

From: Rosemarie Hutchinson
Sent: Tue, 20 Feb 2024 21:42:18 +0000
To: Breese, Robert
Cc: M&CP - Licensing
Subject: Objection to new premises license application at the Ground Floor and Basement at 165 Fleet Street, EC4A 2AE (Licensing application for Tokyo Hit).

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear Robert

I am a resident of a flat in [REDACTED] Bolt Court, London. EC4A 3DQ

I am writing to make an objection to the license application for the ground floor and basement of 165 Fleet Street made by Tokyo Hit.

It is a reasonable assumption that the business model for this leisure business is dependent upon the sale of alcohol. The application for a license seven days a week from 10 am until 2 am seems to confirm this assumption.

It is my view that it is inappropriate that premises licensed to sell alcohol until 2 am are sited in residential areas.

The extended hours for which alcohol will be available for purchase presents opportunities for people to be drinking for extended periods of time and there is potential for consequent antisocial behaviour. It is inevitable that there will be occasions when disturbance is caused at closing time, particularly if people have been drinking for many hours, and since closing time is 2:30 am it is likely that the sleep of local residents will be disturbed.

The application also seeks permission to serve late night refreshments both inside and outside the premises from 11 pm until 2 am seven days a week. The proximity of seating areas in Gough Square make it highly likely that alcohol and food served from 165 Fleet Street will be consumed there. In recent years, there have been problems with the littering of this area and the subsequent and consequent arrival of vermin. There is also the possibility of Gough Square being used as a urinal and a convenient place to vomit as so often happens in relatively private areas close to nighttime venues serving alcohol.

The nature of the courts, alleys and squares immediately behind 165 Fleet Street make these areas attractive to persons engaging in criminal and illicit activities. The passageways are narrow, labyrinthine and poorly lit (due to the historic lighting). It is unlikely that cctv would be installed in these areas and thus criminal activity and violent incidents would go unnoticed and unrecorded.

Furthermore residents of 6 Bolt Court, by necessity, must use these passageways to access the building. Residents are likely to come into very close proximity with persons who have visited the leisure facility. There is a realistic possibility that residents will have to weave their way through revellers just to get to their front doors, particularly if they return from work late, as many residents do, and access Bolt Court via Gough Square.

It is unlikely that this leisure venue will serve the local community. The senior lawyers, Drs and business persons who live in Gough House are unlikely to be frequenting a themed mini golf bar or live music events until 2am. Indeed there is a slight irony that should there be unsociable behaviour and overindulgence in alcohol it is the likes of the local residents who will be

administering the medical attention in the local A and E departments and representing the miscreants in court.

Gough Square is a popular tourist destination. It is the location of the Dr Johnson Museum and the statue of Dr Johnson's cat is popular with children. The Fleet Street Christmas 2023 trail also brought many children to the area with snowmen positioned in Gough Square and Pemberton Row. It would be inappropriate and unsafe to have trails bringing children to sites in such close proximity to licensed premises operating all day. Furthermore if the sale of alcohol and food is permitted for 165 Fleet Street it is inevitable that some of it will be consumed in Gough Square. The possibility of children stroking Dr Johnson's cat whilst inebriated persons sit on the bench a metre away is unacceptable.

In summary:

- I think that there is a strong possibility that the extended licensing hours will result in some antisocial behaviour as a result of excessive alcohol consumption.
- I think that there is a strong possibility that a nighttime venue situated in close proximity to poorly lit narrow passageways will provide cover for criminal activity
- Local residents are likely to have their peace and sleep disturbed by activities consequent on businesses serving alcohol until 2am
- The serving of food and alcohol for consumption off the premises will lead to public health issues in Gough Square
- Gough Square is likely to be turned into an extension of the premises for the consumption of food and alcohol and thus making it an unsafe area for residents, tourists and particularly children.

Kind Regards
Rosemarie Hutchinson

 Bolt Court
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