on the alleyways of Fleet Street, including Red Lion Court and Bolt Court which are adjacent to 165 Fleet Street.

If you allow a themed mini golf course bar playing live music and alcohol from 10am-2am everyday then there will no doubt be a significant increase in drunk and unruly individuals loitering outside around this area. I understand the premises will be open to the public until 2.30am. I think this is entirely inappropriate in a residential and quiet area. In addition, the noise that can be caused late at night until 2am will disturb our sleep and other residents' sleep. In addition, I have no doubt that drunk and noisy individuals will hang around beyond 2am. I find it extremely surprising that they've made such an application because there are no other licensed premises open until those hours. Indeed, it is extremely quiet around here. The pubs close at normal closing times around us, and the bar behind us in the square by the Deloitte buildings is always quiet from 10pm. In addition, that area is quiet Friday through to Monday. People only really drink after work on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday now, at least in our area, and are gone by 10pm.

I understand that other licensing applications around me have had their hours restricted to open at 7pm, 9pm or in unusual circumstances 11pm. Mainly for the same reasons, in that this is a residential area and therefore concerned about public nuisance and also anti-social behaviour.

I understand that there is an application to provide student accommodation for around 750 students nearby. If a large number of students come into the area then no doubt they will frequent this new bar and create an even bigger problem.

Regardless of any new students arriving in the future, the local residents are quite limited in numbers. I therefore imagine those who frequent the new extended hours of Tokyo Hit will not be from this area, and will not be bothered about noise, rubbish, rowdy behaviour or drinking. They will be able to leave whenever they want and go back to their quiet neighbourhoods. My wife and I on the other hand will have to put up with this additional noise and problems that may be caused.

I therefore urge you to reject this application.

If you would like to discuss this with me or my wife further then please do not hesitate to email me. I would be happy to exchange emails or have a phonecall with you.

All the very best.

Nicholas and Alice Gould