

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

From: Donald & Katherine Pedley,
Cathedral Court
EC4V 5EG

OBJECTION

to the licence application in respect of Patch St Pauls on 15/01/2024

Dear Sir,

This objection from residents in Carter Lane relates to the proposed extension of licensing hours from midnight to 1.am. 1.30am with drink up time on Sundays.

I took the bar to license review 12 years ago when the license was cut to midnight. Since that time Patch has remained in business through some very turbulent & difficult times. For the most part the bar has successfully operated without too much disturbance to residents. Our lives have considerably improved since the license was reduced.

There have been occasions when myself or others have complained to the bar over loud music played outside licensable activity times & periodically some disturbance noted when the bar has extended hours with TEN's. Since a hearing called by the police when a large volume of TEN's were reduced by 50% there have been less frequent TEN's, indeed over the Christmas & New Year period 2023 there appeared to be only one TEN in operation.

Another bar, now closed, was also taken to review at the same time & the new owner was happy to accept the midnight licence inherited. I believe that no other public bar at the narrow residential end of Carter Lane now has a licence beyond midnight. This is very welcome news for residents.

There is a fine balance between the needs of licensed premises & the needs of resident's reasonable expectation of sleep. In summary that balance is working well & in our view should not be challenged or changed.

We are not the only ones to consider that balance of need is appropriate given the geographical nature of the narrow end of Carter Lane.

“We do not feel that the narrow canyon-like side streets of this part of the City where the medieval street plan still exists and where the older buildings are far less substantial than the former banking halls housing newer licensed premises in the east of the City are appropriate places for late night bars. The need for patrons to stand outside premises is also a serious issue where the pavements are very narrow or streets pedestrianised as noise is inevitable. This noise can be very loud in the early hours.”

“What we do say very clearly is that there are parts of the City that are, for unalterable reasons of geography and construction, simply unsuitable for late night bars”.

Quotes above Paragraph 20/a from the licence review.

The review also noted that Patch “was trying to do the best it could to deal with the problems faced by residents but there was little that could actually be done that would have any real effect”. Paragraph 18.

Additionally more recently the City of London Licensing Policy, 2022 comments “the City Corporation may restrict licensed hours where it is shown to be appropriate” ... “for example to prevent residents or businesses being disturbed”. This is particularly relevant given the geography of Carter Lane & this extension request for a license beyond midnight & its impact on residents “reasonable expectation of sleep between the hours of 11pm & 7am”.

Change happens, but sometimes it is not appropriate as in the case of this application.

The very recent change that has happened is the Government guidance on temporary off-sales permissions allowing Patch to sell alcohol in unsealed containers for consumption in the street. This renders their license condition

“there shall be no sale of alcohol in unsealed containers for consumption off the premises after 20:30” unenforceable.

We are aware there can be no objection to this either by the licensing authority or by residents and the rules will apply until at least 2025. The balance has changed.

To allow the extension to 1am every Sunday with a 1.30am closure time is a step too far & undermines the precedent that has been rightfully set for this end of Carter Lane.

Katherine & Donald Pedley.