

Subject: FW: Application 21/01077/LAPRE1 - Woodies

From: Matt Ridley [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 September 2021 21:37
To: Licensing <Licensing@chichester.gov.uk>
Subject: Application 21/01077/LAPRE1 - Woodies

Dear Sirs

We wish to object to the granting of a variation to the existing premises license. Our objection is that this would create an extension to the existing public nuisance caused by the inconsiderate use of this establishment by extending its hours of operation into a weekday and therefore becoming further incompatible with a residential area where occupants have to leave early for work on the following day .

The building is identified as a brasserie and bar. Within the licensing guidance it should therefore be assumed that the playing of amplified recorded music is incidental to the premises sale of alcohol and food. However a major element of the applicant's use of the building in the evenings is the playing of amplified recorded music . Unfortunately this is usually played at a level at which cannot be retained within the premises and thus creates a public nuisance to residents of the local area. The premises are being marketed locally on boards outside of it as a 'discotheque' and advising customers to queue for admittance. This clearly indicates that the intention is not to run the business as a bar after 22.00 but as something more akin to a night club which would require approval under the planning acts

Our property is located approximately 35m from the entrance door to the premises on the other side of the street. However the repetitive bass notes of the music being played can regularly be heard through closed windows above the sound of traffic passing between us and the venue. As our lounge and bedrooms face onto the main street we do not have the option of moving away from the noise.

We have had cause to make a complaint to the council regarding a sound level which greatly exceeded this level of nuisance on a number of occasions including a Thursday evening. On that occasion the sound was so loud that it was impossible to even watch television.

We note that the existing licence requires that when regulated entertainment is taking place, all doors and windows of the premises must be closed other than for access/egress at the front of the premises. Unfortunately as this door is kept open there is no barrier of any kind between the interior of the premises and the road fronting our property.

We also note that the license requires that the external sound be monitored adjacent to the closest residential dwellings at the front and rear of the premises at intervals of 15 minutes to ensure no nuisance is caused to local residents. However it is our experience that the sound levels are increased at regular intervals during the course of the night often associated with the short breaks in the records being played with no regard for nuisance caused. It may be that the noise emanating from the building is intended as a form of advertising to attract customers leaving other establishments in the city as they close. I have walked past the premises and noted the music being played at a high volume with comparatively few customers in the bar in the time between the restaurant customers leaving and the 'clubbers' arriving .

Since moving into our property a couple of years ago we have, on several occasions, received the comment that even residents of the city were unaware that the houses on the one way element of St Pancras were occupied. Noting that the license requires access and egress to Woodies to be via the front entrance I can only assume that Woodies and their patrons are similarly under the impression that this area is one of bars, restaurants and other businesses with no permanent residents. Licenses can require suitable notices within the premises advising that there are local residents. Perhaps this should also be applied in this case regardless of the outcome of this application?

The footpath outside of the building is often blocked by the presence of persons queuing for admittance, smoking, having phone conversations, the presence of door supervisors and the aforementioned boards placed outside by the premises. This could lead to persons unintentionally moving onto the highway. Particularly in the evenings cars and motorbikes pass by at high speeds. We would consider that this would be a relevant health and safety issue questioning the suitability of the building's location.

Accordingly we would ask that this application be rejected and that the existing license be reviewed to ensure that it is compatible with the use of the premises as a night club. The extension of any further late night openings should also be prohibited including the use of temporary licenses on an effectively permanent basis.

Matt and Adele Ridley

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