

Application ref 16/01901/LAPRE

I write to object to the above licencing application.

My grounds for objection are as follows:

1. It would represent a significant and unwarranted change and distortion of the current family friendly (non-alcoholic) café use.
2. Safety of children using existing footpaths and rights of way could be or could seem to be compromised.
3. Prevention of nuisance - there is a direct conflict with the café's semi-rural location and with adjacent residential properties.
4. Similarly, alcoholic use would represent inappropriate intrusion in an area where children currently can healthily - freely play and roam, i.e. 'explore' alongside an otherwise child-friendly public footpath along the estuary foreshore (an outstanding area for their and older generations' enjoyment).
5. It can be considered as a contradiction of the essence of this part of Itchenor - the buildings, and the waterside, estuary and nature conservation context of the area. (Issues of background and context are summarised below.)

In addition, the existing café has very limited indoor space but some outdoor tables and seating currently - already growing in number and that, unofficially, might be considerably expanded in the future in the large adjacent open area.

And in parallel it is suggested that any commercial retail eg café use after 5:00p.m., (especially if licenced) adjacent to a quiet residential area is inappropriate. A licence application of this nature - in this fringe, unlit location - requesting a 7-day late night closing time could be seen by many as somewhat provocative.

#### Context

Itchenor is an estuary-side community, with a relatively small year-round population, yet serving a wider community. It is special in several respects.

- It provides good access for the public to unique estuary landscape and flora and fauna from jetties etc. and notably by extended public footpaths along the water's edge (a nature reserve and estuary conservation area).
- Any proposed insertion of a licenced usage or other such commercial ventures needs to be considered in this wider context - its potential to be detrimental to those qualities which make this sensitive wider area special and a peaceful haven for visitors and residents alike.
- Its main street links the harbour master's facilities, a pub and a few retailers within easy walking distance. If in the future, were another licence deemed to be appropriate, probably the main street would be the correct location.
- During at least half of the year Itchenor accommodates many young and older visitors particularly, but not only, of a nationwide sailing fraternity (this may be seen as natural to an island nation with a nautical tradition).

- Importantly at the application site there is the existing substantial local business and employer - the Northshore boatyard. This being a proper, estuary-side operation - the boatyard construction facilities, equipment and slipways - it is suggested is good for both the settlement and for the district authority.

But a licenced bar could attract the public to an unsuitable location. The granting of a licence there for alcoholic consumption would be misplaced and in my view wrong.

I urge the Licencing Authority to refuse this application.

Yours,

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