

21/01077/LAPRE1

To the Licensing Committee

Proposed variation of Licence to Woodies St Pancras Chichester.

I am a resident of New Park Road and I wish to object to the variation of the Licence submitted to the committee to allow an extension of permitted hours on Thursday evenings at Woodies, being a variation of the application before the Committee in November 2020.

ALL of the objections submitted by local residents on that occasion have been made out since the application was approved.

Public nuisance – it was a common theme of residents’ objections that the extended hours granted on Friday and Saturday nights would impact on local residents and the local area. This is the case now, and this was the case before, in that the premises are run on a laissez faire basis, with the Licensee seeming to use the premises as his own private venue. The noise of the music is uncontrolled and unmonitored despite the specific obligations imposed by the Committee of 15-minute checks. And, in contravention of the Licence, music is being played beyond midnight whilst the Licensee is on the premises.

People queuing to enter the venue are loud, some are already intoxicated and not present in terms of their safety or of those around them. There is a constant issue of anti-social behaviour which is not controlled by the Licensee or the security personnel. It is part of the conditions of the Licence that customers enter and exit from the front entrance, where they also wait for taxis, thus adding a further disturbance. It is also commonplace for customers to move to the car park and wait for taxis there, talking loudly, swearing, arguing, laughing and being unaware of the impact they are having on local residents. There is no inclination from the Licensee to gently encourage his customers to leave quickly and quietly.

Public safety – objections to this application have identified the area around the front entrance as a public safety concern. The photo submitted of St Pancras and the queue of people waiting outside the premises must clearly raise concerns around public safety. The knock-on effect of this is that everyone using the pavement is at risk because there is no safe place to pass and those wishing to pass must use the road. As has been pointed out by a resident of St Pancras, traffic late at night travels at speed along this section of the road and it is only a matter of time before someone is hurt or injured.

If the applicant is granted his variation, then potentially there will be a considerably longer queue of students who will not be obliged to turn up for work the next day and wishing to enjoy their evening.

Lastly, the applicant has demonstrated that he is not able to comply with the current Licence and its conditions, using them largely as discretionary and not as obligations.

I urge the Committee to reject this application.

Fiona Heard.