

From: [mark](#)
To: [M&CP - Licensing](#)
Cc: [Edwards, John](#)
Subject: Please DENY the application of a variation of a premises licence by Swizzlestick Limited for Patch St Pauls
Date: 19 January 2024 12:45:39

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL EMAIL

I wish to object in the strongest terms possible to this application.

Patch is regularly in extension of its current licensed hours by the mere facts that they 1) refuse or deny responsibility for their customers after closing their doors and once the customers have been put out onto Carter Lane and 2) on no evening when Patch is active is the street free from shouting, singing, yelling until, on average, for a full 60 minutes after Patch's closing. For all intents and purposes Patch's "closing time" is currently 1-3AM. It is a compromise from what the residents wanted, but it is better than it was when Patch could stay open until dawn.

Patch's customers have never had a closing time and Patch does not enforce one on them now. The customers' confusion is obvious. Patch uses the exterior of their bar on Carter Lane as a physical extension of their premises, from opening to closing, setting out tables and chairs when weather permits, and simply allowing a crowd outside in other weather. Patch presents Carter Lane as part of its premises, and so customers assume the street is theirs in which to party for however long they want. Nor does Patch take the responsibility to inform their customers that they are in a residential area and a narrow street that amplifies their every whisper, shout and song. The noise starts early and continues on long after 12:30AM.

The Rising Sun also uses Carter Lane as an extension of its premises, but in that case the confusion ends long before closing, often by 7-8PM. If the Rising Sun can manage it, one has to ask why Patch cannot or will not.

While this confusion of boundaries clearly benefits Patch economically, it is equally clear that Patch are unwilling to pay the price of clearing the street after closing.

Instead, when Patch close its doors at 12:30 (or try to - they don't always close on time), the uncontrolled, antisocial drunken behavior of their customers spills out onto Carter Lane and carries on, on average, until 1:30-2AM. One occasion this past summer carried on until 4AM. The Patch staff go home. They don't stay until their customers have left the street. They simply ignore the damage they cause.

Patch's excuses for this lack of responsibility are already on record from the previous hearing and their excuses have not changed. The manager has told me recently, when I complained to him about a string of late night street activities, that they don't want to offend their customers. These excuses did not hold up at that time, and they do not now. That Swizzlestick would now like to extend the disturbance of residents into the early Sunday morning hours to allow thirty minutes more to sell drinks is a troubling sign of that company's disregard for the Carter Lane residents and the neighborhood that host their premises.

Because Patch continues to absolve itself of any and all responsibility to the residents of Carter Lane and to the neighborhood after closing time, they should not be granted this variation of premise license.

Please note that in the hearing that determined all of the above to be accurate information about Patch at that time, and which resulted in the limiting of Patch's hours to 12:30AM, that the residents were asking for a closing time more in keeping with other local pubs, like the Rising Sun, and advocated for a 11:30PM closing time. The 12:30AM time that was imposed was a compromise.

Things are slightly better with the earlier closing time imposed. Extending it to 1AM would be a return to what was a terrible situation. And this request comes at a time when there are more residents in Carter Lane, not fewer.

Please do not grant this petition. Let's not make things worse.

I will follow this application with interest.

Sincerely and with concern,

Mark Rance
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London EC4V 5EP