



Representing the interests of Barbican Residents

Barbican Association Licensing Sub-Committee
c/o 343 Lauderdale Tower
Barbican
London EC2Y 8NA

City of London Licensing Authority,
Guildhall,
Aldermanbury,
London EC2V 7HH

21st April 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref: Application for a Premises Licence from Fancy Delivery UK Limited for GoPuff, 171-176 Aldersgate Street, Barbican, London EC1A 4HT

We are writing on behalf of the Barbican Association, a Recognised Tenants' Association representing the residents of the Barbican Estate, to **object** to the above applications on the grounds of the Prevention of Public Nuisance.

The application states that it is "to facilitate a grocery service that requires the Sale by Retail of Alcohol off sales Monday to Sunday 00:00 to 00:00 and on sales Monday to Sunday 08:00 to 23:00 ...". To confirm these intentions, in answer to the question "Will the supply of alcohol be for consumption on or off the premises the answer "Both" was given by the applicant. As for the desired commencement of a premises licence, if granted, the answer "ASAP" was given.

Why no application for change of use?

We are very concerned indeed with both the location and the nature and speed of this application. The site that is being discussed was previously a restaurant called The Natural Kitchen - where is the application for the change of use from a restaurant to a 24/7 delivery service?

Why no consultation with neighbours?

Why has there been no consultation whatsoever with the applicant's neighbours, principally the residential premises above the location itself in London House and the many residential properties directly opposite to the site in the Barbican Estate?

In the City of London Corporation's Statement of Licensing Policy 2022 it states that the

authority will promote the licensing objectives of the Licensing Act and seek the prevention of public nuisance. It recognises that the City of London is “*unlike the vast majority of other licensing authorities in that the ratio of residents to the number of persons coming into the City of London to work and socialise is quite small. It is however vital that their residential amenity is protected*” and that “*residents have a reasonable expectation that their sleep will not be unduly disturbed between the hours of 23.00 and 07:00*”.

Application will cause public nuisance and significant loss of residential amenity

The CoL Policy goes on to say that “*In all cases, the granting of a licence will depend on the impact of an activity, particularly on local residents or late-night businesses. Consideration will be given to relevant matters including, but not limited to, the level of noise and vibration, litter, people coming and going, queuing and any potential for criminal activity or disorder.....*”

This application is for a collection and delivery service of grocery products including alcohol on a 24/7 basis in the heart of the one of the most densely populated areas of the City. Indeed, the chosen site is that of the ground floor of an otherwise wholly residential block, namely London House, and is directly opposite a wholly residential part of the Barbican Estate. It is our firm belief that this type of operation should be located away from residential premises so that residential amenity can be preserved and that residents are not disturbed by the potentially constant coming and goings of deliveries, delivery riders congregating outside on bikes and on-site collections by customers every hour of the day and every day of the week.

Wholly unacceptable hours of operation

The applicant seeks permission for the on-sales of alcohol every day of the week between the hours of 08.00am and 23.00pm. Where are these on-sales going to take place as the drawings submitted do not show any areas where alcohol would be consumed on the premises. Is the intention to have a bar service where people can eat as well? Or will drinkers be allowed to stand and congregate outside the premises? Either of these would merely serve to exacerbate the potential noise and disturbance issue for neighbouring properties.

The previous occupant of the site, the Natural Kitchen, had operating hours of 08.00am – 15.00pm Mondays and Tuesdays and 08.00am – 21.00pm Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Saturdays and Sundays it was closed. These hours recognised and reflected the residential nature of this location. This application from GoPuff is for the on sale of alcohol every day of the week from 08.00am – 23.00pm and for off sales of alcohol and other groceries 24/7. Whilst we accept that such 24/7 delivery operations are growing in usage and popularity, we strongly believe that this is absolutely not the right location for this application given its predominantly residential location.

Location is a danger to public safety

The CoL Policy also states that it “*takes note of the nuisance and potential danger to pedestrians, and particularly to disabled people and those using access equipment or items such as pushchairs, by the obstruction of the highway.....*” If such an operation such as the applicant is suggested is allowed then public safety is indeed a major issue. The site is located at the edge of the roundabout on Aldersgate Street at the junction with

Montague Street and London Wall and is a particularly busy thoroughfare. Unloading and uploading any goods on such a busy street is utter madness and will seriously compromise the public safety of pedestrians, disabled people and other road users alike.

For all of the reasons explained above, we therefore request that the City of London adheres to its stated Licensing policies, refuses this application on the grounds of public nuisance and danger to public safety and suggests that the applicant seeks a more suitable location for its proposed operations.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Smith, Chair Barbican Association Planning & Licensing Sub-Committee

Sue Cox, Deputy Chair, Barbican Association Planning & Licensing Sub-Committee